

CLEAN HARBORS INC  
Form 10-K  
February 27, 2019  
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, 2018

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

For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_  
COMMISSION FILE NO. 001-34223

---

CLEAN HARBORS, INC.  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

---

Massachusetts  
(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization) 04-2997780  
(IRS Employer Identification No.)

42 Longwater Drive, Norwell, MA 02061-9149  
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number: (781) 792-5000

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934:

Title of each class: Name of each exchange on which registered:

Common Stock, \$.01 par value New York Stock Exchange

Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934: None

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically every Interactive Data File required to be submitted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files). Yes  No

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

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

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  Smaller reporting company

Emerging growth company

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

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

On June 29, 2018 (the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter), the aggregate market value of the voting and non-voting common stock of the registrant held by non-affiliates of the registrant was approximately \$2.9 billion, based on the closing price of such common stock as of that date on the New York Stock Exchange. Reference is made to Part III of this report for the assumptions on which this calculation is based.

On February 15, 2019, there were outstanding 55,855,142 shares of Common Stock, \$.01 par value.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Certain portions of the registrant's definitive proxy statement for its 2019 annual meeting of stockholders (which will be filed with the Commission not later than April 30, 2019) are incorporated by reference into Part III of this report.

---

Table Of Contents

CLEAN HARBORS, INC.  
 ANNUAL REPORT ON FORM 10-K  
 YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2018  
 TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page No
<u>Part I</u>	
<u>Item 1. Business</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Item 1A. Risk Factors</u>	<u>14</u>
<u>Item 1B. Unresolved Staff Comments</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Item 2. Properties</u>	<u>21</u>
<u>Item 3. Legal Proceedings</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Item 4. Mine Safety Disclosures</u>	<u>23</u>
<u>Part II</u>	
<u>Item 5. Market for the Registrant's Common Equity, Related Stockholder Matters and Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities</u>	<u>24</u>
<u>Item 6. Selected Financial Data</u>	<u>26</u>
<u>Item 7. Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations</u>	<u>27</u>
<u>Item 7A. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>Item 8. Financial Statements and Supplementary Data</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Item 9. Changes in and Disagreements with Accountants on Accounting and Financial Disclosure</u>	<u>97</u>
<u>Item 9A. Controls and Procedures</u>	<u>97</u>
<u>Item 9B. Other Information</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>Part III</u>	
<u>Item 10. Directors, Executive Officers and Corporate Governance</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>Item 11. Executive Compensation</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>Item 13. Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>Item 14. Principal Accountant Fees and Services</u>	<u>99</u>
<u>Part IV</u>	
<u>Item 15. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>Item 16. Form 10-K Summary</u>	<u>100</u>
<u>SIGNATURES</u>	<u>101</u>

Table Of Contents

Disclosure Regarding Forward-Looking Statements

In addition to historical information, this annual report contains forward-looking statements, which are generally identifiable by use of the words "believes," "expects," "intends," "anticipates," "plans to," "estimates," "projects," or similar expressions. These forward-looking statements are subject to certain risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those reflected in these forward-looking statements. Factors that might cause such a difference include, but are not limited to, those discussed in this report under Item 1A, "Risk Factors," and Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis on Financial Condition and Results of Operations." Readers are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which reflect management's opinions only as of the date hereof. We undertake no obligation to revise or publicly release the results of any revision to these forward-looking statements. Readers should also carefully review the risk factors described in other documents which we file from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), including the quarterly reports on Form 10-Q to be filed by us during 2019.

PART I

ITEM 1. BUSINESS

General

Clean Harbors, Inc. and its subsidiaries (collectively, "we," "Clean Harbors" or the "Company") is a leading provider of environmental, energy and industrial services throughout North America. We are also the largest re-refiner and recycler of used oil in the world and the largest provider of parts cleaning and related environmental services to commercial, industrial and automotive customers in North America.

During the first quarter of fiscal year 2018, certain of our businesses undertook a reorganization which included changes to the underlying business and management structures. The reorganization resulted in combining the Environmental Services businesses from an operational and management perspective, deepening customer relationships and allowing for efficiencies across our operations through the sharing of resources, namely labor and equipment, which will reduce third party spending and promote cross selling of our business offerings. In connection with this reorganization, our chief operating decision maker requested changes in the information that he regularly reviews for purposes of allocating resources and assessing performance. These changes required a reconsideration of our operating segments in the first quarter of 2018 and resulted in a change in our assessment of our operating segments. We concluded that we now have two operating segments for disclosure purposes; (i) the Environmental Services segment which consists of our historical Technical Services, Industrial Services, Field Services and Oil, Gas and Lodging businesses, and (ii) the Safety-Kleen segment.

Environmental Services - Environmental Services segment results are predicated upon the demand by our customers for waste services directly attributable to waste volumes generated by them and project work for which waste handling and/or disposal is required. In managing the business and evaluating performance, management tracks the volumes and mix of waste handled and disposed of through our owned incinerators and landfills, as well as utilization of such incinerators, labor and billable hours and equipment among other key metrics. Levels of activity and ultimate performance associated with this segment can be impacted by several factors including overall U.S. GDP and U.S. industrial production, weather conditions, efficiency of our operations, competition and market pricing of our services and the management of our related operating costs. Environmental Services results are also impacted by the demand for planned and unplanned industrial related cleaning and maintenance services at customer sites and for environmental cleanup services on a scheduled or emergency basis, including response to national events such as major oil spills, natural disasters or other events where immediate and specialized services are required.

Safety-Kleen - Safety-Kleen segment results are impacted by an array of core service offerings that serve to attract small quantity waste producers as customers and integrate them into the Clean Harbors waste network. Core service offerings include parts washer services, containerized waste services, vac services, used motor oil collection and sale of base and blended oil products as well as complementary products including automotive related fluids and shop supplies. Key performance indicators tracked by the Company relative to these services include the number of parts washer services performed and used motor oil and waste volumes collected. Results from these services are primarily driven by the overall number of parts washers placed at customer sites and volumes of waste collected. These factors

can be impacted by overall economic conditions in the marketplace especially in the automotive related area. Safety-Kleen offers high quality base and blended oil products to end users including fleet customers, distributors, and manufacturers of oil products. Relative to these oil related products, management tracks the Company's volumes and relative percentages of base and blended oil sales along with various pricing metrics associated with the commodity driven marketplace. The segment's results are

1

---

## Table Of Contents

significantly impacted by overall market pricing and product mix associated with base and blended oil products and, more specifically, the market prices of Group II base oils, which historically have correlated with overall crude oil prices. Costs incurred in connection with the collection of used oils and other raw materials associated with the segment's oil related products can also be volatile. The implementation of our OilPlu® closed loop initiative resulting in the sale of our renewable oil products directly to our end customers will also impact future operating results. Clean Harbors, Inc. was incorporated in Massachusetts in 1980 and our principal office is located in Norwell, Massachusetts. We maintain a website at the following Internet address: <http://www.cleanharbors.com>. Through a link on this website, we provide free access to our annual reports on Form 10-K, quarterly reports on Form 10-Q, current reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 as soon as reasonably practicable after electronic filing with the SEC. Our guidelines on corporate governance, the charters for our board committees, and our code of ethics for members of the board of directors, our chief executive officer and our other senior officers are also available on our website, and we will post on our website any waivers of, or amendments to, such code of ethics. Our website and the information contained therein or connected thereto are not incorporated by reference into this annual report.

### Health and Safety

Health and Safety is our #1 priority. Employees at all levels of our Company share this philosophy and are committed to ensuring our safety goals are met. Our commitment to health and safety benefits everyone—our employees, our customers, the community, and the environment. In 2018, our successful Safety Starts With Me: Live It 3-6-5 program, which is a key component in our overall safety approach along with our many other programs, enabled us to achieve a low Total Recordable Incident Rate, or "TRIR;" Days Away, Restricted Activity and Transfer Rate, or "DART;" and Experience Modification Rate, or "EMR." For the year ended December 31, 2018, our Company wide TRIR, DART and EMR were 1.08, 0.63 and 0.58, respectively. For the year ended December 31, 2017, our Company wide TRIR, DART and EMR were 1.34, 0.80 and 0.58, respectively.

In order to protect our employees, continue to lower our incident rates, and satisfy our customers' demands to retain the best service providers with the lowest TRIR, DART and EMR rates, we are fully committed to continuously improving our health and safety performance. All employees recognize the importance of protecting themselves, their fellow employees, their customers, and all those around them from harm. This commitment is supported by the philosophies and Golden Rules of Safety that is the cornerstone of the Safety Starts with Me: Live It 3-6-5 program. Live It 3-6-5 is our dedication to the safety of our workers through each and every employee's commitment to our three Safety philosophies, our six Golden Rules of Safety and each employee's five personal reasons why they choose to be safe at work, on the road and at home.

### Compliance

We regard compliance with applicable environmental regulations as a critical component of our overall operations. We strive to maintain the highest professional standards in our compliance activities. Our compliance program has been developed for each of our waste management facilities and service centers under the direction of our compliance staff. The compliance staff is responsible for facilities permitting and regulatory compliance, compliance training, transportation compliance, and related record keeping. To ensure the effectiveness of our regulatory compliance program, our compliance staff monitors daily operational activities. We also have an Environmental Health and Safety Compliance Internal Audit Program designed to identify any weaknesses or opportunities for improvement in our ongoing compliance programs. We also perform periodic audits and inspections of the disposal facilities owned by other companies which we utilize.

Our facilities are frequently inspected and audited by regulatory agencies, as well as by customers. Although our facilities have been cited on occasion for regulatory violations, we believe that each of our facilities is currently in substantial compliance with applicable permit requirements.

### Strategy

Our strategy is to develop and maintain ongoing relationships with a diversified group of customers that have recurring needs for environmental, energy or industrial services. We strive to be recognized as the premier supplier of a broad range of value-added services based upon quality, responsiveness, customer service, information technologies, breadth of service offerings and cost effectiveness.

The principal elements of our business strategy in no particular order are:

• **Cross-Sell Across Businesses**—We believe the breadth of our service offerings allows us to provide additional services to existing customers and as such, the reorganization that took place during the first quarter of 2018 resulted

## Table Of Contents

in deepening of our customer relationships and promoting the cross selling of such service offerings. We believe we can provide industrial and field services to customers that traditionally have only used our technical services and technical services to customers that use our industrial services or oil and gas field services. At the same time, we see a variety of cross-selling opportunities between our Environmental Services and Safety-Kleen segments. Reflecting this strategy, we have been successfully cross-selling the services of Safety-Kleen, such as parts washers, various cleaning products, recycling services and our OilPlus® closed loop initiative, to legacy Clean Harbors customers. We believe leveraging our ability to cross-sell across our segments will drive additional revenue for our Company.

**Capture Large-Scale Projects**—We provide turnkey offsite transportation and landfill or incineration disposal services for soil and other contaminated media generated from remediation activities. We also assist remediation contractors and project managers with support services including groundwater disposal, waste disposal, roll-off container management, and many other related services. We believe this will drive incremental waste volume to our existing facilities, thereby increasing utilization and enhancing overall profitability.

**Expand Throughput Capacity of Existing Facilities**—We operate an extensive network of hazardous waste management facilities and oil re-refineries and have made substantial investments in these facilities, which provide us with significant operating leverage as volumes increase. In addition, there are opportunities to expand waste handling capacity or waste oil processing at these facilities by modifying the terms of the existing permits and by adding equipment and new technology. Through selected permit modifications, we can expand the range of treatment services offered to our customers without the large capital investment necessary to acquire or build new waste management facilities.

**Pursue Strategic Acquisitions**—We actively pursue selective acquisitions in certain services or market sectors where we believe the acquisitions can enhance and expand our business. We believe that we can expand existing services through strategic acquisitions in order to generate incremental revenues from existing and new customers and to obtain greater market share. In order to maximize synergies, we rapidly integrate our acquisitions into our existing processes. For additional information on our acquisitions, see "Acquisitions and Divestitures" below.

**Execute Strategic Divestitures**—To complement our acquisition strategy and focus on internal growth, we regularly review and evaluate our existing operations to determine whether our business model should change through the divestiture of certain businesses. Accordingly, from time to time, we divest certain non-core businesses and reallocate our resources to businesses that we believe better align with our long-term strategic direction.

**Focus on Cost, Pricing and Productivity Initiatives**—We continually seek to increase efficiency and to reduce costs through enhanced technology, process efficiencies and stringent expense management. For instance, in 2018, we successfully undertook, in response to current and expected business conditions, branch consolidations, greater internalization of maintenance costs, procurement and supply chain improvements. Additionally, we seek areas in our business where strategic investment in processes, tools and employees can serve to increase productivity, efficiency and safety compliance.

**Expand Service Offerings and Geographic Coverage**—We believe our Environmental Services and Safety-Kleen segments have a competitive advantage due to their vast network of locations across North America, particularly in areas where we maintain service locations at or near a treatment, storage and disposal facility, or "TSDf." By opening additional service locations we believe that we can increase our market share within these segments. We believe this will drive additional waste into our existing facilities, thereby increasing utilization and enhancing overall profitability. In addition, our management team continues to assess the competitive landscape in order to identify new business opportunities.

### Acquisitions and Divestitures

Acquisitions are an element of our business strategy that involves expansion through the purchase of businesses that complement our existing company and create multiple opportunities for profitable growth.

In 2018, we acquired the U.S. Industrial Cleaning Business of Veolia Environmental Services North America LLC (the "Veolia Business") as well as a privately-owned company for a combined preliminary purchase price of \$151.3 million. The acquisitions provide significant scale and industrial services capabilities, while increasing the size of our existing U.S. Industrial Services business. The acquisitions were financed with cash on hand. The Veolia Business is included in our Environmental Services segment while the privately-owned company has components included in



both the Environmental Services and Safety-Kleen segments.

In 2017, we acquired Lonestar West Inc. ("Lonestar"), a public company headquartered in Alberta, Canada, for approximately CAD \$41.8 million (\$33.1 million USD), net of cash acquired. The acquisition price included the assumption of approximately CAD \$21.3 million (\$16.8 million USD) in outstanding debt, which we subsequently repaid. The acquisition

3

---

## Table Of Contents

supports our growth in the daylighting and hydro excavation services markets. In addition to increasing the size of our hydro vac fleet, Lonestar's network of locations provides us with direct access to key geographic markets in both the United States and Canada. The acquired company is included in our Environmental Services segment.

In 2016, we acquired seven businesses for a combined purchase price of \$204.8 million, paid in cash and subject to customary post-closing adjustments, which complement our strategy to create a closed loop model as it relates to the sale and distribution of our oil products. These acquisitions also provided us three additional oil re-refineries while also expanding our used motor oil collection network and providing greater blending and packaging capabilities. These acquisitions also provided us with greater access to customers in the West Coast region of the United States and additional locations with Part B permits. Operations of these acquisitions are primarily being integrated across our Safety-Kleen segment, with certain operations also being integrated into our Environmental Services segment. For additional information relating to our acquisition activities during 2018, 2017 and 2016, see Note 4, "Business Combinations," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report.

Other business transactions also include divestitures based on our ongoing review of portfolio assets to determine the extent to which they are contributing to our objectives and growth strategy.

In 2017 we completed the sale of our Transformer Services business, which was a non-core business previously included within the legacy Technical Services segment, for \$45.5 million (\$43.4 million net of \$2.1 million in transactional related costs) subject to customary post-closing adjustments. In 2016 we completed the sale of our Catalyst Services business, which was a non-core business previously included within the legacy Industrial Services operating segment, for approximately \$50.6 million (\$49.2 million net of cash retained by the catalyst services business) subject to customary post-closing adjustments. For additional information relating to these divestitures, see Note 5, "Disposition of Businesses," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report.

### Protecting the Environment and Corporate Sustainability

Our core business is to provide industry, government and the public a wide range of environmental, energy and industrial services that protect and restore North America's natural environment.

As a leading provider of environmental, energy and industrial services throughout North America, our first goal is to help our customers prevent the release of chemicals and hazardous waste streams into the environment. We also are the leading service provider in the recovery and decontamination of pollutants that have been released. This includes the safe destruction or disposal of hazardous materials in a manner that ensures these materials are no longer a danger to the environment. When providing these services, we are committed to the recycling, reuse and reclamation of these wastes whenever possible using a variety of methods more fully explained below in the sections describing our general operations. Many of our branded services exemplify our commitment to sustainability and providing environmental solutions to the marketplace. Where possible, liquids such as solvents, chemicals and used oil are continuously recycled to our high-quality standards and made into useful products. Tolling programs provide a closed process in which the customer's spent solvents are recycled to their precise specifications and returned directly to them.

In 2018 we gathered nearly 225 million gallons of used oil in North America through our Safety-Kleen business. Since their opening, our plants have re-refined more than 3.3 billion gallons of used oil, avoiding more than 27 million metric tons of greenhouse gases.

We have also become the leading North American provider of services to protect the ozone layer from the destructive effects of chlorofluorocarbons, or "CFCs," which are ozone layer depleting substances and global warming compounds that have global warming potentials up to 10,000 times more powerful than carbon dioxide.

Global-warming potential is a relative measure of how much heat a greenhouse gas traps in the atmosphere. Since 2013, more than 7.9 million metric tons of carbon dioxide emissions were avoided by destroying CFCs at our Arkansas incinerator. That is equivalent to removing approximately 1.6 million passenger vehicles from the road for one year.

Our fleet of transportation vehicles represents one of our largest opportunities to apply sustainable business practices. Our Asset Refurbishment Program is a comprehensive effort to rebuild assets to "like new" quality. With four facilities now operational, we are able to rebuild approximately two vehicles every week. Our goal is 100% reuse or

recycling of all materials.

One of our most highly visible public programs for various governmental and community entities involves the removal of thousands of tons of hazardous wastes, from households throughout the United States and Canada, that might otherwise be improperly disposed of or become dangerous to the communities where they are stored.

4

---

## Table Of Contents

As we provide these wide-ranging services throughout North America, we are committed to ensuring that our own operations are environmentally responsible. Our sustainability efforts are guided by a formal policy, strategy and plan and we continue to build on our past efforts, such as implementing numerous energy efficiency improvements and various transportation initiatives within our fleet, including using our own recycled oil. We developed initiatives that focus on improving the Company's and our customers' impact on the environment. Our technologies and increased operational efficiencies have allowed us to deliver innovative customer solutions, like our Safety-Kleen Oil Plus® Program, that show our commitment to sustainable methodologies and transform the way we do business.

### Competitive Strengths

**Leading Provider of Environmental, Energy and Industrial Services**—We are a leading provider of environmental, energy and industrial services. We own nine of the 13 commercial hazardous waste incinerators, making us the largest operator of such facilities in North America. We are also one of the few industrial services companies with national footprints in both the U.S. and Canada. We provide multi-faceted, high-quality services to a broad mix of customers. We attract and better serve our customers because of our vast capabilities and breadth of services as well as our overall size, scale and geographic location of our large network along with valuable and unique assets used in providing our services.

**Integrated Network of Assets**—We believe we operate, in the aggregate, the largest number of commercial hazardous waste incinerators, landfills, treatment facilities and TSDFs in North America. Our broad service network enables us to effectively handle a waste stream from its origin through disposal and to efficiently direct and internalize our waste streams to reduce costs. As our processing of wastes increases, our size allows us to leverage our network and increase our profit margins as we can internalize a greater volume of waste in our incinerators, landfills and other disposal facilities. Furthermore, these assets are very difficult to duplicate because significant permitting and regulatory approvals would need to take place in order for new waste disposal sites to come on line. High barriers of entry for such assets provide increased value to our network.

**Comprehensive Service Capabilities**—Our comprehensive service offerings allow us to act as a full-service provider to our customers. Our breadth of service offerings creates incremental revenue growth as customers seek to minimize the number of outside vendors and demand "one-stop-shop" service providers.

**Largest Collector and Recycler of Used Motor Oil**—As the largest re-refiner and recycler of used oil in the world, we returned during 2018 approximately 192 million gallons of new re-refined oil, lubricants and byproducts back into the marketplace. In 2018, our re-refining process eliminated more than two million metric tons of greenhouse gas ("GHG"), which is the equivalent of growing more than 54 million trees for 10 years in an urban environment or taking over 395,000 passenger cars off the road for one year.

**Large and Diversified Customer Base**—Our customers range from Fortune 500 companies to midsize and small public and private entities that span multiple industries and business types, including governmental entities. This diversification limits our credit exposure to any one customer and potential cyclicity to any one industry. As a percentage of our 2018 revenues, the top ten industries we service totaled approximately 76% and included general manufacturing (17%), chemical (14%), refineries (8%), base and blended oils (8%), automotive (7%), government (6%), utilities (5%), transportation (4%), oil and gas (4%) and construction (3%).

**Stable and Recurring Revenue Base**—We have long-standing relationships with our large customers, many of whom have worked with our Company for decades. Our diversified customer base provides stable and recurring revenues, as a significant portion of our revenues are derived from previously served customers with recurring needs for our services. In addition, switching costs for many of our hazardous waste customers are high. This is due to many customers' desire to audit disposal facilities prior to their qualification as approved sites and to limit the number of facilities to which their hazardous wastes are shipped in order to reduce their potential liability under United States and Canadian environmental laws and regulations. We have been selected as an approved vendor by large and small generators of waste because we possess comprehensive collection, recycling, treatment, transportation, disposal, and hazardous waste tracking capabilities and have the expertise necessary to comply with applicable environmental laws and regulations. Those customers that have selected us as an approved vendor typically continue to use our services on a recurring basis.

Regulatory Compliance—We continue to make capital investments in our facilities to ensure that they are in compliance with current federal, state, provincial and local regulations. Companies that rely on in-house disposal may find the current regulatory requirements to be too capital intensive or complicated, and may choose to outsource many of their hazardous waste disposal needs.

5

---

## Table Of Contents

**Effective Cost Management**—Our significant scale allows us to maintain low costs through standardized compliance procedures, significant purchasing power, leveraging our investment in technology and our ability to efficiently utilize logistics and transportation to economically direct waste streams to the most efficient facility. We also have the ability to transport and process with internal resources the substantial majority of all hazardous waste that we manage for our customers. In addition, our Safety-Kleen results are significantly impacted by the overall market pricing and product mix associated with base and blended oil products and, more specifically, the market prices of Group II base oils. We charge fees related to our used oil collection services which allow us to effectively manage the profit spreads inherent in our business.

**Proven and Experienced Management Team**—Our executive management team provides depth and continuity. Our 12 executive officers collectively have over 200 years of experience and expertise in the environmental, energy and industrial services industries. Our chief executive officer founded our Company in 1980, and since its formation has served as both the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman of the Board.

### Operations

#### General

**Seasonality and Cyclical Nature of Business.** Our operations may be affected by seasonal fluctuations due to weather and budgetary cycles influencing the timing of customers' spending for products and services. Typically during the first quarter of each year there is less demand for our products, oil collection, recycling and environmental services due to the lower levels of activities by our customers as a result of the cold weather, particularly in the Northern and Midwestern regions of the United States and Canada. As a result, reduced volumes of waste are received at our facilities, higher operating costs are realized due to sub-freezing weather and high levels of snowfall, factory closings for year-end holidays reduce waste volume, and lower volumes of used oil are generated for our collection.

**Geographical Information.** For the year ended December 31, 2018, we generated \$2,721.8 million or 82.5% of our direct revenues in the United States and \$578.5 million or 17.5% of revenues in Canada. For the year ended December 31, 2017, we generated \$2,392.0 million or 81.2% of our direct revenues in the United States and \$553.0 million or 18.8% of revenues in Canada. For additional information about the geographical areas from which our revenues are derived and in which our assets are located, see Note 19, "Segment Reporting," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report.

#### Environmental Services

We collect, transport, treat and dispose of hazardous and non-hazardous waste, including resource recovery, physical treatment, fuel blending, incineration, landfill disposal, wastewater treatment, lab chemical disposal, explosives management and CleanPack® services. Our CleanPack® services include the collection, identification and categorization, specialized packaging, transportation and disposal of laboratory chemicals and household hazardous waste. We also perform a wide range of industrial maintenance and specialty industrial services and utilize specialty equipment and resources to perform field services at any chosen location on a planned or emergency response basis. All of these services are designed to protect the environment and address environmental related challenges through the use of innovation and the latest technologies. We provide customers with sustainable solutions that seek to recycle waste materials whenever possible.

**Technical Services.** We provide technical services through a network of service centers from which a fleet of vehicles are dispatched to pick up customers' waste either on a predetermined schedule or on demand, and to deliver the waste to permitted facilities, which are usually Company-owned. Our service centers also can dispatch chemists to a customer location for collection of chemical and laboratory waste for disposal. InSite Service offerings is a branded on-site/in-plant service delivery program through which we offer a full range of environmental, industrial and waste management services. This signature program is built on safety, quality, efficiency and integrity, and has been offered by Clean Harbors for more than 25 years. By leveraging Clean Harbors' expertise and capabilities, our on-site staffs are dedicated to developing the safest, most cost-effective solutions to service customers' needs.

**Collection, Transportation and Logistics Management.** As an integral part of our services, we collect industrial waste from customers and transport such waste to and between our facilities for treatment or bulking for shipment to final disposal locations. Customers typically accumulate waste in containers, such as 55-gallon drums, bulk storage tanks or 20-cubic-yard roll-off containers. In providing this service, we utilize a variety of specially designed and

constructed tank trucks and semi-trailers as well as third-party transporters, including railroads.

Treatment and Disposal. We recycle, treat and dispose of hazardous and non-hazardous industrial waste. The waste handled includes substances which are classified as "hazardous" because of their corrosive, ignitable, infectious, reactive or toxic properties, and other substances subject to federal, state and provincial environmental regulation. We provide final

6

---

Table Of Contents

treatment and disposal services designed to manage waste which cannot be otherwise economically recycled or reused. The waste that we handle comes in solid, sludge, liquid and gas form.

We operate a network of TSDFs that collect, temporarily store and/or consolidate compatible waste streams for more efficient transportation to final recycling, treatment or disposal destinations. These facilities hold special permits, such as Part B permits under the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, or "RCRA," in the United States, which allow them to process, transfer and dispose of waste through various technologies including recycling, incineration, and landfill and wastewater treatment depending on each location's permitted and constructed capabilities.

**Resource Recovery and Fuel Blending.** We operate recycling systems for the reclamation and reuse of certain waste, particularly solvent-based waste generated by industrial cleaning operations, metal finishing and other manufacturing processes. Resource recovery involves the treatment of wastes using various methods, which effectively remove contaminants from the original material to restore its fitness for its intended purpose and to reduce the volume of waste requiring disposal.

We also operate a recycling facility that recycles refinery waste and spent catalyst. The recycled oil and catalysts, depending on market conditions, are sold to third parties.

**Incineration.** Incineration is the preferred method for the treatment of organic hazardous waste because it effectively destroys the contaminants at high temperatures. High temperature incineration effectively eliminates organic waste such as herbicides, halogenated solvents, pesticides, pharmaceutical and refinery waste, regardless of whether gases, liquids, sludge or solids. Federal and state incineration regulations require a destruction and removal efficiency of 99.99% for most organic waste.

As of December 31, 2018, we had nine active incinerators operating in five incinerator facilities that offer a wide range of technological capabilities to customers. In the United States, we operate a fluidized bed thermal oxidation unit for maximum destruction efficiency of hazardous waste with an estimated annual practical capacity of 58,808 tons and three solids and liquids capable incinerator facilities with a combined estimated annual practical capacity of 377,387 tons. We also operate one hazardous waste liquid injection incinerator in Canada with total annual practical capacity of 125,526 tons.

Our incinerator facilities in Kimball, Nebraska; Deer Park, Texas; El Dorado, Arkansas; and Aragonite, Utah, are designed to process liquid organic waste, sludge, solids, soil and debris. Our Deer Park facility has two kilns and a rotary reactor. Our El Dorado facility specializes in the treatment of bulk and containerized hazardous liquids, solids and sludge. In 2017, we opened a new hazardous waste incinerator at our El Dorado, Arkansas facility, which specializes in high-temperature incineration of regulated waste such as industrial and laboratory chemicals, manufacturing byproducts, fertilizers and other solid and liquid materials that would otherwise be hazardous to the environment and public health if not properly managed. Our facilities in Kimball and Deer Park also have on-site landfills for the disposal of ash produced as a result of the incineration process.

Our incinerator facility in Lambton, Ontario, is a liquid injection incinerator, designed primarily for the destruction of liquid organic waste. Typical waste streams include wastewater with low levels of organics and other higher concentration organic liquid waste not amenable to conventional physical or chemical waste treatment.

**Landfills.** Landfills are primarily used for disposal of inorganic waste. In the United States and Canada, we operate nine commercial landfills. Seven of our commercial landfills are designed and permitted for disposal of hazardous waste and two of our landfills are operated for non-hazardous industrial waste disposal and, to a lesser extent, municipal solid waste. In addition to our commercial landfills, we also own and operate, as described above, two non-commercial landfills that only accept waste from our on-site incinerators.

Of our seven commercial landfills used for disposal of hazardous waste, five are located in the United States and two are located in Canada. As of December 31, 2018, the useful economic lives of these landfills included approximately 25.6 million cubic yards of remaining capacity. This estimate of the useful economic lives of these landfills includes permitted airspace and unpermitted airspace that our management believes to be probable of being permitted based on our analysis of various factors. In addition to the capacity included in the useful economic lives of these landfills, there are approximately 31.9 million cubic yards of additional unpermitted airspace capacity included in the footprints of these landfills that may ultimately be permitted, although there can be no assurance that this additional capacity will be permitted. In addition to the hazardous waste landfills, we operate two non-hazardous industrial landfills with



3.8 million cubic yards of remaining permitted capacity. These two facilities are located in the United States and have been issued operating permits under Subtitle D of RCRA. Our non-hazardous landfill facilities are permitted to accept commercial industrial waste, including waste from foundries, demolition and construction, machine shops, automobile manufacturing, printing, metal fabrications and recycling.

Wastewater Treatment. We operate nine wastewater treatment facilities that offer a range of wastewater treatment technologies. These wastewater treatment operations involve processing hazardous and non-hazardous waste through use of

## Table Of Contents

physical and chemical treatment methods. These facilities treat a broad range of industrial liquid and semi-liquid waste containing heavy metals, organics and suspended solids.

**Total Project Management.** We also provide total project management services in areas such as chemical packing, on-site waste management, remediation, compliance training and emergency spill response, while leveraging the Clean Harbors network of service centers and environmental capabilities.

**Industrial Services.** We perform industrial maintenance services and specialty industrial services at refineries, mines, upgraders, chemical plants, pulp and paper mills, manufacturing, and power generation facilities. We provide these services throughout North America.

Our crews handle as-needed in-plant services to support ongoing in-plant cleaning and maintenance services, including liquid/dry vacuum, hydro-blasting, dewatering and materials processing, water and chemical hauling and steam cleaning. We provide a variety of specialized industrial services including plant outage and turnaround services, decoking and pigging, chemical cleaning, high and ultra-high pressure water cleaning, pipeline inspection and coating services, and large tank and surface impoundment cleaning. We also provide daylighting services which, through the use of specialized hydro vac equipment, deliver safer, cleaner and more precise hydro excavation services to safely uncover highly sensitive underground targets. Our crews also handle oilfield transport and production services supporting drilling, completions and production programs.

**Field and Emergency Response Services.** Our crews and equipment are dispatched on a planned or emergency basis and perform services such as confined space entry for tank cleaning, site decontamination, large remediation projects, demolition, spill cleanup on land and water, railcar cleaning, product recovery and transfer, scarifying and media blasting and vacuum services. Additional services include filtration and water treatment services.

We are also a leader in providing response services for environmental emergencies of any scale from man-made disasters such as oil spills and natural disasters such as hurricanes.

**Oil and Gas Field Services.** We provide integrated seismic and right-of-way services for efficient resource discovery and site preparation. These services include: (i) seismic surveying that minimizes costs, environmental impact, and time in field; (ii) mulching/line clearing that expedites additional geophysical activities and minimizes environmental impact; and (iii) shot-hole drilling that provides safe and efficient operations in every terrain, including hostile and inaccessible regions. We also provide surface rentals services by supporting oil and gas companies' drilling and well completion programs. Key to our services is our ability to provide solids control to support the drilling process. Our technologies help manage liquids, solids and semi-solid material during the drilling operation, and include centrifuges, tanks, and drilling fluid recovery. We also can provide container rentals for safe collection of drill cuttings and other wastes, as well as manage disposal of drilling fluids and solids and can supply surface rental equipment to support drill sites by providing wellsite trailers, wastewater treatment systems and holding tanks, light towers, generators and handling tools.

**Lodging Services.** Our fixed lodges provide turnkey remote accommodations throughout Western Canada, primarily in the Fort McMurray area, and range in size up to approximately 600 beds. These are open lodges, with amenities that include catering and housekeeping services, fully equipped common areas, fitness rooms and computer rooms, wireless internet and public phones, powered parking stalls, laundry facilities, and daily towel service. We also offer mobile camp operations, which provide services for remote workforce accommodation facilities throughout Western Canada, currently in British Columbia, Saskatchewan and Alberta, with multiple accommodation types. These include client and open camps, operator camps, and drill camps. Furthermore, hospitality services are available as a standalone service to clients which have other accommodation arrangements.

### **Safety-Kleen**

Our Safety-Kleen business offers an array of environmental services and complementary products to a diverse range of customers including automobile repair shops, car and truck dealers, metal fabricators, machine manufacturers, fleet maintenance shops and other automotive, industrial and retail customers.

As the largest provider of parts cleaning services in North America, Safety-Kleen offers a complete line of specially designed parts washers to customer locations and then delivers recurring service that includes machine cleaning and maintenance and disposal and replacement of clean solvent or aqueous fluids. We also sell automotive and industrial cleaning products which include degreasers, glass and floor cleaners, hand cleaners, absorbents, antifreeze, windshield

washer fluid, mats and spill kits.

Utilizing our collection network, we provide pickup and transportation of hazardous and non-hazardous containerized waste for recycling or disposal, primarily through the Clean Harbors network of recycling and waste treatment and disposal

8

---

## Table Of Contents

facilities. We also collect used oil which serves as feedstock for our oil re-refineries discussed below, or process the oil into recycled fuel oil, or “RFO,” which is then sold to customers such as asphalt plants, industrial plants, pulp and paper companies, and vacuum gas oil and marine diesel oil producers.

Our vacuum services remove solids, residual oily water and sludge and other fluids from customers' oil/water separators, sumps and collection tanks. We also remove and collect waste fluids found at large and small industrial locations, including metal fabricators, auto maintenance providers, and general manufacturers.

Utilizing used oil collected by Safety-Kleen branches, we manufacture, formulate, package, distribute and market high-quality lubricants. We offer these products and services direct to business end-users and customers that can in turn market to retailers and end-consumers. The used oil collected by Safety-Kleen's branch network is processed or re-refined to convert into a variety of products, mostly base lubricating oils, and much smaller quantities of asphalt-like material, glycols and fuels. As the largest re-refiner of used oil in North America, we can process the used oil collected through our six re-refineries located in East Chicago, Indiana; Newark, California; Wichita, Kansas; Tacoma, Washington; Fallon, Nevada; and Breslau, Ontario.

Our primary goal is to produce and sell high-quality blended oils, which are created by combining our re-refined base and other base oils with performance additives in accordance with our proprietary formulations and American Petroleum Institute licenses. Our Performance Plus® brand and “green” proprietary brand EcoPow® are sold to on- and off-road corporate fleets, government entities, automotive service shops and industrial plants, which are serviced through our internal distribution network, as well as an extensive United States and Canada-wide independent distributor network. We also sell unbranded blended oils to distributors that resell them under their private label brands. Our OilPlus® program consists of selling our renewable oil products directly to our end customers. We sell the base oil that we do not blend and sell ourselves to independent blenders/packagers that use it to blend their own branded or private label oils. With more than 200 million gallons of used oil processed annually, we were able to return in 2018 approximately 192 million gallons of new re-refined oil, lubricants and byproducts back into the marketplace. We believe our position as the largest collector and re-refiner of used motor oil, along with our vast service and distributions network, provide a distinct competitive advantage in our ability to provide our customers with collection and oil distribution services through our OilPlus® program.

### Competition

The hazardous waste management industry is highly competitive. The sources of competition vary by locality and by type of service rendered, with competition coming from national and regional waste services companies and hundreds of privately-owned firms. Veolia North America, Waste Management, Inc., U.S. Ecology, and Stericycle, Inc. are the principal national firms with which we compete. Each of these competitors is able to provide one or more of the environmental services we offer.

Under federal and state environmental laws in the United States, generators of hazardous wastes remain liable for improper disposal of such wastes. Although generators may hire various companies that have the proper permits and licenses, because of the generators' potential liability, they are very interested in the reputation and financial strength of the companies they use for the management of their hazardous wastes. We believe that our technical proficiency, safety record, customer service oriented culture and overall reputation are important considerations to our customers in selecting and continuing to utilize our services. We also believe that the depth of our recycling, treatment and disposal capabilities, our ability to collect and transport waste products efficiently, and pricing are additional significant factors in the market for treatment and disposal services.

Competition within our Environmental Services segment varies by locality and type of service rendered.

- For our landfill and waste services, competitors include several major national and regional environmental services firms, as well as numerous smaller local firms. We believe the availability of skilled technical professional personnel, quality of performance, diversity of services, safety record, quality of assets and use of current and latest technologies, as well as price, are the key competitive factors in this service industry.

- For our industrial, field and emergency responses services, competitors vary by locality and by type of service rendered, with competition coming from national and regional service providers and hundreds of privately-owned firms that offer energy or industrial services. CEDA International Corporation and Newalta in Canada, and EnviroSystems and Hydrochem PSC in the United States, are the principal national firms with which we compete.

Each of these competitors is able to provide one or more of the industrial and field services we offer. We believe the availability of specialized equipment and latest technologies, skilled technical professional personnel, quality of performance, diversity of services, safety record and price are the key competitive factors in this industry.

9

---

## Table Of Contents

•For our energy related services, competitors vary by locality and type of services provided, with competition coming from national, regional and local service providers. Competition is based on a number of factors, including safety, quality, performance, reliability, service, price, response time and, in some cases, breadth of service offering. For our Safety-Kleen segment, competitors vary by locality and by type of service rendered, with competition coming from Heritage-Crystal Clean and Veolia North America, along with several regional and local firms. With our Safety-Kleen Oil Plus<sup>®</sup> closed loop offering, we are competing in certain markets with other North American lubricant distributors.

The principal methods of competition for all of our services are quality, price, reliability of service rendered and technical proficiency. We believe that we offer a more comprehensive range of environmental, energy and industrial services than our competitors in major portions of the United States and Canada.

### Employees

As of December 31, 2018, we employed approximately 14,200 active full-time employees, of which 898 in the United States and 547 in Canada were represented by labor unions. We believe that our relationship with our employees is positive. As part of our commitment to employee safety and quality customer service, we have an extensive compliance program and trained environmental, health and safety staff. We adhere to a risk management program designed to reduce potential liabilities to us and to our customers. We also continually strive to invest in our employees through training programs as well as competitive compensation and benefit programs

### Intellectual Property

We have invested significantly in the development of proprietary technology and also to establish and maintain an extensive knowledge of leading technologies and incorporate these technologies into the services we offer and provide to our customers. As of December 31, 2018, we held a total of 32 U.S. and nine foreign issued or granted patents (which will expire between 2019 and 2031), two U.S. and five foreign pending patent applications, 96 U.S. and 63 foreign trademark registrations, and one U.S. and six foreign trademark applications. We also license software and other intellectual property from various third parties. We enter into confidentiality agreements with certain of our employees, consultants and corporate partners, and control access to software documentation and other proprietary information. We believe that we hold adequate rights to all intellectual property used in our business and that we do not infringe upon any intellectual property rights held by other parties.

### Management of Risks

We adhere to a program of risk management policies and practices designed to reduce potential liability, as well as to manage customers' ongoing environmental exposures. This program includes installation of risk management systems at our facilities, such as fire suppression, employee training, environmental, auditing and policy decisions restricting the types of wastes handled. We evaluate all revenue opportunities and decline those that we believe involve unacceptable risks.

We dispose of wastes at our incinerator, wastewater treatment and landfill facilities, or at facilities owned and operated by other firms that we have audited and approved. We apply established technologies to treatment, storage and recovery of hazardous wastes. We believe our operations are conducted in a safe and prudent manner and in substantial compliance with applicable laws and regulations.

### Insurance and Financial Assurance

Our insurance programs cover the potential risks associated with our multifaceted operations from two primary exposures: direct physical damage and third-party liability. We maintain a casualty insurance program providing coverage for vehicles, employer's liability and commercial general liability in the aggregate amount of \$105.0 million, \$102.0 million and \$102.0 million, respectively, per year, subject to retentions of \$2.0 million per occurrence for auto and commercial general liability and \$1.0 million for employers' liability in the United States and \$2.0 million in Canada. We also have workers' compensation insurance whose limits are established by state statutes.

We have pollution liability insurance policies covering potential risks in three areas: as a contractor performing services at customer sites, as a transporter of waste, and as a processor of waste at our facilities. The contractor's pollution liability insurance has limits of \$20.0 million per occurrence and \$25.0 million in the aggregate, covering offsite remedial activities and associated liabilities.

For sudden and accidental in-transit pollution liability, our auto liability policy provides the primary \$5.0 million per occurrence of transportation pollution insurance. Our pollution liability policies provide an additional \$60.0 million per occurrence and \$85.0 million in the aggregate for a total of \$65.0 million per occurrence and \$90.0 million, respectively. A \$2.0 million deductible per occurrence applies to this coverage in the United States and Canada.

## Table Of Contents

Federal and state regulations require liability insurance coverage for all facilities that treat, store or dispose of hazardous waste. RCRA, the Toxic Substances Control Act, and comparable state hazardous waste regulations typically require hazardous waste handling facilities to maintain pollution liability insurance in the amount of \$1.0 million per occurrence and \$2.0 million in the aggregate for sudden occurrences, and \$3.0 million per occurrence and \$6.0 million in the aggregate for non-sudden occurrences. Our liability insurance coverage meets or exceeds all federal and state regulations.

Our international operations are insured under locally placed insurance policies that are compulsory in a specific country. In addition, we have a global foreign liability policy that will provide excess and difference in condition coverage in international countries.

Under our insurance programs, coverage is obtained for catastrophic exposures, cyber security as well as those risks required to be insured by law or contract. It is our policy to retain a significant portion of certain expected losses related primarily to employee benefit, workers' compensation, commercial general and vehicle liability. Provisions for losses expected under these programs are recorded based upon our estimates of the actuarial calculation of the aggregate liability for claims. We believe that policy cancellation terms are similar to those of companies in other industries.

Operators of hazardous waste handling facilities are also required by federal, state and provincial regulations to provide financial assurance for closure and post-closure care of those facilities should the facilities cease operation. Closure would include the cost of removing the waste stored at a facility which ceased operating and sending the material to another facility for disposal and the cost of performing certain procedures for decontamination of the facility. As of December 31, 2018, our total estimated closure and post-closure costs requiring financial assurance by regulators were \$464.2 million for our U.S. facilities and \$42.1 million for our Canadian facilities. We have obtained all of the required financial assurance for our facilities through a combination of surety bonds, funded trusts, letters of credit and insurance from a qualified insurance company. The financial assurance related to closure and post-closure obligations of our U.S. facilities will renew in 2019. Our Canadian facilities utilize surety bonds, which renew at various dates throughout 2019, as well as letters of credit.

### Environmental Regulation

While our business has benefited substantially from increased governmental regulation of hazardous waste transportation, storage and disposal, the environmental services industry itself is the subject of extensive and evolving regulation by federal, state, provincial and local authorities. We are required to obtain federal, state, provincial and local permits or approvals for each of our hazardous waste facilities. Such permits are difficult to obtain and, in many instances, extensive studies, tests, and public hearings are required before the approvals can be issued. We have acquired all operating permits and approvals now required for the current operation of our business, and have applied for, or are in the process of applying for, all permits and approvals needed in connection with continued operation and planned expansion or modifications of our operations.

We make a continuing effort to anticipate regulatory, political and legal developments that might affect operations, but are not always able to do so. We cannot predict the extent to which any environmental legislation or regulation that may be enacted or enforced in the future may affect our operations.

A new regulation primarily impacting the shipping business but which we are monitoring closely as it could impact our business is known as "IMO 2020". On January 1, 2020, the International Maritime Organization (the "IMO") will implement a new regulation for a 0.50% global sulphur cap for marine fuels. Under the new global cap, ships that traverse the oceans will be required to use marine fuels with a sulphur content of no more than 0.50%, versus the current limit of 3.50%, in an effort to reduce the amount of sulphur oxide and decrease pollution and greenhouse gas emissions from the global shipping fleet, which now uses an estimated 3.5 - 4 million barrels per day of fuel oil. The shipping industry is the last major transportation sector to utilize fuel with high levels of sulfur, which is the reason the IMO is pushing the industry to more closely align with other transport sectors for pollution reduction.

There are several variables around this regulatory change that are not yet clear, including anticipated levels of compliance and enforcement. However, it is expected that the implementation of IMO 2020 will result in a significant increase in near-term demand for a broad range of low sulfur distillates including diesel, marine gas oil, marine diesel



oil and vacuum gas oil ("VGO") among others. There is uncertainty about the global refinery industry's ability to meet that spike in demand, which could have substantial consequences for the pricing of those products, particularly VGO. The price of VGO typically has a direct impact on the pricing and/or levels of production of base oil. Changes in the marine fuel market as a result of IMO 2020 is also expected to affect the availability of used motor oil, which today is frequently used in the marine market and some of which may be displaced as a result of this new rule.

Table Of Contents

## United States Hazardous Waste Regulation

Federal Regulations. The most significant federal environmental laws affecting us are the RCRA, the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act, or "CERCLA," also known as the "Superfund Act," the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and the Toxic Substances Control Act, or "TSCA." RCRA. RCRA is the principal federal statute governing hazardous waste generation, treatment, transportation, storage and disposal. Pursuant to RCRA, the EPA has established a comprehensive "cradle-to-grave" system for the management of a wide range of materials identified as hazardous waste. States that have adopted hazardous waste management programs with standards at least as stringent as those promulgated by the EPA have been delegated authority by the EPA to administer their facility permitting programs in lieu of the EPA's program.

Every facility that treats, stores or disposes of hazardous waste must obtain a RCRA permit from the EPA or an authorized state agency unless a specific exemption exists, and must comply with certain operating requirements (the Part B permitting process). RCRA also requires that Part B permits contain provisions for required on-site study and cleanup activities, known as "corrective action," including detailed compliance schedules and provisions for assurance of financial responsibility. See Note 10, "Closure and Post-Closure Liabilities," and Note 11, "Remedial Liabilities," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report for a discussion of our environmental liabilities. See "Insurance and Financial Assurance" above for a discussion of our financial assurance requirements.

The Superfund Act. The Superfund Act is the primary federal statute regulating the cleanup of inactive hazardous substance sites and imposing liability for cleanup on the responsible parties. It also provides for immediate response and removal actions coordinated by the EPA to releases of hazardous substances into the environment, and authorizes the government to respond to the release or threatened release of hazardous substances or to order responsible persons to perform any necessary cleanup. The statute provides for strict and, in certain cases, joint and several liability for these responses and other related costs, and for liability for the cost of damages to natural resources, to the parties involved in the generation, transportation and disposal of hazardous substances. Under the statute, we may be deemed liable as a generator or transporter of a hazardous substance which is released into the environment, or as the owner or operator of a facility from which there is a release of a hazardous substance into the environment. See Note 18, "Commitments and Contingencies," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report for a description of the principal such proceedings in which we are now involved.

The Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act was passed by Congress to control the emissions of pollutants into the air and requires permits to be obtained for certain sources of toxic air pollutants such as vinyl chloride, or criteria pollutants, such as carbon monoxide. In 1990, Congress amended the Clean Air Act to require further reductions of air pollutants with specific targets for non-attainment areas in order to meet certain ambient air quality standards. These amendments also require the EPA to promulgate regulations which (i) control emissions of 189 hazardous air pollutants; (ii) create uniform operating permits for major industrial facilities similar to RCRA operating permits; (iii) mandate the phase-out of ozone depleting chemicals; and (iv) provide for enhanced enforcement.

The Clean Water Act. This legislation prohibits discharge of pollutants into the waters of the United States without governmental authorization and regulates the discharge of pollutants into surface waters and sewers from a variety of sources, including disposal sites and treatment facilities. The EPA has promulgated "pretreatment" regulations under the Clean Water Act, which establish pretreatment standards for introduction of pollutants into publicly owned treatment works. In the course of the treatment process, our wastewater treatment facilities generate wastewater, which we discharge to publicly owned treatment works pursuant to permits issued by the appropriate governmental authorities. We are required to obtain discharge permits and conduct sampling and monitoring programs.

TSCA. We also operate a network of collection, treatment and field services (remediation) activities throughout North America that are regulated under provisions of TSCA. TSCA established a national program for the management of substances classified as polychlorinated biphenyls, or "PCBs," which include waste PCBs as well as RCRA wastes contaminated with PCBs. The rules set minimum design and operating requirements for storage, treatment and disposal of PCB wastes. Since their initial publication, the rules have been modified to enhance the management standards for TSCA-regulated operations including the decommissioning of PCB transformers and articles, detoxification of transformer oils, incineration of PCB liquids and solids, landfill disposal of PCB solids, and remediation of PCB contamination at customer sites.

Other Federal Laws. In addition to regulations specifically directed at our transportation, storage, and disposal facilities, there are a number of regulations that may "pass-through" to the facilities based on the acceptance of regulated waste from affected client facilities. Each facility that accepts affected waste must comply with the regulations for that waste, facility or industry. Examples of this type of regulation are National Emission Standards for Benzene Waste Operations and National

Table Of Contents

Emissions Standards for Pharmaceuticals Production. Each of our facilities addresses these regulations on a case-by-case basis determined by its ability to comply with the pass-through regulations.

In our transportation operations, we are regulated by the U.S. Department of Transportation, the Federal Railroad Administration, the Federal Aviation Administration and the U.S. Coast Guard, as well as by the regulatory agencies of each state in which we operate or through which our vehicles pass.

Health and safety standards under the Occupational Safety and Health Act, or "OSHA," are also applicable to all of our operations.

State and Local Regulations. Pursuant to the EPA's authorization of their RCRA equivalent programs, a number of U.S. states have regulatory programs governing the operations and permitting of hazardous waste facilities.

Accordingly, the hazardous waste treatment, storage and disposal activities of a number of our facilities are regulated by the relevant state agencies in addition to federal EPA regulation.

Some states classify as hazardous some wastes that are not regulated under RCRA. For example, Massachusetts considers used oil as "hazardous waste" while RCRA does not. Accordingly, we must comply with state requirements for handling state regulated wastes, and, when necessary, obtain state licenses for treating, storing, and disposing of such wastes at our facilities.

Our facilities are regulated pursuant to state statutes, including those addressing clean water and clean air. Local sewer discharge and flammable storage requirements are applicable to certain of our facilities. Our facilities are also subject to local siting, zoning and land use restrictions. We believe that each of our facilities is in substantial compliance with the applicable requirements of federal and state licenses which we have obtained. Once issued, such licenses have maximum fixed terms of a given number of years, which differ from state to state, ranging from three to ten years. The issuing state agency may review or modify a license at any time during its term. We anticipate that once a license is issued with respect to a facility, the license will be renewed at the end of its term if the facility's operations are in compliance with applicable requirements. However, there can be no assurance that regulations governing future licensing will remain static, or that we will be able to comply with such requirements.

**Canadian Hazardous Waste Regulation**

In Canada, the provinces retain control over environmental issues within their boundaries and thus have the primary responsibility for regulating management of hazardous wastes. The federal government regulates issues of national scope or where activities cross provincial boundaries.

Provincial Regulations. Most of Canada's industrial development and the major part of its population are located in four provinces: Ontario, Quebec, Alberta and British Columbia. These provinces have the most detailed environmental regulations. We operate major waste management facilities in each of these provinces, as well as waste transfer facilities in Nova Scotia and Manitoba.

The main provincial acts dealing with hazardous waste management are:

• Ontario—Environmental Protection Act;

• Quebec—Environmental Quality Act;

• Alberta—Environmental Protection and Enhancement Act; and

• British Columbia—Waste Management Act.

These pieces of legislation were developed by the provinces independently and, among other things, generally control the generation, characterization, transport, treatment and disposal of hazardous wastes. Regulations developed by the provinces under the relevant legislation are also developed independently, but are often quite similar in effect and sometimes in application. For example, there is some uniformity in manifest design and utilization.

Provincial legislation also provides for the establishment of waste management facilities. In this case, the facilities are also controlled by provincial statutes and regulations governing emissions to air, groundwater and surface water and prescribing design criteria and operational guidelines.

Waste transporters require a permit to operate under provincial waste management regulations and are subject to the requirements of the Federal Transportation of Dangerous Goods legislation. They are required to report the quantities and disposition of materials shipped.



## Table Of Contents

Canadian Federal Regulations. The Canadian federal government has authority for those matters which are national in scope and in impact and for Canada's relations with other nations. The main federal laws governing hazardous waste management are:

Canadian Environmental Protection Act (1999) ("CEPA 99"), and

Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act.

Environment Canada is the federal agency with responsibility for environmental matters and the main legislative instrument is the Canadian Environmental Protection Act. This act charges Environment Canada and Health Canada with protection of human health and the environment and seeks to control the production, importation and use of substances in Canada and to control their impact on the environment.

The Export and Import of Hazardous Wastes Regulations under CEPA 99 control the export and import of hazardous wastes and hazardous recyclable materials. By reference, these regulations incorporate the Transportation of Dangerous Goods Act and Regulations, which address identification, packaging, marking and documentation of hazardous materials during transport. CEPA 99 requires that anyone proposing to export or import hazardous wastes or hazardous recyclable materials or to transport them through Canada notify the Minister of the Environment and obtain a permit to do so. Section 9 of CEPA 99 allows the federal government to enter into administrative agreements with the provinces and territories for the development and improvement of environmental standards. These agreements represent cooperation towards a common goal rather than a delegation of authority under CEPA 99. To facilitate the development of provincial and territorial agreements, the federal, provincial and territorial governments participate in the Canadian Council of Ministers of the Environment ("CCME"). The CCME comprises the 14 environment ministers from the federal, provincial and territorial governments, who normally meet twice a year to discuss national environmental priorities and to determine work to be carried out under the auspices of the CCME.

Canadian Local and Municipal Regulations. Local and municipal regulations seldom reference direct control of hazardous waste management activities. Municipal regulations and by-laws, however, control such issues as land use designation, access to municipal services and use of emergency services, all of which can have a significant impact on facility operation.

### Compliance with Environmental Regulations

We incur costs and make capital investments in order to comply with the previously discussed environmental regulations. These regulations require that we remediate contaminated sites, operate our facilities in accordance with enacted regulations, obtain required financial assurance for closure and post-closure care of our facilities should such facilities cease operations, and make capital investments in order to keep our facilities in compliance with environmental regulations.

As further discussed in Note 10, "Closure and Post-Closure Liabilities," and Note 11, "Remedial Liabilities," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report, we have accrued environmental liabilities as of December 31, 2018, of \$190.9 million. For the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, we spent \$10.1 million and \$13.0 million, respectively, to address environmental liabilities.

As discussed more fully above under the heading "Insurance and Financial Assurance," we are required to provide financial assurance with respect to certain statutorily required closure, post-closure and corrective action obligations at our facilities. We have placed the required financial assurance primarily through a qualified insurance company.

As described in Note 18, "Commitments and Contingencies," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report, we are involved in legal proceedings arising under environmental laws and regulations. Alleged failure to comply with laws and regulations may lead to the imposition of fines or the denial, revocation or delay of the renewal of permits and licenses by governmental entities. In addition, such governmental entities, as well as surrounding landowners, may claim that we are liable for environmental damages. Citizens groups have become increasingly active in challenging the grant or renewal of permits and licenses for hazardous waste facilities, and responding to such challenges has further increased the costs associated with establishing new facilities or expanding current facilities. A significant judgment against us, the loss of a significant permit or license, or the imposition of a significant fine could have a material effect on our business and future prospects.

### ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

An investment in our securities involves certain risks, including those described below. You should consider carefully these risk factors together with all of the information included in this report before investing in our securities.

## Table Of Contents

### Risks Affecting All of Our Businesses

Our businesses are subject to operational and safety risks.

Provision of environmental, energy and industrial services to our customers by both of our business segments involves risks such as equipment defects, malfunctions and failures, and natural disasters, which could potentially result in releases of hazardous materials, damage to or total loss of our property or assets, injury or death of our employees, or a need to shut down or reduce operation of our facilities while remedial actions are undertaken. Our employees often work under potentially hazardous conditions. These risks expose us to potential liability for pollution and other environmental damages, personal injury, loss of life, business interruption, and property damage or destruction. We must also maintain a solid safety record in order to remain a preferred supplier to our major customers.

While we seek to minimize our exposure to such risks through comprehensive training programs, our Environmental Health and Safety Compliance Internal Audit Program, vehicle and equipment maintenance programs, and insurance, such programs and insurance may not be adequate to cover all of our potential liabilities and such insurance may not in the future be available at commercially reasonable rates. If we were to incur substantial liabilities in excess of policy limits or at a time when we were not able to obtain adequate liability insurance on commercially reasonable terms, our business, results of operations and financial condition could be adversely affected to a material extent.

Furthermore, should our safety record deteriorate, we could be subject to a potential reduction of revenues from our major customers.

Our businesses are subject to numerous statutory and regulatory requirements, which may increase in the future.

Our businesses are subject to numerous statutory and regulatory requirements, and our ability to continue to hold licenses and permits required for our businesses is subject to maintaining satisfactory compliance with such requirements. These requirements may increase in the future as a result of statutory and regulatory changes. Although we are very committed to compliance and safety, we may not, either now or in the future, be in full compliance at all times with such statutory and regulatory requirements. Consequently, we could be required to incur significant costs to maintain or improve our compliance with such requirements.

Failure to effectively manage acquisitions and divestitures could adversely impact our future results.

We continuously evaluate potential acquisition candidates and from time to time acquire companies that we believe will strategically fit into our business and growth objectives. If we are unable to successfully integrate and develop acquired businesses, we could fail to achieve anticipated synergies and cost savings, including any expected increases in revenues and operating results, which could have a material adverse effect on our financial results. We also continually review our portfolio of assets to determine the extent to which they are contributing to our objectives and growth strategy.

Natural disasters or other catastrophic events could negatively affect our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Natural disasters such as hurricanes, typhoons or earthquakes could negatively affect our operations and financial performance. Such events could result in physical damage to one or more of our facilities or equipment, the temporary lack of an adequate work force in a market, and the temporary disruption in rail or truck transportation services which we rely on to deliver waste to our facilities. These events could prevent or delay shipments and reduce both volumes and revenue. Weather conditions and other event driven special projects also cause interim variations in our results.

We may be required to suspend operations in some or all of our locations, which could have a material adverse effect on our business, financial condition and results of operations.

Our acquisitions may expose us to unknown liabilities.

Because we have acquired, and expect generally to acquire, all the outstanding shares of most of our acquired companies, our investment in those companies are or will be subject to all of their liabilities other than their respective debts which we paid or will pay at the time of the acquisitions. If there are unknown liabilities or other obligations, our business could be materially affected. We may also experience issues relating to internal controls over financial reporting that could affect our ability to comply with the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, or that could affect our ability to comply with other applicable laws.

A cyber security incident could negatively impact our business and our relationships with customers.



We use computers in substantially all aspects of our business operations and also mobile devices and other online activities to connect with our employees and customers. Such uses give rise to cyber security risks, including security breach, espionage, system disruption, theft and inadvertent release of information. Our business involves the storage and transmission of numerous classes of sensitive and/or confidential information and intellectual property including, but not limited to, private information about employees, and financial and strategic information about our Company and our business partners.

15

---

## Table Of Contents

Furthermore, as we pursue our strategy to grow through acquisitions and new initiatives that improve our operations and cost structure, we are also expanding and improving our information technologies, resulting in a larger technological presence and corresponding exposure to cyber security risk. If we fail to assess and identify cyber security risks associated with acquisitions and new initiatives, we may become increasingly vulnerable to such risks. Additionally, while we have implemented measures to prevent security breaches and cyber incidents, our preventative measures and incident response efforts may not be entirely effective. The theft, destruction, loss, misappropriation, or release of sensitive and/or confidential information or intellectual property, or interference with our information technology systems or the technology systems of third parties on which we rely, could result in business disruption, negative publicity, brand damage, violation of privacy laws, loss of customers, potential liability and competitive disadvantage.

Tax interpretations and changes in tax regulations and legislation could adversely affect our results of operations. We are subject to income taxes in the United States, Canada and various state and local jurisdictions. Tax interpretations, regulations and legislation in the various jurisdictions in which we operate are subject to change and uncertainty and can impact net income, income tax expense or recovery and deferred income tax assets or liabilities. Our interpretation of tax rules and regulations, including those relating to foreign jurisdictions, requires judgment that may be challenged by taxation authorities upon audit. Although we believe our assumptions, judgments and estimates are reasonable, changes in tax laws or our interpretation of tax laws and the resolution of any tax audits could significantly impact the amounts provided for income taxes in our consolidated financial statements.

Fluctuations in foreign currency exchange could affect our financial results.

We earn revenues, pay expenses, own assets and incur liabilities in countries using currencies other than the U.S. dollar. In fiscal 2018, we recorded approximately 17.5% of our direct revenues in Canada. Because our consolidated financial statements are presented in U.S. dollars, we must translate revenues, income and expenses as well as assets and liabilities into U.S. dollars at exchange rates in effect during or at the end of each reporting period. Therefore, increases or decreases in the value of the U.S. dollar against other currencies in countries where we operate affect our results of operations and the value of balance sheet items denominated in foreign currencies.

Certain adverse conditions have required, and future conditions might require, us to make substantial write-downs in our assets, which have adversely affected or would adversely affect our balance sheet and results of operations. We review our long-lived tangible and intangible assets for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value of an asset may not be recoverable. We also test our goodwill and indefinite-lived intangible assets for impairment at least annually on December 31, or when events or changes in the business environment indicate that the carrying value of a reporting unit may exceed its fair value. Based on those results, during the third quarter of 2016, we determined that the then carrying amount of one of our then reporting units exceeded the estimated fair value of that unit and we therefore then recognized a goodwill impairment charge of \$34.0 million with respect to that unit. During and as of the end of each of 2018, 2017 and 2016, we determined that no additional asset write-downs were required. However, if conditions in any of the businesses in which we compete were to deteriorate, we could determine that certain of our assets are impaired and we would then be required to write-off all or a portion of our costs for such assets. Any significant write-offs would adversely affect our balance sheet and results of operations.

### Additional Risks of Our Environmental Services Business

The hazardous waste management business which our Environmental Services segment conducts is subject to significant environmental liabilities.

We have accrued environmental liabilities valued as of December 31, 2018, at \$190.9 million, substantially all of which we assumed in connection with certain acquisitions. We calculate our environmental liabilities on a present value basis in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, which take into consideration both the amount of such liabilities and the timing when we project that we will be required to pay such liabilities. We anticipate our environmental liabilities will be payable over many years and that cash flows generated from our operations will generally be sufficient to fund the payment of such liabilities when required. However, events not now anticipated (such as future changes in environmental laws and regulations or their enforcement) could require that

such payments be made earlier or in greater amounts than we now estimate, which could adversely affect our financial condition and results of operations.

We may also assume additional environmental liabilities as part of future acquisitions. Although we will endeavor to accurately estimate and limit environmental liabilities presented by the businesses or facilities to be acquired, some liabilities, including ones that may exist only because of the past operations of an acquired business or facility, may prove to be more difficult or costly to address than we then estimate. It is also possible that government officials responsible for enforcing

Table Of Contents

environmental laws may believe an environmental liability is more significant than we then estimate, or that we will fail to identify or fully appreciate an existing liability before we become legally responsible to address it.

If we become unable to obtain at reasonable cost the insurance, surety bonds, letters of credit and other forms of financial assurance required for our facilities and operations, our business and results of operations would be adversely affected.

We are required to provide substantial amounts of financial assurance to governmental agencies for closure and post-closure care of our licensed hazardous waste treatment facilities should those facilities cease operation, and we are also occasionally required to post surety, bid and performance bonds in connection with certain projects. As of December 31, 2018, our total estimated closure and post-closure costs requiring financial assurance by regulators were \$464.2 million for our U.S. facilities and \$42.1 million for our Canadian facilities. We have obtained all of the required financial assurance for our facilities through a combination of surety bonds, funded trusts, letters of credit and insurance from a qualified insurance company. The financial assurance related to closure and post-closure obligations of our U.S. facilities will renew in 2019. Our Canadian facilities utilize surety bonds, which renew at various dates throughout 2019, as well as letters of credit.

Our ability to continue operating our facilities and conducting our other operations would be adversely affected if we became unable to obtain sufficient insurance, surety bonds, letters of credit and other forms of financial assurance at reasonable cost to meet our regulatory and other business requirements. The availability of insurance, surety bonds, letters of credit and other forms of financial assurance is affected by our insurers', sureties' and lenders' assessment of our risk and by other factors outside of our control such as general conditions in the insurance and credit markets. The hazardous waste management industry in which we participate is subject to significant economic and business risks.

The future operating results of our Environmental Services segment may be affected by such factors as our ability to utilize our facilities and workforce profitably in the face of intense price competition, maintain or increase market share in an industry which has in the past experienced significant downsizing and consolidation, realize benefits from cost reduction programs, invest in new technologies for treatment of hazardous waste, generate incremental volumes of waste to be handled through our facilities from existing and acquired sales offices and service centers, obtain sufficient volumes of waste at prices which produce revenue sufficient to offset the operating costs of our facilities, minimize downtime and disruptions of operations, and develop our field services business. In particular, economic downturns or recessionary conditions in North America, and increased outsourcing by North American manufacturers to plants located in countries with lower wage costs and less stringent environmental regulations, have adversely affected and may in the future adversely affect the demand for our services. Our Environmental Services business is also cyclical to the extent that it is dependent upon a stream of waste from cyclical industries such as chemical and petrochemical. If those cyclical industries slow significantly, the business that we receive from them would likely decrease.

The extensive environmental regulations to which we are subject may increase our costs and potential liabilities and limit our ability to expand our facilities.

Our operations and those of others in the environmental services industry are subject to extensive federal, state, provincial and local environmental requirements in both the United States and Canada, including those relating to emissions to air, discharged wastewater, storage, treatment, transport and disposal of regulated materials, and cleanup of soil and groundwater contamination. In particular, if we fail to comply with governmental regulations governing the transport of hazardous materials, such failure could negatively impact our ability to collect, process and ultimately dispose of hazardous wastes generated by our customers. While increasing environmental regulation often presents new business opportunities for us, it often also results in increased operating and compliance costs. Efforts to conduct our operations in compliance with all applicable laws and regulations, including environmental rules and regulations, require programs to promote compliance, such as training employees and customers, purchasing health and safety equipment, and in some cases hiring outside consultants and lawyers. Even with these programs, we and other companies in the environmental services industry are routinely faced with governmental enforcement proceedings, which can result in fines or other sanctions and require expenditures for remedial work on waste management facilities and contaminated sites. Certain of these laws impose strict and, under certain circumstances, joint and

several liability on current and former owners and operators of facilities that release regulated materials or that generate those materials and arrange for their disposal or treatment at contaminated sites. Such liabilities can relate to required cleanup of releases of regulated materials and related natural resource damages.

From time to time, we have paid fines or penalties in governmental environmental enforcement proceedings, usually involving our waste treatment, storage and disposal facilities. Although none of these fines or penalties that we have paid in the past has had a material adverse effect upon us, we might in the future be required to make substantial expenditures as a result of governmental proceedings which would have a negative impact on our earnings.

Furthermore, regulators have the power to

Table Of Contents

suspend or revoke permits or licenses needed for operation of our plants, equipment, and vehicles based on, among other factors, our compliance record, and customers may decide not to use a particular disposal facility or do business with us because of concerns about our compliance record. Suspension or revocation of permits or licenses would impact our operations and could have a material impact on our financial results. Although we have never had any of our facilities' operating permits revoked, suspended or non-renewed involuntarily, it is possible that such an event could occur in the future.

Some environmental laws and regulations impose liability and responsibility on present and former owners, operators or users of facilities and sites for contamination at such facilities and sites without regard to causation or knowledge of contamination. In the past, practices have resulted in releases of regulated materials at and from certain of our facilities, or the disposal of regulated materials at third-party sites, which may require investigation and remediation, and potentially result in claims of personal injury, property damage and damages to natural resources. In addition, we occasionally evaluate various alternatives with respect to our facilities, including possible dispositions or closures. Investigations undertaken in connection with these activities may lead to discoveries of contamination that must be remediated, and closures of facilities might trigger compliance requirements that are not applicable to operating facilities. We are currently conducting remedial activities at certain of our facilities and paying a portion of the remediation costs at certain sites owned by third parties. While, based on available information, we believe these remedial activities will not result in a material effect upon our operations or financial condition, these activities or the discovery of previously unknown conditions could result in material costs.

In addition to the costs of complying with environmental laws and regulations, we incur costs defending against environmental litigation brought by governmental agencies and private parties. We are now, and may in the future be, a defendant in lawsuits brought by parties alleging environmental damage, personal injury, and/or property damage, which may result in our payment of significant amounts.

Environmental and land use laws also impact our ability to expand our facilities. In addition, we are required to obtain governmental permits to operate our facilities, including all of our landfills. Even if we comply with all applicable environmental laws, we might not be able to obtain requisite permits from applicable governmental authorities to extend or modify such permits to fit our business needs.

If our assumptions relating to expansion of our landfills should prove inaccurate, our results of operations and cash flow could be adversely affected.

When we include expansion airspace in our calculation of available airspace, we adjust our landfill liabilities to the present value of projected costs for cell closure and landfill closure and post-closure. It is possible that our estimates or assumptions could ultimately turn out to be significantly different from actual results. In some cases we may be unsuccessful in obtaining an expansion permit or we may determine that an expansion permit that we previously thought was probable has become unlikely. To the extent that such estimates, or the assumptions used to make those estimates, prove to be significantly different than actual results, or our belief that we will receive an expansion permit changes adversely in a significant manner, our landfill assets, including the assets incurred in the pursuit of the expansion, may be subject to impairment testing. Furthermore, lower prospective profitability may result due to increased interest accretion and depreciation or asset impairments related to the removal of previously included expansion airspace. In addition, if our assumptions concerning expansion airspace should prove inaccurate, certain of our cash expenditures for closure of landfills could be accelerated and adversely affect our results of operations and cash flow.

A significant portion of our Environmental Services business depends upon the demand for cleanup of major spills and other remedial projects and regulatory developments over which we have no control.

Our operations can be affected by the commencement and completion of cleanup of major spills and other events, customers' decisions to undertake remedial projects, seasonal fluctuations due to weather and budgetary cycles influencing the timing of customers' spending for remedial activities, the timing of regulatory decisions relating to hazardous waste management projects, changes in regulations governing the management of hazardous waste, secular changes in the waste processing industry towards waste minimization and the propensity for delays in the demand for remedial services, and changes in the myriad of governmental regulations governing our diverse operations. We do not control such factors and, as a result, our revenue and income can vary from quarter to quarter, and past financial

performance for certain quarters may not be a reliable indicator of future performance for comparable quarters in subsequent years.

**Additional Risks of Our Safety-Kleen Business**

Fluctuations in oil prices may negatively affect our Safety-Kleen business.

A significant portion of our Safety-Kleen business involves collecting used oil from certain of our customers, re-refining a portion of such used oil into base and blended lubricating oils, and then selling both such re-refined oil and the recycled oil, or "RFO," collectively "oil products", to other customers. Changes in the reported spot market prices of oil affect the prices at

Table Of Contents

which we can sell our re-refined oil and RFO. If applicable rates increase or decrease, we typically will charge a higher or lower corresponding price for our oil products. The prices at which we sell our oil products can also be affected by changes in certain indices measuring changes in the price of heavy fuel oil, with increases and decreases in the indices typically translating into a higher or lower price for our oil products. The cost to collect used oil, including the amounts we pay to obtain a portion of our used oil and therefore ability to collect necessary volumes and the fuel costs of our oil collection fleet, typically also increases or decreases when the relevant indices increase or decrease. However, even though the prices we can charge for our oil products and the costs to collect and re-refine used oil and process RFO typically increase and decrease together, there is no assurance that when our costs to collect and re-refine used oil and process RFO increase we will be able to increase the prices we charge for our oil products to cover such increased costs, or that our costs to collect and re-refine used oil and process RFO will decline when the prices we can charge for such oil products decline. These risks are exacerbated when there are rapid fluctuations in these oil indices. Environmental laws and regulations have adversely affected and may adversely affect Safety-Kleen's parts cleaning and other solvent related services.

In connection with its parts cleaning and other solvent related services, Safety-Kleen has been subject to fines and certain orders requiring it to take environmental remedial action. Safety-Kleen may also be subject to monetary fines, civil or criminal penalties, remediation, cleanup or stop orders, injunctions, orders to cease or suspend certain practices or denial of permits required for the operation of its facilities. The outcome of any proceeding and associated costs and expenses could have a material adverse impact on Safety-Kleen's financial condition and results of operations.

Recent and potential changes in environmental laws and regulations may also adversely affect future Safety-Kleen parts cleaning and other solvent related services. Interpretation or enforcement of existing laws and regulations, or the adoption of new laws and regulations, may require Safety-Kleen to modify or curtail its operations or replace or upgrade its facilities or equipment at substantial cost, which we may not be able to pass on to our customers, and we may choose to indemnify our customers from any fines or penalties they may incur as a result of these new laws and regulations. On the other hand, in some cases if new laws and regulations are less stringent, Safety-Kleen's customers or competitors may be able to manage waste more effectively themselves, which could decrease the need for Safety-Kleen's services or increase competition, which could adversely affect Safety-Kleen's results of operations.

Safety-Kleen is subject to existing and potential product liability lawsuits.

Safety-Kleen has been named from time to time as a defendant in product liability lawsuits in various courts and jurisdictions throughout the United States. As of December 31, 2018, Safety-Kleen was involved in approximately 67 such proceedings (including cases which have been settled but not formally dismissed) wherein persons claim personal injury resulting from the use of its parts cleaning equipment or cleaning products. These proceedings typically involve allegations that the solvents used in Safety-Kleen's parts cleaning equipment contain contaminants or that Safety-Kleen's recycling process does not effectively remove the contaminants that become entrained in the solvents during their use. In addition, certain claimants assert that Safety-Kleen failed to adequately warn the product user of potential risks, including a historic failure to warn that such solvents contain trace amounts of toxic or hazardous substances such as benzene. Although Safety-Kleen maintains insurance that we believe will provide coverage for these claims (over amounts accrued for self-insured retentions and deductibles in certain limited cases), this insurance may not provide coverage for potential awards of punitive damages against Safety-Kleen. Although Safety-Kleen has vigorously defended and will continue to vigorously defend itself and the safety of its products against all of these claims, these lawsuits are subject to many uncertainties and outcomes cannot be predicted with assurance. Safety-Kleen may also be named in similar additional lawsuits in the future, including claims for which insurance coverage may not be available. If any one or more of these lawsuits were decided unfavorably against Safety-Kleen and the plaintiffs were awarded punitive damages, or if insurance coverage were not available for any such claim, our financial condition and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected. Additionally, if any one or more of these lawsuits were decided unfavorably against Safety-Kleen, such outcome may encourage more lawsuits against us.





Table Of Contents

Safety-Kleen is dependent on third parties for manufacturing the majority of its equipment.

Safety-Kleen does not manufacture the majority of the equipment, including parts washers, that Safety-Kleen places at customer sites. Accordingly, Safety-Kleen relies on a limited number of third-party suppliers for manufacturing this equipment. The supply of third-party equipment could be interrupted or halted by a termination of Safety-Kleen's relationships, a failure of quality control or other operational problems at such suppliers or a significant decline in their financial condition. If Safety-Kleen were not able to retain these providers or obtain its requests from them, Safety-Kleen may not be able to obtain alternate providers in a timely manner or on economically attractive terms and, as a result, Safety-Kleen may not be able to compete successfully for new business, complete existing engagements profitably or retain its existing customers. Additionally, if Safety-Kleen's third-party suppliers provide defective equipment, Safety-Kleen may be subject to reputational damage or product liability claims which may negatively impact its reputation, financial condition and results of operations. Further, Safety-Kleen generally does not have long-term contracts with its third-party suppliers, and as a result those suppliers may increase the price of the equipment they provide, which may hurt Safety-Kleen's results of operations.

**Risks Relating to Our Levels of Debt and Letters of Credit**

Our substantial levels of outstanding debt and letters of credit could adversely affect our financial condition and ability to fulfill our obligations.

As of December 31, 2018, we had outstanding \$845.0 million of senior unsecured notes, \$742.2 million of senior secured term loans, and \$130.1 million of letters of credit. Our substantial levels of outstanding debt and letters of credit may:

adversely impact our ability to obtain additional financing in the future for working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions or other general corporate purposes or to repurchase our senior unsecured notes from holders upon any change of control;

require us to dedicate a substantial portion of our cash flow to payment of interest on our debt and fees on our letters of credit, which reduces the availability of our cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions and other general corporate purposes;

subject us to the risk of increased sensitivity to interest rate increases based upon variable interest rates, including \$392.2 million of our \$742.2 million senior secured term loans for which we do not currently have interest rate hedges and borrowings (if any) under our revolving credit facility;

increase the possibility of an event of default under the financial and operating covenants contained in our debt instruments; and

limit our ability to adjust to rapidly changing market conditions, reduce our ability to withstand competitive pressures and make us more vulnerable to a downturn in general economic conditions of our business than our competitors with less debt.

Our ability to make scheduled payments of principal or interest with respect to our debt, including our outstanding senior unsecured notes, our secured term loans, any revolving loans and our capital leases, and to pay fee obligations with respect to our letters of credit, will depend on our ability to generate cash and our future financial results. If we were unable to generate sufficient cash flow from operations in the future to service our debt and letter of credit fee obligations, we might be required to refinance all or a portion of our existing debt and letter of credit facilities or to obtain new or additional such facilities. However, we might not be able to obtain any such new or additional facilities on favorable terms or at all.

Despite our substantial levels of outstanding debt and letters of credit, we could incur substantially more debt and letter of credit obligations in the future.

Although our revolving credit agreement and the indentures and loan agreement governing our other outstanding debt contain restrictions on the incurrence of additional debt (including, for this purpose, reimbursement obligations under outstanding letters of credit), these restrictions are subject to a number of qualifications and exceptions and the additional debt which we might incur in the future in compliance with these restrictions could be substantial. In particular, we had available at December 31, 2018, up to approximately \$235.4 million for additional borrowings and letters of credit under our revolving credit facility. Our revolving credit agreement and the indentures and loan agreement governing our other outstanding debt also allow us to borrow significant amounts of money from other

sources. These restrictions also do not prevent us from incurring obligations (such as operating leases) that do not constitute “debt” or “indebtedness” as defined in the relevant agreements. To the extent we incur in the future additional debt and letter of credit or other obligations, the related risks would increase.

The covenants in our debt agreements restrict our ability to operate our business and might lead to a default under our debt agreements.

20

---

## Table Of Contents

Our revolving credit agreement and the indentures and loan agreement governing our other outstanding debt limit, among other things, our ability and the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to:

- incur or guarantee additional indebtedness (including, for this purpose, reimbursement obligations under letters of credit) or issue preferred stock;
- pay dividends or make other distributions to our stockholders;
- purchase or redeem capital stock or subordinated indebtedness;
- make investments;
- create liens;
- incur restrictions on the ability of our restricted subsidiaries to pay dividends or make other payments to us;
- sell assets, including capital stock of our subsidiaries;
- consolidate or merge with or into other companies or transfer all or substantially all of our assets; and
- engage in transactions with affiliates.

As a result of these covenants, we may not be able to respond to changes in business and economic conditions and to obtain additional financing, if needed, and we may be prevented from engaging in transactions that might otherwise be beneficial to us. Our revolving credit facility requires, and our future credit facilities may require, us to maintain under certain circumstances certain financial ratios and satisfy certain other financial condition tests. Our ability to meet these financial ratios and tests can be affected by events beyond our control, and we may not be able to meet those tests. The breach of any of these covenants could result in a default under our outstanding or future debt. Upon the occurrence of an event of default, the lenders could elect to declare all amounts outstanding under such debts, including accrued interest or other obligations, to be immediately due and payable. If amounts outstanding under such debt were accelerated, our assets might not be sufficient to repay in full that debt and our other debt.

Our revolving credit agreement and the indentures and loan agreement governing our other outstanding debt also contain cross-default and cross-acceleration provisions. Under these provisions, a default or acceleration under one instrument governing our debt may constitute a default under our other debt instruments that contain cross-default and cross-acceleration provisions, which could result in the related debt and the debt under such other instruments becoming immediately due and payable. In such event, we would need to raise funds from alternative sources, which funds might not be available to us on favorable terms, on a timely basis or at all. Alternatively, such a default could require us to sell assets and otherwise curtail operations to pay our creditors. The proceeds of such a sale of assets, or curtailment of operations, might not enable us to pay all of our liabilities.

### Other Risks Relating to Our Common Stock

The Massachusetts Business Corporation Act and our By-Laws contain certain anti-takeover provisions.

Sections 8.06 and 7.02 of the Massachusetts Business Corporation Act provide that Massachusetts corporations which are publicly-held must have a staggered board of directors and that written demand by holders of at least 40% of the outstanding shares of each relevant voting group of stockholders is required for stockholders to call a special meeting unless such corporations take certain actions to affirmatively "opt-out" of such requirements. In accordance with these provisions, our By-Laws provide for a staggered board of directors which consists of three classes of directors of which one class is elected each year for a three-year term, and require that written application by holders of at least 25% (which is less than the 40% which would otherwise be applicable without such a specific provision in our By-Laws) of our outstanding shares of common stock is required for stockholders to call a special meeting. In addition, our By-Laws prohibit the removal by the stockholders of a director except for cause. These provisions could inhibit a takeover of our Company by restricting stockholders' action to replace the existing directors or approve other actions which a party seeking to acquire us might propose. A takeover transaction would frequently afford stockholders an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over then market prices.

### ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

Not applicable.

### ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

Our principal executive offices are in Norwell, Massachusetts, where we lease approximately 151,000 square feet under arrangements which may not expire until 2042. We also have regional administrative offices in Texas, South Carolina, and Alberta, Canada. Our properties are sufficient and suitable for our current needs.

We have a network of more than 480 service locations across 49 states, nine Canadian provinces, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. Those service locations include service centers, satellite locations, branches, active hazardous waste management properties, lodging facilities and oil processing facilities. The service centers and branches are the principal sales and service

21

---

Table Of Contents

centers from which we provide our environmental, energy and industrial services. The active hazardous waste management properties include incinerator facilities, commercial and non-commercial landfills, wastewater treatment facilities, treatment, storage and disposal facilities ("TSDFs"), solvent recovery management and recycling facilities, oil accumulation centers, oil terminals and oil re-refineries. Some of our properties offer multiple capabilities. The following sets forth certain information as of December 31, 2018 regarding our properties.

**Service Centers, Satellite Locations and Branches**

We have approximately 365 service centers, satellite locations and branches throughout the United States and Canada which serve as principal sales and service centers from which we provide parts cleaning services, containerized waste services, oil collection services and other environmental services.

**Active Hazardous Waste Management Properties**

**Incinerator Facilities.** We own five operating incinerator facilities that have a total of nine incinerators with 561,721 tons of total practical capacity and an overall average utilization rate for 2018 of 86.7%. Our practical capacity is not based on a theoretical 24-hour, seven-day operation, but rather is determined as the production level at which our incinerators can operate with an acceptable degree of efficiency, taking into consideration factors such as longer term customer demand, permanent staffing levels, operating shifts, holidays, scheduled maintenance and mix of product. Capacity utilization is calculated by dividing actual production pounds by practical capacity at each incinerator.

	# of Incinerators	Practical Capacity (Tons)	Utilization Rate Year Ended December 31, 2018	
Arkansas	3	145,072	94.8	%
Nebraska	1	58,808	73.8	%
Utah	1	66,815	88.7	%
Texas	3	165,500	82.7	%
Ontario, Canada	1	125,526	87.4	%
	9	561,721	86.7	%

Our incinerators offer a wide range of technological capabilities to customers through this network. We provide incineration in the United States through one fluidized bed thermal oxidation unit and three solids and liquids-capable incinerator facilities and we operate in Canada one active hazardous waste liquid injection incinerator.

**Commercial and Non-Commercial Landfills.** In the United States and Canada, we operate nine commercial landfills with approximately 29.4 million cubic yards of remaining highly probable airspace. Seven of our commercial landfills are designed and permitted for the disposal of hazardous wastes and two landfills are operated for nonhazardous industrial waste disposal and, to a lesser extent, municipal solid waste. In addition to our commercial landfills, we also own and operate two non-commercial landfills that only accept waste from our on-site incinerators. See "Landfill Accounting" within Note 2, "Significant Accounting Policies," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report for additional information on our commercial and non-commercial landfills.

**Wastewater Treatment Facilities.** We operate a total of nine facilities, of which six are owned and three are leased, that offer a range of wastewater treatment technologies and customer services. Wastewater treatment consists primarily of three types of services: hazardous wastewater treatment, sludge de-watering or drying, and non-hazardous wastewater treatment.

**Treatment, Storage and Disposal Facilities.** We operate 18 TSDFs, of which 16 are owned and two are leased, in the United States and Canada. Our TSDFs facilitate the movement of materials among our network of service centers and treatment and disposal facilities. Transportation may be accomplished by truck, rail, barge or a combination of modes, with our own assets or in conjunction with third-party transporters. Specially designed containment systems, vehicles and other equipment permitted for hazardous and industrial waste transport, together with drivers trained in transportation and waste handling procedures, provide for the movement of customer waste streams.

Solvent Recovery Management and Recycling Operations. We own two facilities specializing in solvent recovery management.

22

---

Table Of Contents

Oil Processing, Blending and Packaging Facilities

Oil Accumulation Centers. We operate a total of nine accumulation centers, of which eight are owned and one is leased, used for accumulating waste oil from our branches.

Oil Terminals. We operate a total of 54 oil terminals, of which 31 are owned and 23 are leased, which collect or process used oil prior to delivery to re-refineries or distribution as RFO.

Oil Recycling and Re-refining Facilities. We own six oil re-refineries, five in the United States and one in Canada. With more than 200 million gallons of used oil processed annually, we were able to return in 2018 192 million gallons of new re-refined oil, lubricants and byproducts back into the marketplace.

Oil Packaging and Blending Facilities. We operate a total of five oil packaging and blending facilities, of which three are owned and two are leased and used for blending and packaging oil from our branches.

Lodging Facilities

Lodge Operations. We operate five fixed lodges, all of which are owned and located on sites in Alberta, Canada that are leased under long-term operating agreements.

Camps. We operate various camp facilities that can grow and shrink in size and location. Generally, we have ongoing operations at 1-2 larger facilities that we expect to operate on a multi-year basis. Additionally, we have in our fleet that can operate at any time, five office complexes, eight mini-camps, and approximately 35 single and double occupancy drill camps. All of our camp facilities are owned and located on various sites throughout Western Canada. Sites for the larger facilities are generally leased, whereas sites for our smaller facilities are generally provided by our customers.

ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

See Note 18, "Commitments and Contingencies," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report for a description of legal proceedings.

ITEM 4. MINE SAFETY DISCLOSURES

Not applicable.



Table Of Contents

## PART II

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

## Common Stock

Our common stock trades on the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE") under the symbol CLH. On February 15, 2019, there were 258 stockholders of record of our common stock, excluding stockholders whose shares were held in nominee, or "street," name. On our last record date, approximately 22,975 additional stockholders beneficially held shares in street name.

We have never declared nor paid any cash dividends on our common stock, and we do not intend to pay any dividends on our common stock in the foreseeable future. We intend to retain our future earnings, if any, for use in the operation and expansion of our business and payment of our outstanding debt, and for our stock repurchase program. In addition, our current credit agreement and indentures limit the amount we could pay as cash dividends on, or for repurchase of, our common stock. For additional information surrounding our stock repurchase program, see Note 15, "Stockholder's Equity," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report.

## Securities Authorized For Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans

See Item 12, "Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters," for a description of the securities which are authorized for issuance under our equity compensation plans.

## Issuer Purchases of Equity Securities

Period	Total Number of Shares Purchased (1)	Average Price Paid Per Share (2)	Total Number of Shares Purchased as Part of Publicly Announced Plans or Programs	Approximate Dollar Value of Shares that May Yet Be Purchased Under the Plans or Programs (3)
October 1, 2018 through October 31, 2018	3,000	\$ 70.89	—	\$317,571,511
November 1, 2018 through November 30, 2018	164,559	\$ 65.07	162,000	\$307,027,656
December 1, 2018 through December 31, 2018	21,520	\$ 59.38	16,000	\$306,072,512
Total	189,079	\$ 64.52	178,000	\$306,072,512

(1) Includes 11,079 shares withheld by us from employees to satisfy employee tax obligations upon vesting of restricted shares granted under our long-term equity incentive programs.

(2) The average price paid per share of common stock repurchased under our stock repurchase program includes commissions paid to the brokers.

(3) Our board of directors has authorized the repurchase of up to \$600 million of our common stock. We have funded and intend to fund the repurchases through available cash resources. The stock repurchase program authorizes us to purchase our common stock on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions periodically in a manner that complies with applicable U.S. securities laws. The number of shares purchased and the timing of the purchases has depended and will depend on a number of factors, including share price, cash required for business plans, trading volume and other conditions. During April 2018, we implemented a repurchase plan in accordance with Rule 10b5-1 promulgated under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Future repurchases will be made under the Rule 10b5-1 plan as well as open market or privately negotiated transactions as described above. We have no obligation to repurchase stock under this program and may suspend or terminate the repurchase program at any time.



Table Of Contents

COMPARISON OF 5-YEAR CUMULATIVE TOTAL RETURN

AMONG CLEAN HARBORS, INC.,

NYSE COMPOSITE INDEX, S&P MIDCAP 400 INDEX, REFUSE SYSTEMS AND CUSTOM PEER GROUP  
Performance Graph

The following graph compares the five-year return from investing \$100 in each of our common stock, the NYSE Composite Index, the S&P Midcap 400 Index, and indices of comparable companies compiled by CoreData, consisting of companies whose listed line-of-business is SIC Code 4953 (refuse systems) and a custom peer group. We selected a peer group comprised of American Water Works Company, Inc., Casella Waste Systems, Inc., Civeo Corporation, Covanta Holding Corporation, Heritage-Crystal Clean, Inc., Iron Mountain Incorporated, Newpark Resources, Inc., Oil States International, Inc., Republic Services, Inc., Stericycle, Inc., Superior Energy Services, Inc., US Ecology, Inc., and Waste Management, Inc. The values illustrated assume reinvestment of dividends on the ex-dividend date and compares relative performance since a particular starting date. In this instance, the starting date was December 31, 2013, when our common stock closed at \$59.96 per share. The graph is presented pursuant to SEC rules and is not meant to be an indication of our future performance.

Table Of Contents

## ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

The following summary of consolidated financial information has been derived from the audited consolidated financial statements included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data," of this report and in the annual reports we previously filed with the SEC. This information should be reviewed in conjunction with Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," and the financial statements and notes thereto included in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data," of this report.

	For the Year Ended December 31,				
(in thousands except per share amounts)	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Statement of Operations Data:					
Total revenues	\$3,300,303	\$2,944,978	\$2,755,226	\$3,275,137	\$3,401,636
Net income (loss) (1)	\$65,636	\$100,739	\$(39,873 )	\$44,102	\$(28,328 )
Earnings (loss) per share: (1)					
Basic	\$1.17	\$1.77	\$(0.69 )	\$0.76	\$(0.47 )
Diluted	\$1.16	\$1.76	\$(0.69 )	\$0.76	\$(0.47 )
Other Financial Data:					
Adjusted EBITDA (2)	\$491,005	\$425,657	\$400,354	\$504,167	\$521,919
	At December 31,				
(in thousands)	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Balance Sheet Data:					
Total assets	\$3,738,321	\$3,706,570	\$3,681,920	\$3,431,428	\$3,689,423
Long-term obligations (including current portion)	1,572,556	1,629,537	1,633,272	1,382,543	1,380,681
Stockholders' equity	1,169,756	1,188,202	1,084,241	1,096,282	1,262,871

(1) The 2018 results include a \$2.5 million pre-tax loss on early extinguishment of debt. The 2017 results include a net benefit of \$93.0 million resulting from impacts of the tax law changes enacted in December of 2017, a \$7.9 million pre-tax loss on early extinguishment of debt and a \$30.7 million pre-tax gain on the sale of a non-core line of business within our Environmental Services segment. The 2016 results include a \$34.0 million goodwill impairment charge and a \$16.9 million pre-tax gain on the sale of a non-core line of business within our Environmental Services segment. The 2015 results include a \$32.0 million goodwill impairment charge in our Environmental Services segment, and the 2014 results include a \$123.4 million goodwill impairment charge in our Kleen Performance Products reporting unit. In 2016, we did not record any income tax benefit as a result of the goodwill impairment charge. In 2015 and 2014, we recorded income tax benefits of \$2.0 million and \$2.7 million, respectively, as a result of the goodwill impairment charges.

(2) The following is a reconciliation of net income (loss) to Adjusted EBITDA for the following periods (in thousands). See additional information regarding this non-GAAP measure under the heading "Adjusted EBITDA" in Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations," of this report.

	For the Year Ended December 31,				
	2018	2017	2016	2015	2014
Net income (loss)	\$65,636	\$100,739	\$(39,873 )	\$44,102	\$(28,328 )
Accretion of environmental liabilities	9,806	9,460	10,177	10,402	10,612
Depreciation and amortization	298,625	288,422	287,002	274,194	276,083
Goodwill impairment charges	—	—	34,013	31,992	123,414
Other expense (income), net	4,510	6,119	(6,195 )	1,380	(4,380 )
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	2,488	7,891	—	—	—
Gain on sale of businesses	—	(30,732 )	(16,884 )	—	—
Interest expense, net	81,094	85,808	83,525	76,553	77,668
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	28,846	(42,050 )	48,589	65,544	66,850
Adjusted EBITDA	\$491,005	\$425,657	\$400,354	\$504,167	\$521,919



Table Of Contents

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

Overview

We are North America's leading provider of environmental, energy and industrial services. We believe we operate, in the aggregate, the largest number of hazardous waste incinerators, landfills and treatment, storage and disposal facilities ("TSDFs") in North America. We serve a diverse customer base, including Fortune 500 companies, across the chemical, energy, manufacturing and additional markets, as well as numerous government agencies. These customers rely on us to deliver a broad range of services including but not limited to end-to-end hazardous waste management, emergency response, industrial cleaning and maintenance, and recycling services. We are also the largest re-refiner and recycler of used oil in the world and the largest provider of parts cleaning and related environmental services to commercial, industrial and automotive customers in North America.

During the first quarter of fiscal year 2018, certain of our businesses undertook a reorganization which included changes to the underlying business and management structures. The reorganization resulted in combining the Environmental Services businesses from an operational and management perspective, deepening customer relationships and allowing for efficiencies across our operations through the sharing of resources, namely labor and equipment, which will reduce third party spending and promote cross selling of our business offerings. In connection with this reorganization, our chief operating decision maker requested changes in the information that he regularly reviews for purposes of allocating resources and assessing performance. These changes required a reconsideration of our operating segments in the first quarter of 2018 and resulted in a change in our assessment of our operating segments. We concluded that there are now two operating segments for disclosure purposes; (i) the Environmental Services segment which consists of our historical Technical Services, Industrial Services, Field Services and Oil, Gas and Lodging businesses, and (ii) the Safety-Kleen segment.

Performance of our segments is evaluated on several factors of which the primary financial measure is Adjusted EBITDA as described more fully below. The following is a discussion of how management evaluates its segments in regards to other factors including key performance indicators that management uses to assess the segments' results, as well as certain macroeconomic trends and influences that impact each reportable segment:

**Environmental Services** - Environmental Services segment results are predicated upon the demand by our customers for waste services directly attributable to waste volumes generated by them and project work for which waste handling and/or disposal is required. In managing the business and evaluating performance, management tracks the volumes and average price of waste handled and disposed of through our owned incinerators and landfills, as well as utilization of such incinerators, labor and billable hours and equipment among other key metrics. Levels of activity and ultimate performance associated with this segment can be impacted by several factors including overall U.S. GDP and U.S. industrial production, weather conditions, efficiency of our operations, competition and market pricing of our services and the management of our related operating costs. Environmental Services results are also impacted by the demand for planned and unplanned industrial related cleaning and maintenance services at customer sites and for environmental cleanup services on a scheduled or emergency basis, including response to national events such as major oil spills, natural disasters or other events where immediate and specialized services are required.

**Safety-Kleen** - Safety-Kleen segment results are impacted by an array of core service offerings that serve to attract small quantity waste producers as customers and integrate them into the Clean Harbors waste network. Core service offerings include parts washer services, containerized waste services, vac services, used motor oil collection and sale of base and blended oil products as well as complementary products including automotive related fluids and shop supplies. Key performance indicators tracked by management relative to these services include the number of parts washer services performed and used motor oil and waste volumes collected. Results from these services are primarily driven by the overall number of parts washers placed at customer sites and volumes of waste collected. These factors can be impacted by overall economic conditions in the marketplace, especially in the automotive related area. Safety-Kleen offers high quality base and blended oil products to end users including fleet customers, distributors and

manufacturers of oil products. Relative to these oil related products, management tracks the Company's volumes and relative percentages of base and blended oil sales along with various pricing metrics associated with the commodity driven marketplace. The segment's results are significantly impacted by the overall market pricing and product mix associated with base and blended oil products and, more specifically, the market prices of Group II base oils, which historically have correlated with overall crude oil prices. Costs incurred in connection with the collection of used oils and other raw materials associated with the segment's oil related products can also be volatile. The implementation of our OilPlus® closed

Table Of Contents

loop initiative resulting in the sale of our renewable oil products directly to our end customers will also impact future operating results.

**Highlights**

Total revenues for 2018 increased 12.1% to \$3.3 billion, compared with \$2.9 billion in 2017. Our Environmental Services segment increased direct revenues \$283.7 million in 2018 compared with 2017 due to incremental revenues resulting from our recent acquisitions, primarily the Veolia Business in the first quarter of 2018, as well as improved average pricing driven by a more profitable mix of waste streams handled by the business. Direct revenues recorded by Safety-Kleen increased \$73.4 million in 2018 as compared to 2017 as a result of improved pricing conditions related to our renewable oil products and continued growth across Safety-Kleen's core service offerings and our direct lubricant sales. The fluctuation of the Canadian dollar minimally impacted our consolidated revenues in 2018 as compared to 2017.

Income from operations in 2018 was \$182.6 million, compared with \$127.8 million in 2017. We reported net income in 2018 and 2017 of \$65.6 million and \$100.7 million, respectively. Net income in 2017 included a \$93.0 million net benefit recorded as a component of income tax expense which resulted from impacts of tax reform law changes which were signed into law in December 2017. Adjusted EBITDA, which is the primary financial measure by which our segments are evaluated, increased 15.4% to \$491.0 million in 2018 from \$425.7 million in 2017. The increased level of Adjusted EBITDA in 2018 was primarily attributable to higher revenue amounts as described above, which provided improved operating margins from leveraging our existing infrastructure network and additional benefits from the reorganization undertaken in the Environmental Services segment which occurred in the first quarter of 2018. Additional information regarding Adjusted EBITDA, which is a non-GAAP measure, including a reconciliation of Adjusted EBITDA to net income (loss), appears below under "Adjusted EBITDA."

Net cash from operating activities for 2018 was \$373.2 million, an increase of \$87.5 million from 2017. Adjusted free cash flow, which management uses to measure our financial strength and ability to generate cash, was \$195.3 million in 2018, which represented a \$55.1 million increase over 2017 primarily due to greater levels of operating income, lower interest payments and a reduction in environmental expenditures, offset by higher working capital levels and capital spending. Additional information regarding adjusted free cash flow, which is a non-GAAP measure, including a reconciliation of adjusted free cash flow to net cash from operating activities, appears below under "Adjusted Free Cash Flow."



Table Of Contents

## Segment Performance

The primary financial measure by which we evaluate the performance of our segments is Adjusted EBITDA. The following table sets forth certain financial information associated with our results of operations for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016.

	Summary of Operations (in thousands)							
	Year Ended December 31,			2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016		
	2018	2017	2016	\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change	% Change	
Direct Revenues <sup>(1)</sup> :								
Environmental Services	\$2,141,194	\$1,857,474	\$1,758,833	\$283,720	15.3 %	\$98,641	5.6 %	
Safety-Kleen	1,161,282	1,087,886	996,083	73,396	6.7	91,803	9.2	
Corporate Items	(2,173 )	(382 )	310	(1,791 )	N/M	(692 )	N/M	
Total	3,300,303	2,944,978	2,755,226	355,325	12.1	189,752	6.9	
Cost of Revenues <sup>(2)</sup> :								
Environmental Services	1,576,705	1,373,789	1,287,629	202,916	14.8	86,160	6.7	
Safety-Kleen	725,734	690,344	645,275	35,390	5.1	45,069	7.0	
Corporate Items	3,112	(1,460 )	(47 )	4,572	N/M	(1,413 )	N/M	
Total	2,305,551	2,062,673	1,932,857	242,878	11.8	129,816	6.7	
Selling, General and Administrative Expenses:								
Environmental Services	183,633	162,375	152,129	21,258	13.1	10,246	6.7	
Safety-Kleen	153,519	147,731	131,262	5,788	3.9	16,469	12.5	
Corporate Items	166,595	146,542	138,624	20,053	13.7	7,918	5.7	
Total	503,747	456,648	422,015	47,099	10.3	34,633	8.2	
Adjusted EBITDA								
Environmental Services	380,856	321,310	319,075	59,546	18.5	2,235	0.7	
Safety-Kleen	282,029	249,811	219,546	32,218	12.9	30,265	13.8	
Corporate Items	(171,880 )	(145,464 )	(138,267 )	(26,416 )	(18.2)	(7,197 )	(5.2 )	
Total	\$491,005	\$425,657	\$400,354	\$65,348	15.4 %	\$25,303	6.3 %	

N/M = not meaningful

(1) Direct revenue is revenue allocated to the segment performing the provided service.

(2) Cost of revenue is shown exclusive of items presented separately on the statements of operations, which consist of (i) accretion of environmental liabilities and (ii) depreciation and amortization.

## Direct Revenues

There are many factors which have impacted and continue to impact our revenues. These factors include, but are not limited to: overall industrial activity and growth in North America, existence or non-existence of large scale environmental waste and remediation projects, competitive industry pricing, impacts of acquisitions and divestitures, the level of emergency response projects, general conditions of the energy related industries, base and blended oil pricing, market changes relative to the collection of used oil, the number of parts washers placed at customer sites and foreign currency translation. In addition, customer efforts to minimize hazardous waste and changes in regulation can also impact our revenues.

## Environmental Services

	For the years ended December 31,			2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	2016	\$	%	\$	%
				Change	Change	Change	Change
Direct revenues	\$2,141,194	\$1,857,474	\$1,758,833	\$283,720	15.3 %	\$98,641	5.6 %

Environmental Services direct revenues for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased \$283.7 million from the comparable period in 2017. Included in the current year revenues was \$154.0 million of direct revenues from the Veolia

Table Of Contents

Business, which we acquired on February 23, 2018. Excluding the impacts from the Veolia Business, Environmental Services direct revenue increased \$129.5 million primarily due to greater levels of activity at our sales and service branches and increased levels of disposal related revenues from improved pricing conditions and mix associated with waste streams at our incinerators in 2018. For the year ended December 31, 2018, landfill volumes increased slightly as compared to 2017. The utilization rate at our incinerator facilities was 86.7% for the year ended December 31, 2018, as compared to 87.6% for the year ended December 31, 2017. The decrease in utilization rates in 2018 was impacted by a slightly higher number of down days at our facilities during 2018; however, impacts on the profitability of the business from an increase in down days was more than offset by improved pricing conditions and an increase in volumes of higher margin waste streams received in 2018. The impact of foreign currency translation on our Canadian operations within the Environmental Services segment was minimal in the year ended December 31, 2018 as compared to 2017.

Environmental Services direct revenues for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased \$98.6 million from the comparable period in 2016. Excluding the impacts from divestiture and acquisition activity having occurred in 2016 and 2017, Environmental Services revenues increased \$142.1 million from the comparable period in 2016 primarily due to greater levels of activity at our sales and service branches, increased revenues associated with waste projects and higher waste volumes disposed of in our incinerators and landfills from improving economic conditions and business initiatives focused on waste volumes. For the year ended December 31, 2017, landfill volumes increased 12.1% from the comparable period in 2016. The utilization rate at our incinerators was 87.6% on a practical capacity of 561,721 tons for the year ended December 31, 2017, compared with 88.8% on a practical capacity of 491,721 tons in 2016. The increase in practical capacity was the result of the start-up of our waste incinerator at our El Dorado, Arkansas facility, which came online in the first quarter of 2017 and added 70,000 tons of capacity to our network. Inclusive in the year-over-year changes within this segment was also the positive impact of foreign currency translation on our Canadian operations of approximately \$8.3 million for the year ended December 31, 2017 from the comparable period in 2016.

## Safety-Kleen

			For the years ended December 31, 2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016		
2018	2017	2016	\$	%	\$	%	
			Change	Change	Change	Change	
Direct revenues	\$1,161,282	\$1,087,886	\$996,083	\$73,396	6.7 %	\$91,803	9.2 %

Safety-Kleen direct revenues for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased \$73.4 million from the comparable period in 2017 primarily due to more favorable pricing on oil products and growth in the business' core service offerings. Revenues generated through our core service offerings such as handling of containerized waste and vac services, parts washer services as well as sales of automotive and industrial cleaning products accounted for \$21.3 million of incremental revenues. Increased base and blended volumes and oil pricing accounted for \$34.7 million of incremental direct revenue from the comparable period in 2017. Sales of contract packaging and blending services, specialty refinery products and recycled fuel oil also increased by \$38.9 million from the comparable period in 2017. These increases were partially offset by a decrease in used motor oil collection revenues of \$19.5 million as market pricing for these services was negatively impacted as crude oil prices generally rose throughout the earlier parts of 2018. The impact of foreign currency translation on our Canadian operations within the Safety-Kleen segment was minimal in the year ended December 31, 2018 as compared to 2017.

Safety-Kleen direct revenues for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased \$91.8 million from the comparable period in 2016. This increase was derived from more favorable pricing on oil products, incremental revenues from acquisitions and growth in the business. Increased base and blended oil pricing and volumes accounted for \$87.2 million of incremental direct revenue from the comparable period in 2016. This increase was partially offset by lower revenue of \$15.6 million from a decrease in prices charged for used motor oil collection in 2017. Inclusive in the year-over-year changes within the Safety-Kleen segment was also the positive impact of foreign currency translation on our Canadian operations of approximately \$2.8 million in the year ended December 31, 2017 from the comparable period in 2016.

Cost of Revenues

We believe that our ability to manage operating costs is important to our ability to remain price competitive. We continue to upgrade the quality and efficiency of our services through the development of new technology and continued modifications at our facilities, invest in new business opportunities and aggressively implement strategic sourcing and logistics solutions as well as other cost reduction initiatives while also continuing to optimize our management and operating structure in an effort to maintain and increase operating margins.

Table Of Contents

## Environmental Services

	For the years ended December 31,			2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	2016	\$	%	\$	%
Cost of revenues	\$1,576,705	\$1,373,789	\$1,287,629	\$202,916	14.8 %	\$86,160	6.7 %
As a % of Direct Revenue	73.6	% 74.0	% 73.2	%	(0.4 )%	%	0.8 %

Environmental Services cost of revenues for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased \$202.9 million from the comparable period in 2017. The acquired Veolia Business had cost of revenues of \$131.2 million in the year ended December 31, 2018. Excluding these costs, Environmental Services cost of revenues for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased \$71.7 million primarily due to increases in labor related costs of \$45.4 million, transportation, disposal and fuel costs of \$16.2 million and equipment, supply and various other expenses of \$10.0 million. The incremental operating costs were commensurate with greater activity levels in 2018 and overall inflationary pressure across several cost categories including certain commodity supplies such as fuel and other supplies. Costs as a percentage of direct revenues decreased slightly over the comparable period of 2017, which can be attributed to a more favorable mix of waste streams in our incineration network which increased profitability.

Environmental Services cost of revenues for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased \$86.2 million from the comparable period in 2016. Excluding the impacts from divestitures, Environmental Services cost of revenues for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased \$133.0 million from the comparable period in 2016 primarily due to increases in labor and subcontractor related costs of \$59.9 million, equipment and supply costs of \$46.6 million, and transportation, disposal and fuel costs of \$28.4 million, partially offset by \$1.9 million of reductions across various expense categories. The incremental operating costs were primarily driven by the El Dorado incinerator which came online in early 2017 and its relevant start-up activities, higher down days across our network associated with the hurricanes that impacted the gulf region of the U.S. in 2017 and overall increased economic activity. The higher concentration of lower margin waste in our incineration network decreased profitability as we focused on driving network utilization in response to the increased capacity. Continued pricing pressures felt in 2017 in the industries in which we operate and integration costs also contributed to the increase in cost of revenues as a percentage of direct revenue from the comparable period in 2016.

## Safety-Kleen

	For the years ended December 31,			2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	2016	\$	%	\$	%
Cost of revenues	\$725,734	\$690,344	\$645,275	\$35,390	5.1 %	\$45,069	7.0 %
As a % of Direct Revenue	62.5	% 63.5	% 64.8	%	(1.0 )%	%	(1.3 )%

Safety-Kleen cost of revenues for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased \$35.4 million from the comparable period in 2017 primarily due to increased costs of raw materials associated with oil products of \$15.8 million, increased transportation, disposal and fuel costs of \$12.3 million and labor related costs of \$6.3 million. These increases were in line with the overall growth of the business and increased costs of commodities. Our costs as a percentage of direct revenues decreased over the comparable period of 2017 due to our effective management of the spread between used oil input costs and base oil pricing, as well as the implementation of new pricing strategies, which generated greater levels of direct revenue.

Safety-Kleen cost of revenues for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased \$45.1 million from the comparable period in 2016 primarily due to increased equipment and supply costs of \$19.0 million, increased labor related costs of \$13.8 million and increased transportation, disposal and fuel costs of \$8.3 million. As a percentage of direct revenue, these costs decreased 1.3% in the year ended December 31, 2017 from the comparable period in 2016 primarily as a result of greater direct revenue levels driven by pricing partially offset by higher maintenance costs in the re-refinery network.

## Selling, General and Administrative Expenses

We strive to manage our selling, general and administrative expenses commensurate with the overall performance of our segments and corresponding revenue levels. We believe that our ability to properly align these costs with business performance is reflective of our strong management of the businesses and further promotes our ability to remain competitive in the marketplace.

Table Of Contents

## Environmental Services

	For the years ended December 31,			2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	2016	\$	%	\$	%
SG&A	\$183,633	\$162,375	\$152,129	\$21,258	13.1 %	\$10,246	6.7 %
As a % of Direct Revenue	8.6 %	8.7 %	8.6 %		(0.1) %		0.1 %

Environmental Services selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased \$21.3 million from the comparable period in 2017 due to increases in salary, benefits and variable compensation related costs of \$14.7 million and bad debt expense of \$7.0 million, partially offset by cost reductions across various expense categories. The increases in salary, benefits and variable compensation are in line with the growth of the business in 2018 as compared to 2017. As a percentage of direct revenue, our costs remained consistent for the year ended December 31, 2018 as compared to 2017.

Environmental Services selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased \$10.2 million from the comparable period in 2016. Excluding costs associated with divestitures impacting the comparability of these fiscal years, Environmental Services selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased \$13.4 million primarily due to increased labor related costs including increased variable compensation and commissions. These increases were consistent with the growth of the business during 2017 as compared to 2016. As a percentage of direct revenue, these costs remained consistent for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to 2016.

## Safety-Kleen

	For the years ended December 31,			2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	2016	\$	%	\$	%
SG&A	\$153,519	\$147,731	\$131,262	\$5,788	3.9 %	\$16,469	12.5 %
As a % of Direct Revenue	13.2 %	13.6 %	13.2 %		(0.4) %		0.4 %

Safety-Kleen selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased \$5.8 million from the comparable period in 2017 primarily due to increased salaries, benefits and variable compensation of \$5.7 million as we continue to grow the business. As a percentage of direct revenue, Safety-Kleen SG&A costs decreased for the year ended December 31, 2018 as compared to 2017 as the additional direct revenues outpaced incremental SG&A costs.

Safety-Kleen selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased \$16.5 million from the comparable period in 2016 primarily due to increased labor related costs of \$11.6 million, and an additional \$4.9 million related to costs generated from strategic initiatives in the areas of the OilPlus® closed loop initiative and centralization activities associated with this segment. As a percentage of direct revenue, our costs remained consistent for the year ended December 31, 2017 as compared to 2016.

## Corporate Items

	For the years ended December 31,			2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	2016	\$	%	\$	%
SG&A	\$166,595	\$146,542	\$138,624	\$20,053	13.7 %	\$7,918	5.7 %

Corporate Items selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased \$20.1 million from the comparable period in 2017 primarily due to increased salaries and benefits resulting from continued commitments to investing in our employees and variable compensation totaling \$14.8 million as well as increased stock-based compensation of \$4.3 million primarily attributable to the achievement of performance metrics associated with performance based awards in 2018. Incremental costs associated with the acquired Veolia Business also contributed to the increased costs.

Corporate Items selling, general and administrative expenses for the year ended December 31, 2017 increased \$7.9 million from the comparable period in 2016 primarily due to an increase in variable compensation of \$7.4 million and

stock-based compensation of \$3.4 million attributable to greater revenue and earnings results in 2017, partially offset by a reduction in severance costs of \$3.5 million.



Table Of Contents

## Adjusted EBITDA

Management considers Adjusted EBITDA to be a measurement of performance which provides useful information to both management and investors. Adjusted EBITDA should not be considered an alternative to net income (loss) or other measurements under generally accepted accounting principles ("GAAP"). Adjusted EBITDA is not calculated identically by all companies and, therefore our measurements of Adjusted EBITDA, while defined consistently and in accordance with our existing credit agreement, may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies.

We use Adjusted EBITDA to enhance our understanding of our operating performance, which represents our views concerning our performance in the ordinary, ongoing and customary course of our operations. We historically have found it helpful, and believe that investors have found it helpful, to consider an operating measure that excludes certain expenses relating to transactions not reflective of our core operations.

The information about our operating performance provided by this financial measure is used by our management for a variety of purposes. We regularly communicate Adjusted EBITDA results to our lenders since our loan covenants are based upon levels of Adjusted EBITDA achieved and to our board of directors and we discuss with the board our interpretation of such results. We also compare our Adjusted EBITDA performance against internal targets as a key factor in determining cash and equity bonus compensation for executives and other employees, largely because we believe that this measure is indicative of how the fundamental business is performing and is being managed.

We also provide information relating to our Adjusted EBITDA so that analysts, investors and other interested persons have the same data that we use to assess our core operating performance. We believe that Adjusted EBITDA should be viewed only as a supplement to the GAAP financial information. We also believe, however, that providing this information in addition to, and together with, GAAP financial information permits the foregoing persons to obtain a better understanding of our core operating performance and to evaluate the efficacy of the methodology and information used by management to evaluate and measure such performance on a standalone and a comparative basis.

The following is a reconciliation of net income (loss) to Adjusted EBITDA for the following periods (in thousands):

	Year Ended December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Net income (loss)	\$65,636	\$100,739	\$(39,873 )
Accretion of environmental liabilities	9,806	9,460	10,177
Depreciation and amortization	298,625	288,422	287,002
Goodwill impairment charge	—	—	34,013
Other expense (income), net	4,510	6,119	(6,195 )
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	2,488	7,891	—
Gain on sale of businesses	—	(30,732 )	(16,884 )
Interest expense, net	81,094	85,808	83,525
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	28,846	(42,050 )	48,589
Adjusted EBITDA	\$491,005	\$425,657	\$400,354

## Depreciation and Amortization

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,			2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	2016	\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change	% Change
Depreciation of fixed assets and landfill amortization	\$264,254	\$251,403	\$246,960	\$12,851	5.1 %	\$4,443	1.8 %
Permits and other intangibles amortization	34,371	37,019	40,042	(2,648 )	(7.2 )%	(3,023 )	(7.5 )%
Total depreciation and amortization	\$298,625	\$288,422	\$287,002	\$10,203	3.5 %	\$1,420	0.5 %

Depreciation and amortization for the year ended December 31, 2018 increased \$10.2 million from the comparable period in 2017, primarily due to incremental depreciation from acquisitions and a slight increase in volumes at our landfills that drove higher landfill amortization. Depreciation and amortization for the year ended December 31, 2017 remained consistent with the comparable period in 2016.



Table Of Contents

## Goodwill impairment charge

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change	% Change
Goodwill impairment charge	\$—	—\$34,013	\$—	%	\$(34,013)	(100.0)%

During the year ended December 31, 2016, we recorded a \$34.0 million goodwill impairment charge in our Lodging Services line of business. Information regarding our 2016 goodwill impairment charge was disclosed in prior years' annual reports on Form 10-K.

## Other (Expense) Income, net

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,			2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	2016	\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change	% Change
Other (expense) income, net	\$(4,510)	\$(6,119)	\$6,195	\$1,609	(26.3)%	\$(12,314)	(198.8)%

For the year ended December 31, 2018, other (expense) income, net decreased \$1.6 million from the comparable period in 2017 primarily due to smaller losses recognized on sales or disposals of fixed assets in 2018. Other (expense) income, net decreased \$12.3 million from 2016 to 2017 primarily due to losses recognized on sales or disposals of fixed assets in 2017 compared to gains recognized on sales or disposals of fixed assets in 2016.

## Loss on early extinguishment of debt

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,			2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	2016	\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change	% Change
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	\$(2,488)	\$(7,891)	\$—	—\$5,403	(68.5)%	\$(7,891)	100.0%

During the year ended December 31, 2018, we recorded a \$2.5 million loss in connection with the extinguishment of the remaining \$400.0 million previously outstanding senior unsecured notes which were refinanced in connection with the Incremental Facility Amendment to our Term Loan Agreement completed during the third quarter of 2018. During the year ended December 31, 2017, we recorded a \$7.9 million loss on early extinguishment of debt in connection with the extinguishment of the \$400.0 million previously outstanding senior unsecured notes which were refinanced in connection with the issuance of \$400.0 million Term Loan Agreement which was completed in the second quarter of 2017. The losses consisted of amounts paid in excess of par in order to extinguish the debt prior to maturity and non-cash expenses related to the write-off of unamortized financing costs. For additional information regarding our financing arrangements, see Note 12, "Financing Arrangements," under Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data," of this report.

## Gain on sale of businesses

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,		2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change	% Change
Gain on sale of businesses	—\$30,732	\$16,884	\$(30,732)	(100)%	\$13,848	82%

During the year ended December 31, 2017, we recorded a \$30.7 million gain on the sale of our Transformer Services business. During the year ended December 31, 2016, we recorded a \$16.9 million gain on the sale of our Catalyst Services business. For additional information regarding these gains on sale of businesses, see Note 5, "Disposition of Businesses," under Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data," of this report.

## Provision (benefit) for Income Taxes

(in thousands)	Year Ended December 31,			2018 over 2017		2017 over 2016	
	2018	2017	2016	\$ Change	% Change	\$ Change	% Change
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	\$28,846	\$(42,050)	\$48,589	\$70,896	(168.6)%	\$(90,639)	(186.5)%

Provision (benefit) for income taxes for fiscal years 2018, 2017 and 2016 was \$28.8 million, \$(42.1) million, and \$48.6 million, respectively. The effective tax rate for 2018 was 30.5% and was impacted by the overall reduced federal tax rates

Table Of Contents

enacted in 2018 under the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act (the "Tax Act") signed into law in December 2017, the recognition of valuation allowances on certain Canadian operations and offset in the current year by tax benefits resulting from amended prior year tax return filings. The income tax benefit in 2017 was primarily driven by impacts from the enactment of the Tax Act in 2017. Impacts of the Tax Act resulted in a net benefit of \$93.0 million being recorded in 2017. See Note 13, "Income Taxes," under Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data," of this report for more information related to the Tax Act and its impacts. Excluding the impacts of the Tax Act, a provision of \$51.0 million would have been recognized, yielding an effective tax rate of 86.8% in 2017.

The mix of U.S. and Canadian taxable income and losses in recent years, combined largely with the impacts of valuation allowances being recorded relative to taxable losses generated in certain Canadian jurisdictions has had significant impacts on the recorded income tax expense amounts and has caused such amounts and resulting effective tax rates to represent significant variations from more customary relationships between pre-tax income and the provision for income taxes. In 2018, the Company recognized a \$10.7 million valuation allowance from Canadian losses. Aside from the impact of the Tax Act, the variation from a more customary effective tax rate in 2017 was primarily related to a \$14.5 million valuation allowance recorded relative to net operating loss carryforwards generated by certain Canadian subsidiaries in 2017 and the impacts of recording \$3.7 million of unrecognized tax benefits associated with current and prior years' tax positions taken. Variations from a more customary effective tax rate in 2016 was primarily due to the recognition of a \$12.9 million valuation allowance related to net operating loss carryforwards generated by certain Canadian subsidiaries in 2016, as well as an additional \$9.7 million valuation allowance recorded as a result of a change in the likelihood of realizing a benefit from foreign tax credits and other net deferred tax assets. Additionally, the \$34.0 million goodwill impairment charge in our Lodging Services line of business recorded in 2016 was a non-deductible tax item, and therefore no tax benefit was recorded on that loss and further caused the 2016 effective tax rate to vary from a more typical relationship between income before taxes and the recorded provision for income taxes.

## Liquidity and Capital Resources

(in thousands)	For the years ended December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Net cash from operating activities	\$373,210	\$285,698	\$259,624
Net cash used in investing activities	(349,659 )	(203,267 )	(361,777 )
Net cash (used in) from financing activities	(110,997 )	(72,760 )	220,235

Net cash from operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2018 was \$373.2 million, an increase of \$87.5 million compared to net cash from operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2017. The increase in operating cash flows as compared to the comparable period of 2017 was most directly attributable to greater levels of operating income, lower interest payments and a reduction in environmental expenditures, which was offset by higher working capital levels due to overall growth in our business.

Net cash from operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$285.7 million, an increase of \$26.1 million compared to net cash from operating activities for the year ended December 31, 2016. The change primarily resulted from higher income levels generated during the year ended December 31, 2017 and the impacts of changes in net working capital related to increases in cash flows from other current assets, partially offset by an increase in accounts receivable and unbilled accounts receivable as a result of increased incremental revenues during the year ended December 31, 2017.

## Net cash used in investing activities

Net cash used in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2018 was \$349.7 million, an increase of \$146.4 million compared to cash used in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2017. The change was primarily driven by the 2018 use of cash to fund acquisitions, increased capital expenditure levels net of proceeds primarily related to sales of manufacturing assets in Western Canada, a reduction in net purchases of marketable securities and the lack in 2018 of proceeds from sale of a business, which occurred in 2017 with the Transformer Services divestiture.

Net cash used in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$203.3 million, a decrease of \$158.5 million compared to cash used in investing activities for the year ended December 31, 2016. The change was primarily driven

by a decrease in cash paid for acquisitions in 2017, proceeds from the sale of the Transformer Services business and a decrease in capital expenditures, which were greater during 2016 due to the construction of our hazardous waste incinerator at our El Dorado, Arkansas facility, which came online in the first quarter of 2017. The decrease in cash used in investing activities was partially offset by cash used to purchase highly liquid marketable securities during the year ended December 31, 2017.

Table Of Contents

## Net cash (used in) from financing activities

Net cash used in financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2018 was \$111.0 million, an increase of \$38.2 million compared to cash used in financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2017. The primary reason for the increase in financing cash outflows in 2018 was the net pay down of debt obligations totaling \$55.8 million which occurred during the year. Offsetting this increase was decreased outflows related to stock repurchases of \$3.9 million, premiums paid on the extinguishment of debt of \$4.8 million, and changes in uncashed checks of \$5.8 million.

Net cash used in financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2017 was \$72.8 million, a decrease of \$293.0 million compared to cash from financing activities for the year ended December 31, 2016. The change was primarily due to the issuance in March 2016 of \$250.0 million in additional aggregate principal amount of 5.125% senior unsecured notes due 2021.

During the year ended December 31, 2017, there were no net proceeds from issuance of debt as we entered into a \$400.0

million senior secured term loan agreement and used the proceeds to purchase approximately \$400.0 million aggregate

principal amount of our previously outstanding 5.25% senior unsecured notes due 2020. In addition, during the year ended

December 31, 2017, we increased repurchases of our common stock from \$22.2 million in 2016 to \$49.0 million in 2017.

## Adjusted Free Cash Flow

Management considers adjusted free cash flow to be a measurement of liquidity which provides useful information to both management, creditors and investors about our financial strength and our ability to generate cash. Additionally, adjusted free cash flow is a metric on which a portion of management incentive compensation is based. We define adjusted free cash flow as net cash from operating activities excluding cash impacts of items derived from non-operating activities, such as taxes paid in connection with divestitures, less additions to property, plant and equipment plus proceeds from sales or disposals of fixed assets. Adjusted free cash flow should not be considered an alternative to net cash from operating activities or other measurements under GAAP. Adjusted free cash flow is not calculated identically by all companies, and therefore our measurements of adjusted free cash flow may not be comparable to similarly titled measures reported by other companies.

The following is a reconciliation from net cash from operating activities to adjusted free cash flow for the following periods (in thousands):

	For the years ended	
	December 31,	
	2018	2017
Net cash from operating activities	\$373,210	\$285,698
Additions to property, plant and equipment	(193,344 )	(167,007 )
Proceeds from sale and disposal of fixed assets	15,445	7,124
Tax liability on sale of business	—	14,423
Adjusted free cash flow	\$195,311	\$140,238

## Working Capital

At December 31, 2018, cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities totaled \$279.4 million, compared to \$357.6 million at December 31, 2017. At December 31, 2018, cash and cash equivalents held by foreign subsidiaries totaled \$84.7 million and were readily convertible into other currencies including U.S. dollars. At December 31, 2018, the cash and cash equivalents and marketable securities balance for our U.S. operations was \$194.7 million, and our U.S. operations had net operating cash flows of \$309.4 million for the year ended December 31, 2018. Additionally, we have a \$400.0 million revolving credit facility, of which approximately \$235.4 million was available to borrow at December 31, 2018. Based on the above and our current plans, we believe that our operations have adequate financial resources to satisfy their current liquidity needs.

We assess our liquidity in terms of our ability to generate cash to fund our operating, investing, and financing activities. Our primary ongoing cash requirements will be to fund operations, capital expenditures, interest payments and investments in line with our business strategy. We believe our future operating cash flows will be sufficient to meet our future operating and internal investing cash needs as well as any cash needs relating to our stock repurchase program. Furthermore, our existing cash balance and the availability of additional borrowings under our revolving credit facility provide additional potential sources of liquidity should they be required.

#### Financing Arrangements

The financing arrangements and principal terms of our \$845.0 million principal amount of 5.125% senior unsecured notes due 2021 and \$742.2 million senior secured notes due 2024 which were outstanding at December 31, 2018, and our



Table Of Contents

\$400.0 million revolving credit facility, are discussed further in Note 12, "Financing Arrangements," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report.

As of December 31, 2018, we were in compliance with the covenants of all of our debt agreements, and we believe we will continue to meet such covenants.

As discussed in Note 12, "Financing Arrangements," to our consolidated financial statements, we refinanced during 2018 our debt portfolio whereby the \$400.0 million of previously outstanding 5.25% senior unsecured notes due 2020 was replaced by \$350.0 million of incremental term loans under our variable rate Term Loan Agreement. In connection with the addition of this variable rate debt, we entered into interest rate swap agreements in order to hedge the future risk of rising interest rates and effectively fix the interest rate on \$350.0 million of our variable rate debt at an annual rate of approximately 4.67%.

**Environmental Liabilities**

(in thousands)	As of December 31, 2018 over 2017			
	2018	2017	\$ Change	% Change
Closure and post-closure liabilities	\$69,931	\$61,037	\$8,894	14.6 %
Remedial liabilities	121,017	124,468	(3,451 )	(2.8 )%
Total environmental liabilities	\$190,948	\$185,505	\$5,443	2.9 %

Total environmental liabilities as of December 31, 2018 were \$190.9 million, an increase of \$5.4 million compared to the liabilities as of December 31, 2017. This increase was primarily due to accretion of \$9.8 million, new asset retirement obligations and liabilities assumed in acquisitions of \$3.2 million, and changes in estimates recorded to our statement of operations of \$2.1 million, partially offset by expenditures of \$10.1 million.

We anticipate our environmental liabilities, substantially all of which we assumed in connection with our acquisitions, will be payable over many years and that cash flow from operations will generally be sufficient to fund the payment of such liabilities when required. However, events not anticipated (such as future changes in environmental laws and regulations) could require that such payments be made earlier or in greater amounts than currently anticipated, which could adversely affect our results of operations, cash flow and financial condition.

During 2018, we recognized a net charge for changes in estimates of recorded environmental liabilities, whereas in each of 2017 and 2016 we benefited from reductions in our environmental liabilities due to changes in estimates recorded to our statement of operations. The benefits over these years were primarily due to the successful introduction of new technology for remedial activities, favorable results from environmental studies of the on-going remediation, including favorable regulatory approvals, and lower project costs realized by utilizing internal labor and equipment. The principal changes in estimates were from the following items:

In 2018, the net increase in our environmental liabilities from changes in estimates recorded to the statement of operations was \$2.1 million and primarily related to an increase in projected cleanup costs at third party Superfund sites where we are a potentially responsible party.

In 2017, the net reduction in our environmental liabilities from changes in estimates recorded to the statement of operations was \$0.2 million and primarily related to reduced remedial spending at one of our locations resulting from new technologies and cost savings realized during the completed cell closure at one of our landfills.

In 2016, the net reduction in our environmental liabilities from changes in estimates recorded to the statement of operations was \$4.3 million and primarily related to reduced remedial spending at one of our locations resulting from new technologies and cost savings realized during the completed cell closure at one of our landfills.

Table Of Contents

## Contractual Obligations

The following table has been included to assist understanding our debt and similar obligations as of December 31, 2018 and our ability to meet such obligations (in thousands):

Contractual Obligations	Total	Payments Due by Period			
		Less than 1 year	1-3 years	4-5 years	After 5 years
Closure, post-closure and remedial liabilities	\$462,879	\$24,549	\$50,425	\$35,138	\$352,767
Current and long-term obligations, at par	1,587,232	7,535	860,071	15,071	704,555
Interest on current and long-term obligations (1)	273,559	76,192	126,114	63,420	7,833
Operating leases	211,051	56,480	79,031	39,762	35,778
Total contractual obligations	\$2,534,721	\$164,756	\$1,115,641	\$153,391	\$1,100,933

(1) Interest on our variable-rate \$742.2 million senior secured term loan agreement was calculated based on the effective interest rate as of December 31, 2018 of 4.27%. Our interest rate swap agreements effectively fix the interest rate on \$350.0 million of our variable rate debt at an annual rate of approximately 4.67% and therefore the assumed rate on this variable debt after considering the swap agreements is 4.45%.

The undiscounted value of closure, post-closure and remedial liabilities of \$462.9 million is equivalent to the present value of \$190.9 million based on discounting of \$178.7 million and the undiscounted remainder of \$93.2 million to be accrued for closure and post-closure liabilities over the remaining site lives.

The following table has been included to assist in understanding our other contractual obligations as of December 31, 2018 and our ability to meet such obligations (in thousands):

Other Commercial Commitments	Total	Payments Due by Period			
		Less than 1 year	1-3 years	4-5 years	After 5 years
Standby letters of credit	\$130,100	\$130,100	\$ —	\$ —	—

We obtained the standby letters of credit described in the above table primarily as security for financial assurances we have been required to provide to regulatory bodies for our hazardous waste facilities and which would be called only in the event that we fail to satisfy closure, post-closure and other obligations under the permits issued by those regulatory bodies for such licensed facilities. See Note 12, "Financing Arrangements," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report for further discussion of our standby letters of credit and other financing arrangements.

## Off-Balance Sheet Arrangements

Except for our obligations under operating leases and letters of credit described above under "Contractual Obligations" and performance obligations incurred in the ordinary course of business, we are not party to any off-balance sheet arrangements involving guarantee, contingency or similar obligations to entities whose financial statements are not consolidated with our results, and that have or are reasonably likely to have a current or future effect on our financial condition, changes in financial condition, revenues or expenses, results of operations, liquidity, capital expenditures or capital resources that would be material to investors in our securities.

## Capital Expenditures

In 2018, our capital expenditures, net of disposals, were \$177.9 million. We anticipate that 2019 capital spending, net of disposals, will be in the range of \$190.0 million to \$210.0 million. However, unanticipated changes in environmental regulations could require us to make significant capital expenditures for our facilities and adversely affect our results of operations and cash flow.

Table Of Contents

## Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates

The preparation of our financial statements requires us to make estimates and judgments that affect the reported amounts of our assets, liabilities, revenues and expenses, and related disclosures of contingent liabilities. The following are the areas that we believe require the greatest amount of judgments or estimates in the preparation of the financial statements: accounting for landfills, non-landfill closure and post-closure liabilities, remedial liabilities, goodwill, permits and other intangible assets and legal matters. Our management reviews critical accounting estimates with the Audit Committee of our Board of Directors on an ongoing basis and as needed prior to the release of our annual financial statements. See also Note 2, "Significant Accounting Policies," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report, which discusses the significant assumptions used in applying our accounting policies.

**Landfill Accounting.** We amortize landfill improvements and certain landfill-related permits over their estimated useful lives. The units-of-consumption method is used to amortize land, landfill cell construction, asset retirement costs and remaining landfill cells and sites. We also utilize the units-of-consumption method to record closure and post-closure obligations for landfill cells and sites. Under the units-of-consumption method, we include future estimated construction and asset retirement costs, as well as costs incurred to date, in the amortization base of the landfill assets. Additionally, where appropriate, as discussed below, we include probable expansion airspace yet to be permitted in the calculation of the total remaining useful life of the landfill. If we determine that expansion capacity should no longer be considered in calculating the recoverability of a landfill asset, we may be required to recognize an asset impairment or incur significantly higher amortization expense. If at any time we decide to abandon the expansion effort, the capitalized costs related to the expansion effort are expensed immediately.

**Landfill Assets.** Landfill assets include the costs of landfill site acquisition, permits and cell construction incurred to date. These amounts are amortized under the units-of-consumption method such that the asset is completely amortized when the landfill ceases accepting waste.

**Landfill Capacity.** Landfill capacity, which is the basis for the amortization of landfill assets and for the accrual of final closure and post-closure obligations, represents total permitted airspace plus unpermitted airspace that management believes is probable of ultimately being permitted based on established criteria. Our management applies the following criteria for evaluating the probability of obtaining a permit for future expansion airspace at existing sites, which provides management a basis to evaluate the likelihood of success of unpermitted expansions:

- Personnel are actively working to obtain the permit or permit modifications (land use, state and federal) necessary for expansion of an existing landfill, and progress is being made on the project.

- Management expects to submit the application within the next year and to receive all necessary approvals to accept waste within the next five years.

At the time the expansion is included in management's estimate of the landfill's useful economic life, it is probable that the required approvals will be received within the normal application and processing time periods for approvals in the jurisdiction in which the landfill is located.

- We or the other owner of the landfill has a legal right to use or obtain the right to use the land associated with the expansion plan.

- There are no significant known political, technical, legal or business restrictions or other issues that could impair the success of such expansion.

- A financial feasibility analysis has been completed and the results demonstrate that the expansion will have a positive financial and operational impact such that management is committed to pursuing the expansion.

- Additional airspace and related additional costs, including permitting, final closure and post-closure costs, have been estimated based on the conceptual design of the proposed expansion.

As of December 31, 2018, there was one unpermitted expansion at one location included in management's landfill calculation, which represented 16.2% of our remaining airspace at that date. If actual expansion airspace is significantly different from management's estimate of expansion airspace, the amortization rates used for the units-of-consumption method would change, therefore impacting our profitability. If we determine that there is less actual expansion airspace at a landfill, this would increase amortization expense recorded and decrease profitability, while if we determine a landfill has more actual expansion airspace, amortization expense would decrease and

profitability would increase.

**Landfill Final Closure and Post-Closure Liabilities.** The balance of landfill final closure and post-closure liabilities at December 31, 2018 and 2017 was \$37.8 million and \$32.4 million, respectively. We have material financial commitments for the costs associated with requirements of the EPA and the comparable regulatory agency in Canada for landfill final closure and post-closure activities. In the United States, the landfill final closure and post-closure requirements are established under the

39

---

Table Of Contents

standards of the EPA, and are implemented and applied on a state-by-state basis. We develop estimates for the cost of these activities based on our evaluation of site-specific facts and circumstances, such as the existence of structures and other landfill improvements that would need to be dismantled, the amount of groundwater monitoring and leachate management expected to be performed, and the length of the post-closure period as determined by the applicable regulatory agency. Included in our cost estimates are our interpretation of current regulatory requirements and proposed regulatory changes. Such estimates may change in the future due to various circumstances including, but not limited to, permit modifications, changes in legislation or regulations, technological changes and results of environmental studies. We perform zero-based reviews of these estimated liabilities based upon a planned schedule, typically every five years or sooner if the occurrence of a significant event is likely to change the timing or amount of the currently estimated expenditures. We consider a significant event to be a new regulation or an amendment to an existing regulation, a new permit or modification to an existing permit, or a change in the market price of a significant cost item. Our cost estimates are calculated using internal sources as well as input from third-party experts. These costs are measured at estimated fair value using present value techniques, and therefore changes in the estimated timing of closure and post-closure activities would affect the liability, the value of the related asset, and our results of operations.

Final closure costs are the costs incurred after the site ceases to accept waste, but before the landfill is certified as closed by the applicable state or provincial regulatory agency. These costs generally include the costs required to cap the final cell of the landfill (if not included in cell closure), to dismantle certain structures for landfills and other landfill improvements and regulation-mandated groundwater monitoring, and for leachate management. Post-closure costs involve the maintenance and monitoring of a landfill site that has been certified closed by the applicable regulatory agency. These costs generally include groundwater monitoring and leachate management. Regulatory post-closure periods are generally 30 years after landfill closure. Final closure and post-closure obligations are accrued on a units-of-consumption basis, such that the present value of the final closure and post-closure obligations are fully accrued at the date the landfill discontinues accepting waste.

**Non-Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Liabilities.** The balance of our non-landfill closure and post-closure liabilities at December 31, 2018 and 2017 was \$32.1 million and \$28.6 million, respectively. We base estimates for non-landfill closure and post-closure liabilities on our interpretations of existing permit and regulatory requirements for closure and post-closure maintenance and monitoring. Our cost estimates are calculated using internal sources as well as input from third-party experts. We use probability scenarios to estimate when future operations will cease and inflate the current cost of closing the non-landfill facility on a probability weighted basis using the appropriate inflation rate and then discounting the future value to arrive at an estimated present value of closure and post-closure costs. The estimates for non-landfill closure and post-closure liabilities are inherently uncertain due to the possibility that permit and regulatory requirements will change in the future, impacting the estimation of total costs and the timing of the expenditures. We review non-landfill closure and post-closure liabilities for changes to key assumptions that would impact the amount of the recorded liabilities. Changes that would prompt us to revise a liability estimate include changes in legal requirements that impact our expected closure plan or scope of work, in the market price of a significant cost item, in the probability scenarios as to when future operations at a location might cease, or in the expected timing of the cost expenditures. Changes in estimates for non-landfill closure and post-closure events immediately impact the required liability and the value of the corresponding asset. If a change is made to a fully-consumed asset, the adjustment is charged immediately to expense. When a change in estimate relates to an asset that has not been fully consumed, the adjustment to the asset is recognized in income prospectively as a component of amortization. Historically, material changes to non-landfill closure and post-closure estimates have been infrequent. See Note 10, "Closure and Post-Closure Liabilities," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report for the changes to these Landfill and Non-Landfill Closure and Post-Closure liabilities during the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017.

**Remedial Liabilities.** The balance of our remedial liabilities at December 31, 2018 and 2017 was \$121.0 million and \$124.5 million, respectively. See Note 11, "Remedial Liabilities," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report for the changes to the remedial liabilities during the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017. Remedial liabilities are obligations to investigate, alleviate and/or eliminate the effects of a release (or threat of a

release) of hazardous substances into the environment and may also include corrective action under RCRA. Our remediation obligations can be further characterized as Long-term Maintenance, One-Time Projects, Legal and Superfund. Legal liabilities are typically comprised of litigation matters that involve potential liability for certain aspects of environmental cleanup and can include third-party claims for property damage or bodily injury allegedly arising from or caused by exposure to hazardous substances originating from our activities or operations or, in certain cases, from the actions or inactions of other persons or companies. Superfund liabilities are typically claims alleging that we are a potentially responsible party ("PRP") and/or are potentially liable for environmental response, removal, remediation and cleanup costs at/or from either a facility we own or a site owned by a third-party. As described in Note 18, "Commitments and Contingencies," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report, Superfund liabilities also include certain liabilities payable to governmental entities for which we are potentially liable to reimburse the sellers in connection with our 2002 acquisition of substantially all of the assets of the Chemical Services Division (the "CSD assets") of Safety-Kleen Corp. Long-term maintenance liabilities include the costs of groundwater monitoring, treatment system operations, permit fees and facility maintenance for inactive operations. One-Time Projects

## Table Of Contents

liabilities include the costs necessary to comply with regulatory requirements for the removal or treatment of contaminated materials.

Amounts recorded related to the costs required to remediate a location are determined by internal engineers and operational personnel and incorporate input from external third parties. The estimates consider such factors as the nature and extent of environmental contamination (if any); the terms of applicable permits and agreements with regulatory authorities as to cleanup procedures and whether modifications to such permits and agreements will likely need to be negotiated; the cost of performing anticipated cleanup activities based upon current technology; and in the case of Superfund and other sites where other parties will also be responsible for a portion of the cleanup costs, the likely allocation of such costs and the ability of such other parties to pay their share. Each quarter, our management discusses if any events have occurred or milestones have been met that would warrant the creation of a new remedial liability or the revision of an existing remedial liability. Such events or milestones include identification and verification as a PRP, receipt of a unilateral administrative order under Superfund or requirement for RCRA interim corrective measures, completion of the feasibility study under Superfund or the corrective measures study under RCRA, new or modifications to existing permits, changes in property use, or a change in the market price of a significant cost item. Remedial liabilities are inherently difficult to estimate and there is a risk that the actual quantities of contaminants could differ from the results of the site investigation, which could materially impact the amount of our liability. It is also possible that chosen methods of remedial solutions will not be successful and funds will be required for alternative solutions.

Remedial liabilities are discounted only when the timing of the payments is estimable and the amounts are determinable, with the exception of remedial liabilities assumed as part of an acquisition that are measured at fair value.

We establish reserves for estimated environmental liabilities based on acceptable technologies when we determine the liability is appropriate. Introductions of new technologies are subject to successful demonstration of the effectiveness of the alternative technology and regulatory approval. We routinely review and evaluate the sites for which we have established estimated environmental liabilities reserves to determine if there should be changes in the established reserves. The changes in estimates are reflected as adjustments in the ordinary course of business in the period when we determine that an adjustment is appropriate as new information becomes available. Upon demonstration of the effectiveness of the alternative technology and applicable regulatory approval, we update our estimated cost of remediating the affected sites.

**Goodwill and Other Long-Lived Assets.** Goodwill is not amortized but is reviewed for impairment annually as of December 31 or when events or changes in the business environment indicate the carrying value of a reporting unit may exceed its fair value. This review is performed by comparing the fair value of each reporting unit to its carrying value, including goodwill. If the fair value is less than the carrying amount, a loss is recorded for the excess of the carrying value over the fair value up to the carrying amount of goodwill.

We determine our reporting units by identifying the components of each operating segment, and then in some circumstances aggregate components having similar economic characteristics based on quantitative and/or qualitative factors. During the first quarter of fiscal year 2018, we reassigned certain components among our operating segments to be in line with management reporting changes and as a result concluded there was a change in our operating segments resulting in two such segments in 2018, namely (i) the Environmental Services segment and (ii) the Safety-Kleen segment. As a result of our identification of operating segments, we also concluded that, for purposes of reviewing for potential goodwill impairment, we now have four reporting units, consisting of Environmental Sales and Service, Environmental Facilities, Kleen Performance Products and Safety-Kleen Environmental Services. We allocated goodwill to the newly identified reporting units using a relative fair value approach. In addition, we completed an assessment of any potential goodwill impairment for all reporting units immediately prior and subsequent to the reallocation and determined that no impairment existed.

We conducted our annual impairment test of goodwill for all of our reporting units to which goodwill was allocated as of December 31, 2018 and determined that no adjustment to the carrying value of goodwill for any reporting unit was then necessary. In all cases the estimated fair value of each reporting unit significantly exceeded its carrying value.

We measure fair value for all of our reporting units using an income approach (a discounted cash flow analysis) which

incorporates several estimates and assumptions with varying degrees of uncertainty. The discounted cash flow analyses include estimated cash flows for a discrete period and for a terminal period thereafter. We corroborate our estimates of fair values by also considering other factors such as the fair value of comparable companies to businesses contained in our reporting units, as well as performing a reconciliation of the total estimated fair value of all reporting units to our market capitalization.

Indefinite-lived intangible assets are not amortized but are reviewed for impairment annually as of December 31, or when events or changes in the business environment indicate that the carrying value may be impaired. If the fair value of the asset is less than the carrying amount, we perform a quantitative test to determine the fair value. The impairment loss, if any, is measured as the excess of the carrying value of the asset over its fair value. The estimated fair values of the indefinite-lived



Table Of Contents

intangibles exceeded their carrying values at December 31, 2018. However, we will continue to monitor the performance of our indefinite-lived intangible assets, and future events might result in an impairment of indefinite-lived intangible assets.

Our long-lived assets are carried on our financial statements based on their cost less accumulated depreciation or amortization. Long-lived assets with finite lives are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that their carrying value may not be entirely recoverable. When such factors and circumstances exist, our management compares the projected undiscounted future cash flows associated with the related asset or group of assets to the respective carrying amounts. The impairment loss, if any, would be measured as the excess of the carrying amount over the fair value of the asset and is recorded in the period in which the determination is made. Any resulting impairment losses recorded by us would have an adverse impact on our results of operations.

In consideration of historical goodwill impairments for our Oil and Gas Field Services and Lodging Services operations and continued lower than historical results in the oil and gas related industries, specifically in Western Canada, we continue to monitor the carrying value of those business' long-lived assets and assess the risk of asset impairment. As of December 31, 2018, our Oil and Gas Field Services and Lodging Services operations had property, plant and equipment, net of \$55.2 million and \$65.9 million, respectively, and intangible assets of \$0.6 million and \$1.4 million, respectively. We concluded that no events or circumstances have arisen during 2018 which would indicate that the carrying values of those asset groups are not recoverable.

We will continue to evaluate all of our goodwill and other long-lived assets impacted by economic downturns most predominantly in the oil and energy related markets in which we operate. If further economic difficulties resulting from depressed oil and gas related pricing and lower overall activity levels, particularly in our Canadian operations, continue for a significant foreseeable period of time and thus future operating results are significantly less than current expectations, additional impairment charges may be recognized. The market conditions which could lead to such future impairments are currently most prevalent in our Oil and Gas Field Services and Lodging Services operations.

**Legal Matters.** As described in Note 18, "Commitments and Contingencies," to our consolidated financial statements included in Item 8 of this report, we are subject to legal proceedings which relate to our past acquisitions or which have arisen in the ordinary course of business. Accruals are established for legal matters when, in our opinion, it is probable that a liability exists and the liability can be reasonably estimated. As of December 31, 2018, we had reserves of \$25.4 million consisting of (i) \$17.9 million related to pending legal or administrative proceedings, including Superfund liabilities, which were included in remedial liabilities on the consolidated balance sheets and (ii) \$7.5 million primarily related to legal claims as well as federal, state and provincial enforcement actions, which were included in accrued expenses on the consolidated balance sheets. We also estimate that it is "reasonably possible," as that term is defined ("more than remote but less than likely"), that the amount of such total liabilities could be as much as \$1.8 million more. Actual expenses incurred in future periods could differ materially from accruals established.

Table Of Contents

## ITEM 7A. QUANTITATIVE AND QUALITATIVE DISCLOSURES ABOUT MARKET RISK

In the normal course of business, we are exposed to market risks, including changes in interest rates and certain foreign currency rates, primarily relating to the Canadian dollar. Our philosophy in managing interest rate risk is to maintain a debt portfolio inclusive of both variable and fixed-rate debt so as to limit our interest expense and exposure to interest rate volatility. During the third quarter of 2018, we entered into interest rate swap agreements with the intention of hedging interest rate exposure on a portion of our outstanding LIBOR-based variable rate senior secured term loans. Under the terms of the swaps, we receive interest based on the 1-month LIBOR index and pay interest at a weighted average rate of approximately 2.92% on an initial notional amount of \$350.0 million. When combined with the 1.75% interest rate margin for Eurocurrency borrowings, the effective annual interest rate on such \$350.0 million aggregate principal amount of term loans is therefore approximately 4.67%.

We have designated our interest rate swap agreements as effective cash flow hedges at inception, and therefore the change in fair value is recorded in stockholders' equity as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss and included in interest expense at the same time as interest expense is affected by the hedged transactions. Differences paid or received over the life of the agreements are recorded as additions to or reductions of interest expense on the underlying debt.

The following table provides information regarding our fixed and variable rate borrowings at December 31, 2018 (in thousands):

Scheduled Maturity Dates	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	Thereafter	Total
Senior secured term loans due 2024	\$7,535	\$7,535	\$7,535	\$7,535	\$7,535	\$704,557	\$742,232
Senior unsecured notes due 2021	—	—	845,000	—	—	—	845,000
Long term obligations, at par	\$7,535	\$7,535	\$852,535	\$7,535	\$7,535	\$704,557	\$1,587,232

The interest rate on the \$845 million senior unsecured notes due June 1, 2021 is fixed at 5.125%. Interest payments are due in the amount of \$21.7 million each related to the \$845.0 million senior unsecured notes payable semi-annually on June 1 and December 1 of each year.

We continue to have interest rate risk relative to our term loan borrowing exceeding \$350 million or \$392.2 million as of December 31, 2018. The effective interest rate of the term loans as of December 31, 2018 was 4.27%. Should the average interest rate on the variable rate portion of our long-term obligations change by 100 basis points, we estimate that our annual interest expense would change by up to approximately \$4.0 million.

In addition to the fixed and variable rate borrowings described in the above table, we have a revolving credit facility with maximum borrowings of up to \$400.0 million (with a \$325.0 million sub-limit for letters of credit), under which no borrowings were outstanding at December 31, 2018.

We view our investment in our foreign subsidiaries as long-term; thus, we have not entered into any hedging transactions between any two foreign currencies or between any of the foreign currencies and the U.S. dollar. Given this significant investment in Canada and the fluctuations that have and can occur between the U.S. Dollar and Canadian Dollar exchange rates, significant movements in cumulative translation adjustment amounts recorded as a component of other comprehensive income (loss) can occur in any given period.

During 2018, our Canadian subsidiaries transacted business in U.S. dollars and at any period end had cash on deposit in U.S. dollars and outstanding U.S. dollar accounts receivable related to those transactions. Those cash and receivable accounts are vulnerable to foreign currency transaction gains or losses. Exchange rate movements also affect the translation of Canadian generated profits and losses into U.S. dollars. Had the Canadian dollar been 10.0% stronger or weaker against the U.S. dollar, we would have reported increased or decreased net income of \$4.8 million and \$5.6 million for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, respectively.

Table Of Contents

ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA  
REPORT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM  
To the Stockholders and the Board of Directors of Clean Harbors, Inc.

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying consolidated balance sheets of Clean Harbors, Inc. and subsidiaries (the "Company") as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, the related consolidated statements of operations, comprehensive income, cash flows, and stockholders' equity for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2018, and the related notes and the schedule listed in the Index at Item 15 (collectively referred to as the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2018, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We have also audited, in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) (PCAOB), the Company's internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2018, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework (2013) issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission and our report dated February 27, 2019, expressed an unqualified opinion on the Company's internal control over financial reporting.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Company's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Company's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the PCAOB and are required to be independent with respect to the Company in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB. We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

/s/ Deloitte & Touche LLP  
Boston, Massachusetts  
February 27, 2019

We have served as the Company's auditor since 2005.

Table Of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEETS

(dollars in thousands)

	As of December 31,	
	2018	2017
<b>ASSETS</b>		
Current assets:		
Cash and cash equivalents	\$226,507	\$319,399
Short-term marketable securities	52,856	38,179
Accounts receivable, net of allowances aggregating \$44,315 and \$27,799, respectively	606,952	528,924
Unbilled accounts receivable	54,794	35,922
Deferred costs	18,770	20,445
Inventories and supplies	199,479	176,012
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	42,800	35,175
Total current assets	1,202,158	1,154,056
Property, plant and equipment, net	1,561,978	1,587,365
Other assets:		
Goodwill	514,189	478,523
Permits and other intangibles, net	441,875	469,128
Other	18,121	17,498
Total other assets	974,185	965,149
Total assets	\$3,738,321	\$3,706,570
<b>LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY</b>		
Current liabilities:		
Current portion of long-term obligations	\$7,535	\$4,000
Accounts payable	276,461	224,231
Deferred revenue	61,843	67,822
Accrued expenses	233,405	187,982
Current portion of closure, post-closure and remedial liabilities	23,034	19,782
Total current liabilities	602,278	503,817
Other liabilities:		
Closure and post-closure liabilities, less current portion of \$9,592 and \$6,444, respectively	60,339	54,593
Remedial liabilities, less current portion of \$13,442 and \$13,338, respectively	107,575	111,130
Long-term obligations, less current portion	1,565,021	1,625,537
Deferred taxes, unrecognized tax benefits and other long-term liabilities	233,352	223,291
Total other liabilities	1,966,287	2,014,551
Commitments and contingent liabilities (See Note 18)		
Stockholders' equity:		
Common stock, \$.01 par value:		
Authorized 80,000,000 shares; issued and outstanding 55,847,261 and 56,501,190 shares, respectively	558	565
Additional paid-in capital	655,415	686,962
Accumulated other comprehensive loss	(223,371)	(172,407)
Accumulated earnings	737,154	673,082
Total stockholders' equity	1,169,756	1,188,202
Total liabilities and stockholders' equity	\$3,738,321	\$3,706,570
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.		



Table Of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF OPERATIONS

(in thousands except per share amounts)

	For the years ended December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Revenues:			
Service revenues	\$2,709,239	\$2,398,650	\$2,280,809
Product revenues	591,064	546,328	474,417
Total revenues	3,300,303	2,944,978	2,755,226
Cost of revenues: (exclusive of items shown separately below)			
Service revenues	1,861,975	1,641,798	1,543,210
Product revenues	443,576	420,875	389,647
Total cost of revenues	2,305,551	2,062,673	1,932,857
Selling, general and administrative expenses	503,747	456,648	422,015
Accretion of environmental liabilities	9,806	9,460	10,177
Depreciation and amortization	298,625	288,422	287,002
Goodwill impairment charge	—	—	34,013
Income from operations	182,574	127,775	69,162
Other (expense) income, net	(4,510)	) (6,119)	) 6,195
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	(2,488)	) (7,891)	) —
Gain on sale of businesses	—	30,732	16,884
Interest expense, net of interest income of \$2,958, \$1,897, and \$784, respectively	(81,094)	) (85,808)	) (83,525)
Income before provision (benefit) for income taxes	94,482	58,689	8,716
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	28,846	(42,050)	) 48,589
Net income (loss)	\$65,636	\$100,739	\$(39,873)
Earnings (loss) per share:			
Basic	\$1.17	\$1.77	\$(0.69)
Diluted	\$1.16	\$1.76	\$(0.69)
Shares used to compute earnings (loss) per share — Basic	56,148	57,072	57,532
Shares used to compute earnings (loss) per share — Diluted	56,340	57,200	57,532
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.			

Table Of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF COMPREHENSIVE INCOME

(in thousands)

	For the years ended December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Net income (loss)	\$65,636	\$100,739	\$(39,873)
Other comprehensive (loss) income:			
Unrealized gains (losses) on available-for-sale securities (net of taxes (benefits) of \$105, \$152, and (\$214), respectively)	77	32	(321 )
Unrealized loss on interest rate hedge	(9,579 )	—	—
Reclassification adjustment for losses on available-for-sale securities and interest rate hedge included in net income (loss) (net of taxes of \$0, \$79, and \$0, respectively)	806	143	—
Foreign currency translation adjustments (including tax benefits of \$5.0 million and \$16.8 million in 2018 and 2016, respectively)	(42,350 )	41,636	40,728
Unfunded pension liability (net of taxes of \$42, \$38, and \$57, respectively)	82	108	159
Other comprehensive (loss) income	(50,964 )	41,919	40,566
Comprehensive income	\$14,672	\$142,658	\$693

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table Of Contents

CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES  
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS  
(in thousands)

	For the years ended December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Cash flows from operating activities:			
Net income (loss)	\$65,636	\$100,739	\$(39,873)
Adjustments to reconcile net income (loss) to net cash from operating activities:			
Depreciation and amortization	298,625	288,422	287,002
Goodwill impairment charge	—	—	34,013
Allowance for doubtful accounts	15,817	7,901	6,907
Amortization of deferred financing costs and debt discount	3,846	3,482	3,537
Accretion of environmental liabilities	9,806	9,460	10,177
Changes in environmental liability estimates	2,147	(195)	(4,254)
Deferred income taxes	19,089	(83,335)	15,184
Other expense (income), net	4,510	6,119	(5,685)
Stock-based compensation	16,792	13,146	10,481
Excess tax benefit of stock-based compensation	—	—	(1,198)
Net tax benefit on stock-based awards	—	—	1,165
Gain on sale of businesses	—	(30,732)	(16,884)
Loss on early extinguishment of debt	2,488	7,891	—
Environmental expenditures	(10,115)	(12,965)	(12,170)
Changes in assets and liabilities, net of acquisitions:			
Accounts receivable and unbilled accounts receivable	(79,563)	(33,764)	(15,009)
Inventories and supplies	(26,958)	(5,002)	(16,080)
Other current assets	(7,946)	16,720	(8,036)
Accounts payable	46,915	(10,684)	(3,503)
Other current and long-term liabilities	12,121	8,495	13,850
Net cash from operating activities	373,210	285,698	259,624
Cash flows used in investing activities:			
Additions to property, plant and equipment	(193,344)	(167,007)	(219,384)
Proceeds from sale and disposal of fixed assets	15,445	7,124	20,817
Acquisitions, net of cash acquired	(151,023)	(49,227)	(206,915)
Additions to intangible assets including costs to obtain or renew permits	(4,688)	(1,617)	(2,831)
Purchases of available-for-sale securities	(44,772)	(38,342)	(598)
Proceeds from sale of available-for-sale securities	28,723	376	—
Proceeds from sale of businesses, net of transactional costs	—	45,426	47,134
Net cash used in investing activities	(349,659)	(203,267)	(361,777)
Cash flows (used in) from financing activities:			
Change in uncashed checks	132	(5,940)	(3,177)
Proceeds from exercise of stock options	—	46	627
Tax payments related to withholdings on vested restricted stock	(3,266)	(3,149)	(2,819)
Repurchases of common stock	(45,080)	(48,971)	(22,188)
Excess tax benefit of stock-based compensation	—	—	1,198
Deferred financing costs paid	(4,027)	(5,718)	(4,031)
Premiums paid on early extinguishment of debt	(1,238)	(6,028)	—
Principal payments on debt	(405,768)	(402,000)	—
Issuance of senior secured notes, net of discount	348,250	399,000	—
Issuance of senior unsecured notes, including premium	—	—	250,625



Edgar Filing: CLEAN HARBORS INC - Form 10-K

Borrowing from revolving credit facility	50,000	—	—
Payment on revolving credit facility	(50,000 )	—	—
Net cash (used in) from financing activities	(110,997 )	(72,760 )	220,235
Effect of exchange rate change on cash	(5,446 )	2,731	4,207
(Decrease) increase in cash and cash equivalents	(92,892 )	12,402	122,289
Cash and cash equivalents, beginning of year	319,399	306,997	184,708
Cash and cash equivalents, end of year	\$226,507	\$319,399	\$306,997
Supplemental information:			
Cash payments for interest and income taxes:			
Interest paid	\$89,171	\$93,174	\$88,669
Income taxes paid	20,036	18,682	29,255
Non-cash investing activities:			
Property, plant and equipment accrued	15,657	16,109	9,214
Transfer of inventory to property, plant and equipment	—	12,641	—
(Payable) receivable for estimated purchase price adjustment	(4,032 )	—	1,910
The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.			

Table Of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## CONSOLIDATED STATEMENTS OF STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

(in thousands)

	Common Stock Number Shares	\$0.01 Par Value	Shares Held Under Employee Participation Plan	Additional Paid-in Capital	Accumulated Other Comprehensive loss	Accumulated Earnings	Total Stockholders' Equity
Balance at January 1, 2016	57,593	\$ 576	\$ (469 )	\$ 738,401	\$ (254,892 )	\$ 612,666	\$ 1,096,282
Net loss	—	—	—	—	—	(39,873 )	(39,873 )
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	40,566	—	40,566
Stock-based compensation	—	—	—	10,481	—	—	10,481
Issuance of restricted shares, net of shares remitted and tax withholdings	136	1	—	(2,820 )	—	—	(2,819 )
Exercise of stock options	22	—	—	627	—	—	627
Repurchases of common stock	(453 )	(4 )	—	(22,184 )	—	—	(22,188 )
Net tax benefit on stock-based awards	—	—	—	1,165	—	—	1,165
Balance at December 31, 2016	57,298	\$ 573	\$ (469 )	\$ 725,670	\$ (214,326 )	\$ 572,793	\$ 1,084,241
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	100,739	100,739
Cumulative effect of change in accounting for stock-based compensation	—	—	—	681	—	(450 )	231
Other comprehensive income	—	—	—	—	41,919	—	41,919
Stock-based compensation	—	—	—	13,146	—	—	13,146
Issuance of restricted shares, net of shares remitted and tax withholdings	133	1	—	(3,150 )	—	—	(3,149 )
Exercise of stock options	2	—	—	46	—	—	46
Shares held under employee participation plan	(25 )	—	469	(469 )	—	—	—
Repurchases of common stock	(907 )	(9 )	—	(48,962 )	—	—	(48,971 )
Balance at December 31, 2017	56,501	\$ 565	\$ —	\$ 686,962	\$ (172,407 )	\$ 673,082	\$ 1,188,202
Net income	—	—	—	—	—	65,636	65,636
Cumulative effect of change in accounting principle	—	—	—	—	—	(1,564 )	(1,564 )
Other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	—	(50,964 )	—	(50,964 )
Stock-based compensation	—	—	—	16,792	—	—	16,792
Issuance of restricted shares, net of shares remitted and tax withholdings	160	1	—	(3,267 )	—	—	(3,266 )
Repurchases of common stock	(814 )	(8 )	—	(45,072 )	—	—	(45,080 )
Balance at December 31, 2018	55,847	\$ 558	\$ —	\$ 655,415	\$ (223,371 )	\$ 737,154	\$ 1,169,756

The accompanying notes are an integral part of these consolidated financial statements.

Table Of Contents

CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

(1) OPERATIONS

Clean Harbors, Inc., through its subsidiaries (collectively, the "Company"), is a leading provider of environmental, energy and industrial services throughout North America. We are also the largest re-refiner and recycler of used oil in the world and the largest provider of parts cleaning and related environmental services to commercial, industrial and automotive customers in North America.

(2) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

The accompanying consolidated financial statements of the Company reflect the application of certain significant accounting policies as described below:

Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying consolidated statements include the accounts of Clean Harbors, Inc. and its majority-owned subsidiaries. All intercompany accounts and transactions have been eliminated in consolidation.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of consolidated financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions, which are evaluated on an ongoing basis, that affect the amounts reported in the Company's consolidated financial statements and accompanying notes. Management bases its estimates on historical experience and on various other assumptions it believes to be reasonable at the time under the circumstances, the results of which form the basis for making judgments about the carrying values of assets and liabilities and disclosure, if any, of contingent assets and liabilities and reported amounts of revenues and expenses. Actual results could differ from those estimates and judgments.

Cash, Cash Equivalents and Uncashed Checks

Cash consists primarily of cash on deposit and money market accounts. Marketable securities with maturities of three months or less from the date of purchase are classified as cash equivalents. The Company's cash management program with its revolving credit lender allows for the maintenance of a zero balance in the U.S. bank disbursement accounts that are used to issue vendor and payroll checks. The program can result in checks outstanding in excess of bank balances in the disbursement accounts. When checks are presented to the bank for payment, cash deposits in amounts sufficient to fund the checks are made, at the Company's discretion, either from funds provided by other accounts or under the terms of the Company's revolving credit facility. Therefore, until checks are presented for payment, there is no right of offset by the bank and the Company continues to have control over cash relating to both released as well as unreleased checks. Checks that have been written to vendors or employees but have not yet been presented for payment at the Company's bank are classified as uncashed checks as part of accounts payable and changes in the balance are reported as a financing activity in the statement of cash flows.

Marketable Securities

The Company, through its wholly-owned captive insurance subsidiary, invests in marketable securities consisting of U.S. Treasury securities, corporate notes and bonds and commercial paper. Marketable securities with original maturities greater than three months from the purchase date and remaining maturities less than one year are classified as short-term marketable securities. As of December 31, 2018 and 2017 the Company has recorded total marketable securities and cash equivalents of \$61.0 million and \$40.2 million, respectively, as shown below (in thousands).



Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (2) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

	December 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
Commercial paper	\$ 8,126	\$ 2,048
Total cash equivalents	8,126	2,048
U.S. Treasury securities	10,133	3,855
Corporate notes and bonds	38,036	32,729
Commercial paper	4,687	1,595
Total short-term marketable securities	52,856	38,179
Total financial assets	\$ 60,982	\$ 40,227

Realized gains and losses on sales of available-for-sale securities in the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016 were immaterial. The majority of the marketable securities have a remaining maturity of less than one year and fair value approximates cost.

**Allowances for Doubtful Accounts**

On a regular basis, the Company evaluates its accounts receivable and establishes the allowance for doubtful accounts based on an evaluation of certain criteria and evidence of collection certainty including historical collection trends, current economic trends and changes in customer payment patterns. Past-due receivable balances are written off when the Company's internal collection efforts have been deemed unsuccessful in collecting the outstanding balance due.

**Credit Concentration**

Concentration of credit risks in accounts receivable is limited due to the large number of customers comprising the Company's customer base throughout North America. The Company maintains policies over credit extension that include credit evaluations, credit limits and collection monitoring procedures on a customer-by-customer basis.

However, the Company generally does not require collateral before services are performed. No individual customer accounted for more than 10% of accounts receivable or more than 10% of total revenues in the periods presented.

**Inventories and Supplies**

Inventories are stated at the lower of cost or market. The cost of oil and oil products is principally determined on a first-in, first-out ("FIFO") basis. The cost of supplies and drums, solvent and solution and other inventories is determined on a FIFO or a weighted average cost basis. The Company continually reviews its inventories for obsolete or unsalable items and adjusts its carrying value to reflect estimated realizable values.

**Property, Plant and Equipment (excluding landfill assets)**

Property, plant and equipment are stated at cost. Expenditures for major renewals and improvements which extend the life or usefulness of the asset are capitalized. Items of an ordinary repair or maintenance nature are charged directly to operating expense as incurred. During the construction and development period of an asset, the costs incurred, including applicable interest costs, are classified as construction-in-progress.

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (2) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

The Company depreciates and amortizes the cost of these assets, using the straight-line method as follows:

Asset Classification	Estimated Useful Life
Buildings and building improvements	
Buildings	20–42 years
Leasehold and building improvements	2–45 years
Camp and lodging equipment	8–15 years
Vehicles	2–15 years
Equipment	
Capitalized software and computer equipment	3–5 years
Containers and railcars	8–16 years
All other equipment	4–30 years
Furniture and fixtures	5–8 years

The Company recognizes an impairment in the carrying value of long-lived assets when the expected future undiscounted cash flows derived from the assets, or group of assets, are less than their carrying value. For the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, the Company did not record impairment charges related to long-lived assets.

**Goodwill**

Goodwill is comprised of the purchase price of business acquisitions in excess of the fair value of the net assets acquired. Goodwill is not amortized but is reviewed for impairment annually as of December 31, or when events or circumstances indicate that the carrying value of the reporting unit may exceed its fair value. Upon adoption of Accounting Standards Update (“ASU”) 2017-04 in the fourth quarter of 2017, if the fair value is less than the carrying amount, a loss will be recorded for the excess of the carrying value of the goodwill over the implied value of the goodwill. Prior to adoption of ASU 2017-04, if the fair value was less than the carrying amount, a Step II goodwill impairment test was performed to determine if goodwill was impaired. The loss, if any, was measured as the excess of the carrying value of the goodwill over the implied value of the goodwill. See Note 8, "Goodwill and Other Intangible Assets," for additional information related to the Company's goodwill impairment tests.

**Permits and other intangibles**

Costs related to acquiring licenses, permits and intangible assets, such as legal fees, site surveys, engineering costs and other expenditures are capitalized. Other intangible assets consist primarily of customer and supplier relationships, trademarks and trade names, and non-compete agreements. Permits relating to landfills are amortized on a units-of-consumption basis. All other permits are amortized over periods ranging from 5 to 30 years on a straight-line basis. Other intangible assets are amortized on a straight-line basis over their respective useful lives, which range from 5 to 20 years.

Finite-lived intangible assets are reviewed for impairment whenever events or changes in circumstances indicate that the carrying value may not be recoverable. When such factors and circumstances exist, management compares the projected undiscounted future cash flows associated with the related asset or group of assets to the carrying amount. The impairment loss, if any, is measured as the excess of the carrying amount over the fair value of the asset or group of assets.

Indefinite-lived intangible assets are not amortized but are reviewed for impairment annually as of December 31, or when events or changes in the business environment indicate that the carrying value may be impaired. If the fair value of the asset is less than the carrying amount, the impairment loss is measured as the excess of the carrying value of the asset over its fair value.

**Leases**

The Company leases rolling stock, rail cars, equipment, real estate and office equipment under operating leases. Certain real estate leases contain rent holidays and rent escalation clauses. Most of the Company's real estate lease agreements include renewal periods at the Company's option. For its operating leases, the Company recognizes rent holiday periods and scheduled

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (2) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

rent increases on a straight-line basis over the lease term beginning with the date the Company takes possession of the leased assets.

**Landfill Accounting**

The Company amortizes landfill improvements and certain landfill-related permits over the estimated useful lives. The units-of-consumption method is used to amortize land, landfill cell construction, asset retirement costs and remaining landfill cells and sites. The Company also utilizes the units-of-consumption method to record closure and post-closure obligations for landfill cells and sites. Under the units-of-consumption method, the Company includes future estimated construction and asset retirement costs, as well as costs incurred to date, in the amortization base of the landfill assets. Additionally, where appropriate, as described below, the Company includes probable expansion airspace that has yet to be permitted in the calculation of the total remaining useful life of the landfill. If it is determined that expansion capacity should no longer be considered in calculating the recoverability of a landfill asset, the Company may be required to recognize an asset impairment or incur significantly higher amortization expense. If at any time the Company makes the decision to abandon the expansion effort, the capitalized costs related to the expansion effort are expensed immediately.

**Landfill assets**—Landfill assets include the costs of landfill site acquisition, permits and cell construction incurred to date. These amounts are recorded at cost, which includes capitalized interest as applicable. Landfill assets, net of amortization, are combined with management's estimate of the costs required to complete construction of the landfill to determine the amount to be amortized over the remaining estimated useful economic life of a site. Amortization of landfill assets is recorded on a units-of-consumption basis, such that the landfill assets should be completely amortized at the date the landfill ceases accepting waste. Amortization totaled \$10.3 million, \$9.5 million and \$9.7 million for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, respectively. Changes in estimated costs to complete construction are applied prospectively to the amortization rate.

**Landfill capacity**—Landfill capacity, which is the basis for the amortization of landfill assets and for the accrual of final closure and post-closure obligations, represents total permitted airspace plus unpermitted airspace that management believes is probable of ultimately being permitted based on established criteria. The Company applies the following criteria for evaluating the probability of obtaining a permit for future expansion airspace at existing sites, which provides management a basis to evaluate the likelihood of success of unpermitted expansions:

- Personnel are actively working to obtain the permit or permit modifications (land use, state, provincial and federal) necessary for expansion of an existing landfill, and progress is being made on the project.

- Management expects to submit the application within the next year and to receive all necessary approvals to accept waste within the next 5 years.

At the time the expansion is included in the Company's estimate of the landfill's useful economic life, it is probable that the required approvals will be received within the normal application and processing time periods for approvals in the jurisdiction in which the landfill is located.

- The Company or other owner of the landfill has a legal right to use or obtain the right to use the land associated with the expansion plan.

- There are no significant known political, technical, legal or business restrictions or issues that could impair the success of such expansion.

- A financial feasibility analysis has been completed and the results demonstrate that the expansion will have a positive financial and operational impact such that management is committed to pursuing the expansion.

- Additional airspace and related additional costs, including permitting, final closure and post-closure costs, have been estimated based on the conceptual design of the proposed expansion.

As of December 31, 2018, there was one unpermitted expansion at one location included in the Company's landfill accounting model, which represented 16.2% of the Company's remaining airspace at that date. If actual expansion airspace is significantly different from the Company's estimate of expansion airspace, the amortization rates used for the units-of-consumption method would change, therefore impacting the Company's profitability. If the Company



determines that there is less actual expansion airspace at a landfill, this would increase amortization expense recorded and decrease profitability, while

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (2) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

if the Company determines a landfill has more actual expansion airspace, amortization expense would decrease and profitability would increase.

As of December 31, 2018, the Company had 11 active landfill sites (including the Company's two non-commercial landfills), which have estimated remaining lives (based on anticipated waste volumes and remaining highly probable airspace) as follows:

Facility Name	Location	Remaining Lives (Years)	Remaining Highly Probable Airspace (cubic yards) (in thousands)		
			Permitted	Impermitted	Total
Altair	Texas	3	311	—	311
Buttonwillow	California	21	6,234	—	6,234
Deer Park	Texas	4	141	—	141
Deer Trail	Colorado	28	1,755	—	1,755
Grassy Mountain	Utah	51	194	4,830	5,024
Kimball	Nebraska	9	190	—	190
Lambton	Ontario	64	4,821	—	4,821
Lone Mountain	Oklahoma	18	4,124	—	4,124
Ryley	Alberta	7	906	—	906
Sawyer	North Dakota	87	3,522	—	3,522
Westmorland	California	64	2,732	—	2,732
			24,930	4,830	29,760

At December 31, 2018 and 2017, the Company had no cubic yards of permitted, but not highly probable, airspace. The following table presents the remaining highly probable airspace from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018 (in thousands of cubic yards):

	2018	2017	2016
Remaining capacity at January 1,	31,113	32,228	29,786
Changes in highly probable airspace, net Consumed	(223 )	—	3,464
	(1,130 )	(1,115 )	(1,022 )
Remaining capacity at December 31,	29,760	31,113	32,228

Amortization of cell construction costs and accrual of cell closure obligations—Landfills are typically comprised of a number of cells, which are constructed within a defined acreage (or footprint). The cells are typically discrete units, which require both separate construction and separate capping and closure procedures. Cell construction costs are the costs required to excavate and construct the landfill cell. These costs are typically amortized on a units-of-consumption basis, such that they are completely amortized when the specific cell ceases accepting waste. In some instances, the Company has landfills that are engineered and constructed as "progressive trenches." In progressive trench landfills, a number of contiguous cells form a progressive trench. In those instances, the Company amortizes cell construction costs over the airspace within the entire trench, such that the cell construction costs will be fully amortized at the end of the trench useful life.

The design and construction of a landfill does not create a landfill asset retirement obligation. Rather, the asset retirement obligation for cell closure (the cost associated with capping each cell) is incurred in relatively small increments as waste is placed in the landfill. Therefore, the cost required to construct the cell cap is capitalized as an asset retirement cost and a liability of an equal amount is established, based on the discounted cash flow associated with each capping event, as airspace is consumed. Spending for cell capping is reflected as environmental expenditures within operating activities in the statement of cash flows.

Landfill final closure and post-closure liabilities—The balance of landfill final closure and post-closure liabilities at December 31, 2018 and 2017 was \$37.8 million and \$32.4 million, respectively. The Company has material financial

commitments for the costs associated with requirements of the Environmental Protection Agency ("EPA") and the comparable regulatory agency in Canada for landfill final closure and post-closure activities. In the United States, the landfill final closure

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (2) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

and post-closure requirements are established under the standards of the EPA, and are implemented and applied on a state-by-state basis. The Company develops estimates for the cost of these activities based on an evaluation of site-specific facts and circumstances, including the Company's interpretation of current regulatory requirements and proposed regulatory changes. Such estimates may change in the future due to various circumstances including, but not limited to, permit modifications, changes in legislation or regulations, technological changes and results of environmental studies.

Final closure costs are the costs incurred after the site ceases to accept waste, but before the landfill is certified as closed by the applicable state regulatory agency. These costs generally include the costs required to cap the final cell of the landfill (if not included in cell closure), the costs required to dismantle certain structures for landfills and other landfill improvements, and regulation-mandated groundwater monitoring, and leachate management. Post-closure costs involve the maintenance and monitoring of a landfill site that has been certified closed by the applicable regulatory agency. These costs generally include groundwater monitoring and leachate management. Regulatory post-closure periods are generally 30 years after landfill closure. Final closure and post-closure obligations are accrued on a units-of-consumption basis, such that the present value of the final closure and post-closure obligations are fully accrued at the date the landfill discontinues accepting waste.

Cell closure, final closure and post-closure costs (also referred to as "asset retirement obligations") are calculated by estimating the total obligation in current dollars, adjusted for inflation (1.02% during 2018 and 2017) and discounted at the Company's credit-adjusted risk-free interest rate (5.66% and 6.32% during 2018 and 2017, respectively.)

**Non-Landfill Closure and Post-Closure Liabilities**

Non-landfill closure costs include costs required to dismantle and decontaminate certain structures and other costs incurred during the closure process. Post-closure costs, if required, include associated maintenance and monitoring costs as required by the closure permit. Post-closure periods are performance-based and are not generally specified in terms of years in the closure permit, but generally range from 10 to 30 years or more.

The Company records its non-landfill closure and post-closure liability by: (i) estimating the current cost of closing a non-landfill facility and the post-closure care of that facility, if required, based upon the closure plan that the Company is required to follow under its operating permit, or in the event the facility operates with a permit that does not contain a closure plan, based upon legally enforceable closure commitments made by the Company to various governmental agencies; (ii) using probability scenarios as to when in the future operations may cease; (iii) inflating the current cost of closing the non-landfill facility on a probability weighted basis using the inflation rate to the time of closing under each probability scenario; and (iv) discounting the future value of each closing scenario back to the present using the credit-adjusted risk-free interest rate. Non-landfill closure and post-closure obligations arise when the Company commences non-landfill facility operations. The carrying value of non-landfill closure and post-closure liabilities at December 31, 2018 and 2017 was \$32.1 million and \$28.6 million, respectively.

The estimates for non-landfill closure and post-closure liabilities are inherently uncertain due to the possibility that permit and regulatory requirements will change in the future, impacting the estimation of total costs and the timing of the expenditures. Management reviews non-landfill closure and post-closure liabilities for changes to key assumptions that would impact the amount of the recorded liabilities. Changes that would prompt management to revise a liability estimate include changes in legal requirements that impact the Company's expected closure plan or scope of work, in the market price of a significant cost item, in the probability scenarios as to when future operations at a location might cease, or in the expected timing of the cost. Changes in estimates for non-landfill closure and post-closure events immediately impact the required liability and the value of the corresponding asset. If a change is made to a fully-consumed asset, the adjustment is charged immediately to expense. When a change in estimate relates to an asset that has not been fully consumed, the adjustment to the asset recognized in income prospectively as a component of amortization. Historically, material changes to non-landfill closure and post-closure estimates have been infrequent.

**Remedial Liabilities**

The balance of remedial liabilities at December 31, 2018 and 2017 was \$121.0 million and \$124.5 million, respectively. Remedial liabilities, including Superfund liabilities, include the costs of removal or containment of contaminated material, treatment of potentially contaminated groundwater and maintenance and monitoring costs necessary to comply with regulatory requirements. Most of the Company's remedial liabilities relate to the active and inactive hazardous waste treatment and disposal facilities which the Company acquired in the last 16 years and Superfund sites owned by third parties for which the Company, or the prior owners of certain of the Company's facilities for which the Company may have certain indemnification

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (2) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

obligations, have been identified as potentially responsible parties ("PRPs") or potential PRPs. The Company's estimate of remedial liabilities involved an analysis of such factors as: (i) the nature and extent of environmental contamination (if any); (ii) the terms of applicable permits and agreements with regulatory authorities as to cleanup procedures and whether modifications to such permits and agreements will likely need to be negotiated; (iii) the cost of performing anticipated cleanup activities based upon current technology; and (iv) in the case of Superfund and other sites where other parties will also be responsible for a portion of the cleanup costs, the likely allocation of such costs and the ability of such other parties to pay their share. The measurement of remedial liabilities is reviewed at least quarterly and changes in estimates are recognized when identified.

The Company periodically evaluates potential remedial liabilities at sites that it owns or operates or to which the Company or the sellers of the CSD assets (or the respective predecessors of the Company or such sellers) transported or disposed of waste, including 128 Superfund sites as of December 31, 2018. The Company periodically reviews and evaluates sites requiring remediation, including Superfund sites, giving consideration to the nature (i.e., owner, operator, arranger, transporter or generator) and the extent (i.e., amount and nature of waste hauled to the location, number of years of site operations or other relevant factors) of the Company's (or such sellers') alleged connection with the site, the extent (if any) to which the Company believes it may have an obligation to indemnify cleanup costs in connection with the site, the regulatory context surrounding the site, the accuracy and strength of evidence connecting the Company (or such sellers) to the location, the number, connection and financial ability of other named and unnamed potentially responsible parties ("PRPs") and the nature and estimated cost of the likely remedy. Where the Company concludes that it is probable that a liability has been incurred and an amount can be estimated, a provision is made, based upon management's judgment and prior experience, of such estimated liability.

Remedial liabilities are inherently difficult to estimate. Estimating remedial liabilities requires that the existing environmental contamination be understood. There are risks that the actual quantities of contaminants differ from the results of the site investigation, and that contaminants exist that have not been identified by the site investigation. In addition, the amount of remedial liabilities recorded is dependent on the remedial method selected. There is a risk that funds will be expended on a remedial solution that is not successful, which could result in the additional incremental costs of an alternative solution. Such estimates, which are subject to change, are subsequently revised if and when additional or new information becomes available.

Remedial liabilities are discounted only when the timing of the payments is determinable and the amounts are estimable. Management's experience has been that the timing of payments for remedial liabilities is not usually estimable, and therefore the amounts of remedial liabilities are not generally discounted. In the case of remedial liabilities assumed in connection with acquisitions, acquired liabilities are recorded at fair value as of the dates of the acquisitions calculated by inflating costs in current dollars using an estimate of future inflation rates as of the respective acquisition dates until the expected time of payment, and then discounting the amount of the payments to their present value using a risk-free discount rate as of the acquisition dates. Discounts have been and will be applied to the remedial liabilities as follows:

Remedial liabilities assumed relating to acquisitions are and will continue to be inflated using the inflation rates at the time of each acquisition (ranging from 1.01% to 2.57%) until the expected time of payment, then discounted at the risk-free interest rate at the time of such acquisition (ranging from 1.37% to 5.99%).

Remedial liabilities incurred subsequent to the acquisitions and remedial liabilities of the Company that existed prior to the acquisitions have been and will continue to be recorded at the estimated current value of the liabilities, which is usually neither increased for inflation nor reduced for discounting.

Foreign Currency

The Company has operations in Canada. The functional currencies of those operations are their local currency and therefore assets and liabilities of those foreign operations are translated to U.S. dollars at the exchange rate in effect at the balance sheet date and revenue and expenses at the average exchange rate for the period. Gains and losses from the translation of the consolidated financial statements of foreign subsidiaries into U.S. dollars are included in

stockholders' equity as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss. Gains and losses resulting from foreign currency transactions are recognized in the consolidated statements of operations. Recorded balances that are denominated in a currency other than the functional currency are remeasured to the functional currency using the exchange rate at the balance sheet date and gains or losses are recorded in the statements of operations.

Table of Contents

CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(2) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

Advertising Expense

Advertising costs are expensed as incurred. Advertising expense was approximately \$10.5 million in 2018, \$11.8 million in 2017 and \$10.8 million in 2016.

Stock-Based Compensation

Stock-based compensation cost is measured at the grant date based on the fair value of the award and is recognized as expense over the requisite service period, which generally represents the vesting period. In addition, the Company issues awards with performance targets which are recognized as expense over the requisite service period when management believes it is probable those targets will be achieved. The fair value of the Company's grants of restricted stock are based on the quoted market price for the Company's common stock on the respective dates of grant.

Forfeitures are recognized as they occur.

Income Taxes

Current income tax expense approximates cash to be paid or refunded for taxes for the applicable period. Deferred tax expense or benefit is the result of changes between deferred tax assets and liabilities. Deferred tax assets and liabilities are determined based upon the temporary differences between the financial statement basis and tax basis of assets and liabilities as well as from net operating loss and tax credit carryforwards as measured by the enacted tax rates, which will be in effect when these differences reverse. The effect of a change in tax rates on deferred tax assets and liabilities is generally recognized in income in the period that includes the enactment date. The Company evaluates the recoverability of future tax deductions and credits and a valuation allowance is established by tax jurisdiction when, based on an evaluation of both positive and negative objective verifiable evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of deferred tax assets will not be realized.

The Company recognizes and measures a tax benefit from uncertain tax positions when it is more likely than not that the tax position will be sustained on examination by the taxing authorities, based on the technical merits of the position. The Company recognizes a liability for unrecognized tax benefits resulting from uncertain tax positions taken or expected to be taken in a tax return. The Company adjusts these liabilities when its judgment changes as a result of the evaluation of new information not previously available. Due to the complexity of some of these uncertainties, the ultimate resolution may result in a payment that is materially different from the current estimate or future recognition of an unrecognized benefit. These differences will be reflected as increases or decreases to income tax expense in the period in which they are determined.

The Company recognizes interest and penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits within the income tax expense line in the consolidated statements of operations. Accrued interest and penalties are included within deferred taxes, unrecognized tax benefits and other long-term liabilities line in the consolidated balance sheet.

Earnings per Share ("EPS")

Basic EPS is calculated by dividing net income by the weighted average number of common shares outstanding during the period. Diluted EPS gives effect to all potentially dilutive common shares that were outstanding during the period.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

Standards implemented

In May 2014, the Financial Accounting Standards Board ("FASB") issued ASU 2014-09, Revenue from Contracts with Customers (Topic 606), which replaces numerous requirements in U.S. GAAP, including industry-specific requirements, and provides companies with a single revenue recognition model for recognizing revenue from contracts with customers.

On January 1, 2018, the Company adopted Topic 606 using the modified retrospective method for all contracts. Results for reporting periods beginning on the date of adoption are presented under ASC 606, while prior period amounts have not been adjusted and continue to be reported in accordance with the Company's historical accounting methodology pursuant to ASC 605, Revenue Recognition. The only significant impact from the adoption of this



standard relates to incremental disclosures now required. Upon adoption, a cumulative effect adjustment was not recorded.

In January 2016, FASB issued ASU 2016-01, Financial Instruments - Overall (Subtopic 825-10): Recognition and Measurement of Financial Assets and Financial Liabilities. The amendment requires equity investments (except those accounted for under the equity method of accounting, or those that result in consolidation of the investee) to be measured at fair value with changes in fair value recognized in net income. The Company adopted the amendment in the fourth quarter of 2018,

Table of Contents

CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(2) SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES (Continued)

which resulted in a \$1.4 million charge to other (expense) income, net for the change in fair value of equity securities purchased in 2018.

In October 2016, the FASB issued ASU 2016-16, Income Tax - Intra-Entity Transfers of Assets Other than Inventory. The amendment improves the accounting for the income tax consequences of intra-entity transfers of assets other than inventory. The Company adopted this standard on a modified retrospective basis effective January 1, 2018. As a result of adoption, the Company recorded a cumulative effect adjustment that reduced retained earnings by \$1.6 million. The impact on the annual provision for income taxes was not material.

In August 2017, the FASB issued ASU 2017-12, Derivatives and Hedging (Topic 815): Targeted Improvements to Accounting for Hedging Activities. The amendment better aligns an entity's risk management activities and financial reporting for hedging relationships through changes to both the designation and measurement guidance for qualifying hedging relationships and the presentation of hedge results. The Company adopted the amendment in the third quarter of 2018. Adoption did not have a material impact on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Standards to be implemented

The Company is evaluating the impact that the below standards to be implemented will have on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

In February 2016, FASB issued ASU 2016-02, Leases (Topic 842). The amendment increases transparency and comparability among organizations by recognizing lease assets and lease liabilities on the balance sheet and disclosing key information about leasing arrangements. The Company is currently finalizing the accounting and internal controls relative to this new pronouncement and will adopt Topic 842 and related amendments on January 1, 2019 using the modified retrospective method of adoption. The Company expects to elect most of the available practical expedients, including the package of practical expedients, which permits entities not to reassess under the new standard their prior conclusions about lease identification, lease classification and initial direct costs. In preparation for adoption of the standard, the Company has implemented internal controls and key system functionality to enable the preparation of financial information. The Company has concluded that the adoption of this standard will have a material impact on the Company's consolidated balance sheets related to the recognition of right-of-use assets and lease liabilities, but is not expected to have a material impact on the consolidated statements of operations or cash flows. On adoption, the Company currently expects to recognize additional right-of-use assets and lease obligations in the range of \$180.0 million to \$220.0 million.

(3) REVENUES

Revenue Recognition

The Company generates services and product revenues through the following operating segments: Environmental Services and Safety-Kleen. The Company recognizes revenue when control of the promised goods or services is transferred to the Company's customers, in an amount that reflects the consideration the Company expects to be entitled to in exchange for those goods or services. Product revenues are recognized when the products are delivered and control transfers to the customer.

Nature of Goods and Services

The majority of the Company's contracts are for services, which are recognized based on time and materials incurred at contractually agreed-upon rates. The Company's payment terms vary by the type and location of its customers and the products or services offered. The periods between invoicing and when payments are due are not significant. For all periods presented, any amounts billed to customers related to shipping and handling are classified as revenue and the Company's shipping and handling costs are included in costs of revenues. In the course of the Company's operations, it collects sales tax and other excise taxes from its customers and recognizes a current liability which is then relieved when the taxes are remitted to the appropriate governmental authorities. The Company excludes sales and other excise taxes that it collects from customers from its revenues.



Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (3) REVENUES (Continued)

## Disaggregation of Revenue

The following table presents the Company's third party revenues disaggregated by revenue source (in thousands):

	For the Year Ended December 31, 2018			
	Environmental Services	Safety-Kleen	Corporate	Total
Primary Geographical Markets				
United States	\$ 1,598,402	\$ 1,196,661	\$ 1,082	\$ 2,796,145
Canada	405,441	98,694	23	504,158
Total third party revenues	\$ 2,003,843	\$ 1,295,355	\$ 1,105	\$ 3,300,303
Sources of Revenue (1)				
Technical Services	\$ 1,037,388	\$ —	\$ —	\$ 1,037,388
Field and Emergency Response Services	304,727	—	—	304,727
Industrial Services	541,895	—	—	541,895
Oil, Gas and Lodging Services and Other	119,833	—	1,105	120,938
Safety-Kleen Environmental Services	—	795,077	—	795,077
Kleen Performance Products	—	500,278	—	500,278
Total third party revenues	\$ 2,003,843	\$ 1,295,355	\$ 1,105	\$ 3,300,303

All revenue except oil and oil product sales within Kleen Performance Products and product sales within Safety-Kleen Environmental Services, which include various automotive related fluids, shop supplies and direct blended oil sales, are recognized over time. Kleen Performance Products and Safety-Kleen Environmental Services product sales are recognized at a point in time.

**Technical Services.** Technical Services revenues are generated from fees charged for waste material management and disposal services including onsite environmental management services, collection and transportation, packaging, recycling, treatment and disposal of waste. Revenue is primarily generated by short-term projects, most of which are governed by master service agreements that are long-term in nature. These master service agreements are typically entered into with the Company's larger customers and outline the pricing and legal frameworks for such arrangements. Services are provided based on purchase orders or agreements with the customer and include prices based upon units of volume of waste, and transportation and other fees. Collection and transportation revenues are recognized over time, as the customer receives and consumes the benefits of the services as they are being performed and the Company has a right to payment for performance completed to date. The Company uses the input method to recognize revenue over time, based on time and materials incurred. Revenues for treatment and disposal of waste are recognized upon completion of treatment, final disposition in a landfill or incineration, or when the waste is shipped to a third party for processing and disposal. The Company periodically enters into bundled arrangements for the collection and transportation and disposal of waste. For such arrangements, transportation and disposal are considered distinct performance obligations and the Company allocates revenue to each based on their relative standalone selling price (i.e. the estimated price that a customer would pay for the services on a standalone basis). Revenues from waste that is not yet completely processed and disposed and the related costs are deferred. The revenue is recognized and the deferred costs are expensed when the related services are completed. The period between collection and transportation and the final processing and disposal ranges depending on location of the customer, but generally is measured in days.

**Field and Emergency Response Services.** Field Services revenues are generated from cleanup services at customer sites, including municipalities and utilities, or other locations on a scheduled or emergency response basis. Services include confined space entry for tank cleaning, site decontamination, large remediation projects, demolition, spill cleanup on land and water, railcar cleaning, product recovery and transfer and vacuum services. Additional services include filtration and water treatment services. Response services for environmental emergencies include any scale

from man-made disasters such as oil spills, to natural disasters such as hurricanes. These services are provided based on purchase orders or agreements with customers and include prices generally based upon daily, hourly or job rates for equipment, materials and personnel. The Company recognizes revenue for these services over time, as the customer receives and consumes the benefits of the service as they are being performed and the Company has a right to payment for performance completed to date. The Company uses the input method to

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (3) REVENUES (Continued)

recognize revenue over time, based on time and materials incurred. The duration of such services can be over a number of hours, several days or even months for larger scale projects.

**Industrial Services.** Industrial Services revenues are generated from industrial and specialty services provided to refineries, mines, upgraders, chemical plants, pulp and paper mills, manufacturing facilities, power generation facilities and other industrial customers throughout North America. Services include in-plant cleaning and maintenance services, plant outage and turnaround services, decoking and pigging, chemical cleaning, high and ultra-high pressure water cleaning, pipeline inspection and coating services, large tank and surface impoundment cleaning, oilfield transport, daylighting, production services and directional boring services (previously included in Oil, Gas and Lodging service offerings) supporting drilling, completions and production programs. These services are provided based on purchase orders or agreements with the customer and include prices based upon daily, hourly or job rates for equipment, materials and personnel. The Company recognizes revenue for these services over time, as the customer receives and consumes the benefits of the services as they are being performed and the Company has a right to payment for performance completed to date. The Company uses the input method to recognize revenue over time, based on time and materials incurred.

**Oil, Gas and Lodging Services and Other.** Oil, Gas and Lodging Services and Other is primarily comprised of revenues generated from providing Oil and Gas Field Services that support upstream activities such as exploration and drilling for oil and gas companies and Lodging Services to customers in Western Canada. The Company recognizes Oil and Gas Field Services revenue over time, as the customer receives and consumes the benefits of the services as they are being performed and the Company has a right to payment for performance completed to date. The Company uses the input method to recognize revenue over time, based on time and materials incurred. Revenue for lodging accommodation services is recognized over time based on passage of time.

**Safety-Kleen Environmental Services.** Safety-Kleen Environmental Services revenues are generated from providing parts washer services, containerized waste handling and disposal services, oil collection services, direct sales of blended oil products, and other complementary services and product sales. Containerized waste services consist of profiling, collecting, transporting and recycling or disposing of a wide variety of waste. Other products and services include vacuum services, sale of complementary supply products including automotive fluids and shop supplies and other environmental services. Revenues from parts washer services include fees charged to customers for their use of parts washer equipment, to clean and maintain parts washer equipment and to remove and replace used cleaning fluids. Parts washer services are considered a single performance obligation due to the highly integrated and interdependent nature of the arrangement. Revenue from parts washer services is recognized over the service interval as the customer receives the benefit of the services. Collection and transportation revenues are recognized over time, as the customer receives and consumes the benefits of the services as they are being performed and the Company has a right to payment for performance completed to date. The Company uses the input method to recognize revenue over time, based on time and materials incurred. Product revenue is recognized upon the transfer of control whereby control transfers when the products are delivered to the customer.

**Kleen Performance Products.** Kleen Performance Products revenues are generated from sales of high quality base and blended lubricating oils to third-party distributors, government agencies, fleets, railroads and industrial customers. The business also sells recycled fuel oil to asphalt plants, industrial plants, blenders, pulp and paper companies, vacuum gas oil producers and marine diesel oil producers. Revenue for oil products is recognized at a point in time, upon the transfer of control. Control transfers when the products are delivered to the customer.

## Contract Balances

	December 31, December 31,	
	2018	2017
Receivables	\$ 606,952	\$ 528,924
Contract Assets (Unbilled Receivables)	54,794	35,922
Contract Liabilities (Deferred Revenue)	61,843	67,822

The timing of revenue recognition, billings and cash collections results in billed accounts receivable, unbilled receivables (contract assets), and customer advances and deposits or deferred revenue (contract liabilities) on the Consolidated Balance Sheet. Generally, billing occurs subsequent to revenue recognition, as a right to payment is not just subject to passage of time, resulting in contract assets. Contract assets are generally classified as current. The Company sometimes receives advances or deposits from its customers before revenue is recognized, resulting in contract liabilities. These assets and liabilities are

60

---

Table of Contents

CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(3) REVENUES (Continued)

reported on the Consolidated Balance Sheet on a contract-by-contract basis at the end of each reporting period. As part of the acquisition of the Veolia Business (as defined in Note 4, "Business Combinations") on February 23, 2018, the Company acquired receivables and contract assets of \$20.8 million and \$17.4 million, respectively. Changes in the contract asset and liability balances during the years ended December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017 were not materially impacted by any other factors. The contract liability balances at the beginning of each period presented were generally fully recognized in the subsequent three-month period.

Variable Consideration

The nature of the Company's contracts give rise to certain types of variable consideration, including in limited cases volume discounts. Accordingly, management establishes a revenue allowance to cover the estimated amounts of revenue that may need to be credited to customers' accounts in future periods. The Company estimates the amount of variable consideration to include in the estimated transaction price based on historical experience, anticipated performance and its best judgment at the time and to the extent it is probable that a significant reversal of cumulative revenue recognized will not occur when the uncertainty associated with the variable consideration is resolved.

Contract Costs

Contract costs include direct and incremental costs to obtain or fulfill a contract. The Company's contract costs that are subject to capitalization are comprised of costs associated with parts washer services and costs associated with the treatment and disposal of waste. Parts washer costs include costs of solvent, commissions paid relating to revenue generated from parts washer services, and transportation costs associated with transferring the product picked up from the services as it is returned to the Company's facilities or a third party site. Costs related to the treatment of waste include costs for waste receiving, drum movement and storage, waste consolidation and transportation between facilities. Deferred costs associated with parts washer services are amortized ratably over the average service interval, which ranges between seven and 14 weeks. Deferred costs related to treatment and disposal of waste are recognized when the corresponding waste is disposed of and are included in deferred costs within total current assets in the Company's consolidated balance sheets. The deferred contract cost balances at the beginning of each period presented were fully recognized in cost of revenue in the subsequent three-month period.

Prior Accounting

Prior to January 1, 2018 and the adoption of ASC 606, the Company recognized revenue when persuasive evidence of an arrangement existed, delivery had occurred or services had been rendered, the price was fixed or determinable, and collection was reasonably assured. Management established a revenue allowance to cover the estimated amounts of revenue that may need to be credited to customers' accounts in future periods due to discounts, billing disputes and other adjustments. The Company recorded a provision for revenue allowances based on specific review of particular customers, historical trends and other relevant information.

(4) BUSINESS COMBINATIONS

2018 Acquisitions

On August 31, 2018, the Company acquired a privately-owned company which expands the environmental services and waste oil capabilities of the Company for a \$27.3 million purchase price, net of cash. The acquired company is included in the Safety-Kleen and Environmental Services segments. In connection with this acquisition, a preliminary goodwill amount of \$15.8 million was recognized. The results of operations of this acquired business were not material in 2018.

On February 23, 2018, the Company completed the acquisition of the U.S. Industrial Cleaning Business of Veolia Environmental Services North America LLC (the "Veolia Business"). The acquisition provides significant scale and industrial services capabilities while increasing the size of the Company's existing U.S. Industrial Services business. The Company acquired the Veolia Business for a preliminary purchase price of \$124.0 million, which remains subject



to certain post-closing adjustments. The amount of revenue from the Veolia Business included in the Company's results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2018 was \$154.0 million. The amount of pre-tax loss from the Veolia Business included in the Company's results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2018 was \$0.9 million, which included \$14.6 million in depreciation expense as well as \$0.6 million of amortization expense related to intangible assets. During the year ended December 31, 2018, the Company incurred acquisition-related costs of approximately \$1.4 million in connection with the transaction which

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (4) BUSINESS COMBINATIONS (Continued)

are included in selling, general and administrative expenses in the consolidated statements of operations. The Veolia Business is included in the Environmental Services segment.

The components and preliminary allocation of the purchase price for the Veolia Business consist of the following amounts (in thousands):

	At Acquisition Date As Reported December 31, 2018
Accounts receivable, including unbilled receivable	\$ 38,201
Inventories and supplies	1,126
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	828
Property, plant and equipment	72,243
Permits and other intangibles	5,140
Current liabilities	(18,025 )
Closure and post-closure liabilities	(354 )
Total identifiable net assets	99,159
Goodwill	24,873
Total purchase price	\$ 124,032

The weighted average amortization period for the intangibles acquired is 8.2 years. The excess of the total purchase price, which includes the aggregate cash consideration paid in excess of the fair value of the tangible net assets and intangible assets acquired, was recorded as goodwill. The goodwill recognized is attributable to the expected operating synergies and growth potential that the Company expects to realize from this acquisition. Goodwill generated from the acquisition is deductible for tax purposes.

Pro forma revenue and earnings amounts on a combined basis as if these acquisitions had been completed on January 1, 2017 are immaterial to the consolidated financial statements of the Company since that date.

## 2017 Acquisitions

On July 14, 2017, the Company acquired Lonestar West Inc. ("Lonestar"), a public company headquartered in Alberta, Canada, for approximately CAD \$41.8 million, (\$33.1 million USD), net of cash acquired, which included an equity payout of CAD \$0.72 per share to Lonestar shareholders and the assumption of approximately CAD \$21.3 million (\$16.8 million USD) in outstanding debt, which Clean Harbors subsequently repaid. The acquisition supports the Company's growth in the daylighting and hydro excavation services markets. In addition to increasing the size of the Company's hydro vac fleet, Lonestar's network of locations provides the Company with direct access to key geographic markets in both the United States and Canada. The acquired company is included in the Environmental Services segment. In connection with this acquisition a goodwill amount of \$2.8 million was recognized.

On January 31, 2017, the Company acquired a privately held company for a purchase price of approximately \$11.9 million in cash, net of cash acquired. The acquired business produces and distributes oil products and therefore complements the Company's closed loop model as it relates to the sale of its oil products. The acquired company is included in the Safety-Kleen segment. In connection with this acquisition a goodwill amount of \$5.0 million was recognized.

The combined amount of direct revenue from the acquisitions included in the Company's results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2017 was approximately \$14.5 million. Pro forma revenue and earnings amounts on a

combined basis as if these acquisitions had been completed on January 1, 2016 are immaterial to the consolidated financial statements of the Company since that date.

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (4) BUSINESS COMBINATIONS (Continued)

## 2016 Acquisitions

During 2016, the Company acquired seven businesses that complement the strategy to create a closed loop model as it relates to the sale of the Company's oil products. These acquisitions provided the Company with three additional oil re-refineries while also expanding its used motor oil collection network and providing greater blending and packaging capabilities. These acquisitions also provide the Company with greater access to customers in the West Coast region of the United States and additional locations with Part B permits. Operations of these acquisitions were primarily integrated into the Safety-Kleen operating segment with certain operations also integrated into the Environmental Services segment.

The combined purchase price for the seven acquisitions was \$204.8 million paid in cash and subject to customary post-closing adjustments. The combined amount of direct revenue from the acquisitions included in the Company's results of operations for the year ended December 31, 2016 was approximately \$69.8 million. Upon acquisition, the acquired entities were immediately integrated into the Company's operating segments. Therefore it is impracticable to measure earnings attributable to the acquired businesses. During the year ended December 31, 2016, the Company incurred acquisition-related costs of approximately \$1.7 million in connection with the transactions which are included in selling, general and administrative expenses in the consolidated statements of operations.

The allocation of the purchase price was based on estimates of the fair value of assets acquired and liabilities assumed as of the acquisition dates. The Company believes that such information provides a reasonable basis for estimating the fair values of assets acquired and liabilities assumed. The Company finalized the purchase accounting for the seven acquisitions in the second quarter of 2017.

The allocation of the purchase price consists of the following amounts (in thousands):

	Final Allocation
Accounts receivable	\$ 16,242
Inventories and supplies	12,688
Prepaid expenses and other current assets	752
Property, plant and equipment	143,916
Permits and other intangibles	28,856
Current liabilities	(19,905 )
Closure and post-closure liabilities, less current portion	(3,004 )
Remedial liabilities, less current portion	(2,545 )
Deferred taxes, unrecognized tax benefits and other long-term liabilities	(20,219 )
Total identifiable net assets	156,781
Goodwill	47,977
Total purchase price, net of cash acquired	\$ 204,758

The excess of the total purchase price, which includes the aggregate cash consideration paid in excess of the fair value of the tangible net assets and intangible assets acquired, was recorded as goodwill. The goodwill recognized is attributable to the expected operating synergies and growth potential that the Company expects to realize from these acquisitions. Goodwill generated from the acquisitions was not deductible for tax purposes.

## (5) DISPOSITION OF BUSINESSES

## 2017 Disposition

On June 30, 2017, the Company completed the sale of its Transformer Services business, as part of its continuous focus on improving or divesting certain non-core operations. The Transformer Services business was a non-core business previously included within the former Technical Services operating segment and was sold for \$45.5 million (\$43.4 million net of \$2.1 million in transactional related costs). As a result of the sale, the Company recognized during the year ended December 31,



Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (5) DISPOSITION OF BUSINESSES (Continued)

2017, a pre-tax gain of \$30.7 million which was included in gain on sale of business in the Company's consolidated statement of operations.

The following table presents the carrying amounts of the Company's Transformer Services business that was disposed of on June 30, 2017 (in thousands):

	June 30, 2017
Total current assets	\$7,241
Property, plant and equipment, net	8,773
Total other assets	1,681
Total assets divested	17,695
Total current liabilities	3,849
Total other liabilities	1,170
Total liabilities divested	5,019
Net carrying value divested	\$12,676

The Company evaluated the disposition and determined it did not meet the "major effect" criteria for classification as a discontinued operation largely due to the nature and size of the operations of the disposed entity. However, the Company determined that the disposition represented an individually significant component of the Company's business. The following table presents income attributable to the Transformer Services business included in the Company's consolidated results of operations for each of the periods shown and through its disposition on June 30, 2017 (in thousands):

	For the years ended December 31, 2017    2016	
Income before provision (benefit) for income taxes	\$2,771	\$4,187

## 2016 Disposition

On September 1, 2016, the Company completed the sale of its Catalyst Services business, which was a non-core business previously included within the former Industrial Services operating segment, for approximately \$50.6 million (\$49.2 million net of cash retained by the Catalyst Services business). As a result of the sale, the Company recognized during the year ended December 31, 2016, a pre-tax gain of \$16.9 million which was included in gain on sale of business in the Company's consolidated statement of operations. Inclusive within this gain was \$1.6 million of transactional related costs. During the first quarter of 2017, the Company and the buyer of the Catalyst Services business agreed to final working capital amounts and as a result the Company received \$2.0 million of final sale proceeds.



Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (5) DISPOSITION OF BUSINESSES (Continued)

The following table presents the carrying amounts of the Company's Catalyst Services business immediately preceding the disposition on September 1, 2016 (in thousands):

	September 1, 2016
Total current assets	\$ 19,019
Property, plant and equipment, net	11,154
Total other assets	6,500
Total assets divested	36,673
Total current liabilities	4,040
Total other liabilities	566
Total liabilities divested	4,606
Net carrying value divested	\$ 32,067

The Company evaluated the disposition and determined it did not meet the "major effect" criteria for classification as a discontinued operation largely due to the nature and size of the operations of the disposed of entity. However, the Company determined that the disposition did represent an individually significant component of its business. The following table presents income attributable to the Catalyst Services business included in the Company's consolidated results of operations for the period shown and through its disposition on September 1, 2016 (in thousands):

	For the year ended December 31, 2016
Income before provision (benefit) for income taxes	\$ 290

## (6) INVENTORIES AND SUPPLIES

Inventories and supplies consisted of the following (in thousands):

	December 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
Oil and oil related products	\$ 70,823	\$ 58,142
Supplies and drums	104,609	94,242
Solvent and solutions	10,657	9,167
Modular camp accommodations	—	1,826
Other	13,390	12,635
Total inventories and supplies	\$ 199,479	\$ 176,012

Supplies and drums consist primarily of drums and containers used in providing the Company's products and services as well as critical spare parts to support the Company's incinerator and re-refinery operations. Other inventories consisted primarily of parts washer components, cleaning fluids, absorbents and automotive fluids, such as windshield washer fluid and antifreeze.



Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (7) PROPERTY, PLANT AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant and equipment consisted of the following (in thousands):

	December 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
Land	\$ 123,734	\$ 121,658
Asset retirement costs (non-landfill)	15,148	14,593
Landfill assets	154,918	144,539
Buildings and improvements	440,188	414,384
Camp and lodging equipment	152,998	170,012
Vehicles	721,735	617,959
Equipment	1,697,490	1,644,102
Furniture and fixtures	5,453	5,708
Construction in progress	20,931	57,618
	3,332,595	3,190,573
Less - accumulated depreciation and amortization	1,770,617	1,603,208
Total property, plant and equipment, net	\$ 1,561,978	\$ 1,587,365

Interest in the amount of \$0.6 million, \$0.6 million and \$5.5 million was capitalized to property, plant and equipment during the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, respectively. Depreciation expense, inclusive of landfill amortization was \$264.3 million, \$251.4 million and \$247.0 million for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

## (8) GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS

The changes in goodwill for the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 were as follows (in thousands):

	Environmental Services	Safety-Kleen	Totals
Balance at January 1, 2017	\$ 169,084	\$ 296,070	\$ 465,154
Increase from current period acquisitions	3,000	5,687	8,687
Measurement period adjustments from prior period acquisitions	—	2,186	2,186
Decrease from disposition of business	(1,300 )	—	(1,300 )
Foreign currency translation	1,602	2,194	3,796
Balance at December 31, 2017	\$ 172,386	\$ 306,137	\$ 478,523
Increase from current period acquisitions	37,007	3,697	40,704
Measurement period adjustments from prior period acquisitions	(78 )	—	(78 )
Foreign currency translation	(2,296 )	(2,664 )	(4,960 )
Balance at December 31, 2018	\$ 207,019	\$ 307,170	\$ 514,189

The Company assesses goodwill for impairment on an annual basis as of December 31, or at an interim date when events or changes in the business environment would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying value.

The Company conducted its annual impairment test of goodwill as of December 31, 2018 and determined that no adjustment to the carrying value of goodwill for any reporting unit was then necessary because the fair values of the reporting units exceeded their respective carrying values. The fair value of all reporting units was determined using an income approach based upon estimates of future discounted cash flows. The resulting estimates of fair value were validated through the consideration of other factors such as the fair value of comparable companies to the reporting units and a reconciliation of the sum of all estimated fair values of the reporting units to the Company's overall market capitalization. In all cases, the estimated fair values of the reporting units significantly exceeded their carrying values.

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (8) GOODWILL AND OTHER INTANGIBLE ASSETS (Continued)

Significant judgments and unobservable inputs categorized as Level 3 in the fair value hierarchy are inherent in the impairment tests performed and include assumptions about the amount and timing of expected future cash flows, growth rates, and the determination of appropriate discount rates. Level 3 inputs are unobservable inputs for the asset or liability in which there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability at the measurement date. The Company believes that the assumptions used in its annual and any interim date impairment tests are reasonable, but variations in any of the assumptions may result in different calculations of fair values.

The impacts of any adverse business and market conditions which impact the overall performance of the Company's reporting units will continue to be monitored. If the Company's reporting units do not achieve the financial performance that the Company expects, it is possible that goodwill impairment charges may result. There can therefore be no assurance that future events will not result in an impairment of goodwill.

At December 31, 2018, the total of accumulated goodwill impairment charges was \$189.4 million, of which \$34.0 million was recorded during the year ended December 31, 2016 within the Environmental Services reporting unit, due to economic conditions in Western Canada's Oil Sands region and the impacts on the Company's lodging operations. As of December 31, 2018 and 2017, the Company's finite-lived and indefinite-lived intangible assets consisted of the following (in thousands):

	December 31, 2018			December 31, 2017		
	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net	Cost	Accumulated Amortization	Net
Permits	\$177,583	\$79,358	\$98,225	\$174,721	\$74,347	\$100,374
Customer and supplier relationships	393,487	179,824	213,663	399,224	158,972	240,252
Other intangible assets	37,262	29,743	7,519	36,766	31,592	5,174
Total amortizable permits and other intangible assets	608,332	288,925	319,407	610,711	264,911	345,800
Trademarks and trade names	122,468	—	122,468	123,328	—	123,328
Total permits and other intangible assets	\$730,800	\$288,925	\$441,875	\$734,039	\$264,911	\$469,128

The Company regularly monitors and assesses whether events or changes in circumstances relative to the Company's business might indicate that future cash flows attributable to the Company's asset groups may not be sufficient to recover the current value of those assets. During the year ended and as of December 31, 2018, there were no events or changes in circumstances which would indicate that the carrying values of the Company's asset groups would not be recoverable and thus no impairment charge was recorded related to the Company's long-lived assets. If expectations of future cash flows were to decrease in the future as a result of worse than expected or prolonged periods of depressed activity, future impairments may become evident.

Amortization expense of permits and other intangible assets for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016 were \$34.4 million, \$37.0 million and \$40.0 million, respectively.

The expected amortization of the net carrying amount of finite-lived intangible assets at December 31, 2018 is as follows (in thousands):

Years Ending December 31,	Expected Amortization
2019	\$33,091
2020	30,195
2021	27,553
2022	27,386
2023	23,468
Thereafter	177,714
	\$319,407



Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (9) ACCRUED EXPENSES

Accrued expenses consisted of the following at December 31 (in thousands):

	December 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
Insurance	\$ 70,217	\$ 57,889
Interest	3,930	12,660
Accrued compensation and benefits	77,881	55,861
Income, real estate, sales and other taxes	25,670	27,330
Other	55,707	34,242
	\$ 233,405	\$ 187,982

As of December 31, 2018 and 2017, accrued insurance included health insurance costs of \$14.7 million and \$9.0 million, respectively, and accruals for losses under our workers' compensation, comprehensive general liability and vehicle liability self-insurance programs of \$53.9 million and \$47.9 million, respectively. The increase in our self-insurance liabilities from the comparable period in 2017 was primarily due to the acquisition of the Veolia Business, for which the Company assumed workers' compensation, general liability and vehicle liability claims reserves.

Accrued compensation and benefits increased by \$22.0 million from the comparable period in 2017 due to an increase in variable compensation, which was attributable to greater revenue and earnings achieved in 2018.

As of December 31, 2018 and 2017, other accrued expenses included accrued legal matters of \$7.5 million and \$1.4 million, respectively, and accrued severance charges of \$2.7 million and \$3.5 million, respectively. The increase in accrued legal matters was primarily due to the acquisition of the Veolia Business and certain liabilities assumed by the Company. Also included in the December 31, 2018 other accrued expenses balance was an \$8.8 million derivative liability, recorded at fair value, related to the Company's cash flow hedges.

## (10) CLOSURE AND POST-CLOSURE LIABILITIES

The changes to closure and post-closure liabilities (also referred to as "asset retirement obligations") from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 were as follows (in thousands):

	Landfill Retirement Liability	Non-Landfill Retirement Liability	Total
Balance at January 1, 2017	\$ 30,630	\$ 27,701	\$ 58,331
Liabilities assumed in acquisitions	—	59	59
Measurement period adjustments from prior period acquisitions	—	596	596
New asset retirement obligations	1,881	—	1,881
Adjustment related to disposition of business	—	(1,170)	(1,170)
Accretion	2,243	2,505	4,748
Changes in estimates recorded to statement of operations	(131)	(109)	(240)
Changes in estimates recorded to balance sheet	364	(591)	(227)
Expenditures	(2,777)	(448)	(3,225)
Currency translation and other	172	112	284
Balance at December 31, 2017	32,382	28,655	61,037
Liabilities assumed in acquisitions	—	685	685
New asset retirement obligations	2,518	—	2,518
Accretion	2,537	2,567	5,104
Changes in estimates recorded to statement of operations	(37)	1,497	1,460
Changes in estimates recorded to balance sheet	1,867	64	1,931
Expenditures	(1,224)	(1,057)	(2,281)
Currency translation and other	(234)	(289)	(523)

Balance at December 31, 2018	\$ 37,809	\$ 32,122	\$69,931
------------------------------	-----------	-----------	----------

68

---

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (10) CLOSURE AND POST-CLOSURE LIABILITIES (Continued)

All of the landfill facilities included in the above table were active as of December 31, 2018 and 2017. The 2018 environmental change in estimate recorded to the statement of operations includes \$1.2 million related to increased facility closure costs at one of our locations. There were no significant (benefits) charges in 2017 resulting from changes in estimates for closure and post-closure liabilities.

New asset retirement obligations incurred during 2018 and 2017 were discounted at the credit-adjusted risk-free rate of 5.66% and 6.32%, respectively.

Anticipated payments (based on current estimated costs and anticipated timing of necessary regulatory approvals to commence work on closure and post-closure activities) for each of the next five years and thereafter are as follows (in thousands):

Year ending December 31,	
2019	\$ 10,574
2020	9,424
2021	10,941
2022	7,626
2023	9,264
Thereafter	271,314
Undiscounted closure and post-closure liabilities	319,143
Less: Discount at credit-adjusted risk-free rate	(155,999)
Less: Undiscounted estimated closure and post-closure liabilities relating to airspace not yet consumed	(93,213 )
Present value of closure and post-closure liabilities	\$69,931

## (11) REMEDIAL LIABILITIES

The changes to remedial liabilities from January 1, 2017 through December 31, 2018 were as follows (in thousands):

	Remedial Liabilities for Landfill Sites	Remedial Liabilities for Inactive Sites	Remedial Liabilities (Including Superfund) for Non-Landfill Operations	Total
Balance at January 1, 2017	\$ 1,777	\$ 64,151	\$ 62,079	\$ 128,007
Measurement period adjustments from prior period acquisitions	—	—	504	504
Accretion	86	2,648	1,978	4,712
Changes in estimates recorded to statement of operations	(21 )	(289 )	355	45
Expenditures	(42 )	(3,906 )	(5,792 )	(9,740 )
Currency translation and other	—	2,738	(1,798 )	940
Balance at December 31, 2017	1,800	65,342	57,326	124,468
Accretion	86	2,745	1,871	4,702
Changes in estimates recorded to statement of operations	(1 )	130	558	687
Expenditures	(47 )	(3,759 )	(4,028 )	(7,834 )
Currency translation and other	—	857	(1,863 )	(1,006 )
Balance at December 31, 2018	\$ 1,838	\$ 65,315	\$ 53,864	\$ 121,017



Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (11) REMEDIAL LIABILITIES (Continued)

There were no significant (benefits) charges in 2018 and 2017 resulting from changes in estimates for remedial liabilities. Anticipated payments at December 31, 2018 (based on current estimated costs and anticipated timing of necessary regulatory approvals to commence work on remedial activities) for each of the next five years and thereafter were as follows (in thousands):

Year ending December 31,	
2019	\$ 13,975
2020	15,467
2021	14,593
2022	9,560
2023	8,688
Thereafter	81,453
Undiscounted remedial liabilities	143,736
Less: Discount	(22,719 )
Total remedial liabilities	\$ 121,017

Based on currently available facts and legal interpretations, existing technology, and presently enacted laws and regulations, the Company estimates that its aggregate liabilities as of December 31, 2018 for future remediation relating to all of its owned or leased facilities and the Superfund sites for which the Company has current or potential future liability is approximately \$121.0 million. The Company also estimates that it is reasonably possible that the amount of such total liabilities could be as much as \$22.8 million more. Future changes in either available technology or applicable laws or regulations could affect such estimates of remedial liabilities. Since the Company's satisfaction of the liabilities will occur over many years, the Company cannot now reasonably predict the nature or extent of future changes in either available technology or applicable laws or regulations and the impact that those changes, if any, might have on the current estimates of remedial liabilities.

The following tables show, respectively, (i) the amounts of such estimated liabilities associated with the types of facilities and sites involved and (ii) the amounts of such estimated liabilities associated with each facility or site which represents at least 5% of the total and with all other facilities and sites as a group and as of December 31, 2018.

Estimates Based on Type of Facility or Site (in thousands):

Type of Facility or Site	Remedial Liability	% of Total	Reasonably Possible Additional Liabilities(1)
Facilities now used in active conduct of the Company's business (41 facilities)	\$48,506	40.1 %	\$ 11,171
Inactive facilities not now used in active conduct of the Company's business but most of which were acquired because the assumption of remedial liabilities for such facilities was part of the purchase price for the CSD assets (35 facilities)	64,344	53.2	10,782
Superfund sites owned by third parties (17 sites)	8,167	6.7	817
Total	\$121,017	100.0%	\$ 22,770

(1) Amounts represent the high end of the range of management's best estimate of the reasonably possible additional liabilities.





Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (11) REMEDIAL LIABILITIES (Continued)

Estimates Based on Amount of Potential Liability (in thousands):

Location	Type of Facility or Site	Remedial Liability	% of Total	Reasonably Possible Additional Liabilities(1)
Baton Rouge, LA(2)	Closed incinerator and landfill	\$23,314	19.3 %	\$ 3,963
Bridgeport, NJ	Closed incinerator	18,616	15.4	2,577
Mercier, Quebec(2)	Idled incinerator and legal proceedings	9,809	8.1	1,037
Linden, NJ	Operating solvent recycling center	7,487	6.2	790
Various(2)	All other incinerators, landfills, wastewater treatment facilities and service centers (72 facilities)	53,624	44.3	13,586
Various(2)	Superfund sites (each representing less than 5% of total liabilities) owned by third parties (17 sites)	8,167	6.7	817
Total		\$121,017	100.0%	\$ 22,770

(1) Amounts represent the high end of the range of management's best estimate of the reasonably possible additional liabilities.

\$17.9 million of the \$121.0 million remedial liabilities and \$1.8 million of the \$22.8 million reasonably possible (2) additional liabilities include estimates of remediation liabilities related to the legal and administrative proceedings discussed in Note 18, "Commitments and Contingencies," as well as other such estimated remedial liabilities. Revisions to remediation reserve requirements may result in upward or downward adjustments to income from operations in any given period. The Company believes that its extensive experience in the environmental services business, as well as its involvement with a large number of sites, provides a reasonable basis for estimating its aggregate liability. It is possible, however, that technological, regulatory or enforcement developments, the results of environmental studies, or other factors could necessitate the recording of additional liabilities or the revision of currently recorded liabilities that could be material. The impact of such future events cannot be estimated at the current time.

## (12) FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS

The following table is a summary of the Company's financing arrangements (in thousands):

Current Obligations:	December 31, 2018	December 31, 2017
Senior secured Term Loan Agreement ("Term Loan Agreement")	\$ 7,535	\$ 4,000
Long-Term Obligations:		
Senior secured Term Loan Agreement due June 30, 2024	\$ 734,697	\$ 394,000
Senior unsecured notes, at 5.25%, due August 1, 2020 ("2020 Notes")	—	400,000
Senior unsecured notes, at 5.125%, due June 1, 2021 ("2021 Notes")	845,000	845,000
Long-term obligations, at par	\$ 1,579,697	\$ 1,639,000
Unamortized debt issuance costs and premium, net	\$(14,676)	\$(13,463)
Long-term obligations, at carrying value	\$ 1,565,021	\$ 1,625,537

## Financing Activities

Senior Secured Term Loans. On April 17, 2018, the Company, and substantially all of the Company's domestic subsidiaries as guarantors, entered into the first amendment (the "First Amendment") of the Term Loan Agreement. The First Amendment reduced the applicable interest rate margin for the Company's initial term loans (the "Term Loans")

outstanding under the Term Loan Agreement by 25 basis points for both Eurocurrency borrowings and base rate borrowings. After giving effect to the repricing, the applicable interest rate margins for the Term Loans are 1.75% for Eurocurrency borrowings and 0.75% for base rate borrowings.

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (12) FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS (Continued)

On July 19, 2018, the Company, and substantially all of the Company's domestic subsidiaries as guarantors, entered into an Incremental Facility Amendment (the "Incremental Facility Amendment") to the Company's Term Loan Agreement. The Incremental Facility Amendment increased the principal amount of the Term Loans outstanding under the Term Loan Agreement by \$350.0 million. Term Loans under the Term Loan Agreement will mature on June 30, 2024 and may be prepaid at any time without premium or penalty other than customary breakage costs with respect to Eurodollar based loans. The Company's obligations under the Term Loan Agreement are guaranteed by all of the Company's domestic restricted subsidiaries and secured by liens on substantially all of the assets of the Company and the guarantors. The effective interest rate of the Term Loans on December 31, 2018 was 4.27%.

Concurrently with the closing on July 19, 2018 of the Incremental Facility Amendment, the Company purchased \$322.0 million aggregate principal of the 2020 Notes. The total amount paid in purchasing the 2020 Notes was \$330.9 million inclusive of \$7.9 million of accrued interest and \$1.0 million of debt redemption fees. On August 1, 2018, the Company redeemed the remaining \$78.0 million of outstanding 2020 Notes.

At December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the fair value of the Term Loan Agreement debt was \$707.0 million and \$400.5 million, respectively, based on quoted market prices or other available market data. The fair value of the Term Loan Agreement debt is considered a Level 2 measure according to the fair value hierarchy.

Senior Unsecured Notes. In 2012, the Company issued \$800.0 million aggregate principal amount of 5.25% senior unsecured notes due August 1, 2020 (the "2020 Notes") with semi-annual fixed interest payments on February 1 and August 1 of each year. The Company repurchased or redeemed \$400.0 million principal amount of the 2020 Notes during 2017 and, as described above, the Company repurchased or redeemed the remaining \$400.0 million principal amount of the 2020 Notes during 2018. At December 31, 2017, the fair value of the 2020 Notes was \$404.6 million based on quoted market prices for the instrument. The fair value of the 2020 Notes was considered a Level 2 measure according to the fair value hierarchy.

In 2012, the Company issued \$600.0 million aggregate principal amount of 5.125% senior unsecured notes due June 1, 2021 (the "2021 Notes") with semi-annual fixed interest payments on June 1 and December 1 of each year. The Company repurchased \$5.0 million principal amount of 2021 Notes during 2014. On March 14, 2016, the Company issued an additional \$250.0 million aggregate principal amount of 2021 Notes as additional notes under the related indenture. At December 31, 2018 and 2017, the fair value of the Company's 2021 Notes was \$845.0 million and \$855.7 million, respectively, based on quoted market prices or other available market data. The fair value of the 2021 Notes is considered a Level 2 measure according to the fair value hierarchy. Upon proper notice to the holders of the 2021 Notes, the Company may presently redeem some or all of the 2021 Notes at par value plus unpaid interest. The 2021 Notes and the related indentures contain various customary non-financial covenants and are guaranteed by substantially all of the Company's current and future domestic restricted subsidiaries. The 2021 Notes are the Company's and the guarantors' senior unsecured obligations ranking equally with the Company's and the guarantors' existing and future senior unsecured obligations and senior to any future indebtedness that is expressly subordinated to the 2021 Notes and the guarantees. The 2021 Notes are effectively subordinated to all of the Company's and the Company subsidiaries' secured indebtedness under the Company's Term Loan Agreement, revolving credit facility and capital lease obligations to the extent of the value of the assets securing such secured indebtedness. The 2021 Notes are not guaranteed by the Company's existing and future Canadian or other foreign subsidiaries, and are structurally subordinated to all indebtedness and other liabilities, including trade payables, of the Company's subsidiaries that are not guarantors of the 2021 Notes.

Revolving Credit Facility. On November 1, 2016, the Company and one of the Company's subsidiaries (the "Canadian Borrower") entered into an amended and restated credit agreement for the Company's revolving credit facility with Bank of America, N.A. ("BoFA"), as agent for the lenders under the facility (the "Agent"). Under the amended and restated facility, the Company has the right to obtain revolving loans and letters of credit for a combined maximum of up to \$300.0 million (with a sub-limit of \$250.0 million for letters of credit) and the Canadian Borrower has the right to obtain revolving loans and letters of credit for a combined maximum of up to \$100.0 million (with a \$75.0 million

sub-limit for letters of credit). Availability under the U.S. line is subject to a borrowing base basically comprised of 85% of the eligible accounts receivable of the Company and its U.S. subsidiaries plus 100% of cash deposited in a controlled account with the Agent, and availability under the Canadian line is subject to a borrowing base basically comprised of 85% of the eligible accounts receivable of the Company's Canadian subsidiaries plus 100% of cash deposited in a controlled account with the Agent's Canadian affiliate. Subject to certain conditions, the facility will expire on November 1, 2021.

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (12) FINANCING ARRANGEMENTS (Continued)

Borrowings under the revolving credit facility bear interest at a rate of, at the Company's option, either (i) LIBOR plus an applicable margin ranging from 1.25% to 1.50% per annum based primarily on the level of the Company's average liquidity for the most recent 30 day period or (ii) BofA's base rate plus an applicable margin ranging from 0.25% to 0.50% per annum based primarily on such average liquidity. There is also an unused line fee, calculated on the then unused portion of the lenders' \$400.0 million maximum commitments, ranging from 0.25% to 0.30% per annum of the unused commitment. For outstanding letters of credit, the Company will pay to the lenders a fee equal to the then applicable LIBOR margin described above, and to the issuing banks a standard fronting fee and customary fees and charges in connection with all amendments, extensions, draws and other actions with respect to letters of credit.

The Company's obligations under the revolving credit facility (including revolving loans and reimbursement obligations for outstanding letters of credit) are guaranteed by substantially all of the Company's U.S. subsidiaries and secured by a first lien on the Company's and its U.S. subsidiaries' accounts receivable. The Canadian Borrower's obligations under the facility are guaranteed by substantially all of the Company's Canadian subsidiaries and secured by a first lien on the accounts receivable of the Canadian subsidiaries.

The Company utilizes letters of credit primarily as security for financial assurance which it has been required to provide to regulatory bodies for its hazardous waste facilities and which would be called only in the event that the Company fails to satisfy closure, post-closure and other obligations under the permits issued by those regulatory bodies for such licensed facilities. On August 1, 2018, the Company borrowed \$50.0 million under the revolving credit facility in connection with the redemption of \$78.0 million of 2020 Notes. The Company repaid the \$50.0 million borrowing during the fourth quarter of 2018. At December 31, 2018 and 2017, the revolving credit facility had no outstanding loan balances, availability of \$235.4 million and \$217.8 million, respectively, and outstanding letters of credit of \$130.1 million and \$134.1 million, respectively.

**Cash Flow Hedges**

The Company's strategy to hedge against fluctuations in variable interest rates involves entering into interest rate derivative agreements to hedge against adverse movements in interest rates. For interest rate derivatives deemed to be effective cash flow hedges, the change in fair value is recorded in stockholders' equity as a component of accumulated other comprehensive loss and included in interest expense at the same time as interest expense is affected by the hedged transaction. Differences paid or received over the life of the agreements are recorded as additions to or reductions of interest expense on the underlying debt.

Although the interest rate on all \$742.2 million aggregate principal amount of Term Loans which were outstanding on December 31, 2018 is variable under the Term Loan Agreement, the Company has effectively fixed the interest rate on \$350.0 million aggregate principal amount of the Term Loans outstanding by entering into interest rate swap agreements in 2018 with a notional amount of \$350.0 million. Under the terms of the interest rate swap agreements, the Company receives interest based on the 1-month LIBOR index and pays interest at a weighted average rate of approximately 2.92%. When combined with the 1.75% interest rate margin for Eurocurrency borrowings, the effective annual interest rate on such \$350.0 million aggregate principal amount of Term Loans is therefore approximately 4.67%.

The Company recognizes derivative instruments as either assets or liabilities on the balance sheet at fair value. No ineffectiveness has been identified on these swaps and, therefore, all unrealized changes in fair value are recorded in accumulated other comprehensive loss. Amounts are reclassified from accumulated other comprehensive loss into interest expense on the Statement of Operations in the same period or periods during which the hedged transaction affects earnings.

As of December 31, 2018, the Company recorded a derivative liability with a fair value of \$8.8 million within accrued expenses in connection with these cash flow hedges.

The fair value of the interest rate swaps included in the Level 2 tier of the fair value hierarchy is calculated using discounted cash flow valuation methodologies based upon the one month LIBOR yield curves that are observable at commonly quoted intervals for the full term of the swaps. Level 2 utilizes quoted market prices in markets that are not

active, broker or dealer quotations, or alternative pricing sources with reasonable levels of price transparency for similar assets and liabilities.

73

---

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (13) INCOME TAXES

The domestic and foreign components of income before provision (benefit) for income taxes were as follows (in thousands):

	For the Year Ended		
	December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Domestic	\$115,070	\$101,714	\$87,328
Foreign	(20,588 )	(43,025 )	(78,612 )
Total	\$94,482	\$58,689	\$8,716

The provision (benefit) for income taxes consisted of the following (in thousands):

	For the Year Ended		
	December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Current:			
Federal	\$(7,677 )	\$25,613	\$14,798
State	12,653	11,083	8,763
Foreign	4,781	4,589	9,844
	9,757	41,285	33,405
Deferred			
Federal	19,899	(85,488 )	21,814
State	(1,205 )	1,085	1,644
Foreign	395	1,068	(8,274 )
	19,089	(83,335 )	15,184
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	\$28,846	\$(42,050)	\$48,589

The Company's effective tax rate for fiscal years 2018, 2017 and 2016 was 30.5%, (71.6)% and 557.5%, respectively.

The effective income tax rate varied from the amount computed using the statutory federal income tax rate as follows (in thousands):

	For the Year Ended		
	December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Tax expense at US statutory rate	\$19,841	\$20,541	\$3,051
State income taxes, net of federal benefit	8,711	4,547	6,010
Foreign rate differential	(1,124 )	3,733	3,646
Valuation allowance	10,466	16,552	22,564
Uncertain tax position interest and penalties	(1,806 )	3,730	107
Goodwill impairment	—	—	11,905
Tax credits	(9,799 )	—	—
Other	2,845	1,856	1,306
Adjustment for Tax Cuts and Jobs Act	(288 )	(93,009 )	—
Provision (benefit) for income taxes	\$28,846	\$(42,050)	\$48,589

Effects of the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act. On December 22, 2017, the "Tax Cuts and Jobs Act" (the "Tax Act") was signed into law, making significant changes to the federal tax law. Changes include, but are not limited to, a corporate tax rate decrease from 35% to 21% effective for tax years beginning after December 31, 2017, the transition of U.S. international taxation from a worldwide tax system to a territorial tax system, and a one-time transition tax on the mandatory deemed repatriation of cumulative foreign earnings as of December 31, 2017. For the year ended December 31, 2017, the Company calculated its best estimate of the impact of the Tax Act in its year end income tax provision in accordance with its understanding of the Tax Act and guidance available as of the date of the 2017 Form



10-K filing and as a result recorded a net benefit of \$93.0 million as a component of the 2017 income tax expense. This provisional net income tax benefit was comprised of a \$100.5 million tax benefit for the remeasurement of deferred tax assets and liabilities to the 21% rate at which they are expected to reverse, offset

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (13) INCOME TAXES (Continued)

by a one-time tax expense on deemed repatriation of \$7.5 million. This one-time charge was after the utilization of \$7.5 million of foreign tax credits which had full valuation allowances applied to them previously.

During 2018, the Company completed its analysis of impacts of the Tax Act and specific to the one-time deemed repatriation, adjusted the previous amount recorded of \$7.5 million to \$6.6 million resulting in a \$0.9 million benefit to tax expense recorded in 2018. The Company also recorded the final remeasurement of its deferred tax assets and liabilities and adjusted the deferred tax benefit from \$100.5 million to \$99.9 million or approximately \$0.6 million of deferred expense recorded in 2018. The total net impact of changes in tax law resulted in a net benefit of approximately \$0.3 million in 2018.

During 2018, the Company also completed an analysis of certain federal manufacturing and research and development credit benefits for tax years 2014 through 2017. Upon the filing of its 2017 tax return in October 2018, the Company recognized \$3.3 million of tax benefits and recognized an additional \$7.1 million upon the amendments of its 2014 through 2016 tax returns for a net benefit recorded as a component of the 2018 tax provision of \$9.8 million.

During the year ended December 31, 2018, the Company recorded \$5.0 million of tax benefits related to tax deductible foreign currency losses to accumulated other comprehensive loss and as such these benefits are not included within the provision (benefit) for income taxes.

The components of the total net deferred tax assets and liabilities at December 31, 2018 and 2017 were as follows (in thousands):

	2018	2017
Deferred tax assets:		
Provision for doubtful accounts	\$10,715	\$7,417
Closure, post-closure and remedial liabilities	28,380	28,189
Accrued expenses	15,686	15,382
Accrued compensation	7,774	1,903
Net operating loss carryforwards(1)	43,284	46,650
Tax credit carryforwards(2)	16,909	17,504
Uncertain tax positions accrued interest and federal benefit	519	921
Stock-based compensation	3,440	2,268
Other	7,067	3,258
Total deferred tax assets	133,774	123,492
Deferred tax liabilities:		
Property, plant and equipment	(164,246 )	(144,325 )
Permits and other intangible assets	(103,539 )	(107,407 )
Prepays	(9,187 )	(8,080 )
Total deferred tax liabilities	(276,972 )	(259,812 )
Total net deferred tax liability before valuation allowance	(143,198 )	(136,320 )
Less valuation allowance	(79,295 )	(68,355 )
Net deferred tax liabilities	\$(222,493 )	\$(204,675 )

As of December 31, 2018, the net operating loss carryforwards included (i) state net operating loss carryovers of \$185.1 million which will begin to expire in 2019, (ii) federal net operating loss carryforwards of \$49.8 million which will begin to expire in 2025, and (iii) foreign net operating loss carryforwards of \$103.3 million which will begin to expire in 2019.

(2) As of December 31, 2018, the foreign tax credit carryforwards of \$16.5 million will expire between 2020 and 2024.



Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (13) INCOME TAXES (Continued)

The Company has not accrued for any remaining undistributed foreign earnings not subject to the one-time transition tax on mandatory deemed repatriation of cumulative foreign earnings. These amounts continue to be indefinitely reinvested in foreign operations.

A valuation allowance is required to be established when, based on an evaluation of available evidence, it is more likely than not that some portion or all of the deferred tax assets will not be realized. Accordingly, as of December 31, 2018 and 2017, the Company had a valuation allowance of \$79.3 million and \$68.4 million, respectively. The total allowance as of December 31, 2018 consisted of \$16.5 million of foreign tax credits, \$0.8 million of acquired federal net operating losses, \$9.6 million of state net operating loss carryforwards, \$22.7 million of foreign net operating loss carryforwards, \$26.6 million of deferred tax assets of a Canadian subsidiary and \$3.1 million for tax attributes that if realized would generate capital losses. The allowance as of December 31, 2017 consisted of \$17.5 million of foreign tax credits, \$3.9 million of acquired federal net operating losses, \$11.9 million of state net operating loss carryforwards and \$22.6 million of foreign net operating loss carryforwards and \$12.5 million of deferred tax assets of a Canadian subsidiary.

The changes to unrecognized tax benefits (excluding related penalties and interest) from January 1, 2016 through December 31, 2018, were as follows (in thousands):

	2018	2017	2016
Unrecognized tax benefits as of January 1	\$5,121	\$1,738	\$2,064
Additions to current year tax positions	—	1,457	—
(Reductions) additions to prior year tax positions	(625 )	2,031	—
Expirations	(1,115 )	(231 )	(533 )
Foreign currency translation	(222 )	126	207
Unrecognized tax benefits as of December 31	\$3,159	\$5,121	\$1,738

At December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, the Company had recorded \$3.2 million, \$5.1 million and \$1.7 million, respectively, of unrecognized tax benefits that if recognized would affect the annual effective tax rate.

The Company's policy is to recognize interest and penalties related to income tax matters as a component of income tax expense. At December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016 the Company has accrued interest of \$0.8 million, \$0.9 million and \$0.3 million, respectively, relative to unrecognized tax benefits. Interest expense that is recorded as a tax expense against the liability for unrecognized tax benefits for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016 included interest and penalties of \$(0.1) million, \$0.5 million and \$0.1 million, respectively.

The Company files U.S. federal income tax returns as well as income tax returns in various states and foreign jurisdictions. The Company may be subject to examination by the Internal Revenue Service (the "IRS") for calendar years 2014 through 2017. Additionally, any net operating losses that were generated in prior years and utilized in these years may also be subject to examination by the IRS. The Company may also be subject to examinations by state and local revenue authorities for calendar years 2013 through 2017. The Company is currently not under examination by the IRS. The Company has ongoing U.S. state and local jurisdictional audits, as well as Canadian federal and provincial audits, all of which the Company believes will not result in material liabilities.

Due to expiring statute of limitation periods and the resolution of tax audits, the Company believes that total unrecognized tax benefits will decrease by approximately \$0.6 million within the next 12 months.

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (14) EARNINGS (LOSS) PER SHARE

The following are computations of basic and diluted earnings (loss) per share (in thousands except for per share amounts):

	Years Ended December 31,		
	2018	2017	2016
Numerator for basic and diluted earnings (loss) per share:			
Net income (loss)	\$65,636	\$100,739	\$(39,873)
Denominator:			
Weighted basic shares outstanding	56,148	57,072	57,532
Dilutive effect of equity-based compensation awards	192	128	—
Weighted dilutive shares outstanding	56,340	57,200	57,532
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$1.17	\$1.77	\$(0.69 )
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$1.16	\$1.76	\$(0.69 )

For the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017, all then outstanding performance awards and restricted stock awards were included in the calculation of diluted earnings per share except for 79,390 and 152,831, respectively, of performance stock awards for which the performance criteria were not attained at the time and 121,803 and 49,373, respectively, of restricted stock awards which were excluded as their inclusion would have an antidilutive effect. As a result of the net loss reported for the year ended December 31, 2016, all outstanding stock options, restricted stock awards and performance awards, totaling 730,929 potentially dilutive shares, were excluded from the calculation of diluted loss per share as their inclusion would have an antidilutive effect.

## (15) STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

The Company's board of directors has authorized the repurchase of up to \$600 million of the Company's common stock. The Company has funded and intends to continue to fund the repurchases through available cash resources. The repurchase program authorizes the Company to purchase the Company's common stock on the open market or in privately negotiated transactions periodically in a manner that complies with applicable U.S. securities laws. The number of shares purchased and the timing of the purchases have depended and will depend on a number of factors including share price, cash required for future business plans, trading volume and other conditions. The Company has no obligation to repurchase stock under this program and may suspend or terminate the repurchase program at any time. During the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, the Company repurchased and retired a total of approximately 0.8 million, 0.9 million and 0.5 million shares, respectively, of the Company's common stock for total costs of approximately \$45.1 million, \$49.0 million and \$22.2 million, respectively. Through December 31, 2018, the Company has repurchased and retired a total of approximately 5.6 million shares of its common stock for approximately \$293.9 million under this program. As of December 31, 2018, an additional \$306.1 million remained available for repurchase of shares under this program.

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (16) ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS

The changes in accumulated other comprehensive loss by component and related tax effects for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016 were as follows (in thousands):

	Foreign Currency Translation Adjustments	Unrealized (Losses) Gains on Available-for-Sale Securities	Unrealized Loss on Interest Rate Hedge	Unfunded Pension Liability	Total
Balance at January 1, 2016	\$ (252,939 )	\$ —	\$ —	\$ (1,953 )	\$ (254,892 )
Other comprehensive income (loss) before reclassifications	23,967	(535 )	—	216	23,648
Amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive loss	—	—	—	—	—
Tax benefit (loss)	16,761	214	—	(57 )	16,918
Other comprehensive income (loss)	40,728	(321 )	—	159	40,566
Balance at December 31, 2016	(212,211 )	(321 )	—	(1,794 )	(214,326 )
Other comprehensive income before reclassifications	41,636	184	—	146	41,966
Amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive loss	—	222	—	—	222
Tax loss	—	(231 )	—	(38 )	(269 )
Other comprehensive income	41,636	175	—	108	41,919
Balance at December 31, 2017	(170,575 )	(146 )	—	(1,686 )	(172,407 )
Other comprehensive (loss) income before tax effects	(47,374 )	182	(9,579 )	124	(56,647 )
Amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive loss	—	—	806	—	806
Tax benefit (loss)	5,024	(105 )	—	(42 )	4,877
Other comprehensive (loss) income	(42,350 )	77	(8,773 )	82	(50,964 )
Balance at December 31, 2018	\$ (212,925 )	\$ (69 )	\$ (8,773 )	\$ (1,604 )	\$ (223,371 )

During the years ended December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2016, the Company converted intercompany loans with a foreign subsidiary to equity, which resulted in losses for tax purposes. The loans had been historically treated as components of the Company's investments in that subsidiary, and as a result, foreign currency gains and losses on the loans had been accumulated as a component of other comprehensive (loss) income. The subsidiary continues to operate as part of the

Company. The tax benefits of \$5.0 million and \$16.8 million, respectively, which were triggered by the conversion, were therefore allocated to other comprehensive (loss) income rather than net income (loss).

The amounts reclassified out of accumulated other comprehensive loss into the consolidated statement of operations, with presentation location, during the years ended December 31, 2018 and 2017 were as follows (in thousands):

	For the years ended December 31,	Location
Other Comprehensive Income Components	2018	2017
Unrealized (losses) gains on available-for-sale securities	\$—	\$(222 )
Unrealized loss on interest rate hedge	(806)	—
	Other (expense) income, net	Interest expense, net of interest income

There were no reclassifications out of accumulated other comprehensive loss during the year ended December 31, 2016.

(17) STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION

Stock-Based Compensation

In 2010, the Company adopted an equity incentive plan (the "2010 Plan"), which provides for awards of up to 6,000,000 shares of common stock (subject to certain anti-dilution adjustments) in the form of (i) stock options, (ii) stock appreciation rights, (iii) restricted stock, (iv) restricted stock units, and (v) certain other stock-based awards. The Company ceased issuing

Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (17) STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION (Continued)

stock options in 2008, and all awards issued to date under the 2010 Plan have been in the form of restricted stock awards and performance stock awards as described below.

As of December 31, 2018 and 2017, the Company had the following types of stock-based compensation awards outstanding under the 2010 Plan: restricted stock awards and performance stock awards. The restricted stock awards generally vest over three to five years subject to continued employment. The performance stock awards vest depending on the satisfaction of certain performance criteria and continued service conditions as described below. Total stock-based compensation cost charged to selling, general and administrative expenses for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016 was \$16.8 million, \$13.1 million and \$10.5 million, respectively. The total income tax benefit recognized in the consolidated statements of operations from stock-based compensation was \$3.2 million, \$3.7 million and \$2.8 million for the years ended December 31, 2018, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

**Restricted Stock Awards**

The following information relates to restricted stock awards that have been granted to employees and directors under the Company's 2010 Plan. The restricted stock awards are not transferable until vested and the restrictions generally lapse upon the achievement of continued employment over a three-to-five-year period or service as a director until the following annual meeting of shareholders. The fair value of each restricted stock grant is based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on the date of grant and is amortized to expense over its vesting period.

The following table summarizes information about restricted stock awards for the year ended December 31, 2018:

Restricted Stock	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value
Unvested at January 1, 2018	604,933	\$ 54.23
Granted	327,466	55.02
Vested	(198,673)	54.22
Forfeited	(76,486 )	54.00
Unvested at December 31, 2018	657,240	\$ 54.65

As of December 31, 2018, there was \$24.9 million of total unrecognized compensation cost arising from restricted stock awards. This cost is expected to be recognized over a weighted average period of 2.6 years. The total fair value of restricted stock vested during 2018, 2017 and 2016 was \$10.8 million, \$7.3 million and \$8.3 million, respectively.

**Performance Stock Awards**

The following information relates to performance stock awards that have been granted to employees. The compensation committee of the Company's board of directors established two-year performance targets which could potentially be achieved in the year granted or one year thereafter. Performance stock awards are subject to performance criteria established by the compensation committee of the Company's board of directors. The vesting of the performance stock awards is based on achieving such targets typically based on revenue, Adjusted EBITDA margin, free cash flow and a measure of workplace safety. In addition, performance stock awards include continued service conditions.

The fair value of each performance stock award is based on the closing price of the Company's common stock on the date of grant and is amortized to expense over the service period if achievement of performance measures is then considered probable.





Table of Contents

## CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

## NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

## (17) STOCK-BASED COMPENSATION (Continued)

The following table summarizes information about performance stock awards for the year ended December 31, 2018:

Performance Stock	Number of Shares	Weighted Average Grant-Date Fair Value
Unvested at January 1, 2018	190,129	\$ 55.63
Granted	171,584	55.71
Vested	(21,416 )	54.82
Forfeited	(126,807)	53.59
Unvested at December 31, 2018	213,490	\$ 55.71

As of December 31, 2018, there was \$3.2 million of total unrecognized compensation cost arising from non-vested compensation related to performance stock awards then deemed probable of vesting under the Company's 2010 Plan. The total fair value of performance awards vested during 2018, 2017 and 2016 was \$1.2 million, \$3.0 million and \$1.0 million, respectively.

## (18) COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

## Legal and Administrative Proceedings

The Company and its subsidiaries are subject to legal proceedings and claims arising in the ordinary course of business. Actions filed against the Company arise from commercial and employment-related claims including alleged class actions related to sales practices and wage and hour claims. The plaintiffs in these actions may be seeking damages or injunctive relief

or both. These actions are in various jurisdictions and stages of proceedings, and some are covered in part by insurance. In addition, the Company's waste management services operations are regulated by federal, state, provincial and local laws enacted to regulate discharge of materials into the environment, remediation of contaminated soil and groundwater or otherwise protect the environment. This ongoing regulation results in the Company frequently becoming a party to legal or administrative proceedings involving all levels of governmental authorities and other interested parties. The issues involved in such proceedings generally relate to alleged violations of existing permits and licenses or alleged responsibility under federal or state Superfund laws to remediate contamination at properties owned either by the Company or by other parties ("third-party sites") to which either the Company or the prior owners of certain of the Company's facilities shipped wastes.

At December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company had recorded reserves of \$25.4 million and \$19.3 million, respectively, in the Company's financial statements for actual or probable liabilities related to the legal and administrative proceedings in which the Company was then involved, the principal of which are described below. At December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the Company also believed that it was reasonably possible that the amount of these potential liabilities could be as much as \$1.8 million more. The Company periodically adjusts the aggregate amount of these reserves when actual or probable liabilities are paid or otherwise discharged, new claims arise, or additional relevant information about existing or probable claims becomes available. As of December 31, 2018 and December 31, 2017, the \$25.4 million and \$19.3 million, respectively, of reserves consisted of (i) \$17.9 million for each of the periods presented related to pending legal or administrative proceedings, including Superfund liabilities, which were included in remedial liabilities on the consolidated balance sheets, and (ii) \$7.5 million and \$1.4 million, respectively, primarily related to federal, state and provincial enforcement actions, which were included in accrued expenses on the consolidated balance sheets.

As of December 31, 2018, the principal legal and administrative proceedings in which the Company was involved, or which had been terminated during 2018, were as follows:

Ville Mercier. In September 2002, the Company acquired the stock of a subsidiary (the "Mercier Subsidiary") which owns a hazardous waste incinerator in Ville Mercier, Quebec (the "Mercier Facility"). The property adjacent to the Mercier Facility, which is also owned by the Mercier Subsidiary, is now contaminated as a result of actions dating

back to 1968, when the Government of Quebec issued to a company unrelated to the Mercier Subsidiary two permits to dump organic liquids into lagoons on the property. In 1999, Ville Mercier and three neighboring municipalities filed separate legal proceedings against the Mercier Subsidiary and the Government of Quebec. In 2012, the municipalities amended their existing statement of claim to seek \$2.9 million (CAD \$) in general damages and \$10.0 million (CAD \$) in punitive damages, plus interest and costs, as well as injunctive relief. Both the Government of Quebec and the Company have filed summary judgment motions against the municipalities. The parties are attempting to negotiate a resolution and hearings on the motions have been delayed. In

Table of Contents

CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(18) COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Continued)

September 2007, the Quebec Minister of Sustainable Development, Environment and Parks issued a notice pursuant to Section 115.1 of the Environment Quality Act, superseding notices issued in 1992, which are the subject of the pending litigation. The more recent notice notifies the Mercier Subsidiary that, if the Mercier Subsidiary does not take certain remedial measures at the site, the Minister intends to undertake those measures at the site and claim direct and indirect costs related to such measures. The Company has accrued for costs expected to be incurred relative to the resolution of this matter and believes this matter will not have future material effect on its financial position or results of operations.

**Safety-Kleen Legal Proceedings.** On December 28, 2012, the Company acquired Safety-Kleen, Inc. ("Safety-Kleen") and thereby became subject to the legal proceedings in which Safety-Kleen was a party on that date. In addition to certain Superfund proceedings in which Safety-Kleen has been named as a potentially responsible party as described below under "Superfund Proceedings," the principal such legal proceedings involving Safety-Kleen which were outstanding as of December 31, 2018 were as follows:

**Product Liability Cases.** Safety-Kleen has been named as a defendant in various lawsuits that are currently pending in various courts and jurisdictions throughout the United States, including approximately 67 proceedings (excluding cases which have been settled but not formally dismissed) as of December 31, 2018, wherein persons claim personal injury resulting from the use of Safety-Kleen's parts cleaning equipment or cleaning products. These proceedings typically involve allegations that the solvent used in Safety-Kleen's parts cleaning equipment contains contaminants and/or that Safety-Kleen's recycling process does not effectively remove the contaminants that become entrained in the solvent during their use. In addition, certain claimants assert that Safety-Kleen failed to warn adequately the product user of potential risks, including a historic failure to warn that solvent contains trace amounts of toxic or hazardous substances such as benzene.

Safety-Kleen maintains insurance that it believes will provide coverage for these product liability claims (over amounts accrued for self-insured retentions and deductibles in certain limited cases), except for punitive damages to the extent not insurable under state law or excluded from insurance coverage. Safety-Kleen also believes that these claims lack merit and has historically vigorously defended, and intends to continue to vigorously defend, itself and the safety of its products against all of these claims. Such matters are subject to many uncertainties and outcomes are not predictable with assurance. Consequently, Safety-Kleen is unable to ascertain the ultimate aggregate amount of monetary liability or financial impact with respect to these matters as of December 31, 2018. From January 1, 2018 to December 31, 2018, 10 product liability claims were settled or dismissed. Due to the nature of these claims and the related insurance, the Company did not incur any expense as Safety-Kleen's insurance provided coverage in full for all such claims. Safety-Kleen may be named in similar, additional lawsuits in the future, including claims for which insurance coverage may not be available.

**Superfund Proceedings**

The Company has been notified that either the Company (which, since December 28, 2012, includes Safety-Kleen) or the prior owners of certain of the Company's facilities for which the Company may have certain indemnification obligations have been identified as potentially responsible parties ("PRPs") or potential PRPs in connection with 128 sites which are subject to or are proposed to become subject to proceedings under federal or state Superfund laws. Of the 128 sites, five (including the BR Facility described below) involve facilities that are now owned or leased by the Company and 123 involve third-party sites to which either the Company or the prior owners of certain of the Company's facilities shipped wastes. Of the 123 third-party sites, 30 are now settled, 16 are currently requiring expenditures on remediation and 77 are not currently requiring expenditures on remediation.

In connection with each site, the Company has estimated the extent, if any, to which it may be subject, either directly or as a result of any indemnification obligations, for cleanup and remediation costs, related legal and consulting costs associated with PRP investigations, settlements, and related legal and administrative proceedings. The amount of such actual and potential liability is inherently difficult to estimate because of, among other relevant factors, uncertainties

as to the legal liability (if any) of the Company or the prior owners of certain of the Company's facilities to contribute a portion of the cleanup costs, the assumptions that must be made in calculating the estimated cost and timing of remediation, the identification of other PRPs and their respective capability and obligation to contribute to remediation efforts, and the existence and legal standing of indemnification agreements (if any) with prior owners, which may either benefit the Company or subject the Company to potential indemnification obligations. The Company believes its potential liability could exceed \$100,000 at 12 of the 123 third-party sites.

Table of Contents

CLEAN HARBORS, INC. AND SUBSIDIARIES

NOTES TO CONSOLIDATED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS (Continued)

(18) COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES (Continued)

BR Facility. The Company acquired in 2002 a former hazardous waste incinerator and landfill in Baton Rouge (the "BR Facility"), for which operations had been previously discontinued by the prior owner. In September 2007, the EPA issued a special notice letter to the Company related to the Devil's Swamp Lake Site ("Devil's Swamp") in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. Devil's Swamp includes a lake located downstream of an outfall ditch where wastewater and storm water have been discharged, and Devil's Swamp is proposed to be included on the National Priorities List due to the presence of Contaminants of Concern ("COC") cited by the EPA. These COCs include substances of the kind found in wastewater and storm water discharged from the BR Facility in past operations. The EPA originally requested COC generators to submit a good faith offer to conduct a remedial investigation feasibility study directed towards the eventual remediation of the site. In 2018 the Company completed performing corrective actions at the BR Facility under an order issued by the Louisiana Department of Environmenta