

CLECO POWER LLC  
Form 10-K  
February 25, 2010

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UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

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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, 2009

Or

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

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Commission file number 1-15759

CLECO CORPORATION

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Louisiana

72-1445282

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2030 Donahue Ferry Road, Pineville, Louisiana

71360-5226

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (318) 484-7400

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

| Title of each class   | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|---|---|
| Common Stock, \$1.00 par value, and associated rights to purchase Preferred Stock | New York Stock Exchange                   |

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

Title of each class  
4.50% Cumulative Preferred Stock, \$100 Par Value

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Commission file number 1-05663

CLECO POWER LLC

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Louisiana

72-0244480

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(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

2030 Donahue Ferry Road, Pineville, Louisiana  
(Address of principal executive offices)

71360-5226  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (318) 484-7400

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

| Title of each class         | Name of each exchange on which registered |
|-----------------------------|---|
| 6.50% Senior Notes due 2035 | New York Stock Exchange                   |

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

Title of each class  
Membership Interests

Cleco Power LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cleco Corporation, meets the conditions set forth in General Instruction (I)(1)(a) and (b) of Form 10-K and is therefore filing this Form 10-K with the reduced disclosure format.

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

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

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

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

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrants have submitted electronically and posted on their corporate website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the Registrants were 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 each 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 Cleco Corporation is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer  Accelerated filer  Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)  
Smaller reporting company

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

Large accelerated filer       Accelerated filer       Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a  
smaller reporting company)      Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the Registrants are shell companies (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act) Yes  No

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(Continuation of cover page)

The aggregate market value of the Cleco Corporation voting stock held by non-affiliates was \$1,320,856,355 as of the last business day of Cleco Corporation's most recently completed second fiscal quarter, based on a price of \$22.42 per common share, the closing price of Cleco Corporation's common stock as reported on the New York Stock Exchange on such date. Cleco Corporation's Cumulative Preferred Stock is not listed on any national securities exchange, nor are prices for the Cumulative Preferred Stock quoted on any national automated quotation system; therefore, its market value is not readily determinable and is not included in the foregoing amount.

As of February 1, 2010, there were 60,503,781 outstanding shares of Cleco Corporation's Common Stock, par value \$1.00 per share. As of February 1, 2010, all of Cleco Power's Membership Interests were owned by Cleco Corporation.

#### DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Portions of Cleco Corporation's definitive Proxy Statement relating to its Annual Meeting of Shareholders to be held on April 30, 2010, are incorporated by reference into Part III herein.

This combined Form 10-K is separately filed by Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power. Information in this filing relating to Cleco Power is filed by Cleco Corporation and separately by Cleco Power on its own behalf. Cleco Power makes no representation as to information relating to Cleco Corporation (except as it may relate to Cleco Power) or any other affiliate or subsidiary of Cleco Corporation.

This report should be read in its entirety as it pertains to each respective Registrant. The Notes to the Financial Statements for the Registrants and certain other sections of this report are combined.

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## GLOSSARY OF TERMS

References in this filing, including all items in Parts I, II, III, and IV, to “Cleco” mean Cleco Corporation and its subsidiaries, including Cleco Power, and references to “Cleco Power” mean Cleco Power LLC, unless the context clearly indicates otherwise. Additional abbreviations or acronyms used in this filing, including all items in Parts I, II, III, and IV are defined below:

| ABBREVIATION<br>OR ACRONYM       | DEFINITION   |
|----------------------------------|--|
| 401(k) Plan                      | Cleco Power 401(k) Savings and Investment Plan   |
| Acadia                           | Acadia Power Partners, LLC and its combined-cycle, natural gas-fired power plant near Eunice, Louisiana, 50% owned by APH and 50% owned by Cajun. Prior to September 13, 2007, Acadia was 50% owned by APH and 50% owned by Calpine Acadia Holdings, LLC.  |
| Acadiana Load Pocket             | An area in south central Louisiana that has experienced transmission constraints caused by local load and lack of generation. Transmission within the Acadiana Load Pocket is owned by several entities, including Cleco Power.  |
| Accounting Codification          | FASB Accounting Standards Codification™ the source of authoritative U.S. GAAP recognized by the FASB to be applied by nongovernmental entities.  |
| AFUDC                            | Allowance for Funds Used During Construction   |
| Amended EPC Contract             | Amended and Restated EPC Contract between Cleco Power and Shaw, executed on May 12, 2006, for engineering, procurement, and construction of Rodemacher Unit 3, as amended by Amendment No. 1 thereto effective March 9, 2007, Amendment No. 2 thereto dated as of July 2, 2008, Amendment No. 3 thereto dated as of July 22, 2009, and Amendment No. 4 thereto dated October 19, 2009. |
| Amended Lignite Mining Agreement | Amended and restated lignite mining agreement effective December 29, 2009  |
| APH                              | Acadia Power Holdings LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Midstream  |
| ARO                              | Asset Retirement Obligation  |
| Attala                           | Attala Transmission LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cleco Corporation. Prior to February 1, 2007, Attala was a wholly owned subsidiary of Midstream.   |
| Bear Energy                      | BE Louisiana LLC, an indirect wholly owned subsidiary of JPMorgan Chase & Co. In September 2008, BE Louisiana LLC was merged into JPMVEC.  |
| Bidding Procedures Order         | Bidding Procedures Order, in connection with the sale of CAH’s interest in Acadia, approved by the Calpine Debtors Bankruptcy Court by order dated May 9, 2007   |
| CAA                              | Clean Air Act  |
| CAH                              | Calpine Acadia Holdings, LLC   |
| CAH Assets                       | CAH’s interest in Acadia and certain related assets  |
| Cajun                            | Cajun Gas Energy L.L.C.  |
| Calpine                          | Calpine Corporation  |
| Calpine Debtors                  | Calpine, CES, and certain other Calpine subsidiaries   |
| Calpine Debtors Bankruptcy Court | U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Southern District of New York  |
| Calpine Tolling Agreements       | Capacity Sale and Tolling Agreements between Acadia and CES which were suspended in March 2006   |
| CCN                              | Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity  |
| CES                              | Calpine Energy Services, L.P.  |

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|                                    |   |
|------------------------------------|---|
| Claims Settlement Agreement        | Claims Settlement Agreement, dated April 23, 2007, by and among Calpine, CAH, CES, Acadia, and APH  |
| CLE Intrastate                     | CLE Intrastate Pipeline Company LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Midstream   |
| Cleco Energy                       | Cleco Energy LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Midstream  |
| Cleco Innovations LLC              | A wholly owned subsidiary of Cleco Corporation  |
| Cleco Katrina/Rita CO2             | Cleco Katrina/Rita Hurricane Recovery Funding LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cleco Power Carbon dioxide  |
| Compliance Plan                    | The one-year plan included in the Stipulation and Consent Agreement (Docket No. IN07-28-00), effective June 12, 2007  |
| Consent Agreement                  | Stipulation and Consent Agreement, dated as of July 25, 2003, between Cleco and the FERC Staff  |
| DHLC                               | Dolet Hills Lignite Company, LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of SWEPCO   |
| Diversified Lands                  | Diversified Lands LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cleco Innovations LLC   |
| DOE                                | United States Department of Energy  |
| Entergy                            | Entergy Corporation   |
| Entergy Gulf States                | Entergy Gulf States Louisiana, L.L.C., formerly Entergy Gulf States, Inc.   |
| Entergy Louisiana                  | Entergy Louisiana, LLC  |
| Entergy Mississippi                | Entergy Mississippi, Inc.   |
| Entergy Services                   | Entergy Services, Inc., as agent for Entergy Louisiana and Entergy Gulf States  |
| EPA                                | United States Environmental Protection Agency   |
| EPC                                | Engineering, Procurement, and Construction  |
| ERO                                | Electric Reliability Organization   |
| ESOP                               | Cleco Corporation Employee Stock Ownership Plan   |
| ESPP                               | Cleco Corporation Employee Stock Purchase Plan  |
| Evangeline                         | Cleco Evangeline LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Midstream, and its combined-cycle, natural gas-fired power plant located in Evangeline Parish, Louisiana |
| Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement  | Capacity Sale and Tolling Agreement between Evangeline and JPMVEC, which was executed in February 2010.   |
| Evangeline Restructuring Agreement | Purchase, Sale and Restructuring Agreement entered into on February 22, 2010, by Evangeline and JPMVEC.   |

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| ABBREVIATION<br>OR ACRONYM          | DEFINITION  |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| Evangeline Tolling Agreement        | Capacity Sale and Tolling Agreement between Evangeline and BE Louisiana LLC (as successor to Williams Power Company, Inc. (formerly known as Williams Energy Marketing & Trading Company)) which was set to expire in 2020 and was terminated in February 2010. In September 2008, BE Louisiana LLC was merged into JPMVEC. |
| FASB                                | Financial Accounting Standards Board  |
| FERC                                | Federal Energy Regulatory Commission  |
| GAAP                                | Generally Accepted Accounting Principles in the United States   |
| GDP-IPD                             | Gross Domestic Product – Implicit Price Deflator  |
| Generation Services                 | Cleco Generation Services LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Midstream   |
| GO Zone                             | Gulf Opportunity Zone Act of 2005 (Public Law 109-135)  |
| ICT                                 | Independent Coordinator of Transmission   |
| Interconnection Agreement           | One of two Interconnection Agreement and Real Estate Agreements, one between Attala and Entergy Mississippi, and the other between Perryville and Entergy Louisiana   |
| IRP                                 | Integrated Resource Planning  |
| IRS                                 | Internal Revenue Service  |
| JPMVEC                              | J.P. Morgan Ventures Energy Corporation. In September 2008, BE Louisiana LLC was merged into JPMVEC.  |
| kWh                                 | Kilowatt-hour(s) as applicable  |
| LDEQ                                | Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality   |
| LIBOR                               | London Inter-Bank Offer Rate  |
| Lignite Mining Agreement            | Dolet Hills Mine Lignite Mining Agreement, dated as of May 31, 2001   |
| LPSC                                | Louisiana Public Service Commission   |
| LTICP                               | Cleco Corporation Long-Term Incentive Compensation Plan   |
| Midstream                           | Cleco Midstream Resources LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cleco Corporation   |
| MMBtu                               | Million British thermal units   |
| Moody's                             | Moody's Investors Service   |
| MW                                  | Megawatt(s) as applicable   |
| MWh                                 | Megawatt-hour(s) as applicable  |
| NAC                                 | North American Coal Corporation   |
| NERC                                | North American Electric Reliability Corporation   |
| NOx                                 | Nitrogen oxides   |
| OCI                                 | Other Comprehensive Income  |
| Oxbow                               | Oxbow Lignite Company, LLC, 50% owned by Cleco Power and 50% owned by SWEPCO  |
| PCAOB                               | Public Company Accounting Oversight Board   |
| PCB                                 | Polychlorinated biphenyl  |
| PEH                                 | Perryville Energy Holdings LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Midstream.   |
| Perryville                          | Perryville Energy Partners, L.L.C., a wholly owned subsidiary of Cleco Corporation. Prior to February 1, 2007, Perryville was a wholly owned subsidiary of Perryville Energy Holdings LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Midstream.  |
| Perryville and PEH Bankruptcy Court | U.S. Bankruptcy Court for the Western District of Louisiana, Alexandria Division<br><br>Power Purchase Agreement, dated as of January 28, 2004, between Perryville and Entergy Services   |



Power Purchase Agreement

|                                 |   |
|---------------------------------|---|
| PRP                             | Potentially responsible party   |
| Registrant(s)                   | Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power   |
| RFP                             | Request for Proposal  |
| Rodemacher Unit 3               | A 600-MW solid-fuel generating unit at Cleco Power's Rodemacher plant site in Boyce, Louisiana that commenced commercial operations on February 12, 2010. |
| RSP                             | Rate Stabilization Plan   |
| RTO                             | Regional Transmission Organization  |
| Sale Agreement                  | Purchase and Sale Agreement, dated as of January 28, 2004, between Perryville and Entergy Louisiana   |
| SEC                             | Securities and Exchange Commission  |
| SERP                            | Cleco Corporation Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan  |
| Shaw                            | Shaw Contractors, Inc., a subsidiary of The Shaw Group Inc.   |
| SO2                             | Sulfur dioxide  |
| SPP                             | Southwest Power Pool  |
| Support Group                   | Cleco Support Group LLC, a wholly owned subsidiary of Cleco Corporation   |
| SWEPCO                          | Southwestern Electric Power Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of American Electric Power Company, Inc.   |
| Teche                           | Teche Electric Cooperative, Inc.  |
| The Bear Stearns Companies Inc. | The parent company of Bear, Stearns & Co. Inc.  |
| VaR                             | Value-at-risk   |
| Williams                        | Williams Power Company, Inc.  |

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### CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

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This Annual Report on Form 10-K includes “forward-looking statements” about future events, circumstances, and results. All statements other than statements of historical fact included in this Annual Report are forward-looking statements, including, without limitation, statements regarding the construction and cost of Rodemacher Unit 3; JPMVEC’s performance under the Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement; future capital expenditures; projections; business strategies; goals; competitive strengths; market and industry developments; development and operation of facilities; future environmental regulations and remediation liabilities; and the anticipated outcome of various regulatory and legal proceedings. Although the Registrants believe that the expectations reflected in such forward-looking statements are reasonable, such forward-looking statements are based on numerous assumptions (some of which may prove to be incorrect) and are subject to risks and uncertainties that could cause the actual results to differ materially from the Registrants’ expectations. In addition to any assumptions and other factors referred to specifically in connection with these forward-looking statements, the following list identifies some of the factors that could cause the Registrants’ actual results to differ materially from those contemplated in any of the Registrants’ forward-looking statements:

- § Factors affecting utility operations, such as unusual weather conditions or other natural phenomena; catastrophic weather-related damage (such as hurricanes and other storms); unscheduled generation outages; unanticipated maintenance or repairs; unanticipated changes to fuel costs; cost of and reliance on natural gas as a component of Cleco’s generation fuel mix and their impact on competition and franchises, fuel supply costs or availability constraints due to higher demand, shortages, transportation problems or other developments; decreased customer load; environmental incidents; environmental compliance costs; or power transmission system constraints;
- § Cleco Corporation’s holding company structure and its dependence on the earnings, dividends, or distributions from its subsidiaries to meet its debt obligations and pay dividends on its common stock;
- § Cleco Power’s ability to construct, operate, and maintain, within its projected costs, Rodemacher Unit 3, in addition to any other self-build projects identified in future IRP and RFP processes;
- § Dependence of Cleco Power for energy from sources other than its facilities and the uncertainty of future short-term sources of such additional energy;
- § Nonperformance by and creditworthiness of counterparties under tolling, power purchase, and energy service agreements, or the restructuring of those agreements, including possible termination;
- § Regulatory factors such as changes in rate-setting policies, recovery of investments made under traditional regulation, recovery of storm restoration costs, the frequency and timing of rate increases or decreases, the results of periodic NERC audits and fuel audits, the results of IRP and RFP processes, the formation of ICTs, and the compliance with the ERO reliability standards for bulk power systems by Cleco Power, Acadia, and Evangeline;
- § Financial or regulatory accounting principles or policies imposed by FASB, the SEC, the PCAOB, FERC, the LPSC or similar entities with regulatory or accounting oversight;
- § Economic conditions, including the ability of customers to continue paying for utility bills, related growth and/or down-sizing of businesses in Cleco’s service area, monetary fluctuations, changes in commodity prices, and inflation rates;

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§ The current global economic downturn and U.S. recession;

§ Credit ratings of Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power;

§ Ability to remain in compliance with debt covenants;

§ Changing market conditions and a variety of other factors associated with physical energy, financial transactions, and energy service activities, including, but not limited to, price, basis, credit, liquidity, volatility, capacity, transmission, interest rates, and warranty risks;

§ Impact of the imposition of energy efficiency requirements;

§ Reliability of Rodemacher Unit 3 during its first year of commercial operations;

§ Acts of terrorism;

§ Availability or cost of capital resulting from changes in Cleco's business or financial condition, interest rates or market perceptions of the electric utility industry and energy-related industries;

§ Uncertain tax positions;

§ Employee work force factors, including work stoppages and changes in key executives;

§ Legal, environmental, and regulatory delays and other obstacles associated with mergers, acquisitions, reorganizations, investments in joint ventures, or other capital projects, including Rodemacher Unit 3, the joint project to upgrade the Acadiana Load Pocket transmission system, Entergy Louisiana's acquisition of the remaining 50%, a 580-MW unit, at the Acadia Power Station, and the Teche blackstart project;

§ Costs and other effects of legal and administrative proceedings, settlements, investigations, claims and other matters;

§ Changes in federal, state, or local laws, and changes in tax laws or rates, regulating policies or environmental laws and regulations;

§ Ability of Cleco Power to recover, from its retail customers, the costs of compliance with environmental laws and regulations; and

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§ Ability of the Dolet Hills lignite reserve to provide sufficient fuel to the Dolet Hills Power Station until at least 2026.

For additional discussion of these factors and other factors that could cause actual results to differ materially from those contemplated in the Registrants' forward-looking statements, see Item 1A, "Risk Factors" and Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Cleco Power — Significant Factors Affecting Cleco Power" and "— Midstream — Significant Factors Affecting Midstream," in this Annual Report. All subsequent written and oral forward-looking statements attributable to the Registrants or persons acting on their behalf are expressly qualified in their entirety by the factors identified above.

The Registrants undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statements, whether as a result of changes in actual results, changes in assumptions, or other factors affecting such statements.

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PART I

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ITEM 1. BUSINESS

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GENERAL

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Cleco Corporation was incorporated on October 30, 1998, under the laws of the State of Louisiana. Cleco Corporation is a public utility holding company which holds investments in several subsidiaries, including Cleco Power and Midstream, which are its operating business segments. Cleco Corporation, subject to certain limited exceptions, is exempt from regulation as a public utility holding company pursuant to provisions of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 2005.

Cleco Power's predecessor was incorporated on January 2, 1935, under the laws of the State of Louisiana. Cleco Power was organized on December 12, 2000. Cleco Power is an electric utility engaged principally in the generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity within Louisiana. Cleco Power is regulated by the LPSC and FERC, along with other governmental authorities, which determine the rates Cleco Power can charge its customers. Cleco Power serves approximately 277,000 customers in 107 communities in central and southeastern Louisiana. Cleco Power's operations are described below in the consolidated description of Cleco's business segments.

Midstream, organized effective September 1, 1998, under the laws of the State of Louisiana, is a merchant energy subsidiary that owns and operates a merchant power plant (Evangeline). At December 31, 2009, Midstream also owned a 50 percent interest in a merchant power plant (Acadia) and operated the plant on behalf of its partner. During 2009, Cleco Power and Entergy Louisiana executed definitive agreements whereby Cleco Power and Entergy Louisiana would each purchase one 580-MW unit of the Acadia Power Station. The transaction with Cleco Power was completed in February 2010 and the transaction with Entergy Louisiana is expected to be completed in late 2010 or early 2011. For additional information, see Part II, Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 15 — Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Acadia Transactions" and Note 23 — "Subsequent Events — Acadia Transaction."

At December 31, 2009, Cleco had 1,305 employees. Cleco's mailing address is P.O. Box 5000, Pineville, Louisiana 71361-5000, and its telephone number is (318) 484-7400. Cleco's homepage on the Internet is located at <http://www.cleco.com>. Cleco Corporation's and Cleco Power's Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and other filings with the SEC are available, free of charge, through Cleco's website after those reports or filings are filed electronically with or furnished to the SEC. Cleco's filings also can be obtained at the SEC's Public Reference Room at 100 F Street, NE, Room 1580, Washington, DC 20549. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330. Cleco's electronically filed reports also can be obtained on the SEC's Internet site located at <http://www.sec.gov>. Cleco's corporate governance guidelines, code of business conduct, ethics and business standards, and the charters of its board of directors' audit, compensation, executive, finance, nominating/governance and qualified legal compliance committees are available on its website and available in print to any shareholder upon request. Information on Cleco's website or any other website is not incorporated by reference into this Report and does not constitute a part of this Report.

At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power had 1,015 employees. Cleco Power's mailing address is P.O. Box 5000, Pineville, Louisiana, 71361-5000, and its telephone number is (318) 484-7400.

Cleco Power meets the conditions specified in General Instructions I(1)(a) and (b) to Form 10-K and therefore is permitted to use the reduced disclosure format for wholly owned subsidiaries of reporting companies. Accordingly, Cleco Power has omitted from this Report the information called for by Item 4 (Submission of Matters to a Vote of Security Holders) of Part I of Form 10-K; the following Part II items of Form 10-K: Item 6 (Selected Financial Data) and Item 7 (Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations); and the

following Part III items of Form 10-K: Item 10 (Directors, Executive Officers, and Corporate Governance of the Registrants), Item 11 (Executive Compensation), Item 12 (Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters), and Item 13 (Certain Relationships and Related Transactions, and Director Independence).

## OPERATIONS

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### Cleco Power

#### Segment Financial Information

Summary financial results of the Cleco Power segment for years 2009, 2008, and 2007 are presented below.

| (THOUSANDS)                    | 2009        | 2008        | 2007        |
|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Revenue                        |             |             |             |
| Electric operations            | \$808,646   | \$1,032,970 | \$988,193   |
| Other operations               | 33,558      | 36,675      | 35,176      |
| Affiliate revenue              | 23          | 29          | 42          |
| Intercompany revenue           | 1,372       | 2,008       | 2,008       |
| Operating revenue, net         | \$843,599   | \$1,071,682 | \$1,025,419 |
| Depreciation expense           | \$77,064    | \$76,420    | \$78,522    |
| Interest charges               | \$58,562    | \$47,283    | \$29,565    |
| Interest income                | \$1,449     | \$3,943     | \$5,422     |
| Federal and state income taxes | \$15,297    | \$27,956    | \$29,613    |
| Segment profit                 | \$111,166   | \$113,832   | \$84,673    |
| Additions to long-lived assets | \$235,385   | \$321,407   | \$492,445   |
| Equity investment in investees | \$12,873    | \$-         | \$-         |
| Segment assets                 | \$3,363,962 | \$3,041,597 | \$2,306,482 |

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For additional information on Cleco Power's results of operations, see Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Results of Operations — Cleco Power's Results of Operations."

#### Certain Factors Affecting Cleco Power

As an electric utility, Cleco Power is affected, to varying degrees, by a number of factors influencing the electric utility industry in general. These factors include, among others, fluctuations in the price of fuel, an increasingly competitive business environment, the cost of compliance with environmental and reliability regulations, conditions in the credit markets and global economy, changes in the federal and state regulation of generation, transmission, and the sale of electricity, and the increasing uncertainty of future federal regulatory and environmental policies. For a discussion of various regulatory changes and competitive forces affecting Cleco Power and other electric utilities, see "— Regulatory Matters, Industry Developments, and Franchises" and Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Financial Condition — Market Restructuring." For a discussion of risk factors affecting Cleco Power's business, see Item 1A, "Risk Factors — Global Economic Downturn," "— Future Electricity Sales," "— Fuel Cost Audits," "— Hedging and Risk Management Activities," "— Transmission Constraints," "— Commodity Prices," "— Cleco Power Generation Facilities," "— ERO," "— Environmental Compliance," "— Regulatory Compliance," "— Weather Sensitivity," "— Retail Electric Service," "— Wholesale Electric Service," "— Cleco Credit Ratings," "— Interest Rates," and "— Cleco Power's Rates."

#### Power Generation

Cleco Power operates and either owns or has an ownership interest in three steam electric generating stations and one gas turbine. As of December 31, 2009, Cleco Power's aggregate net electric generating capacity was 1,318 MW. This amount reflects the maximum production capacity these units can sustain over a specified period of time. The following table sets forth certain information with respect to Cleco Power's generating facilities:

| GENERATING STATION          | GENERATING UNIT # | YEAR OF INITIAL OPERATION | NAME PLATE CAPACITY (MW) | NET CAPACITY (MW)(1) | TYPE OF FUEL USED FOR GENERATION(2) |
|-----------------------------|-------------------|---------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Franklin Gas Turbine        |                   | 1973                      | 7                        | 8                    | natural gas                         |
| Teche Power Station         | 1                 | 1953                      | 23                       | 19                   | natural gas                         |
|                             | 2                 | 1956                      | 48                       | 34                   | natural gas                         |
|                             | 3                 | 1971                      | 359                      | 331                  | natural gas/oil                     |
| Rodemacher Power Station    | 1                 | 1975                      | 440                      | 435                  | natural gas/oil                     |
|                             | 2                 | 1982                      | 157(3)                   | 155                  | coal/natural gas                    |
| Dolet Hills Power Station   |                   | 1986                      | 325(4)                   | 336                  | lignite/natural gas                 |
| Total generating capability |                   |                           | 1,359                    | 1,318                |                                     |

(1) Based on capacity testing of the generating units performed between June and September 2007.

(2) When oil is used on a standby basis, capacity may be reduced.

(3) Represents Cleco Power's 30% ownership interest in the capacity of Rodemacher Unit 2, a 523-MW generating unit.

(4) Represents Cleco Power's 50% ownership interest in the capacity of Dolet Hills, a 650-MW generating unit.

The following table sets forth the amounts of power generated by Cleco Power for the years indicated.

| PERIOD | THOUSAND MWh | PERCENT OF TOTAL |
|--------|--------------|------------------|
|--------|--------------|------------------|

|      |       | ENERGY<br>REQUIREMENTS |
|------|-------|------------------------|
| 2009 | 4,943 | 46.4                   |
| 2008 | 4,747 | 44.3                   |
| 2007 | 4,504 | 42.0                   |
| 2006 | 4,691 | 44.0                   |
| 2005 | 5,284 | 51.2                   |

In May 2006, Cleco Power began construction of Rodemacher Unit 3, a 600-MW solid-fuel power plant at its Rodemacher facility. The unit commenced commercial operations on February 12, 2010. Rodemacher Unit 3 is capable of burning various solid fuels, but initially will primarily burn petroleum coke produced by several refineries throughout the Gulf Coast region. The total capital cost of the project, including AFUDC, Amended EPC Contract costs, and other development expenses, is approximately \$1.0 billion. For additional information on Rodemacher Unit 3, see Part II, Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Financial Condition — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Regulatory Matters — Rodemacher Unit 3.”

#### Fuel and Purchased Power

Changes in fuel and purchased power expenses reflect fluctuations in types and pricing of fuel used for electric generation, fuel handling costs, availability of economical power for purchase, and deferral of expenses for recovery from customers through the fuel adjustment clause in subsequent months. For a discussion of certain risks associated with changes in fuel costs and their impact on utility customers, see Item 1A, “Risk Factors — Fuel Cost Audits” and “— Transmission Constraints.”

The following table sets forth the percentages of power generated from various fuels at Cleco Power’s electric generating plants, the cost of fuel used per MWh attributable to each such fuel, and the weighted average fuel cost per MWh. The percent of generation from each fuel source as shown in the table is expected to change as a result of the startup of Rodemacher Unit 3. Rodemacher Unit 3 is capable of burning various solid fuels, but initially will primarily burn petroleum coke. Rodemacher Unit 3 is expected to diversify and help stabilize Cleco Power’s fuel costs, given the availability and projected pricing of petroleum coke. The generation from petroleum coke in the following table represents power produced during testing of Rodemacher Unit 3.



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| YEAR | LIGNITE      |                       | COAL         |                       | NATURAL GAS  |                       | FUEL OIL     |                       | PETROLEUM COKE |                       | WEIGHTED AVERAGE |
|------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|--------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------------------|------------------|
|      | COST PER MWh | PERCENT OF GENERATION | COST PER MWh | PERCENT OF GENERATION | COST PER MWh | PERCENT OF GENERATION | COST PER MWh | PERCENT OF GENERATION | COST PER MWh   | PERCENT OF GENERATION |                  |
| 2009 | \$26.04      | 45.1                  | \$27.10      | 21.5                  | \$105.22     | 33.1                  | \$-          | -                     | \$34.64        | 0.3                   | \$ 52.49         |
| 2008 | \$24.09      | 51.3                  | \$27.50      | 18.4                  | \$108.48     | 30.3                  | \$-          | -                     | \$-            | -                     | \$ 50.27         |
| 2007 | \$19.80      | 42.2                  | \$26.07      | 24.8                  | \$129.80     | 33.0                  | \$-          | -                     | \$-            | -                     | \$ 57.65         |
| 2006 | \$18.20      | 50.0                  | \$22.81      | 20.8                  | \$125.07     | 29.1                  | \$107.65     | 0.1                   | \$-            | -                     | \$ 50.32         |
| 2005 | \$17.44      | 45.7                  | \$19.44      | 20.6                  | \$85.72      | 27.3                  | \$83.08      | 6.4                   | \$-            | -                     | \$ 40.79         |

#### Power Purchases

When the market price of power is more economical than self-generation of power or when Cleco Power needs power to supplement its own electric generation, and when transmission capacity is available, Cleco Power purchases power from energy marketing companies or neighboring utilities. These purchases are made from the wholesale power market in the form of generation capacity and/or energy. During 2009, portions of Cleco Power's capacity and power purchases were made at contract prices, and the remainder was made at prevailing market prices.

The following table sets forth the average cost and amounts of power purchased by Cleco Power on the wholesale market.

| PERIOD | COST PER MWh | THOUSAND MWh | PERCENT OF TOTAL ENERGY REQUIREMENTS |
|--------|--------------|--------------|--------------------------------------|
| 2009   | \$34.57      | 5,712        | 53.6                                 |
| 2008   | \$73.72      | 5,959        | 55.7                                 |
| 2007   | \$58.08      | 6,221        | 58.0                                 |
| 2006   | \$59.50      | 5,968        | 56.0                                 |
| 2005   | \$69.84      | 5,028        | 48.8                                 |

During 2009, 53.6% of Cleco Power's energy requirements were met with purchased power, down from 55.7% in 2008. The primary factor causing the decrease was the increased generation from Cleco Power's own facilities as a result of increased power transmission system constraints. The lower cost per MWh of purchased power was primarily due to lower natural gas prices. Cleco Power expects the volume of purchased power to decrease in future periods as a result of the acquisition of 50% of the Acadia Power Station, or one of its two 580-MW units, and the completion of Rodemacher Unit 3. For information on Cleco Power's ability to pass on to its customers substantially all of its fuel and purchased power expenses, see "— Regulatory Matters, Industry Developments, and Franchises — Rates." During 2009, Cleco Power obtained approximately 40.4% of its annual capacity from short- and long-term power purchase agreements. One agreement was with Bear Energy for 500 MW of annual capacity and energy which expired at the end of 2009. The second agreement was with NRG Power Marketing, Inc. (NRG). The term of this agreement was April through October 2009 during which Cleco Power purchased 200 MW from June through September and 50 MW during the remainder of the term. A third capacity and energy agreement with Acadia was for 235 MW for the term of March through September 2009. Cleco Power also has a long-term contract, which expires in April 2018, for the purchase of 20 MW of power from the Sabine River Authority, which operates a hydroelectric generating plant. In addition, Cleco Power has a wholesale power contract with the city of Natchitoches, which provided 41 MW of capacity in 2009. The contract was scheduled to expire in December 2009. However, the expiration date has been extended by three months to facilitate negotiations for a long-term contract.

Beginning in January 2010, Acadia began serving Cleco Power under a tolling agreement covering 50% of the Acadia Power Station. In February 2010, the transaction between Cleco Power and Acadia was completed and Cleco Power now owns and operates the unit at Acadia. Cleco expects to meet its native load demand in 2010 with Cleco Power's own generation capacity, the acquisition of 580 MW from the Acadia plant, and the completion of Rodemacher Unit 3.

Because of its location on the transmission grid, Cleco Power relies on two main suppliers of electric transmission when accessing external power markets. At times, constraints limit the amount of purchased power these transmission providers can deliver into Cleco Power's service territory. Cleco Power's power contracts, as well as spot market power purchases, may be affected by these transmission constraints. For information on the Acadiana Load Pocket project and how transmission constraints in this area are expected to be reduced, see Part II, Item 7A, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Regulatory Matters — Acadiana Load Pocket."

#### Coal and Lignite Supply

Cleco Power uses coal for generation at Rodemacher Unit 2. In 2007, Cleco Power entered into agreements with Rio Tinto Energy America and Peabody Energy which will provide the majority of coal needs through 2014. The coal supply agreements are fixed-priced for each year of the contract and together provide for the full requirements to support Cleco Power's minimum planned dispatch of Rodemacher Unit 2 (4 million tons total over the 7-year period). To the extent that the actual dispatch of the unit exceeds the planned dispatch, Cleco Power expects to make additional spot purchases to maintain inventory within targeted levels. The volume commitment was designed to reasonably assure that excess inventory will not accumulate during the term of the agreement. With respect to transportation of coal, Cleco Power has a three-year agreement with Union Pacific Railroad Company (UP) for transportation of coal from Wyoming's Powder River Basin to Rodemacher Unit 2 through 2011. Cleco Power leases approximately 241 railcars to transport its coal under two long-term leases. One of the railcar leases expires in March 2017, and the other expires in March 2021.

Cleco Power uses lignite for generation at the Dolet Hills Power Station. Cleco Power and SWEPCO, each a 50% owner of Dolet Hills, have acquired an undivided 50% interest

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in the other's leased and owned lignite reserves within the Dolet Hills mine in northwestern Louisiana. In May 2001, Cleco Power and SWEPCO entered into a long-term agreement with DHLHC for the mining and delivery of such lignite reserves. These reserves are expected to provide a substantial portion of the Dolet Hills' unit's fuel requirements throughout the life of the contract with DHLHC. The term of this contract runs until all economically mineable lignite has been mined, which is currently estimated to be around 2016.

Additionally, Cleco Power and SWEPCO had entered into an agreement which was set to expire on December 31, 2010 with the Red River Mining Company to purchase lignite. Cleco Power's and SWEPCO's minimum annual purchase requirement of lignite under this agreement was 550,000 tons. However, on December 29, 2009, Cleco Power and SWEPCO acquired all interests in the Red River mine, and have merged its operations with the Dolet Hills mine. The Lignite Mining Agreement with DHLHC has been amended to extend its services to cover operations in both mining areas. Among other things, the terms of this acquisition provided for the transfer of the reserves formerly held by the Red River Mining Company to Oxbow which is owned 50% by Cleco Power and 50% by SWEPCO. It is estimated that Oxbow holds approximately 100 million tons of recoverable lignite reserves which together with the Dolet Hills mine are expected to be sufficient to fuel the Dolet Hills Power Station until at least 2026. Cleco Power's investment in the acquisition was \$12.9 million. For information regarding deferred mining costs and obligations associated with the DHLHC mining agreement see, Part II, Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 3 — Regulatory Assets and Liabilities — Deferred Mining Costs" and Note 15 — "Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Off-Balance Sheet Commitments and Disclosures about Guarantees."

The continuous supply of coal and lignite may be subject to interruption due to adverse weather conditions or other factors that may disrupt mining operations or transportation to the plant site. At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power's coal inventory at Rodemacher Unit 2 was approximately 290,000 tons (about a 132-day supply), and Cleco Power's lignite inventory at Dolet Hills was approximately 155,000 tons (about a 26-day supply).

#### Natural Gas Supply

During 2009, Cleco Power purchased a total of 19,614,753 MMBtu of natural gas for the generation of electricity. The annual and average per-day quantities of gas purchased by Cleco Power from each supplier are shown in the table below.

| NATURAL GAS SUPPLIER       | 2009 PURCHASES (MMBtu) | AVERAGE AMOUNT PURCHASED PER DAY (MMBtu) | PERCENT OF TOTAL NATURAL GAS USED |
|----------------------------|------------------------|--|-----------------------------------|
| Tenaska Marketing Ventures | 1,988,906              | 5,400                                    | 10.1%                             |
| Noble Gas                  | 1,985,119              | 5,400                                    | 10.1%                             |
| BP Energy                  | 1,835,270              | 5,000                                    | 9.4%                              |
| Eagle Energy Partners      | 1,709,576              | 4,600                                    | 8.7%                              |
| Gavilon, LLC               | 1,618,303              | 4,400                                    | 8.3%                              |
| Pacific Summit Energy      | 1,530,700              | 4,200                                    | 7.8%                              |
| Others                     | 8,946,879              | 25,000                                   | 45.6%                             |
| Total                      | 19,614,753             | 54,000                                   | 100.0%                            |

Cleco Power owns the natural gas pipelines and interconnections at its Rodemacher and Teche power stations. This allows it to access various natural gas supply markets, which helps to maintain a more economical fuel supply for Cleco Power's customers.

Natural gas was available without interruption throughout 2009. Cleco Power expects to continue to meet its natural gas requirements with purchases on the spot market through daily, monthly, and seasonal contracts with various natural gas suppliers. However, future supplies to Cleco Power remain vulnerable to disruptions due to weather events and transportation delays. Large industrial users of natural gas, including electric utilities, generally have low priority among gas users in the event pipeline suppliers are forced to curtail deliveries due to inadequate supplies. As a result, prices may increase rapidly in response to temporary supply interruptions. Although prices may increase rapidly, Cleco Power enters into economic hedge positions to mitigate the volatility in fuel costs as encouraged by an LPSC order. For additional information on these economic hedge positions, see Item 1A, "Risk Factors — Hedging and Risk Management Activities" and Part II, Item 7A, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk — Commodity Price Risks." Currently, Cleco Power anticipates that its diverse supply options and alternative fuel capability, combined with its solid-fuel generation resources, are adequate to meet its fuel needs during any temporary interruption of natural gas supplies.

#### Fuel Oil Supply

Cleco Power stores fuel oil as an alternative fuel source at its Rodemacher and Teche power stations. The Rodemacher Power Station has storage capacity for an approximate 95-day supply, and the Teche power station has storage capacity for an approximate 28-day supply. However, in accordance with Cleco Power's current fuel oil inventory practices, Cleco Power had approximately an 89-day supply of fuel oil stored at its Rodemacher facility and a 16-day supply at its Teche facility at December 31, 2009. During 2009, no fuel oil was purchased or burned.

#### Sales

Cleco Power's 2009 and 2008 system peak demands, which occurred on July 2, 2009, and July 28, 2008, were 2,242 MW and 2,113 MW, respectively. Sales and system peak demand are affected by weather and are typically highest during the summer air-conditioning season. In 2009 and 2008, Cleco Power experienced above-normal summer weather and mild

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winters. For information on the effects of future energy sales on Cleco Power's financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows, see Item 1A, "Risk Factors — Weather Sensitivity" and "— Future Electricity Sales." For information on the financial effects of seasonal demand on Cleco Power's quarterly operating results, see Part II, Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 22 — Miscellaneous Financial Information (Unaudited)."

Capacity margin is the net capacity resources (either owned or purchased) less native load demand divided by net capacity resources. Each year, members of the SPP submit forecasted native load demand and the forecasted mix of net capacity resources to meet this demand. During 2009, Cleco Power's capacity margin was 11.7%, which is below the SPP's capacity benchmark of 12.0%, primarily due to higher than expected native load demand. Cleco Power's capacity margin was 12.8% in 2008. Cleco Power expects to meet the SPP's capacity benchmark of 12.0% with the addition of 580 MW from the Acadia plant and 600 MW from Rodemacher Unit 3.

#### Midstream

Summary financial results of the Midstream segment for 2009, 2008, and 2007 are presented below.

| (THOUSANDS)                                    | 2009        | 2008        | 2007      |
|--|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Revenue  |             |             |           |
| Other operations                               | \$ 1        | \$ 1        | \$ 16     |
| Affiliate revenue                              | 8,748       | 7,920       | 5,050     |
| Operating revenue, net                         | \$8,749     | \$7,921     | \$5,066   |
| Depreciation expense                           | \$177       | \$307       | \$306     |
| Interest charges                               | \$7,408     | \$6,978     | \$19,053  |
| Interest income                                | \$-         | \$-         | \$1,047   |
| Equity (loss) income from investees            | \$(19,339 ) | \$(7,037 )  | \$91,581  |
| Federal and state income tax (benefit) expense | \$(11,027 ) | \$(7,182 )  | \$36,585  |
| Segment (loss) profit                          | \$(17,730 ) | \$(10,017 ) | \$59,317  |
| Additions to long-lived assets                 | \$55        | \$64        | \$10      |
| Equity investment in investees                 | \$223,652   | \$234,273   | \$249,758 |
| Total segment assets                           | \$270,713   | \$250,882   | \$265,918 |

As of December 31, 2009, Midstream wholly and directly owned four active limited liability companies that operated mainly in Louisiana.

§ Evangeline, which owns and operates a combined-cycle natural gas-fired power plant.

§ APH, which owned 50% of Acadia, a combined-cycle natural gas-fired power plant.

§ Generation Services, which offers power station operations and maintenance services. Its customers are Evangeline and Acadia.

§ CLE Intrastate, which owns a natural gas interconnection that allows Evangeline to access the natural gas supply market.

The following table sets forth certain information with respect to Midstream's operating generating facilities.

| GENERATING STATION | GENERATING UNIT # | COMMENCEMENT OF COMMERCIAL OPERATION | NAME OF PLATE CAPACITY (MW) | NET CAPACITY (MW) | TYPE OF FUEL USED FOR GENERATION |
|--------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------|----------------------------------|
| Evangeline         | 6                 | 2000                                 | 264                         | 258(1)            | natural gas                      |

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|                |   |      |        |        |             |
|----------------|---|------|--------|--------|-------------|
|                | 7 | 2000 | 511    | 497(1) | natural gas |
| Acadia         | 1 | 2002 | 290(2) | 290(3) | natural gas |
|                | 2 | 2002 | 290(2) | 291(4) | natural gas |
| Total capacity |   |      | 1,355  | 1,336  |             |

(1) Based on capacity testing of generating units performed in June 2009.

(2) Represents APH's 50% ownership interest in the capacity of Acadia.

(3) Based on capacity testing of generating unit performed in August 2009.

(4) Based on capacity testing of generating unit performed in September 2009.

Midstream competes against regional and national companies that own and operate merchant power stations. Evangeline's capacity is currently dedicated to one customer, JPMVEC. On February 22, 2010, Evangeline and JPMVEC terminated the existing Evangeline Tolling Agreement which was set to expire in 2020 and entered into the Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement, effective March 1, 2010. The new tolling agreement is an exclusive, market-based tolling agreement for Evangeline's generating Units 6 and 7, expiring December 31, 2011, with an option for JPMVEC to extend the term of the agreement through December 31, 2012. The tolling agreement gives the tolling counterparty the right to own, dispatch, and market all of the electric generation capacity of the respective facility. Under a tolling agreement, the tolling counterparty is responsible for providing its own natural gas to the facility and pays a fixed fee and a variable fee for operating and maintaining the respective facility. JPMorgan Chase & Co. guaranteed JPMVEC's obligations under the Evangeline Tolling Agreement and also is guaranteeing JPMVEC's obligations under the Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement. For additional information on the Evangeline transactions, see Part II, Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 23 — Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions."

During 2009, Acadia executed definitive agreements with both Cleco Power and Entergy Louisiana whereby Cleco Power and Entergy Louisiana would each purchase one 580-MW unit of the Acadia plant. In January 2010, Acadia began serving Cleco Power under a tolling agreement covering 50% of the Acadia Power Station. In February 2010, the Cleco Power transaction was completed and Cleco Power now owns one unit at Acadia and operates the Acadia Power Station. The transaction with Entergy Louisiana is expected to be completed in late 2010 or early 2011. Beginning in May 2010, Acadia will serve Entergy Louisiana under a tolling agreement covering 50% of the Acadia plant until the sale to Entergy Louisiana is completed. Until May 2010, this portion of Acadia's output is being sold through an energy management services agreement with a third party marketer. For additional information on the above tolling agreements and related transactions, risks and uncertainties, see Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Results of Operations — Midstream —

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Significant Factors Affecting Midstream — Earnings are primarily affected by the following factors.” For additional information on Acadia’s transactions with Cleco Power and Entergy Louisiana, the Calpine bankruptcy, and the suspension of the Calpine Tolling Agreements, see Part II, Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 15— Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Acadia Transactions,” Note 20 — “Calpine Bankruptcy Settlement,” and Note 23 — “Subsequent Events — Ac Transaction.”

CLE Intrastate’s revenue is generated primarily from a monthly reservation fee paid by Evangeline for access to the Columbia Gulf interconnect and from a transportation fee that varies depending on the amount of gas transported through the interconnect for use by Evangeline.

At December 31, 2009, Midstream and its subsidiaries had 64 employees: 62 within Generation Services and 2 at Midstream.

For additional information on Midstream’s operations, see Part II, Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Results of Operations — Midstream.”

#### Customers

No single customer accounted for 10% or more of Cleco’s consolidated revenue or Cleco Power’s revenue in 2009, 2008, or 2007. For additional information regarding Cleco’s sales and revenue, see Part II, Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Results of Operations.”

#### Construction and Financing

For information on Cleco’s construction program, financing and related matters, see Part II, Item 7, “Management’s Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Financial Condition — Cash Generation and Cash Requirements.”

## REGULATORY MATTERS, INDUSTRY DEVELOPMENTS, AND FRANCHISES

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#### Rates

Cleco Power’s electric operations are subject to the jurisdiction of the LPSC with respect to retail rates, standards of service, accounting and other matters. Cleco Power also is subject to the jurisdiction of FERC with respect to rates for wholesale service, accounting, interconnections with other utilities, and the transmission of power and reliability. Periodically, Cleco Power has sought and received from both the LPSC and FERC increases in base rates to cover increases in operating costs and costs associated with additions to generation, transmission, and distribution facilities.

Cleco Power’s electric rates include a fuel and purchased power cost adjustment clause that enables it to adjust rates for monthly fluctuations in the cost of fuel and purchased power. Revenue from certain off-system sales to other utilities and energy marketing companies is passed on to customers through a reduction in fuel cost adjustment billing factors. Recovery of fuel adjustment clause costs is subject to refund until monthly approval is received from the LPSC; however, all amounts are subject to a periodic fuel audit by the LPSC. The LPSC Fuel Adjustment Clause General Order issued November 6, 1997, in Docket No. U-21497 provides that an audit will be performed not less than every other year. Cleco Power currently has fuel adjustment clause filings for 2003 through 2008 subject to audit. In July 2006, the LPSC informed Cleco Power that it was planning to conduct a periodic fuel audit that included fuel adjustment clause filings for the period January 2003 through December 2004. In March 2009, the LPSC indicated its intent to proceed with the audit for the years 2003 through 2008. The total amount of fuel expenses included in the audit is approximately \$3.2 billion. The audit is expected to proceed in the first quarter of 2010. Cleco Power could be required to make a substantial refund of previously recorded revenue as a result of these audits, and such refund could result in a material adverse effect on the Registrants’ results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

In July 2006, Cleco Power's current RSP with the LPSC, which governs its retail regulatory return on equity, was extended with modifications to certain terms until the commercial operation date of Rodemacher Unit 3, which was on February 12, 2010. During 2006, the LPSC approved the recovery of a portion of the carrying costs of capital associated with the construction of Rodemacher Unit 3. Also during 2006, the LPSC approved an interim rate increase to recover storm restoration costs incurred by Cleco Power relating to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In March 2007, after completing a review of the restoration costs, Cleco Power and the LPSC Staff filed a settlement agreement allowing recovery of \$158.0 million, essentially all of Cleco Power's Hurricanes Katrina and Rita storm costs. The agreement also authorized the issuance of securitized bonds to finance the restoration costs. The collection of a special storm recovery charge from Cleco Power's customers will securitize the bonds. The LPSC approved the settlement agreement and issued a securitization financing order in September 2007. In March 2008, the securitization financing was completed, collection of the interim surcharge ceased, and the right to bill and collect unamortized storm damage costs from customers was sold to Cleco Katrina/Rita, a special purpose, wholly owned subsidiary of Cleco Power.

In July 2009, the LPSC issued Docket No. U-29380 Subdocket A, which provides for an Environmental Adjustment Clause to recover certain costs of environmental compliance as an adder to the customers' bills. The costs eligible for recovery are prudently incurred air emissions credits associated with complying with federal, state, and local air emission regulations that apply to the generation of electricity reduced by sale of such allowances. Also eligible for recovery are variable emission mitigation costs, which are the cost of reagents such as ammonia and limestone that are used to reduce air emissions. These variable emission mitigation costs were historically recovered through the Fuel Adjustment Clause.



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For additional information on Cleco Power's retail and wholesale rates, including Cleco Power's RSP, see Item 1A, "Risk Factors — Fuel Cost Audits," "— Retail Electric Service," "— Wholesale Electric Service," and "— Cleco Power's Rates." Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Financial Condition — Regulatory Matters — Retail Rates of Cleco Power," and "— Wholesale Rates of Cleco."

#### Cleco Power's Rate Case

In July 2008, Cleco Power filed a request with the LPSC for a new rate plan to increase its base rates for electricity. Cleco Power sought recovery of revenues sufficient to cover the addition of Rodemacher Unit 3 to its existing expense and rate base levels. Cleco Power and the LPSC Staff filed testimony in support of an uncontested stipulated settlement in September 2009.

In October 2009, the LPSC voted unanimously to approve the retail rate plan for Cleco Power. The retail rate plan became effective upon the commercial operation of Rodemacher Unit 3, which occurred on February 12, 2010. The retail rate plan is expected to increase retail base revenues, in the first twelve months of Rodemacher Unit 3 commercial operations, by approximately \$173.0 million with an anticipated net billing decrease for retail customers of approximately \$40.0 million, or 5.0% (assuming a gas price of \$5/MMBtu), including a reduction of approximately \$97.0 million resulting from the cessation of the collection and the refund of Rodemacher Unit 3 construction financing based on a five-year crediting period. The retail rate plan also provides for the recovery of other costs including costs associated with damage caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike.

The retail rate plan includes a Formula Rate Plan (FRP) that has a target return on equity of 10.7%, including returning to retail customers 60.0% of retail earnings between 11.3% and 12.3% and all retail earnings over 12.3%. The capital structure assumes an equity ratio of 51.0%. The FRP also has a mechanism allowing for recovery of future revenue requirements for the Acadiana Load Pocket transmission project and the acquisition of 50% of the Acadia Power Station, or one of its two 580-MW units. The retail rate plan allows Cleco Power to propose additional capital projects for inclusion in the FRP to the LPSC during the FRP's initial four-year term.

#### Franchises

Cleco Power operates under nonexclusive franchise rights granted by governmental units, such as municipalities and parishes (counties), and enforced by state regulation. These franchises are for fixed terms, which may vary from 10 years to 50 years or more. In the past, Cleco Power has been substantially successful in the timely renewal of franchises as each neared the end of its term. Cleco Power's next municipal franchise expires in 2011.

#### Renewed Franchises

Cleco Power renewed the following franchise agreements during 2009. No franchises were renewed in 2008.

| DATE           | CITY          | TERM     | NUMBER OF CUSTOMERS |
|----------------|---------------|----------|---------------------|
| January 2009   | Coushatta     | 30 years | 1,400               |
| May 2009       | Bunkie        | 27 years | 2,200               |
| May 2009       | Abita Springs | 25 years | 710                 |
| July 2009      | Simmesport    | 28 years | 1,200               |
| September 2009 | Mansfield     | 30 years | 2,700               |

#### Other Franchise Matters

In July 2009, the City of Opelousas notified Cleco Power that it would begin formally requesting proposals from other power companies to supply its electricity needs. The current agreement is set to expire in August 2011. In November 2009, the City of Opelousas received responses from power companies from which it solicited bids declining its request for proposals to provide power to the City. The Mayor formed a citizens committee to determine if the City of Opelousas should operate its power system or continue the operating and franchise agreement with Cleco Power. In December 2009, the City of Opelousas requested an extension under the operating and franchise agreement to perform the review. Cleco Power granted an extension until December 31, 2010. For the twelve-month period ended December 31, 2009, Cleco Power's base revenue from the City of Opelousas was \$8.2 million. Approximately 10,000 customers are located in the City of Opelousas. While the City of Opelousas owns a portion of the power system, Cleco Power has performed upgrades and expansions since May 1991, which was the inception of the operating and franchise agreement. If the operating and franchise agreement is not renewed by the City of Opelousas, the City of Opelousas will be liable to Cleco Power for the cost of the upgrades and expansions of approximately \$9.0 million.

#### Industry Developments

For information on industry developments, see Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Financial Condition — Market Restructuring."

#### Wholesale Electric Competition

For a discussion of wholesale electric competition, see Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Financial Condition — Market Restructuring — Wholesale Electric Markets."

#### Retail Electric Competition

For a discussion of retail electric competition, see Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Financial Condition — Market Restructuring — Retail Electric Markets."

#### Legislative and Regulatory Changes and Matters

Various federal and state legislative and regulatory bodies are considering a number of issues that could shape the future of the electric utility industry. Such issues include, among others:

- § regulation of previously deregulated retail electric markets;
- § the ability of electric utilities to recover stranded costs;

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- § the role of electric utilities, independent power producers and competitive bidding in the purchase, construction and operation of new generating capacity;
  - § the pricing of transmission service on an electric utility's transmission system;
  - § FERC's assessment of market power and utilities' ability to buy generation assets;
    - § mandatory transmission reliability standards;
  - § the authority of FERC to grant utilities the power of eminent domain;
    - § increasing requirements for renewable energy sources;
    - § comprehensive multi-emissions environmental legislation;
      - § regulation of greenhouse gas emissions;
  - § FERC's increased ability to impose financial penalties; and
  - § the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009.

The Registrants are unable, at this time, to predict the outcome of such issues or effects on their financial position, results of operations, or cash flows.

For information on certain regulatory matters and regulatory accounting affecting Cleco, see Part II, Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Financial Condition — Regulatory Matters."

## ENVIRONMENTAL MATTERS

### Environmental Quality

Cleco is subject to federal, state, and local laws and regulations governing the protection of the environment. Violations of these laws and regulations may result in substantial fines and penalties. Cleco has obtained the environmental permits necessary for its operations, and management believes Cleco is in compliance in all material respects with these permits, as well as all applicable environmental laws and regulations. Environmental requirements continue to increase as a result of new legislation, administrative actions, and judicial interpretations. Therefore, the future effects of existing and potential requirements are difficult to determine. Cleco Power may request recovery from its retail customers of its costs to comply with environmental laws and regulations. If revenue relief were to be approved by the LPSC, then Cleco Power's retail rates could increase. If the LPSC were to deny Cleco Power's request to recover all or part of its environmental compliance costs, such a decision could have a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows. Cleco's capital expenditures related to environmental compliance were \$4.9 million during 2009 and are estimated to total \$3.0 million in 2010. The following table lists capital expenditures for environmental matters by subsidiary.

| SUBSIDIARY (THOUSANDS) | PROJECTED   |   |
|------------------------|---|---|
|                        | ENVIRONMENTAL<br>CAPITAL<br>EXPENDITURES<br>FOR<br>2009 | ENVIRONMENTAL<br>CAPITAL<br>EXPENDITURES<br>FOR<br>2010 |
| Cleco Power            | \$ 3,905  | \$ 1,745  |
| Evangeline             | 920   | 1,183   |
| Acadia                 | 107   | (1) 56 (2)  |
| Total                  | \$ 4,932  | \$ 2,984  |

(1) Represents APH's 50% portion of Acadia

(2) Represents APH's remaining portion of Acadia subsequent to Cleco Power's purchase of one 580-MW unit of Acadia

Projected environmental capital expenditures for 2010 are lower than 2009 environmental capital expenditures primarily due to a project that was completed in 2009 related to the EPA's Spill Prevention Containment and Countermeasure rules and the installation of upgrades to the SO<sub>2</sub> system at Cleco Power's Dolet Hills Power Station that is expected to be completed during 2010.

#### Air Quality

The state of Louisiana regulates air emissions from each of Cleco's generating units through the Air Quality regulations of the LDEQ. In addition, the LDEQ has been delegated authority over and implements certain programs established by the EPA. The LDEQ establishes standards of performance and requires permits for certain generating units in Louisiana. All of Cleco's generating units are subject to these requirements.

The federal CAA established a regulatory program, known as the Acid Rain Program, to address the effects of acid rain and imposed restrictions on SO<sub>2</sub> emissions from certain generating units. The federal CAA requires these generating stations to possess a regulatory "allowance" for each ton of SO<sub>2</sub> emitted beginning in the year 2000. The EPA allocates a set number of allowances to each affected unit based on its historic emissions. As of December 31, 2009, Cleco Power and Midstream had sufficient allowances for 2009 operations and expect to have sufficient allowances for 2010 operations under the Acid Rain Program.

The Acid Rain Program also established emission rate limits on NO<sub>x</sub> emissions for electric generating units (EGUs). Cleco Power's low NO<sub>x</sub> burner project was installed in 2006 to achieve compliance with the reduced acid rain permit limits for NO<sub>x</sub> at Dolet Hills. With its low NO<sub>x</sub> burner project completed, Rodemacher Unit 2 is able to achieve compliance with the Acid Rain NO<sub>x</sub> limits by a greater margin. Significant future reductions in NO<sub>x</sub> emissions limits may require additional capital improvements at one or both of the units.

NO<sub>x</sub> emissions from the Evangeline and Acadia generating units are within the units' respective permitted limits, as these units use modern turbine and selective catalytic reduction technology that reduces NO<sub>x</sub> emissions to low levels. On March 10, 2005, the Clean Air Interstate Rule (CAIR) was finalized by the EPA. CAIR covered the District of Columbia and 28 eastern states, including Louisiana, and provides a federal framework requiring states to reduce emissions of SO<sub>2</sub> and NO<sub>x</sub> via a cap-and-trade emission reduction program. CAIR called for NO<sub>x</sub> reductions to begin in the year 2009 and SO<sub>2</sub> reductions in 2010. Louisiana promulgated state regulations to incorporate these federal

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requirements. The federal rule has been heavily litigated by multiple parties in the case known as North Carolina vs. EPA. On July 11, 2008, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit vacated the CAIR rule in its entirety. Then, after rehearing the case, the D.C. Circuit Court on December 23, 2008 reinstated the CAIR rule and directed the EPA to conduct further proceedings consistent with the Court's opinion in the case. The Court determined that, notwithstanding the flaws of CAIR, remanding it to the EPA without vacature was preferable in that it preserved the environmental benefits of the rule. As a result, CAIR went into effect in its entirety on January 1, 2009 and will remain in effect until the EPA re-writes the rule to address the flaws identified by the Court in the initial CAIR rule. The EPA does not have a specified timeframe to complete the new rule, however, Cleco expects the EPA to propose a replacement rule in early 2010 with a final rule completed in early 2011. At this time, Cleco cannot determine what the new rule requirements will entail, to what extent compliance costs would be increased, or what level of capital expenditures would be required to comply with the new rule. Cleco had previously evaluated potential compliance strategies to meet the emission reductions contemplated by the initial CAIR regulations. The installation of new low NOx burners and enhancements to the SO2 scrubber at Dolet Hills were expected to be an integral part of meeting the CAIR NOx and SO2 reduction provisions. Likewise, the installation of the new low NOx burners at Rodemacher Unit 2 in 2008 will help meet CAIR NOx reduction requirements. Cleco will rely on its previous compliance strategy to meet the current CAIR requirements and also may include additional emission controls, purchase of allowances, or fuel changes to enhance its compliance, if warranted.

On March 15, 2005, the EPA issued final rules regarding mercury emissions from electric utility boilers known as the federal Clean Air Mercury Rule (CAMR). CAMR established "standards of performance" limiting mercury emissions from new and existing coal-fired power plants and created a market-based cap-and-trade program. However, on February 8, 2008, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit in *New Jersey v. EPA*, vacated both the EPA's rule delisting coal- and oil-fired EGUs from regulation under Section 112 of the CAA and the entire CAMR rule. Since the Supreme Court denied industry petitions to review the appeals court decision, CAMR is officially vacated. EGUs are subject to regulation under Section 112, which will require the EPA to promulgate maximum achievable control technology (MACT) standards for hazardous air pollutants for coal- and oil-fired EGUs.

The EPA is now moving forward to set MACT standards for these units which will require that: 1) new sources must adopt at minimum "the emission control that is achieved in practice by the best controlled similar source, as determined by the Administrator" and 2) existing sources must adopt emission controls equal to the "average emission limitation achieved by the best performing 12 percent of the existing source." The EPA is requiring certain coal- and oil-fired facilities to perform stack testing to help determine what these emission rates will be for the best performing 12 percent of existing sources. The EPA has entered into a consent decree with various environmental groups which require them to promulgate proposed MACT standards for EGUs by March 2011 and final standards by November 2011. Typically, the EPA allows three years after promulgating a final rule for the regulations to become effective. These new standards will likely contain emission limits not only for mercury but for other hazardous air pollutants.

On January 7, 2009, the EPA issued guidance directing state permitting authorities to make case-by-case MACT determinations, consistent with the requirements of Section 112(g) of the CAA, for coal- and oil-fired EGUs that began actual construction or reconstruction between March 29, 2005 and March 14, 2008. Rodemacher Unit 3 is a unit that began construction between the dates in question, and was permitted as a "minor source" within the context of what constitutes hazardous air pollutants under Section 112(g) rules. Cleco does not believe that case-by-case MACT applies to Rodemacher Unit 3 and on March 18, 2009, Cleco received a letter from the LDEQ concurring with its position. The LDEQ is ultimately responsible for making a determination regarding the applicability of case-by-case MACT to Rodemacher Unit 3. As such, Dolet Hills and Rodemacher Units 2 and 3 should all be treated as existing units under the new MACT rules once they are finalized.

Congress continues to consider various climate related bills that require the reduction of greenhouse gases (GHG) by emission sources in the U.S. On June 26, 2009, the U.S. House of Representatives voted 219-212 to pass the American Clean Energy and Security Act of 2009 (ACES). The bill includes an economy-wide GHG cap-and-trade program that requires a reduction in GHG emissions from major U.S. sources of 17% by 2020 and 83% by 2050

compared to 2005 levels. The bill also imposes a renewable electricity standard for utilities of up to 20% by 2020, and addresses other issues such as energy efficiency, carbon capture and sequestration and performance standards for new coal units permitted after 2009. Under ACES, approximately 80% of emission allowances would be freely allocated during the early years of the cap-and-trade program. Over time, however, a greater percentage of allowances would be auctioned, eventually requiring full auctions after 2030. Members of the Senate are also considering climate change legislation. The Senate Environment and Public Works Committee passed the Kerry-Boxer bill out of committee in November 2009. This bill mirrors the ACES legislation passed by the House but has a stricter GHG reduction target by 2020. Each of the current bills being considered, if enacted, could potentially have a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows. Similar material effects would also potentially be realized by other companies in the electric generating industry that rely heavily on fossil fuels to produce electricity. Moreover, it is unclear when, if ever, climate change legislation that includes a cap on greenhouse gas emissions will be enacted by the federal government, and if enacted, what the specific provisions of the legislation will be and when such provisions will take effect.

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In addition to Congress considering climate change legislation, the EPA has initiated actions toward regulating GHG under the existing CAA. In December 2009, the EPA promulgated its long-awaited endangerment finding. The Agency's finding states that elevated atmospheric concentrations of six GHG, which include carbon dioxide, methane, nitrous oxide, hydrofluorocarbons, perfluorocarbons, and sulfur hexafluoride, are contributing to climate change. Although the endangerment finding technically is being made in the context of GHG emissions from new motor vehicles, the finding will trigger GHG regulation of a variety of mobile and stationary sources under the CAA. The first GHG regulation that the EPA will issue will be its light-duty motor vehicle GHG regulation, which Cleco expects will be issued by March 2010. This regulation is being issued jointly with the Department of Transportation and primarily requires improvements in fuel economy for automobiles and light duty trucks beginning in Model Year 2012. The EPA states that once the motor vehicle GHG regulations become effective, which Cleco expects to be in May or June of 2010, GHG will be considered regulated pollutants under the Prevention of Significant Deterioration (PSD) air quality permit program. As a result, new major stationary sources of GHG emissions, and modifications of existing major stationary sources that significantly increase their GHG emissions will be required to obtain a permit setting forth Best Available Control Technology (BACT) for those emissions. At this time, BACT has not been defined for these major stationary sources. Both the EPA and businesses in general have a high level of concern for how BACT will be determined and that a very large number of sources could be required to obtain PSD permits for their GHG emissions when GHG become regulated pollutants. As a result, to avoid grid-locking the PSD permit system, the Agency has proposed a "tailoring rule" designed to limit applicability of the PSD program to only the largest GHG emitters, at least for an initial five-year period. Under the tailoring rule, major sources to which PSD requirements for GHG would become applicable would be those that emit more than 25,000 tons per year of CO<sub>2</sub> equivalent, and a significant increase of GHG emissions from a modification would be defined at a level between 10,000 and 25,000 tons per year. The tailoring rule would also set a 25,000-ton per year threshold under the Title V operating permit program. The legality of the tailoring rule has been questioned because the CAA explicitly defines the PSD major source threshold as 100 tons per year for sources in 28 industrial categories and 250 tons per year for sources in all other categories, and the Title V threshold at 100 tons per year. Regulations adopted by the EPA could potentially have a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows. For example, Cleco may be required to obtain authorization for greenhouse gas emissions from all new and modified facilities in PSD and Title V permits, or upon renewal of such permits for existing facilities. Such facilities may be required to meet then-current BACT requirements, which could potentially have a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows. However, at this time, due to several factors including the anticipated legal challenges to various EPA greenhouse gas rules, it is unclear when, if ever, such rules would be finalized and if finalized, when relevant rule provisions would become effective. Uncertainty as to whether EPA rules and/or federal legislation regulating greenhouse gases will become effective complicates Cleco's decision-making process for modifying existing facilities or adding new power generating facilities.

The enactment of federal or state renewable portfolio standards (RPS) mandating the use of renewable and alternative fuel sources, such as wind, solar, biomass and geothermal, could result in certain changes in Cleco's business or its competitive position. These changes could include costs for renewable energy credits, alternate compliance payments, or capital expenditures for renewable generation resources. RPS legislation has been enacted in many states and Congress could continue to pursue legislation to create a national RPS. States such as Louisiana that do not have RPS requirements could adopt such requirements in the future or be subject to federal RPS requirements. Cleco continues to evaluate the impacts of potential RPS legislation on its businesses based on the RPS programs in other states. Cleco will continue to monitor developments related to RPS at the federal and state levels.

On March 12, 2008, the EPA set new National Ambient Air Quality Standards (NAAQS) for Ozone; the new primary 8-hour ozone standard is set at 0.075 parts per million (ppm) and the new secondary standard at a form and level identical to the primary standard. The previous primary and secondary standards were each effectively set at 0.084 ppm. The previous standard was set in 1997 and Louisiana had five parishes in the Baton Rouge area that had not yet attained compliance with the standards. In March 2009, the LDEQ made its initial "non-attainment" designations to the

EPA under the 2008 ozone standards. This designation added several parishes in Louisiana designated as “non-attainment” with the 2008 ozone NAAQS standards. Cleco has no generating facilities in any of the newly designated or existing non-attainment parishes. The state was to make the initial designations by June 2009, final designations by 2010 and by 2012-2013, promulgate regulations on how Louisiana would comply. However, on January 7, 2009, the EPA proposed to set the primary standard, which protects public health, at a level between 0.060 and 0.070 ppm measured over eight hours. The EPA is also proposing to set a separate secondary standard to protect the environment, especially plants and trees. The Agency is expected to issue a final decision on revising the standards by August 2010. Since NOx emissions are a precursor to ozone formation, existing fossil fuel-fired units located in or near these newly designated ozone non-attainment areas that do not currently utilize best available control technology could be targeted for installation of additional NOx emission controls.

In February 2005, Cleco Power received notices from the EPA requesting information relating to the Rodemacher and Dolet Hills Power Stations. The apparent purpose of the investigation is to determine whether Cleco Power has complied with New Source Review and New Source Performance



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Standards requirements under the CAA in connection with capital expenditures, modifications, or operational changes made at these facilities. Cleco Power has completed its response to the initial data request. It is unknown at this time whether the EPA will take further action as a result of the information provided by Cleco Power.

On March 19, 2008, Cleco Power received a consolidated compliance order and notice of potential penalty (CO/NOPP) from the LDEQ for alleged violations of the air quality rules at its Dolet Hills and Rodemacher Power Stations. For Dolet Hills, the CO/NOPP alleges that upon a file review conducted on or about February 26, 2008, the LDEQ found that Cleco Power was in violation of conditions in its Title V permit regarding compliance assurance tests to be conducted upon its continuous monitoring systems. Upon review of the LDEQ findings and the Part 75 regulations, Cleco Power contends that the actions taken were allowed under the Part 75 regulations, as well as the Title V permit. In regard to the Rodemacher Power Station alleged violations, the CO/NOPP states that a file review of the Rodemacher facility was conducted on or about September 14, 2007, and that upon the agency's review of the Quarterly Stack Emissions Reports required under 40 CFR Part 60 submitted by Cleco Power, the LDEQ found that Rodemacher Unit 2 exceeded opacity limits at various times during the second, third and fourth quarters of 2007. On December 29, 2009, Cleco and the LDEQ entered into a settlement agreement whereby the parties agreed to settle the enforcement matter for approximately \$23,000 and the matter is now closed.

On September 3, 2009, Dolet Hills Power Station received a notice from EPA Region 6, alleging that the facility may be in violation of the Accident Prevention requirements of Section 112 (r)(7) of the CAA and the Chemical Accident Prevention provisions in 40 CFR Part 68. The EPA claims that the facility may have been required to have a risk management plan (RMP) for the chemical anhydrous ammonia, which is used and stored on site. The EPA alleges that Dolet Hills exceeded the threshold quantity of 10,000 pounds of anhydrous ammonia in a single process, which triggers the requirement to have such a plan in place. The EPA made this claim after a review of their Central Data Exchange, which includes information submitted to the EPA in the Toxic Release Inventory. In the notice, the EPA has offered to settle the matter, which would include the payment of a non-negotiable penalty of \$145,802 and the correction of the alleged deficiencies. Cleco Power contends that Dolet Hills employed administrative controls to limit the quantity of ammonia stored to less than 10,000 pounds which was sufficient to exempt the facility from the RMP program requirements. Cleco Power provided the EPA with documentation supporting its position, the EPA has determined that Cleco is in compliance and the matter is closed.

#### Water Quality

Cleco has received from the EPA and the LDEQ permits required under the federal Clean Water Act for waste water discharges from its five generating stations. Waste water discharge permits have fixed dates of expiration, and Cleco applies for renewal of these permits within the applicable time periods.

The LDEQ issued a Louisiana Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (LPDES) waste water permit renewal for Evangeline Power Station on June 22, 2006. This waste water permit contained certain additional Copper and Total Dissolved Solids (TDS) permit limitations that Cleco contended were beyond the legal authority of the LDEQ to include in the waste water permit. Cleco challenged these permit provisions by filing a de novo review judicial appeal on September 26, 2006, in district court in East Baton Rouge Parish, Louisiana. The appealed Copper and TDS permit limitations were stayed during litigation. The uncontested portions of the Evangeline waste water permit were effective January 1, 2007. During the litigation, Cleco and the LDEQ were actively engaged in settlement discussions regarding the appealed provisions of the waste water permit. In December 2008, Cleco filed an application with the LDEQ modifying its LPDES permit to incorporate new Copper and TDS discharge limitations that were agreed to by both parties. On August 27, 2009, the LDEQ issued a modified water permit with the agreed upon Copper and TDS limits which the facility expects to be able to meet. The effective date of the modified permit is October 1, 2009. The modified permit resolves the issues on appeal, and the matter is now closed.

On May 1, 2009, the Acadia Power Station became subject to certain daily maximum and monthly average discharge limitations for total sulfate under the terms of LPDES Water Discharge Permit No. LA0112836, issued by the LDEQ in April 2006. The facility was unable to achieve compliance with these discharge limitations and received a compliance order from the LDEQ on July 31, 2009 to address the total sulfate violations. In that compliance order,

the LDEQ also noted violations of various daily maximum temperatures and whole effluent toxicity limits. The LDEQ also found that Acadia had previously corrected and resubmitted discharge monitoring reports for four months in 2007, which the LDEQ contends are not timely submittals. The LDEQ included these violations as well as the total sulfate violations in the compliance order. Acadia believes that the total sulfate limits in the LPDES permit were erroneously low and as such applied for a permit modification to increase the total sulfate limitations in the permit. Acadia has now received a modified water discharge permit from the LDEQ which contains increased total sulfate limitations that can be met by the facility. Acadia is operating in compliance with and under the terms of the modified LPDES permit and has requested that the LDEQ close the compliance order. However, the LDEQ does have the ability to seek enforcement action on the violations of the water discharge permit limits experienced prior to the receipt of the water discharge permit modification. For each of the violations described above, the LDEQ has the right to seek civil penalties. At this time, Acadia is unable to determine whether the LDEQ will pursue any civil penalties as part of this enforcement action or what the penalty amounts will be.

In 2004, the EPA promulgated Phase II of Section 316(b) of the Clean Water Act which regulates potential adverse

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environmental impacts to all aquatic species due to water intake structures. These regulations establish requirements applicable to the location, design, construction, and capacity of cooling water intake structures. This section of the rule is applicable to Cleco's Teche and Evangeline Power Stations. The 2004 rule was immediately challenged by a coalition of environmental groups and six states. In 2007, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit ruled that some of the provisions of the rule were unlawful and remanded the rule to the EPA for re-consideration. Most importantly, the Court concluded that the approach used by the EPA to eliminate closed cycle cooling as the best technology available for minimizing adverse environmental impacts for cooling water intake structures was not clear and potentially based on unlawful consideration of the closed cycle cooling costs relative to its benefits. Industry appealed the Second Circuit decision on whether the EPA could consider technology costs relative to its benefits to the U.S. Supreme Court and in April 2009 the U.S. Supreme Court overturned the lower court's ruling and ruled that the EPA does have the discretion to consider costs relative to benefits in developing cooling water intake structure regulations under this rule. The decision gives the EPA the option to retain substantial features of its July 2004 "Phase II" final rule, which set reasonable national performance standards for existing electric generating facilities, while also allowing variances based on cost-benefit considerations. The EPA has indicated that it plans to propose a revised Phase II rule by late 2010 and a final rule some time in 2012. Until the EPA promulgates a replacement Phase II rule, the EPA has indicated that it will ask permit writers to use "Best Professional Judgment" in evaluating permit renewals until a new 316(b) rule is promulgated. At this time, it is uncertain which technology option, if any, will be required to be installed on Cleco's intake structures and the associated costs of those modifications.

#### Solid Waste Disposal

The Solid Waste Division of the LDEQ has adopted a permitting system for the management and disposal of solid waste generated by power stations. Cleco has received all required permits from the LDEQ for the on-site disposal of solid waste from its generating stations. Cleco has renewed the solid waste permits for the existing Rodemacher and Dolet Hills solid waste units and is in the process of upgrading them according to the current Solid Waste Regulations and permit requirements. These upgrades are not expected to result in substantial costs.

A catastrophic event involving coal ash at the Tennessee Valley Authority's coal ash management impoundment in Kingston, Tennessee has prompted closer scrutiny by the EPA of coal ash management facilities at coal-fired power plants across the country. Cleco Power, like most utilities with coal-fired units, received a formal request, to which it has fully responded, for information under Section 104(e) of the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (RCRA) regarding the safety and structural integrity of its coal ash management units. After reviewing the data collected, the EPA has indicated its preference to listing coal combustion by-products, including fly ash, bottom ash, boiler slag, and flue gas desulfurization solids (including synthetic gypsum), as RCRA Subtitle C hazardous wastes. Regulating coal ash as a Subtitle C hazardous waste could have significant impacts on Cleco's coal ash management units at its Rodemacher and Dolet Hills Power Stations. Cleco expects the EPA to propose new coal ash management rules in early 2010. Due to the uncertainty of the content of the proposed rule, Cleco cannot quantify or estimate the cost impacts such a rule might have on its operations. However, any new, stricter requirements imposed on coal ash and associated management units by the EPA as a result of this new rule could significantly increase the cost of operating existing units or require them to be upgraded. These proposed rules could also thwart the beneficial reuse of the material that Cleco currently enjoys. At this time, management is unable to determine whether the costs associated with potential stricter requirements will have a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

#### Hazardous Waste Generation

Cleco produces certain wastes that are classified as hazardous at its five generating stations and at other locations. Cleco does not treat, store long-term, or dispose of these wastes on-site; therefore, no permits are required. All hazardous wastes produced by Cleco are properly disposed of at federally permitted hazardous waste disposal sites.

#### Toxic Substances Control Act (TSCA)

The TSCA directs the EPA to regulate the marketing, disposal, manufacturing, processing, distribution in commerce, and use of PCBs. Cleco may continue to operate equipment containing PCBs under the TSCA. Once the equipment reaches the end of its usefulness, the EPA regulates handling and disposal of the equipment and fluids containing PCBs. Within these regulations, the handling and disposal is allowed only through the EPA approved and permitted facilities. Cleco properly disposes its PCB waste material at TSCA permitted disposal facilities.

#### Toxics Release Inventory (TRI)

The TRI requires an annual report from industrial facilities on about 650 substances that the facilities release into air, water, and land. The TRI ranks companies based on how much of a particular substance they release on a state and parish (county) level. Annual reports are due to the EPA on July 1 following the reporting year-end. Cleco has submitted required TRI reports on its activities, and the TRI rankings are available to the public. The rankings do not result in any federal or state penalties.

#### Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMFs)

The possibility that exposure to EMFs emanating from electric power lines, household appliances, and other electric devices may result in adverse health effects or damage to the environment has been a subject of some public attention. Cleco

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Power funds scientific research on EMFs through various organizations. To date, there are no definitive results, but research is continuing. Lawsuits alleging that the presence of electric power transmission and distribution lines has an adverse effect on health and/or property values have arisen in several states. Cleco Power is not a party in any lawsuits related to EMFs.

#### Other

In October 2007, Cleco received a Special Notice for Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study from the EPA. The special notice requested that Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power, along with many other listed PRPs, enter into negotiations with the EPA for the performance of a Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study at an area known as the Devil's Swamp Lake just northwest of Baton Rouge, Louisiana. The EPA has identified Cleco as one of many companies sending PCB wastes for disposal to the site. The Devil's Swamp Lake site has been proposed to be added to the National Priorities List (NPL) based on the release of PCBs to fisheries and wetlands located on the site. The EPA has yet to make a final determination on whether to add Devil's Swamp Lake to the NPL. The EPA and a number of PRPs met in January 2008 for an organizational meeting to discuss the background of the site. The PRPs began discussing a potential proposal to the EPA in February 2008. Negotiations among the PRPs and the EPA are ongoing in regard to the remedial investigation and feasibility study at the Devil's Swamp site, with little progress having been made since the January 2008 meeting. The PRPs alleged to have disposed PCBs at the site have proposed a tentative cost-sharing formula with the facility owner to fund the remedial investigation. The response to the proposal has been pending for months. Since this investigation is in the preliminary stages, management is unable to determine whether the costs associated with possible remediation of the facility site will have a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

#### ITEM 1A. RISK FACTORS

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The following risk factors could have a material adverse effect on results and cause results to differ materially from those expressed in any forward-looking statements made by, or on behalf of, the Registrants.

##### Global Economic Downturn

The global economic downturn may negatively impact Cleco's business and financial condition.

The current economic downturn may have an impact on Cleco's business and financial condition. Cleco's ability to access the capital markets may be severely restricted at a time when Cleco would like, or need, to do so, which could have a material adverse impact on its ability to fund capital expenditures or debt service, or on Cleco's flexibility to react to changing economic and business conditions. If Cleco Corporation's or Cleco Power's credit ratings were to be downgraded by Moody's or by Standard & Poor's, Cleco Corporation or Cleco Power, as the case may be, would be required to pay additional fees and higher interest rates under its bank credit and other debt agreements. Cleco's pension plan portfolio has experienced significant volatility due to market conditions and may experience material losses in the future. The losses, in conjunction with plan funding requirements, could result in required pension plan contributions significantly higher and earlier than previously anticipated, which could have a material adverse impact on Cleco's results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows. Further, the current economic downturn could have a material adverse impact on Cleco's lenders or its customers, causing them to fail to meet their obligations to Cleco or to delay payment of such obligations. Additionally, the current economic downturn could lead to reduced electricity usage, which could have a material adverse impact on the Registrants' results of operations and financial condition.

##### Future Electricity Sales

Cleco Power's future electricity sales and corresponding base revenue and cash flows could be adversely affected by general economic conditions.

General market conditions can negatively impact the businesses of Cleco Power's industrial customers, resulting in decreased power purchases and lower base revenue. The current U. S. recession has led to reduced power usage by Cleco Power's industrial customers. Industrial kWh sales in 2009 were down 23% from 2008 levels. Lower sales to industrial customers were largely the result of decreased production at one of Cleco Power's large industrial customers and a large customer beginning to cogenerate a portion of its electricity requirements. Cleco Power's largest industrial customers, specifically those who manufacture wood and paper products (who generated \$21.7 million in base revenue in 2009), have experienced a downturn in their respective markets. The paper industry has been vulnerable in recent years due to decreasing demand for the product, and the downturn in residential home construction has also caused a significant reduction in the demand and prices for lumber and other wood products. Reduced production or the shut down of any of these customers' facilities could substantially reduce Cleco Power's base revenue. For example, in 2009 a paper manufacturer announced the closing of a plant in Cleco Power's service territory, which is expected to decrease 2010 base revenue by \$2.3 million from 2009 levels.

Future electricity sales could be impacted by industrial customers switching to alternative sources of energy, including on-site power generation, and retail customers consuming

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less electricity due to increased conservation efforts or increased electric usage efficiency.

#### Fuel Cost Audits

The LPSC conducts fuel audits that could result in Cleco Power making substantial refunds of previously recorded revenue.

Generally, fuel and purchased power expenses are recovered through the LPSC-established fuel adjustment clause, which enables Cleco Power to pass on to its customers substantially all such charges. Recovery of fuel adjustment clause costs is subject to a periodic fuel audit by the LPSC. The LPSC Fuel Adjustment Clause General Order issued November 6, 1997, in Docket No. U-21497 provides that an audit will be performed not less than every other year. Cleco Power currently has fuel adjustment clause filings for 2003 through 2008 subject to audit. In July 2006, the LPSC informed Cleco Power that it was planning to conduct a periodic fuel audit that included fuel adjustment clause filings for January 2003 through December 2004. In March 2009, the LPSC indicated its intent to proceed with the audit for the years 2003 through 2008. The total amount of fuel expenses included in the audit is approximately \$3.2 billion. The audit is expected to proceed in the first quarter of 2010. Cleco Power could be required to make a substantial refund of previously recorded revenue as a result of these audits, and such refund could result in a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows. The most recent audit completed by the LPSC covered 2001 and 2002 and resulted in a refund of \$16.0 million to Cleco Power's retail customers in the first quarter of 2005.

#### Hedging and Risk Management Activities

Cleco Power is subject to market risk associated with economic hedges relating to open natural gas contracts. Cleco has risk management policies which cannot eliminate all risk involved in its energy commodity activities.

Cleco Power utilizes economic hedges to mitigate the risks associated with a fixed-price wholesale power contract that is not included in the fuel adjustment clause. Any realized gain or loss attributable to these hedges is recorded on the income statement as a component of operating revenue, net. Accordingly, changes in the market value of these hedging arrangements caused by natural gas price volatility will impact the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

Cleco Power also has entered into economic hedge positions to mitigate the volatility in fuel costs passed through to its retail customers. When these positions close, actual gains or losses are deferred and included in the fuel adjustment clause in the month the physical contract settles. However, recovery of any of these fuel adjustment clause costs is subject to, and may be disallowed as part of, a prudence review or a periodic fuel audit conducted by the LPSC. Cleco Power manages its exposure to energy commodity activities by establishing and enforcing risk limits and risk management procedures. These risk limits and risk management procedures may not be as effective as planned, particularly if intentional misconduct is involved, and cannot eliminate all risk associated with these activities.

#### Transmission Constraints

Transmission constraints could have a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

Because of Cleco Power's location on the transmission grid, Cleco Power relies on two main suppliers of electric transmission when accessing external power markets. At times, physical constraints limit the amount of purchased power these transmission providers can deliver into Cleco Power's service territory, which in turn can affect capacity or power purchases under long-term contracts, as well as spot market power purchases. If the amount of purchased power actually delivered into Cleco's transmission system were less than the amount of power contracted for delivery, Cleco Power may rely on its own generation facilities to meet customer demand. Cleco Power's incremental generation cost at that time could be higher than the cost to purchase power from the wholesale power market, thereby

increasing its customers' ultimate cost. In addition, the LPSC may not allow Cleco Power to recover part or all of its incremental generation cost, which could be substantial.

#### Commodity Prices

Cleco Power is subject to the fluctuation in the market prices of various commodities which may increase the cost of producing power.

Cleco Power purchases coal, lignite, natural gas, petroleum coke, and fuel oil under long-term contracts and on the spot market. Historically, the markets for oil, natural gas, petroleum coke, and coal have been volatile and are likely to remain volatile in the future. Cleco Power's retail rates include a fuel adjustment clause that enables it to adjust rates for monthly fluctuations in the cost of fuel and purchased power. However, recovery of any of these fuel adjustment clause costs is subject to, and may be disallowed as part of, a prudency review or a periodic fuel audit conducted by the LPSC.

#### Cleco Power Generation Facilities

Cleco Power's generation facilities are susceptible to unplanned outages, significant maintenance requirements, and interruption of fuel deliveries.

The operation of power generation facilities involves many risks, including breakdown or failure of equipment, fuel supply interruption, and performance below expected levels of output or efficiency. Some of Cleco Power's facilities were originally constructed many years ago. Older equipment, even if maintained in accordance with good engineering practices, may require significant expenditures to operate at peak efficiency or availability, or in compliance with its environmental permits.



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If Cleco Power fails to make adequate expenditures for equipment maintenance, Cleco Power risks incurring more frequent unplanned outages, higher than anticipated operating and maintenance expenditures, increased fuel or power purchase costs, and potentially the loss of revenue related to competitive opportunities. Newer equipment, such as that installed at Rodemacher Unit 3, can be subject to startup issues, such as failures due to immaturity of control equipment safeguards and experience with operating under forced outage conditions. Equipment manufacturer warranty coverage will be subject to proof of Cleco Power's proper operation of the equipment.

Cleco Power's generating facilities are fueled primarily by coal, natural gas, petroleum coke, and lignite. The deliverability of these fuel sources may be constrained due to such factors as higher demand, production shortages, weather-related disturbances or lack of transportation capacity. If the suppliers are unable to deliver the contracted volume of fuel, Cleco Power would have to replace any deficiency with alternative sources, which may not be as favorable and could increase the ultimate cost of fuel to customers. Fuel and purchased power expenses are recovered from customers through the fuel adjustment clause, which is subject to refund until either a prudence review or a periodic fuel audit is conducted by the LPSC.

Competition for access to other natural resources, particularly oil and natural gas, could negatively impact Cleco Power's ability to access its lignite reserves. Land owners may grant other parties access for oil and natural gas drilling in the same area to which Cleco has been granted access for lignite reserves. Placement of drilling rigs and pipelines for developing oil and gas reserves can preclude access to lignite in the same areas, making right of first access critical with respect to extracting lignite. Competition for the right of first access may need to be determined through legal processes. Additionally, Cleco Power could be liable for the impacts of other companies' activities on lands that have been mined and reclaimed by Cleco Power. Loss of access to the lignite reserves or the liability for impacts on reclaimed lands could have material adverse effects to the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

## ERO

In 2005, FERC's authority was expanded to include the establishment and enforcement of mandatory reliability standards on the transmission system, as well as the capacity to impose fines and civil penalties on those who fail to comply with those standards.

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 authorized the creation of an ERO with authority to establish and enforce mandatory reliability standards, subject to FERC approval, for users of the nation's transmission system. In July 2006, FERC named NERC as the ERO. FERC has approved numerous reliability standards developed by NERC. A final order was issued by FERC in March 2007, and in June 2007, FERC began enforcing compliance with these standards. New standards are being developed and existing standards are continuously being modified.

As these standards continue to be adopted and modified, they may impose additional compliance requirements on Cleco Power, Acadia, and Evangeline operations, which may result in an increase in capital expenditures and operating expenses. Failure to comply with the reliability standards approved by FERC can result in the imposition of material fines and civil penalties. Cleco is scheduled for an audit by SPP, the RTO for Cleco's region, in April 2010. Management is currently unable to predict the outcome of the audit and whether the result will have a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

## Environmental Compliance

Cleco's costs of compliance with environmental laws and regulations are significant. The costs of compliance with new environmental laws and regulations, as well as the incurrence of incremental environmental liabilities, could be significant to the Registrants.

Cleco is subject to extensive environmental oversight by federal, state, and local authorities and is required to comply with numerous environmental laws and regulations related to air quality, water quality, waste management, natural

resources, and health and safety. Cleco also is required to obtain and comply with numerous governmental permits in operating its facilities. Existing environmental laws, regulations, and permits could be revised or reinterpreted, and new laws and regulations could be adopted or become applicable to Cleco. For example, Congress is considering climate change legislation that, if ultimately enacted, could impose a cap on CO<sub>2</sub> emissions by electric generating units and subject these units to an emissions allowance-based trading system. Cleco may incur significant capital expenditures or additional operating costs to comply with these revisions, reinterpretations, and new requirements. If Cleco fails to comply with these revisions, reinterpretations, and requirements, it could be subject to civil or criminal liabilities and fines or may be forced to shut down or reduce productions from its facilities.

Environmental advocacy groups, states, other organizations, some government agencies, and the presidential administration are focusing considerable attention on emissions from power generation facilities, including CO<sub>2</sub> emissions, and their potential role in climate change. Future changes in environmental regulations governing power plant emissions could make some of Cleco's electric generating units uneconomical to maintain or operate. In addition, any legal obligation that would require Cleco to substantially reduce its emissions beyond present levels could require extensive mitigation efforts and could raise uncertainty about the future viability of some fossil fuels as an energy source for new and existing electric generation facilities.

Cleco Power may request recovery from its retail customers of its costs to comply with new environmental laws and regulations. If revenue relief were to be approved by the

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LPSC, then Cleco Power's retail rates could increase. If the LPSC were to deny Cleco Power's request to recover all or part of its environmental compliance costs, there could be a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

#### Regulatory Compliance

Cleco operates in a highly regulated environment and adverse regulatory decisions or changes in applicable regulations could have a material adverse effect on the Registrants' businesses or result in significant additional costs. Cleco's business is subject to extensive federal, state, and local energy, environmental and other laws and regulations. The LPSC regulates Cleco's retail operations, and FERC regulates Cleco's wholesale operations. The construction, planning, and siting of Cleco's power plants and transmission lines also are subject to the jurisdiction of the LPSC and FERC. Additional regulatory authorities have jurisdiction over some of Cleco's operations and construction projects including the EPA, the United States Bureau of Land Management, the United States Fish and Wildlife Services, the United States Department of Energy, the United States Army Corps of Engineers, the United States Department of Homeland Security, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration, the United States Department of Transportation, the LDEQ, the Louisiana Department of Health and Hospitals, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources, the Louisiana Department of Public Safety, regional water quality boards, and various local regulatory districts.

Cleco must periodically apply for licenses and permits from these various regulatory authorities and abide by their respective orders. Should Cleco be unsuccessful in obtaining necessary licenses or permits or should these regulatory authorities initiate any investigations or enforcement actions or impose penalties or disallowances on Cleco, Cleco's business could be adversely affected. Existing regulations may be revised or reinterpreted and new laws and regulations may be adopted or become applicable to Cleco or Cleco's facilities in a manner that may have a detrimental effect on the Registrants' business or result in significant additional costs because of Cleco's need to comply with those requirements.

#### Weather Sensitivity

The operating results of Cleco Power are affected by weather conditions and may fluctuate on a seasonal and quarterly basis.

Weather conditions directly influence the demand for electricity, particularly kWh sales to residential customers. In Cleco Power's service territory, demand for power typically peaks during the hot summer months. As a result, Cleco Power's financial results may fluctuate on a seasonal basis. In addition, Cleco Power has sold less power, and consequently earned less income, when weather conditions were milder. Unusually mild weather in the future could have a material adverse impact on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

Severe weather, including hurricanes and winter storms, can be destructive, causing outages and property damage that can potentially result in additional expenses and lower revenue.

#### Retail Electric Service

Cleco Power's retail electric rates and business practices are regulated by the LPSC.

Cleco Power's retail rates for residential, commercial, and industrial customers and other retail sales are regulated by the LPSC, which conducts an annual review of Cleco Power's earnings and regulatory return on equity. Through 2009, Cleco Power filed annual monitoring reports with the LPSC for 12-month periods ended September 30. In 2010, the reports will be filed for 12-month periods ended June 30 and September 30. Beginning in 2011, Cleco Power will file annual monitoring reports for the 12-month period ended June 30. Cleco Power could be required to make a substantial refund of previously recorded revenue as a result of the LPSC review, and such refund could result

in a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

#### Wholesale Electric Service

Cleco Power's wholesale electric rates and business practices are regulated by FERC.

Cleco Power's wholesale rates are regulated by FERC, which conducts a review of Cleco Power's generation market power every three years, in addition to each time generation capacity changes. If FERC determines Cleco Power possesses generation market power in excess of certain thresholds, Cleco Power could lose the right to sell wholesale generation at market-based rates within its control area, which could result in a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

#### Cleco Credit Ratings

A downgrade in Cleco Corporation's or Cleco Power's credit rating could result in an increase in their respective borrowing costs and a reduced pool of potential investors and funding sources.

While the senior unsecured debt ratings of Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power are currently investment grade, in recent years such ratings have been downgraded or put on negative watch by Moody's and Standard & Poor's. Cleco Corporation or Cleco Power cannot assure that its current debt ratings will remain in effect for any given period of time or that one or more of its debt ratings will not be lowered or withdrawn entirely by a rating agency. Credit ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell, or hold securities and each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating. If Moody's or Standard & Poor's were to downgrade Cleco Corporation's or Cleco Power's long-term ratings, particularly below investment grade, the value of their debt securities would likely be adversely affected, and the borrowing cost of Cleco Corporation

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or Cleco Power would likely increase. In addition, Cleco Corporation or Cleco Power would likely be required to pay higher interest rates in future debt financings and be subject to more onerous debt covenants, and its pool of potential investors and funding sources could decrease.

#### Interest Rate Swap

Cleco Power has entered into an interest rate swap relating to its variable rate debt. The effectiveness of this contract is dependent on the ability of the counterparty to perform its obligations and nonperformance could harm Cleco Power's results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

Cleco Power utilizes interest rate swaps to offset the effects of interest rate fluctuations on its variable rate debt. The effectiveness of these contracts is dependent, in part, upon the counterparties to these contracts honoring their financial obligations. If the counterparties to the interest rate swaps are unable to perform their obligations, Cleco Power would be exposed to the effect of the fluctuations of the LIBOR market on its variable rate debt and may have to pay increased interest expenses, which could have a material adverse impact on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

#### Holding Company

Cleco Corporation is a holding company, and its ability to meet its debt obligations and pay dividends on its common stock is dependent on the cash generated by its subsidiaries.

Cleco Corporation is a holding company and conducts its operations primarily through its subsidiaries. Substantially all of Cleco's consolidated assets are held by its subsidiaries. Accordingly, Cleco's ability to meet its debt obligations and to pay dividends on its common stock is largely dependent upon the cash generated by these subsidiaries. Cleco's subsidiaries are separate and distinct entities and have no obligation to pay any amounts due on Cleco's debt or to make any funds available for such payment. In addition, Cleco's subsidiaries' ability to make dividend payments or other distributions to Cleco may be restricted by their obligations to holders of their outstanding securities and to other general business creditors. Moreover, Cleco Power, Cleco's principal subsidiary, is subject to regulation by the LPSC, which may impose limits on the amount of dividends that Cleco Power may pay Cleco Corporation.

#### Evangeline and Acadia Generation Facilities

The Evangeline and Acadia generation facilities are susceptible to unplanned outages, significant maintenance requirements, interruption of fuel deliveries, and transmission constraints.

The operation of power generation facilities involves many risks, including breakdown or failure of equipment, fuel interruption, and performance below expected levels of output or efficiency. If adequate expenditures for equipment maintenance are not made, a facility may incur more frequent unplanned outages, higher than anticipated operating and maintenance expenditures, increased fuel costs, and potentially the loss of revenue related to competitive opportunities.

The Evangeline and Acadia generating facilities are fueled by natural gas. The deliverability of this fuel source may be constrained due to such factors as higher demand, production shortages, weather-related disturbances, or lack of transportation capacity.

Because of Acadia's location on the transmission grid, Acadia relies on two main suppliers of electric transmission when accessing external power markets. However, at times, physical constraints limit the amount of power these transmission providers can deliver.

#### Cleco Power's Rates

The LPSC and FERC regulate the rates that Cleco Power can charge its customers.

Cleco Power's ongoing financial viability depends on its ability to recover its costs from its LPSC-jurisdictional customers in a timely manner through its LPSC-approved rates and its ability to pass through to its FERC customers in rates its FERC-authorized revenue requirements. Cleco Power's financial viability also depends on its ability to recover in rates an adequate return on capital, including long-term debt and equity. If Cleco Power is unable to recover any material amount of its costs in rates in a timely manner or recover an adequate return on capital, the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows could be materially adversely affected.

Cleco Power's revenues and earnings are substantially affected by regulatory proceedings known as rate cases. During those cases, the LPSC determines Cleco Power's rate base, depreciation rates, operation and maintenance costs, and administrative and general costs that Cleco Power may recover from its retail customers through its rates. These proceedings may examine, among other things, the prudence of Cleco Power's operation and maintenance practices, level of subject expenditures, allowed rates of return, and previously incurred capital expenditures. The LPSC has the authority to disallow costs found not to have been prudently incurred. These regulatory proceedings typically involve multiple parties, including governmental bodies and officials, consumer advocacy groups, and various consumers of energy, who have differing concerns but who have the common objective of limiting rate increases or reducing rates. Rate cases generally have long timelines, which may be limited by statute. Decisions are typically subject to appeal, potentially leading to additional uncertainty.

#### Alternate Generation Technology

Changes in technology may negatively impact the value of the Cleco Power, Evangeline, and Acadia generation facilities.

A basic premise of Cleco's business is that generating electricity at central power plants achieves economies of scale and produces electricity at a relatively low price. There are

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alternate technologies to produce electricity, most notably fuel cells, microturbines, windmills, and photovoltaic (solar) cells. Research and development activities are ongoing to seek improvements in alternate technologies. It is possible that advances will reduce the cost of alternate methods of electricity production to a level that is equal to or below that of most central station production. Also, as new technologies are developed and become available, the quantity and pattern of electricity usage by customers could decline, with a corresponding decline in revenues derived by generators. In addition, the current presidential administration and U.S. Congress have voiced strong support for such alternative energy sources. The American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 specifically provides a total of \$58.0 billion to be available for energy-related initiatives, primarily \$20.0 billion in renewable energy tax credits to encourage development of wind, solar, and other renewable energy sources, and \$32.0 billion for development of a “smart grid” in the U.S. It is uncertain at this time to what extent these initiatives may impact Cleco’s businesses, except that little impact is expected in the short term. As a result of these factors, the value of the Cleco Power, Evangeline, and Acadia generation facilities could be significantly reduced.

#### Technology and Terrorism Threats

Man-made problems such as computer viruses or terrorism may negatively impact the Registrants’ operating results. Man-made problems such as computer viruses or terrorism may disrupt the Registrants’ operations and harm the Registrants’ operating results. The Registrants operate in a highly regulated industry that requires the continued operation of sophisticated information technology systems and network infrastructure. Despite the implementation of security measures, all of the Registrants’ technology systems are vulnerable to disability or failures due to hacking, viruses, acts of war or terrorism, and other causes. If the Registrants’ technology systems were to fail and the Registrants were unable to recover in a timely way, the Registrants would be unable to fulfill critical business functions, which could have a material adverse effect on the Registrants’ business, operating results, financial condition, and cash flows. In addition, the Cleco Power, Evangeline, and Acadia generation plants, fuel storage facilities, transmission, and distribution facilities may be targets of terrorist activities that could disrupt the Registrants’ ability to produce or distribute some portion of their energy products. Any such disruption could result in a material decrease in revenues and significant additional costs to repair and insure the Registrants’ assets, which could have a material adverse effect on the Registrants’ business, operating results, financial condition, and cash flows. The continued threat of terrorism and heightened security and military action in response to this threat, or any future acts of terrorism, may cause further disruptions to the economies of the United States and other countries and create further uncertainties or otherwise materially harm the Registrants’ business, operating results, financial condition, and cash flows.

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ITEM 1B. UNRESOLVED STAFF COMMENTS

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None.

ITEM 2. PROPERTIES

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CLECO

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Electric Transmission Substations

As of December 31, 2009, Cleco Corporation owned one active transmission substation in Louisiana and one active transmission substation in Mississippi.

CLECO POWER

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All of Cleco Power's electric generating stations and all other electric operating properties are located in the state of Louisiana. Cleco Power considers all of its properties to be well maintained, in good operating condition, and suitable for their intended purposes. For information on Cleco Power's generating facilities, see Item 1, "Business — Operations — Cleco Power — Power Generation."

Electric Generating Stations

As of December 31, 2009, Cleco Power either owned or had an ownership interest in three steam electric generating stations and one gas turbine with a combined name plate capacity of 1,359 MW, and a combined electric net generating capacity of 1,318 MW. The net generating capacity is the result of capacity testing performed between June and September 2007, as required by NERC. This amount reflects the maximum production capacity these units can sustain over a specified period of time. Rodemacher Unit 3, a 600-MW solid-fuel power plant, commenced commercial operations on February 12, 2010. During 2009, Acadia executed definitive agreements with Cleco Power to acquire 50% of the Acadia Power Station, or one of its two 580-MW units. The transaction with Cleco Power was completed in February 2010. For additional information on Cleco Power's generating facilities, see Item 1, "Business — Operations — Cleco Power — Power Generation" and Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 15 — Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Acadia Transactions" and Note 23 — "Subsequent Events — Acadia Transaction."

Electric Substations

As of December 31, 2009, Cleco Power owned 70 active transmission substations and 224 active distribution substations.

Electric Lines

As of December 31, 2009, Cleco Power's transmission system consisted of approximately 67 circuit miles of 500-kiloVolt (kV) lines; 460 circuit miles of 230-kV lines; 676 circuit miles of 138 kV lines; and 21 circuit miles of 69-kV lines. Cleco Power's distribution system consisted of approximately 3,464 circuit miles of 34.5-kV lines and 8,107 circuit miles of other lines.

General Properties

Cleco Power owns various properties throughout Louisiana, which include a headquarters office building, regional offices, service centers, telecommunications equipment, and other general-purpose facilities.



Title

Cleco Power's electric generating plants and certain other principal properties are owned in fee. Electric transmission and distribution lines are located either on private rights-of-way or along streets or highways by public consent. Substantially all of Cleco Power's property, plant and equipment are subject to a lien of Cleco Power's Indenture of Mortgage, which does not impair the use of such properties in the operation of its business. As of December 31, 2009, no obligations were outstanding under the Indenture of Mortgage.

MIDSTREAM

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Midstream considers all of its properties to be well maintained, in good operating condition, and suitable for their intended purposes. For information on Midstream's generating facilities, see Item 1, "Business — Operations — Midstream."

Electric Generation

As of December 31, 2009, Midstream owned one electric generating station, Evangeline, and had a 50% ownership interest in an additional station, Acadia, both located in Louisiana. During 2009, Acadia executed definitive agreements with both Cleco Power and Entergy Louisiana whereby Cleco Power and Entergy Louisiana would each acquire a 580-MW unit at the Acadia plant. The transaction with Cleco Power was completed in February 2010 and the transaction with Entergy Louisiana is expected to be completed in late 2010 or early 2011. For additional information on Midstream's generating facilities, see Item 1, "Business — Operations — Midstream" and Part II, Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 23 — Subsequent Events — Acadia Transaction."

Title

Midstream's assets are owned in fee, including Midstream's portion of Acadia. Evangeline was subject to a lien securing obligations under an Indenture of Mortgage, which did not impair the use of such properties in the operation of its business. On February 22, 2010, Evangeline and JPMVEC terminated the Evangeline Tolling Agreement and executed the Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement. For additional information, see Part II, Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 23 — Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions."

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ITEM 3. LEGAL PROCEEDINGS

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CLECO

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For information on legal proceedings affecting Cleco, see Part I, Item I, “Business — Environmental Matters — Environmental Quality — Air Quality” and “— Water Quality” and Part II, Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 15 — Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Litigation.”

CLECO POWER

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For information on legal proceedings affecting Cleco Power, see Part II, Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 15 — Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Litigation.”

ITEM 4. SUBMISSION OF MATTERS TO A VOTE OF SECURITY HOLDERS

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CLECO

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There were no matters submitted to a vote of security holders of Cleco Corporation during the fourth quarter of 2009.

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The information called for by Item 4 with respect to Cleco Power is omitted pursuant to General Instruction I(2)(c) to Form 10-K (Omission of Information by Certain Wholly Owned Subsidiaries).

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## Board of Directors of Cleco

The names of the members of the Board of Directors of Cleco, their ages, dates of election, employment history and committee assignments as of December 31, 2009, are included below. The term of each directorship is three years, and directors are divided among three classes. The terms of the three classes are staggered in a manner so that only one class is elected by the shareholders annually.

| NAME OF DIRECTOR       | AGES AS OF DECEMBER 31, 2009   |
|------------------------|--|
| Sherian G. Cadoria     | Age 69; Elected 1993<br>Brigadier General, U.S. Army (retired)<br>Retired President, Cadoria Speaker and Consultancy Service, Mansura, LA<br>Member of the Audit, Nominating/Governance and Qualified Legal Compliance committees  |
| Richard B. Crowell     | Age 71; Elected 1997<br>Partner, law firm of Crowell & Owens, Alexandria, LA<br>Member of the Audit, Nominating/Governance and Qualified Legal Compliance committees   |
| J. Patrick Garrett     | Age 66; Elected 1981<br>Retired President and Chief Executive Officer, Windsor Food Company, Ltd., Houston, TX<br>Chairman of the Board and chairman of the Executive, Nominating/Governance and Qualified Legal Compliance committees   |
| Elton R. King          | Age 63; Elected 1999<br>Retired President of network and carrier services group, BellSouth Telecommunications, Inc., Atlanta, GA. Also retired president and Chief Executive Officer of Visual Networks, Inc.<br>Member of the Finance and Nominating/Governance committees  |
| Logan W. Kruger        | Age 59; Elected 2008<br>President, Chief Executive Officer and Director of Century Aluminum Company, Monterey, CA since December 2005. Executive Vice President of Technical Services, Inco Limited from September 2003 to September 2005; President, Inco Asia Pacific from September 2005 to November 2005.<br>Member of the Audit and Compensation committees |
| Michael H. Madison     | Age 61; Elected 2005<br>President and Chief Executive Officer, Cleco Corporation, Pineville, LA<br>Member of the Executive Committee   |
| William L. Marks       | Age 66; Elected 2001<br>Retired Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Whitney Holding Corporation and Whitney National Bank, New Orleans, LA<br>Chairman of the Finance Committee and member of the Compensation and Executive committees  |
| Robert T. Ratcliff Sr. | Age 67; Elected 1993<br>Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer, Ratcliff Construction Company, LLC, Alexandria, LA<br>Member of the Audit and Finance committees  |

Peter M. Scott III Age 60; Elected 2009  
Retired Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Progress Energy, Inc., Raleigh, NC. Also retired President and Chief Executive Officer of Progress Energy Service Company, LLC  
Member of the Audit and Compensation committees

William H. Walker Jr. Age 64; Elected 1996  
Retired Chairman, Howard Weil, Inc., New Orleans, LA  
Chairman of the Compensation Committee and member of the Executive and Finance committees

W. Larry Westbrook Age 70; Elected 2003  
Retired Chief Financial Officer and Senior Risk Officer of Southern Company, Atlanta, GA  
Chairman of the Audit Committee and member of the Compensation, Executive and Finance committees

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## Executive Officers of Cleco

The names of the executive officers of Cleco and certain subsidiaries, their positions held, five-year employment history, ages, and years of service as of December 31, 2009, are presented below. Executive officers are appointed annually to serve for the ensuing year or until their successors have been appointed.

| NAME OF EXECUTIVE  | POSITION AND FIVE-YEAR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY   |
|--|---|
| Michael H. Madison<br>Cleco Corporation<br>Cleco Power             | President and Chief Executive Officer since May 2005.<br>Chief Executive Officer since May 2005; President and Chief Operating Officer from October 2003 to May 2005.<br>(Age 61; 6 years of service)   |
| Dilek Samil<br>Cleco Corporation<br>Cleco Power                    | Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from April 2004 to May 2005.<br>President and Chief Operating Officer since May 2005; Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from April 2004 to May 2005.<br>(Age 54; 8 years of service)  |
| Darren J. Olagues<br>Cleco Corporation<br>Cleco Power<br>Midstream | Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since May 2009.<br>Senior Vice President from July 2007 to May 2009; Vice President, Power - Asset Management and Development, Exelon Corporation from November 2006 to July 2007; Director - Corporate Development, Exelon Corporation from March 2005 to November 2006; Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, Sithe Energies from October 2002 to February 2005.<br>(Age 39; 2 years of service) |
| George W. Bausewine<br>Cleco Corporation<br>Cleco Power            | Senior Vice President Corporate Services since May 2005; Vice President Regulatory and Rates from October 2002 to May 2005.<br>(Age 54; 24 years of service)  |
| Jeffrey W. Hall<br>Cleco Corporation<br>Cleco Power                | Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer since July 2006; Vice President Governmental and Community Affairs from July 2005 to July 2006.<br>Senior Vice President Governmental Affairs and Chief Diversity Officer since July 2006; Vice President Governmental and Community Affairs from October 2004 to July 2006.<br>(Age 58; 29 years of service)  |
| Wade A. Hoefling   | Senior Vice President, General Counsel & Director - Regulatory Compliance since April 2008; Senior Vice President, General  |

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Cleco Corporation  
Cleco Power  
Counsel, Director - Regulatory Compliance and Assistant Corporate Secretary from January 2007 to April 2008; General Counsel, Northeast Utilities Enterprises, Inc. from July 2004 to January 2007.  
(Age 54; 3 years of service)

Anthony L. Bunting  
Cleco Power  
Vice President Customer Services and Energy Delivery since October 2004.  
(Age 50; 18 years of service)

Stephen M. Carter  
Cleco Power  
Vice President Regulated Generation since April 2003.  
(Age 50; 21 years of service)

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NAME OF  
EXECUTIVE POSITION AND FIVE-YEAR EMPLOYMENT HISTORY

Keith D. Crump  
Cleco Corporation Treasurer from May 2005 to March 2007; Manager Forecasting and Analytics, Budgeting from December 2004 to May 2005.

Cleco Power Vice President - Regulatory, Retail Operations and Resource Planning since March 2007.  
(Age 48; 20 years of service)

R. Russell Davis

Cleco Corporation Vice President - Investor Relations and Chief Accounting Officer since May 2009; Vice President, Chief Accounting Officer & Interim CFO from June 2008 to May 2009; Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer from May 2005 to June 2008; Vice President and Controller from July 2000 to May 2005.  
Cleco Power  
(Age 53; 10 years of service)

William G.

Fontenot Cleco Power Vice President Regulated Generation Development since July 2005.

Chief Restructuring Officer of Perryville from April 2004 to July 2005.  
Midstream  
(Age 46; 24 years of service)

Charles A.

Mannix Cleco Corporation Vice President - Tax & Treasurer since March 2008; Manager of Income Taxes, Treasurer of Energy Risk Assurance Co., Ameren Corporation from October 2004 to March 2008.  
Cleco Power  
(Age 51; 2 years of service)

Judy P. Miller

Cleco Corporation Corporate Secretary since January 2004.  
Cleco Power  
(Age 52; 25 years of service)

Terry L. Taylor

Cleco Corporation Assistant Controller since August 2006; Director of Accounting Services and Affiliate Compliance from January 2004 to August 2006.  
Cleco Power  
(Age 54; 9 years of service)

W. Keith

Johnson, Jr. Midstream Acting Vice President since May 2009; General Manager - Midstream Commercial Operations from October 2007 to May 2009; Director -Business Development from October 2002 to October 2007.  
(Age 48; 15 years of service)

In January 2004, Perryville entered into an agreement to sell its 718-MW power plant to Entergy Louisiana. As part of the sales process, Perryville and PEH filed voluntary petitions in the Perryville and PEH Bankruptcy Court for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. Ms. Samil and Mr. Fontenot were managers of Perryville and/or PEH within the two years preceding the voluntary bankruptcy filing.



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CLECO POWER

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## PART II

ITEM 5. MARKET FOR REGISTRANTS' COMMON EQUITY, RELATED STOCKHOLDER MATTERS AND  
CLECO CORPORATION'S PURCHASES OF EQUITY SECURITIES

## CLECO CORPORATION

Cleco Corporation's common stock is listed for trading on the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE). For information on the high and low sales prices for Cleco Corporation's common stock as reported on the NYSE Composite Tape and dividends paid per share during each calendar quarter of 2009 and 2008, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 22 — Miscellaneous Financial Information (Unaudited)." During the year ended December 31, 2009, none of Cleco Corporation's equity securities registered pursuant to Section 12 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 were purchased by or on behalf of Cleco Corporation or any of its "affiliated purchasers," as defined in Rule 10b-18(a)(3) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934. For information on Cleco Corporation's common stock repurchase program, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 7 — Common Stock — Common Stock Repurchase Program."

Subject to the prior rights of the holders of the respective series of Cleco Corporation's preferred stock, such dividends as determined by the Board of Directors of Cleco Corporation may be declared and paid on the common stock from time to time out of funds legally available. The provisions of Cleco Corporation's charter applicable to preferred stock and certain provisions contained in the debt instruments of Cleco under certain circumstances restrict the amount of retained earnings available for the payment of dividends by Cleco Corporation. The most restrictive covenant, which is in Cleco Corporation's credit facility, requires Cleco Corporation's total indebtedness to be less than or equal to 65% of total capitalization. At December 31, 2009, approximately \$401.7 million of retained earnings were unrestricted. On January 29, 2010, Cleco Corporation's Board of Directors declared a quarterly dividend of \$0.225 per share payable on February 15, 2010, to common shareholders of record at the close of business on February 8, 2010. As of January 29, 2010, there were 6,701 holders of record of Cleco Corporation's common stock, and the closing price of Cleco Corporation's common stock as reported on the NYSE Composite Tape was \$25.92 per share. The Board of Directors of Cleco Corporation has approved a dividend policy that will increase its quarterly dividend rate, subject to future dividend declarations by the Board of Directors, from \$0.225 per common share to \$0.25 per common share beginning with the dividend payable May 15, 2010. The declaration of dividend payments is at the Board of Directors' sole discretion and future dividend increases are subject to numerous factors that ordinarily affect dividend policy, including the result of Cleco's operations and its financial position, as well as general economic and business conditions.

## CLECO POWER

There is no market for Cleco Power's membership interests. All of Cleco Power's outstanding membership interests are owned by Cleco Corporation. Distributions on Cleco Power's membership interests are paid when and if declared by Cleco Power's Board of Managers. Any future distributions also may be restricted by any credit or loan agreements that Cleco Power may enter into from time to time.

Some provisions in Cleco Power's debt instruments restrict the amount of equity available for distribution to Cleco Corporation by Cleco Power under specified circumstances. The most restrictive covenant requires Cleco Power's total indebtedness to be less than or equal to 65% of total capitalization. At December 31, 2009, approximately \$349.6 million of member's equity was unrestricted.

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During 2009, Cleco Power made \$30.0 million of distribution payments to Cleco Corporation. There were no distributions from Cleco Power to Cleco Corporation during 2008 or 2007.

Cleco Power received no equity contributions from Cleco Corporation in 2009 or 2008. During 2007, Cleco Power received equity contributions of \$85.0 million from Cleco Corporation.

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CLECO POWER

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ITEM 6. SELECTED FINANCIAL DATA

CLECO

The information set forth below should be read in conjunction with the Consolidated Financial Statements and the related Notes in Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data."

Perryville and PEH were deconsolidated from Cleco in connection with their bankruptcy filings, and no income or loss associated with those subsidiaries was recognized in Midstream's consolidated financial statements subsequent to the bankruptcy filing on January 28, 2004. In October 2005, an order confirming PEH and Perryville's plan of reorganization became final. In accordance with the authoritative guidance for transfers and servicing, Cleco recorded its investment in Perryville on the equity method of accounting. In accordance with the authoritative guidance on investments, since PEH and Perryville had a negative cost basis and incurred losses for 2004 and the first and second quarters of 2005, PEH and Perryville were not to be reflected in Cleco Corporation's Consolidated Statements of Income until such time as PEH and Perryville had sufficient income to exceed their negative cost basis and cumulative losses. In the third quarter of 2005, Perryville recognized earnings sufficient to exceed PEH's and Perryville's initial negative cost basis and cumulative losses incurred after January 28, 2004. The previous financial results of Perryville and PEH were reintegrated with Cleco's consolidated financial results effective in the third quarter of 2005.

Cleco's adoption of the authoritative guidance on compensation-stock compensation on January 1, 2006, impacted Cleco's consolidated financial results for 2009, 2008, 2007, and 2006 as compared to prior years. Cleco's adoption of the authoritative guidance as it relates to compensation-retirement benefits on December 31, 2006, impacted Cleco's consolidated financial position as of December 31, 2009, 2008, 2007, and 2006 as compared to prior years. This guidance required all equity instruments, including stock options, to be expensed at their fair value.

Cleco's consolidated financial results for 2007 included the settlement of Acadia's pre-petition unsecured claims against CES and Calpine and amounts received by APH relating to Cajun's purchase of CAH's 50% equity ownership interest in Acadia, offset by a pre-tax impairment loss. For additional information, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 20 — Calpine Bankruptcy Settlement."

Cleco's adoption of the authoritative guidance on income taxes on January 1, 2007, impacted Cleco's consolidated financial results for 2009, 2008, and 2007 as compared to prior years. The guidance impacted the financial statement presentation and timing of the recognition of uncertain tax positions.

Five-Year Selected Financial Data  
(THOUSANDS, EXCEPT PER SHARE  
AND PERCENTAGES)

|   | 2009      | 2008        | 2007        | 2006        | 2005      |
|---|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-----------|
| Operating revenue, net (excluding intercompany revenue) |           |             |             |             |           |
| Cleco Power   | \$842,227 | \$1,069,674 | \$1,023,411 | \$994,191   | \$911,971 |
| Midstream   | 8,749     | 7,921       | 5,066       | 4,400       | 4,984     |
| Other   | 2,782     | 2,603       | 2,139       | 2,084       | 3,199     |
| Total   | \$853,758 | \$1,080,198 | \$1,030,616 | \$1,000,675 | \$920,154 |
| Income from continuing operations before income taxes   | \$115,886 | \$120,598   | \$222,561   | \$116,719   | \$298,929 |
| Net income applicable to common stock                   | \$106,261 | \$102,095   | \$151,331   | \$72,856    | \$180,779 |
| Basic earnings per share applicable to common stock     | \$1.77    | \$1.70      | \$2.55      | \$1.36      | \$3.54    |
| Diluted earnings per share applicable to common stock   | \$1.76    | \$1.70      | \$2.54      | \$1.36      | \$3.53    |

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| Capitalization                           |             |   |             |   |             |   |             |   |             |   |
|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| Common shareholders' equity              | 45.77       | % | 48.89       | % | 56.74       | % | 57.81       | % | 52.15       | % |
| Preferred stock                          | 0.04        | % | 0.05        | % | 0.06        | % | 1.32        | % | 1.52        | % |
| Long-term debt                           | 54.19       | % | 51.06       | % | 43.20       | % | 40.87       | % | 46.33       | % |
| Common shareholders' equity              | \$1,115,043 |   | \$1,059,836 |   | \$1,010,340 |   | \$876,129   |   | \$686,229   |   |
| Preferred stock                          | \$1,029     |   | \$1,029     |   | \$1,029     |   | \$20,092    |   | \$20,034    |   |
| Long-term debt, net                      | \$1,320,299 |   | \$1,106,819 |   | \$769,103   |   | \$619,341   |   | \$609,643   |   |
| Total assets                             | \$3,694,847 |   | \$3,341,204 |   | \$2,706,623 |   | \$2,448,067 |   | \$2,145,172 |   |
| Cash dividends declared per common share | \$0.900     |   | \$0.900     |   | \$0.900     |   | \$0.900     |   | \$0.900     |   |

CLECO POWER

The information called for by Item 6 with respect to Cleco Power is omitted pursuant to General Instruction I(2)(a) to Form 10-K (Omission of Information by Certain Wholly Owned Subsidiaries).

CLECO CORPORATION  
CLECO POWER

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

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### OVERVIEW

Cleco is a regional energy services holding company that conducts substantially all of its business operations through its two primary subsidiaries:

- § Cleco Power, an integrated electric utility services company regulated by the LPSC, FERC, and other regulators, which serves approximately 277,000 customers across Louisiana and also engages in energy management activities; and
- § Midstream, a merchant energy company regulated by FERC, which owns and operates a merchant power plant (Evangeline). At December 31, 2009, Midstream also owned a 50 percent interest in a merchant power plant (Acadia) and operated the plant on behalf of its partner. For information on Cleco Power and Entergy Louisiana each acquiring one 580-MW unit of the Acadia Power Station, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 15 — Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Acadia Transactions" and Note 23 — "Subsequent Events — Acadia Transaction." For additional information on Evangeline, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 23 — Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions."

For information on Cleco's affiliated companies and the services each company provides to other affiliates, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 17 — Affiliate Transactions." While management believes that Cleco remains a strong company, Cleco continues to focus on several challenges and factors that could affect its results of operations and financial condition in the near term.

#### Cleco Power

Many factors affect Cleco Power's primary business of selling electricity. These factors include the presence of a stable regulatory environment, which can impact cost recovery and return on equity, as well as the recovery of costs related to growing energy demand and rising fuel prices; the ability to increase energy sales while containing costs; and the ability to meet increasingly stringent regulatory and environmental standards.

In July 2008, Cleco Power filed a rate plan to establish new rates to be effective upon the commercial operation of Rodemacher Unit 3, which was February 12, 2010. Recovery of the Rodemacher Unit 3 investment was the largest component in Cleco Power's new rate plan. As part of the new rate plan, Cleco Power requested a return on equity of 12.25%.

Cleco Power's then-current base rates allowed it the opportunity to earn a maximum regulated return on equity of 11.65%, which was based on a return on equity of 11.25%, with any regulated earnings between 11.25% and 12.25% shared between shareholders and customers in a 40/60 ratio. All regulated earnings over 12.25% were to be returned to customers.

In October 2009, the LPSC approved Cleco Power's new retail rate plan which includes a target return on equity of 10.7%, including returning to retail customers 60% of retail earnings between 11.3% and 12.3% and all retail earnings over 12.3%. The new rates became effective upon the commercial operation of Rodemacher Unit 3. The retail rate plan is expected to increase retail base revenues in the first twelve months of Rodemacher Unit 3 commercial operations by approximately \$173.0 million with an anticipated net billing decrease for retail customers of approximately \$40.0 million, or 5.0% (assuming a gas price of \$5/MMBtu), including a reduction of approximately \$97.0 million resulting from the cessation of the collection and the refund of Rodemacher Unit 3 construction financing costs based on a five-year crediting period. The retail rate plan established that \$183.2 million be returned

to customers over the five-year period. For additional information, see Part I, Item 1, “Business — Regulatory Matters, Industry Developments, and Franchises — Rates — Cleco Power’s Rate Case,” and “— Financial Condition — Liquidity and Capital Resources — Regulatory Matters —”Rodemacher Unit 3” and “— Retail Rates of Cleco Power.”

Cleco Power released a RFP in October 2007 seeking long-term resources to fill the needs identified by the latest IRP. In February 2009, Cleco Power announced that it had chosen the acquisition of 50% of the Acadia Power Station, or one of its two 580-MW units, as the lowest bid in its 2007 long-term RFP for capacity beginning in 2010. Cleco Power will own and operate one unit and operate the other 580-MW unit on behalf of Acadia or a future owner as described further under “— Midstream.” Cleco Power and the parties have executed the definitive agreements. Cleco Power received LPSC and FERC approvals for the transaction in January 2010 and February 2010, respectively. Beginning in January 2010, Acadia operated the plant and served Cleco Power under a tolling agreement covering 50% of the Acadia Power Station. The tolling agreement was approved by the LPSC in October 2009 and by FERC in December 2009. The tolling agreement was terminated when the transaction closed in February 2010. The transaction was consummated through a \$304.0 million equity contribution from Cleco Corporation to Cleco Power.

Cleco Power’s construction of Rodemacher Unit 3 and Cleco Power’s acquisition of 50% of Acadia were driven by primary objectives to diversify fuel mix, stabilize fuel costs, and develop reliable sources of generating capacity to meet customers’ long-term power needs. With Rodemacher Unit 3 commencing commercial operations on February 12, 2010, and Cleco Power completing the transaction with Acadia, Cleco Power will more than double its rate base and diversify the fuel mix of its generating portfolio.

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### Midstream

In recent years, Acadia has marketed short-, mid- and long-term products where available. Through its third-party energy marketer, Acadia has pursued opportunities in the hourly, weekly, monthly, and annual markets. Acadia's success in these marketing efforts was a primary driver of its earnings and cash flow. During 2009, Acadia's revenues were primarily derived from two short-term capacity agreements with Cleco Power and NRG Power Marketing, Inc. that were managed by the third-party energy marketer.

In February 2009, Cleco Power announced that it had selected Acadia's proposal to fulfill Cleco Power's capacity and energy needs as defined in the Cleco Power 2007 long-term RFP. Under the proposed arrangement, Cleco Power would acquire and operate one of Acadia's generating units and operate the other unit, as described further above under "— Cleco Power."

In October 2009, Acadia and Entergy Louisiana announced that definitive agreements had been executed whereby Entergy Louisiana would purchase 50% of the Acadia Power Station, or one of its two 580-MW units. The transaction is anticipated to be completed in late 2010 or early 2011. The agreements provide that, beginning in May 2010, Acadia will serve Entergy Louisiana under a tolling agreement covering 50% of the Acadia Power Station until the sale is completed. Both the asset sale and interim tolling agreement require regulatory approval. Cleco Power will continue to operate both units at Acadia after the Entergy Louisiana transaction is completed.

Midstream's other source of revenue, which will be its principal source of revenue upon completion of the Acadia transactions described above, will be from its new tolling agreement at Evangeline, under which the counterparty has the right to dispatch the electric generation capacity of the facility. For additional information on Evangeline's new tolling agreement, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 23 — Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions."

## RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

### Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates.

### Cleco Consolidated Results of Operations —

Year ended December 31, 2009,

Compared to Year ended December 31, 2008

| (THOUSANDS)   | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, |             |                                     |           |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
|   | 2009                            | 2008        | FAVORABLE/(UNFAVORABLE)<br>VARIANCE | CHANGE    |
| Operating revenue, net                                | \$853,758                       | \$1,080,198 | \$ (226,440 )                       | (21.0 )%  |
| Operating expenses                                    | 746,949                         | 965,321     | 218,372                             | 22.6 %    |
| Operating income                                      | \$106,809                       | \$114,877   | \$ (8,068 )                         | (7.0 )%   |
| Interest income                                       | \$1,512                         | \$5,417     | \$ (3,905 )                         | (72.1 )%  |
| Allowance for other funds<br>used during construction | \$73,269                        | \$64,953    | \$ 8,316                            | 12.8 %    |
| Equity loss from investees                            | \$(17,423 )                     | \$(5,542 )  | \$ (11,881 )                        | (214.4 )% |
| Other income  | \$5,581                         | \$1,263     | \$ 4,318                            | 341.9 %   |
| Other expense   | \$2,807                         | \$7,970     | \$ 5,163                            | 64.8 %    |

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|                                       |           |           |          |      |   |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|-----------|----------|------|---|
| Interest charges                      | \$51,055  | \$52,400  | \$ 1,345 | 2.6  | % |
| Federal and state income taxes        | \$9,579   | \$18,457  | \$ 8,878 | 48.1 | % |
| Net income applicable to common stock | \$106,261 | \$102,095 | \$ 4,166 | 4.1  | % |

Consolidated net income applicable to common stock increased \$4.2 million, or 4.1%, in 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to increased corporate earnings. Increased corporate earnings were primarily driven by lower interest charges and lower other expenses as discussed in further detail below. Partially offsetting this increase were lower earnings at Cleco Power and higher losses at Midstream.

Operating revenue, net decreased \$226.4 million, or 21.0%, in 2009 compared to 2008 largely as a result of lower fuel cost recovery revenue at Cleco Power.

Operating expenses decreased \$218.4 million, or 22.6%, in 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to lower per-unit costs and volumes of purchased power for utility customers.

Interest income decreased \$3.9 million, or 72.1%, in 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to lower interest rates and lower average investment balances. Also contributing to the decrease was a lower recovery of interest costs relating to Cleco Power's lower deferred lignite mining costs.

Allowance for other funds used during construction increased \$8.3 million, or 12.8%, in 2009 compared to 2008, primarily due to increased construction activity at Rodemacher Unit 3.

Equity loss from investees increased \$11.9 million, or 214.4%, in 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to equity losses at Evangeline primarily from higher interest on uncertain tax positions and higher equity losses at APH.



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CLECO POWER

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Other income increased \$4.3 million, or 341.9%, in 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to the recognition of an increase in the cash surrender value of life insurance policies at Cleco Corporation and higher mutual assistance revenue at Cleco Power.

Other expense decreased \$5.2 million, or 64.8%, in 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to the absence in 2009 of decreases in the cash surrender value of life insurance policies at Cleco Corporation during 2008. Partially offsetting this decrease were higher mutual assistance expenses at Cleco Power.

Interest charges decreased \$1.3 million, or 2.6%, in 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to lower interest charges at Cleco Corporation from interest related to uncertain tax positions, the favorable settlement of a franchise tax lawsuit, and the repayment of senior notes. These decreases were partially offset by higher net interest charges at Cleco Power as discussed below.

Federal and state income taxes decreased \$8.9 million, or 48.1%, in 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to a decrease in pre-tax income, excluding equity AFUDC, the flow through of state tax benefits to customers, and tax credits utilized in 2009. The effective income tax rate is less than the expected statutory rate due to the significant impact of flow-through treatment on electric plant-related differences such as equity AFUDC.

Results of operations for Cleco Power and Midstream are more fully described below.

## CLECO POWER

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### Significant Factors Affecting Cleco Power

Revenue is primarily affected by the following factors:

As an electric utility, Cleco Power is affected, to varying degrees, by a number of factors influencing the electric utility industry in general. These factors include, among others, an increasingly competitive business environment, the cost of compliance with environmental and reliability regulations, conditions in the credit markets and global economy, and changes in the federal and state regulation of generation, transmission, and the sale of electricity. For a discussion of various regulatory changes and competitive forces affecting Cleco Power and other electric utilities, see Part I, Item 1 “Business — Regulatory Matters, Industry Developments, and Franchises — Franchises” and “— Financial Condition — Market Restructuring.” For a discussion of risk factors affecting Cleco Power’s business, see Item 1A, “Risk Factors — Global Economic Downturn,” “— Future Electricity Sales,” “— Fuel Cost Audits,” “— Hedging and Risk Management Activities,” “— Transmission Constraints,” “— Commodity Prices,” “— Cleco Power Generation Facilities,” “— ERO,” “— Environmental Compliance,” “— Regulatory Compliance,” “— Weather Sensitivity,” “— Retail Electric Service,” “— Wholesale Electric Service,” “— Cleco Credit Ratings,” “— Interest Rate Swap,” and “— Cleco Power’s Rates.”

Cleco Power’s residential customers’ demand for electricity largely is affected by weather. Weather generally is measured in cooling degree-days and heating degree-days. A cooling degree-day is an indication of the likelihood that a consumer will use air conditioning, while a heating degree-day is an indication of the likelihood that a consumer will use heating. An increase in heating degree-days does not produce the same increase in revenue as an increase in cooling degree-days, because alternative heating sources are more available and because winter energy is priced below the rate charged for energy used in the summer. Normal heating degree-days and cooling degree-days are calculated for a month by separately calculating the average actual heating and cooling degree-days for that month over a period of 30 years.

Cleco Power’s expected retail sales are dependent upon factors such as weather conditions, natural gas prices, customer conservation efforts, retail marketing and business development programs, and the economy of Cleco Power’s service area. Cleco Power has experienced over the last five years, and anticipates over the next five years, moderate growth in sales volume except for sales to industrial customers. Two large industrial customers have installed cogeneration, another has discontinued a portion of its product line, and another has ceased operations. The decrease in sales attributed to these four customers is approximately 321,000 MWh. After this initial decrease attributable to these customers, Cleco Power anticipates moderate growth on the remaining industrial sales over the next five years. Other issues facing the electric utility industry that could affect sales include:

- § imposition of federal and/or state renewable portfolio standards;
  - § imposition of energy efficiency mandates;
  - § legislative and regulatory changes;
- § increases in environmental regulations and compliance costs;
- § cost of power impacted by the price increases of natural gas, the addition of lower cost solid-fuel plants, and the addition of additional generation capacity;
  - § increase in capital and operations and maintenance costs due to higher construction and labor costs;
  - § retention or loss of large industrial customers and municipal franchises;
  - § changes in electric rates compared to customers' ability to pay;
  - § access to transmission systems;
  - § need for additional transmission capacity for reliability purposes;
  - § turmoil in the credit markets and global economy; and
- § implementation of automated metering initiatives or smart grid technologies.

For more information on energy legislation in regulatory matters that could affect Cleco, see “— Financial Condition — Market Restructuring — Wholesale Electric Markets.”

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Cleco Power's revenues and earnings also are substantially affected by regulatory proceedings known as rate cases. During those cases, the LPSC determines Cleco Power's rate base, depreciation rates, operation and maintenance costs, and administrative and general costs that Cleco Power may recover from its customers through the rates charged for electric service. These proceedings may examine, among other things, the prudence of Cleco Power's operation and maintenance practices, level of subject expenditures, allowed rates of return, and previously incurred capital expenditures. The LPSC has the authority to disallow costs found not to have been prudently incurred. These regulatory proceedings typically involve multiple parties, including governmental bodies and officials, consumer advocacy groups, and various consumers of energy, who have differing concerns but who have the common objective of limiting rate increases or reducing rates. Rate cases generally have long timelines, which may be limited by statute. Decisions are typically subject to appeal, potentially leading to additional uncertainty.

In October 2009, the LPSC voted unanimously to approve the retail rate plan that Cleco Power filed to increase its base rates for electricity. The retail rate plan became effective upon the commercial operation of Rodemacher Unit 3, which was February 12, 2010. For additional information see "— Overview — Cleco Power."

Other expenses are primarily affected by the following factors:

The majority of Cleco Power's non-fuel cost recovery expenses consist of other operations, maintenance, depreciation, and taxes other than income taxes. Other operations expenses are affected by, among other things, the cost of employee benefits, insurance expenses, and the costs associated with energy delivery and customer service. Maintenance expenses associated with Cleco Power's plants generally depend upon their physical characteristics, as well as the effectiveness of their preventive maintenance programs. Transmission and distribution maintenance expenses are generally affected by the level of repair and rehabilitation of lines to maintain reliability. Depreciation expense primarily is affected by the cost of the facility in service, the time the facility was placed in service, and the estimated useful life of the facility. Taxes other than income taxes generally include payroll taxes and ad valorem taxes. Cleco Power anticipates certain non-fuel cost recovery expenses to be higher in 2010 compared to 2009. These expenses include higher depreciation expense, higher generation expenses related to operations and maintenance, and higher salaries and benefits. In addition, Cleco Power expects the implementation of the Pension Protection Act, in conjunction with material pension plan portfolio losses in 2008, will result in annual pension contributions going-forward that are significantly higher than estimates calculated in prior years. For additional information, see "— Regulatory Matters — Pension Protection Act of 2006."

Cleco Power's Results of Operations —  
Year ended December 31, 2009,  
Compared to Year ended December 31, 2008

| (THOUSANDS)   | 2009      | 2008      | FOR THE YEAR ENDED<br>DECEMBER 31,<br>FAVORABLE/(UNFAVORABLE)<br>VARIANCE CHANGE |       |    |
|---|-----------|-----------|--|-------|----|
|   |           |           |  |       |    |
| Operating revenue                                   |           |           |  |       |    |
| Base  | \$355,091 | \$352,120 | \$ 2,971   | 0.8   | %  |
| Fuel cost recovery                                  | 453,555   | 680,850   | (227,295 )   | (33.4 | )% |
| Other operations                                    | 33,558    | 36,675    | (3,117 )   | (8.5  | )% |
| Affiliate revenue                                   | 23        | 29        | (6 )   | (20.7 | )% |
| Intercompany revenue                                | 1,372     | 2,008     | (636 )   | (31.7 | )% |
| Total operating revenue                             | 843,599   | 1,071,682 | (228,083 )   | (21.3 | )% |
| Operating expenses                                  |           |           |  |       |    |
| Fuel used for electric generation – recoverable     | 253,911   | 226,250   | (27,661 )  | (12.2 | )% |
| Power purchased for utility customers – recoverable | 199,619   | 454,649   | 255,030  | 56.1  | %  |

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|  |           |           |              |       |    |
|--|-----------|-----------|--------------|-------|----|
| Non-recoverable fuel and power purchased           | 24,832    | 26,068    | 1,236        | 4.7   | %  |
| Other operations                                   | 99,704    | 93,288    | (6,416 )     | (6.9  | )% |
| Maintenance  | 47,179    | 43,030    | (4,149 )     | (9.6  | )% |
| Depreciation                                       | 77,064    | 76,420    | (644 )       | (0.8  | )% |
| Taxes other than income taxes                      | 29,758    | 31,011    | 1,253        | 4.0   | %  |
| Loss on sales of assets                            | 70        | -         | (70 )        | -     |    |
| Total operating expenses                           | 732,137   | 950,716   | 218,579      | 23.0  | %  |
| Operating income                                   | \$111,462 | \$120,966 | \$ (9,504 )  | (7.9  | )% |
| Interest income                                    | \$1,449   | \$3,943   | \$ (2,494 )  | (63.3 | )% |
| Allowance for other funds used during construction | \$73,269  | \$64,953  | \$ 8,316     | 12.8  | %  |
| Other income                                       | \$2,370   | \$1,467   | \$ 903       | 61.6  | %  |
| Other expense                                      | \$3,525   | \$2,258   | \$ (1,267 )  | (56.1 | )% |
| Interest charges                                   | \$58,562  | \$47,283  | \$ (11,279 ) | (23.9 | )% |
| Federal and state income taxes                     | \$15,297  | \$27,956  | \$ 12,659    | 45.3  | %  |
| Net income   | \$111,166 | \$113,832 | \$ (2,666 )  | (2.3  | )% |

Cleco Power's net income for 2009 decreased \$2.7 million, or 2.3%, compared to 2008. Contributing factors include:

§ higher other operations and maintenance expenses,  
 § higher interest charges,  
 § lower interest income,  
 § lower other operations revenue, and  
 § higher other expense.

These were partially offset by:

§ higher allowance for other funds used during construction,  
 § higher base revenue,  
 § lower effective income tax rate,  
 § lower taxes other than income taxes, and  
 § lower non-recoverable fuel and power purchased.

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| (MILLION kWh)                                   | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, |       |                             |
|---|---------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
|   | 2009                            | 2008  | FAVORABLE/<br>(UNFAVORABLE) |
| Electric sales                                  |                                 |       |                             |
| Residential                                     | 3,637                           | 3,545 | 2.6 %                       |
| Commercial                                      | 2,484                           | 2,450 | 1.4 %                       |
| Industrial                                      | 2,232                           | 2,898 | (23.0)%                     |
| Other retail                                    | 136                             | 134   | 1.5 %                       |
| Total retail                                    | 8,489                           | 9,027 | (6.0)%                      |
| Sales for resale                                | 560                             | 441   | 27.0 %                      |
| Unbilled  | 60                              | 16    | 275.0 %                     |
| Total retail and<br>wholesale customer<br>sales | 9,109                           | 9,484 | (4.0)%                      |

| (THOUSANDS)                               | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, |           |                             |    |
|---|---------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|----|
|   | 2009                            | 2008      | FAVORABLE/<br>(UNFAVORABLE) |    |
| Electric sales                            |                                 |           |                             |    |
| Residential                               | \$157,672                       | \$154,001 | 2.4                         | %  |
| Commercial                                | 95,453                          | 94,226    | 1.3                         | %  |
| Industrial                                | 50,957                          | 55,560    | (8.3                        | )% |
| Other retail                              | 5,715                           | 5,589     | 2.3                         | %  |
| Storm surcharge                           | 19,661                          | 21,105    | (6.8                        | )% |
| Total retail                              | 329,458                         | 330,481   | (0.3                        | )% |
| Sales for resale                          | 23,371                          | 19,685    | 18.7                        | %  |
| Unbilled                                  | 2,262                           | 1,954     | 15.8                        | %  |
| Total retail and wholesale customer sales | \$355,091                       | \$352,120 | 0.8                         | %  |

The following chart shows how cooling and heating degree-days varied from normal conditions and from the prior period. Cleco Power uses temperature data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to determine cooling and heating degree-days.

|                        | FOR THE YEAR ENDED<br>DECEMBER 31, |       |        |                              |         |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------|------------------------------|---------|
|                        | 2009                               | 2008  | NORMAL | 2009 CHANGE<br>PRIOR<br>YEAR | NORMAL  |
| Cooling<br>degree-days | 2,977                              | 2,923 | 2,662  | 1.8 %                        | 11.8 %  |
| Heating<br>degree-days | 1,447                              | 1,437 | 1,645  | 0.7 %                        | (12.0)% |

#### Base

Base revenue during 2009 increased \$3.0 million, or 0.8%, compared to 2008 primarily due to Cleco Power providing service to a new wholesale customer that commenced in April 2009 and higher residential sales primarily from an increase in the number of customers served. Partially offsetting these increases were lower sales to industrial

customers largely as a result of decreased production at one of Cleco Power's large industrial customers and the start of a large customer cogenerating a portion of its electricity requirements. Cleco Power's future industrial sales, including customers in the wood and paper industries, may continue to decrease as a result of customers beginning self-generation operations and customers decreasing their production lines. In December 2009, one of Cleco Power's large industrial customers closed its operations. Cleco Power's annual base revenue billings to this customer were expected to be approximately \$2.3 million in 2010. For information on other effects of future energy sales on Cleco Power's financial condition, results of operations, and cash flows, see Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors — Future Electricity Sales." When Rodemacher Unit 3 achieved commercial operations on February 12, 2010, Cleco Power began returning amounts collected to customers, as established in Cleco Power's retail rate plan over a period of five years. Over the five-year period, base revenue will be reduced \$40.2 million, representing the amortization of this regulatory asset. For additional information, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 3 — Regulatory Assets and Liabilities — Deferred Construction Carrying Costs."

#### Fuel Cost Recovery

Fuel cost recovery revenue billed to customers during 2009 compared to 2008 decreased \$227.3 million, or 33.4%, primarily due to decreases in the per-unit cost and volume of power purchased for utility customers. Partially offsetting the decrease were increases in the per-unit cost and volume of fuel used for electric generation.

#### Other Operations

Other operations revenue decreased \$3.1 million, or 8.5%, in 2009 compared to 2008, primarily due to \$2.6 million of lower transmission revenue, customer fees, and pole attachment revenue. Also contributing to the decrease was a \$0.5 million net loss relating to economic hedge transactions associated with fixed-price power being provided to a wholesale customer. For information on Cleco's energy commodity activities, see Item 7A, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk — Risk Overview — Commodity Price Risks."

#### Operating Expenses

Operating expenses decreased \$218.6 million, or 23.0%, in 2009 compared to 2008. Fuel used for electric generation (recoverable) increased \$27.7 million, or 12.2%, primarily due to higher per-unit costs of fuel used as compared to the same period of 2008, as a result of realized losses on fuel hedging due to lower natural gas prices. Also contributing to the increase were higher fuel costs deferred in prior periods and higher volumes of fuel used for electric generation. Power purchased for utility customers (recoverable) decreased \$255.0 million, or 56.1%, largely due to lower per-unit costs and volumes of purchased power. Fuel used for electric generation and power purchased for utility customers generally are influenced by natural gas prices, as well as availability of transmission. However, other factors such as scheduled and/or unscheduled outages, unusual maintenance or repairs, or other developments may affect fuel used for electric generation and power purchased for utility customers. Non-recoverable fuel and power purchased decreased \$1.2 million, or 4.7%, primarily due to lower non-recoverable expenses primarily related to fixed-price power being provided to a wholesale customer. Partially offsetting this decrease were higher net capacity charges. Other operations expense increased \$6.4 million, or 6.9%, primarily due to higher general liability expense, and higher employee benefit costs and administrative expenses. Maintenance expenses during 2009 increased \$4.1 million, or 9.6%, compared to 2008 primarily due to a planned major outage at one of Cleco Power's generating facilities during 2009. Taxes other than income taxes

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decreased \$1.3 million, or 4.0%, primarily due to lower franchise fees.

#### Interest Income

Interest income decreased \$2.5 million, or 63.3%, during 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to a lower recovery of interest costs relating to Cleco Power's lower balance of deferred lignite mining costs and lower interest rates and lower average investment balances.

#### Allowance for Other Funds Used During Construction

Allowance for other funds used during construction increased \$8.3 million, or 12.8%, during 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to increased construction activity at Rodemacher Unit 3. Allowance for other funds used during construction comprised 65.9% of Cleco Power's net income for 2009, compared to 57.1% for 2008. Through December 2009, Cleco Power was recording AFUDC associated with the construction of Rodemacher Unit 3. Cleco Power ceased recording AFUDC related to Rodemacher Unit 3 on February 12, 2010, the commercial operation date of Rodemacher Unit 3.

#### Other Income

Other income increased \$0.9 million, or 61.6%, during 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to higher revenue from mutual assistance to other utilities for restoration efforts, partially offset by other miscellaneous income.

#### Other Expense

Other expense increased \$1.3 million, or 56.1%, during 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to higher expenses from mutual assistance to other utilities for restoration efforts.

#### Interest Charges

Interest charges increased \$11.3 million, or 23.9%, during 2009 compared to 2008 primarily due to \$8.3 million related to the May 2008 issuance of senior notes, \$6.6 million related to the December 2008 issuance of GO Zone bonds, \$2.5 million on tax related items, \$1.2 million related to the March 2008 issuance of storm recovery bonds, and \$1.1 million related to solid waste disposal facility bonds. Partially offsetting these increases were the capitalization of an additional \$6.5 million of allowance for borrowed funds used during construction associated with Rodemacher Unit 3 and \$1.9 million of lower net other miscellaneous charges.

#### Income Taxes

Federal and state income taxes decreased \$12.7 million, or 45.3%, during 2009 compared to 2008, primarily due to a decrease in pre-tax income, excluding equity AFUDC, and the flow through of state tax benefits to customers. The effective income tax rate is less than the expected statutory rate due to the significant impact of flow-through treatment on electric plant-related differences such as equity AFUDC.

## MIDSTREAM

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### Significant Factors Affecting Midstream

Earnings are primarily affected by the following factors:

Midstream's equity earnings from investees were derived in 2009 primarily from the Evangeline Tolling Agreement with JPMVEC, which prior to November 2007, was with Williams, and from its 50% interest in Acadia, which derived its revenue from energy sales. In 2009, Acadia's revenues were primarily derived from two short-term capacity agreements with Cleco Power and NRG Power Marketing, Inc. that were managed by the third party marketer. On February 22, 2010, Evangeline and JPMVEC terminated the existing tolling agreement and entered into a new tolling agreement. Revenue from tolling contracts generally is affected by the availability and efficiency of the

facility and the level at which it operates. A facility's availability requirements can be satisfied by providing replacement power to the tolling counterparties. A tolling agreement gives the tolling counterparty the right to own, dispatch, and market all of the electric generation capacity of the respective facility. JPMVEC is responsible for providing its own natural gas to Evangeline. JPMorgan Chase & Co. guaranteed JPMVEC's obligations under the Evangeline Tolling Agreement and is also guaranteeing JPMVEC's obligations under the Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement.

Under the tolling agreement, JPMVEC pays Evangeline a fixed fee and a variable fee for operating and maintaining the facility. The Evangeline Tolling Agreement was accounted for as an operating lease. For additional information on Cleco's operating leases, see "— Critical Accounting Policies — Midstream." Equity income from the Evangeline Tolling Agreement correlated with the seasonal usage of the plant. Evangeline's 2009 revenue was recognized in the following manner:

§ 17% in the first quarter;  
§ 22% in the second quarter;  
§ 43% in the third quarter; and  
§ 18% in the fourth quarter.

Evangeline's 2010 revenue is anticipated to be recognized in a similar manner; however, revenue under the Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement will be reflected in operating revenue. The new tolling agreement will be accounted for as an operating lease. For additional information on recognition of revenue from the Evangeline Tolling Agreement, see "— Critical Accounting Policies — Midstream" and Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 2 — Summary of Significant Accounting Policies — Revenue and Fuel Costs — Equity Income" and Note 23 — "Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions."

For additional information on the factors affecting Midstream, see Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors — Evangeline and Acadia Generation Facilities."



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Expenses are primarily affected by the following factors:

Midstream's expenses include depreciation, maintenance, and other operations expenses. Depreciation expense is affected by the cost of the facility in service, the time the facility was placed in service, and the estimated useful life of the facility. Maintenance expenses generally depend on the physical characteristics of the facility, the frequency and duration of the facility's operations, and the effectiveness of preventive maintenance. Other operating expenses mainly relate to administrative expenses, employee benefits, and generation operating expenses.

#### Other Factors Affecting Midstream

##### Evangeline

In accordance with the authoritative guidance on consolidations, Cleco reported its investment in Evangeline on the equity method of accounting and reflected Evangeline's net operating results in the equity income (loss) from investees' line during 2009 and prior years presented. Effective January 1, 2010, the requirements for consolidation changed. On and after January 1, 2010, Evangeline's assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses, and cash flows will be presented in the appropriate line items of the consolidated financial statements. For additional information, see "— Critical Accounting Policies" below. For additional information on the consolidation guidelines and the equity method of accounting related to Evangeline, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 13 — Equity Investment in Investees." On February 22, 2010, Evangeline and JPMVEC executed the Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement. For additional information, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 23 — Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions."

Midstream's Results of Operations —  
Year ended December 31, 2009,  
Compared to Year ended December 31, 2008

| (THOUSANDS)                          | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, |             |                                     |           |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
|                                      | 2009                            | 2008        | FAVORABLE/(UNFAVORABLE)<br>VARIANCE | CHANGE    |
| Operating revenue                    |                                 |             |                                     |           |
| Other operations                     | \$1                             | \$1         | \$ -                                | -         |
| Affiliate revenue                    | 8,748                           | 7,920       | 828                                 | 10.5 %    |
| Total operating revenue              | 8,749                           | 7,921       | 828                                 | 10.5 %    |
| Operating expenses                   |                                 |             |                                     |           |
| Other operations                     | 6,292                           | 6,670       | 378                                 | 5.7 %     |
| Maintenance                          | 3,887                           | 3,800       | (87 )                               | (2.3 )%   |
| Depreciation                         | 177                             | 307         | 130                                 | 42.3 %    |
| Taxes other than income taxes        | 403                             | 395         | (8 )                                | (2.0 )%   |
| Loss (gain) on sales of assets       | 5                               | (99 )       | (104 )                              | (105.1 )% |
| Total operating expenses             | 10,764                          | 11,073      | 309                                 | 2.8 %     |
| Operating loss                       | (2,015 )                        | (3,152 )    | 1,137                               | 36.1 %    |
| Equity loss from investees           | \$(19,339 )                     | \$(7,037 )  | \$ (12,302 )                        | (174.8 )% |
| Federal and state income tax benefit | \$(11,027 )                     | \$(7,182 )  | \$ 3,845                            | 53.5 %    |
| Net loss                             | \$(17,730 )                     | \$(10,017 ) | \$ (7,713 )                         | (77.0 )%  |

Factors affecting Midstream during 2009 are described below.

#### Operating Revenue

Operating revenue increased \$0.8 million, or 10.5%, in 2009 compared to 2008. The increase was primarily due to additional employees hired by Generation Services for the benefit of Midstream to provide power plant operations, maintenance, and engineering services to Acadia and Evangeline. As a result, revenue associated with these services is included in affiliate revenue.

#### Operating Expenses

Operating expenses decreased \$0.3 million, or 2.8%, in 2009 compared to 2008. The decrease was primarily due to lower outside consulting fees and lower employee benefit costs and administrative expenses. These expenses were partially offset by higher expenses due to additional employees hired by Generation Services for the benefit of Midstream to provide power plant operations, maintenance, and engineering services to Acadia and Evangeline.

#### Equity Loss from Investees

Equity loss from investees increased \$12.3 million, or 174.8%, in 2009 compared to 2008. The increase was due to a \$6.3 million decrease in equity earnings at Evangeline and a \$6.0 million increase in equity losses at APH. The decreased earnings at Evangeline were primarily from higher interest related to uncertain tax positions, partially offset by lower maintenance expenses and the absence in 2009 of replacement power purchases that were made in 2008 as a result of an unplanned outage. The increased loss at APH was primarily due to outages at the facility during 2009, resulting in higher removal and retirement costs and higher turbine and general

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maintenance expenses. Also contributing to the increased losses were higher legal fees associated with the sale transactions. These decreases were partially offset by higher net revenue from Acadia's short-term tolling agreement with Cleco Power and lower depreciation expense resulting from certain Acadia assets meeting the criteria of assets held for sale, at which point depreciation of these assets ceased. For additional information, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 13 — Equity Investment in Investees — Acadia."

#### Income Taxes

Federal and state income taxes decreased \$3.8 million, or 53.5%, during 2009 compared to 2008, primarily due to a decrease in pre-tax income.

Cleco Consolidated Results of Operations —  
Year ended December 31, 2008,  
Compared to Year ended December 31, 2007

| (THOUSANDS)   | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, |             |                                     |        |    |
|---|---------------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------------|--------|----|
|   | 2008                            | 2007        | FAVORABLE/(UNFAVORABLE)<br>VARIANCE | CHANGE |    |
| Operating revenue, net                                | \$1,080,198                     | \$1,030,616 | \$ 49,582                           | 4.8    | %  |
| Operating expenses                                    | 965,321                         | 933,072     | (32,249 )                           | (3.5   | )% |
| Operating income                                      | \$114,877                       | \$97,544    | \$ 17,333                           | 17.8   | %  |
| Interest income                                       | \$5,417                         | \$11,754    | \$ (6,337 )                         | (53.9  | )% |
| Allowance for other funds<br>used during construction | \$64,953                        | \$32,955    | \$ 31,998                           | 97.1   | %  |
| Equity (loss) income from investees                   | \$(5,542 )                      | \$93,148    | \$ (98,690 )                        | (105.9 | )% |
| Other income  | \$1,263                         | \$29,531    | \$ (28,268 )                        | (95.7  | )% |
| Other expense   | \$7,970                         | \$4,405     | \$ (3,565 )                         | (80.9  | )% |
| Interest charges                                      | \$52,400                        | \$37,966    | \$ (14,434 )                        | (38.0  | )% |
| Federal and state income taxes                        | \$18,457                        | \$70,772    | \$ 52,315                           | 73.9   | %  |
| Net income applicable to common stock                 | \$102,095                       | \$151,331   | \$ (49,236 )                        | (32.5  | )% |

Consolidated net income applicable to common stock decreased \$49.2 million, or 32.5%, in 2008 compared to 2007 primarily due to decreased Midstream and Corporate earnings. Partially offsetting these decreases were increased Cleco Power earnings.

Operating revenue, net increased \$49.6 million, or 4.8%, in 2008 compared to 2007 largely as a result of higher fuel cost recovery revenue at Cleco Power.

Operating expenses increased \$32.2 million, or 3.5%, in 2008 compared to 2007 primarily due to higher fuel costs at Cleco Power.

Interest income decreased \$6.3 million, or 53.9%, in 2008 compared to 2007 primarily due to lower interest rates and lower average investment balances.

Allowance for other funds used during construction increased \$32.0 million, or 97.1%, in 2008 compared to 2007, primarily due to increased construction activity at Rodemacher Unit 3.

Equity income from investees decreased \$98.7 million, or 106.0%, in 2008 compared to 2007. The decrease primarily was due to decreased equity earnings at APH, resulting from the \$78.2 million 2007 settlement of Acadia's claims against CES and Calpine and \$60.0 million received by APH during 2007 relating to Cajun's purchase of CAH's 50% equity ownership interest in Acadia, offset by a \$45.8 million pre-tax impairment loss.

Other income decreased \$28.3 million, or 95.7%, in 2008 compared to 2007 as a result of amounts received by APH during 2007 relating to Cajun's purchase of CAH's 50% equity ownership interest in Acadia. For additional information, see "— Midstream — Equity Income from Investees" and "— Other Income."

Other expense increased \$3.6 million, or 80.9%, in 2008 compared to 2007 primarily due to a decrease in the cash surrender value of life insurance policies at Cleco Corporation. Partially offsetting this increase was APH's payment in 2007 to acquire Calpine's interest in Acadia's claim against Cleco Power regarding a potential electric metering error at the Acadia facility.

Interest charges increased \$14.4 million, or 38.0%, in 2008 compared to 2007 primarily due to the carrying cost of the tax benefits of storm damage costs, a favorable 2007 settlement with the IRS, and interest related to the issuances of new senior notes, solid waste disposal facility bonds, GO Zone bonds, and storm recovery bonds. Partially offsetting this increase was the allowance for borrowed funds used during construction associated with the construction activity at Rodemacher Unit 3, the repayments of medium-term and senior notes at Cleco Power and Cleco Corporation, respectively, the storm damage surcredit, and interest related to retainage from Shaw.

Federal and state income taxes decreased \$52.3 million, or 73.9%, in 2008 compared to 2007 primarily due to a decrease in pre-tax income, excluding equity AFUDC. The effective income tax rate is less than the expected statutory rate due to the significant impact of flow-through treatment on electric plant-related differences such as equity AFUDC.

Results of operations for Cleco Power and Midstream are more fully described below.

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Cleco Power's Results of Operations —  
Year ended December 31, 2008,  
Compared to Year ended December 31, 2007

| (THOUSANDS)   | 2008      | 2007      | FOR THE YEAR ENDED<br>DECEMBER 31,<br>FAVORABLE/(UNFAVORABLE)<br>VARIANCE CHANGE |          |
|---|-----------|-----------|--|----------|
|   |           |           | VARIANCE   | CHANGE   |
| <b>Operating revenue</b>                            |           |           |  |          |
| Base  | \$352,120 | \$353,562 | \$ (1,442 )  | (0.4 )%  |
| Fuel cost recovery                                  | 680,850   | 634,631   | 46,219   | 7.3 %    |
| Other operations                                    | 36,675    | 35,176    | 1,499  | 4.3 %    |
| Affiliate revenue                                   | 29        | 42        | (13 )  | (31.0 )% |
| Intercompany revenue                                | 2,008     | 2,008     | -  | -        |
| Total operating revenue                             | 1,071,682 | 1,025,419 | 46,263   | 4.5 %    |
| <b>Operating expenses</b>                           |           |           |  |          |
| Fuel used for electric generation – recoverable     | 226,250   | 264,975   | 38,725   | 14.6 %   |
| Power purchased for utility customers – recoverable | 454,649   | 369,659   | (84,990 )  | (23.0 )% |
| Non-recoverable fuel and power purchased            | 26,068    | 24,567    | (1,501 )   | (6.1 )%  |
| Other operations                                    | 93,288    | 97,320    | 4,032  | 4.1 %    |
| Maintenance   | 43,030    | 46,704    | 3,674  | 7.9 %    |
| Depreciation  | 76,420    | 78,522    | 2,102  | 2.7 %    |
| Taxes other than income taxes                       | 31,011    | 37,658    | 6,647  | 17.7 %   |
| Loss on sales of assets                             | -         | 15        | 15   | 100.0 %  |
| Total operating expenses                            | 950,716   | 919,420   | (31,296 )  | (3.4 )%  |
| Operating income                                    | \$120,966 | \$105,999 | \$ 14,967  | 14.1 %   |
| Interest income                                     | \$3,943   | \$5,422   | \$ (1,479 )  | (27.3 )% |
| Allowance for other funds used during construction  | \$64,953  | \$32,955  | \$ 31,998  | 97.1 %   |
| Interest charges                                    | \$47,283  | \$29,565  | \$ (17,718 )   | (59.9 )% |
| Federal and state income taxes                      | \$27,956  | \$29,613  | \$ 1,657   | 5.6 %    |
| Net income  | \$113,832 | \$84,673  | \$ 29,159  | 34.4 %   |

Cleco Power's net income for 2008 increased \$29.2 million, or 34.4%, compared to 2007. Contributing factors include:

- § higher allowance for other funds used during construction,
- § lower other operations and maintenance expenses,
- § lower taxes other than incomes taxes,
- § lower depreciation expense, and
- § higher other operations revenue.

These were partially offset by:

- § higher interest charges,
- § lower interest income,
- § higher non-recoverable fuel and power purchased, and
- § lower base revenue.

| (MILLION kWh)                                   | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, |       |                             |
|---|---------------------------------|-------|-----------------------------|
|   | 2008                            | 2007  | FAVORABLE/<br>(UNFAVORABLE) |
| Electric sales                                  |                                 |       |                             |
| Residential                                     | 3,545                           | 3,596 | (1.4)%                      |
| Commercial                                      | 2,450                           | 2,478 | (1.1)%                      |
| Industrial                                      | 2,898                           | 3,008 | (3.7)%                      |
| Other retail                                    | 134                             | 135   | (0.7)%                      |
| Total retail                                    | 9,027                           | 9,217 | (2.1)%                      |
| Sales for resale                                | 441                             | 473   | (6.8)%                      |
| Unbilled  | 16                              | (19)  | 184.2 %                     |
| Total retail and<br>wholesale customer<br>sales | 9,484                           | 9,671 | (1.9)%                      |

| (THOUSANDS)                               | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, |            |                             |
|---|---------------------------------|------------|-----------------------------|
|   | 2008                            | 2007       | FAVORABLE/<br>(UNFAVORABLE) |
| Electric sales                            |                                 |            |                             |
| Residential                               | \$ 154,001                      | \$ 157,521 | (2.2 )%                     |
| Commercial                                | 94,226                          | 93,644     | 0.6 %                       |
| Industrial                                | 55,560                          | 56,534     | (1.7 )%                     |
| Other retail                              | 5,589                           | 5,702      | (2.0 )%                     |
| Storm surcharge                           | 21,105                          | 24,170     | (12.7 )%                    |
| Total retail                              | 330,481                         | 337,571    | (2.1 )%                     |
| Sales for resale                          | 19,685                          | 16,614     | 18.5 %                      |
| Unbilled                                  | 1,954                           | (623 )     | 413.6 %                     |
| Total retail and wholesale customer sales | \$ 352,120                      | \$ 353,562 | (0.4 )%                     |

The following chart shows how cooling and heating degree-days varied from normal conditions and from the prior period. Cleco Power uses temperature data collected by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to determine cooling and heating degree-days.

|                        | FOR THE YEAR ENDED<br>DECEMBER 31, |       |        |                              |         |
|------------------------|------------------------------------|-------|--------|------------------------------|---------|
|                        | 2008                               | 2007  | NORMAL | 2008 CHANGE<br>PRIOR<br>YEAR | NORMAL  |
| Cooling<br>degree-days | 2,923                              | 2,999 | 2,663  | (2.5)%                       | 9.8 %   |
| Heating<br>degree-days | 1,437                              | 1,411 | 1,654  | 1.8 %                        | (13.1)% |

#### Base

Base revenue during 2008 decreased \$1.4 million, or 0.4%, compared to 2007. The decrease was primarily due to lower electric sales to retail and wholesale customers, generally resulting from changes in weather, hurricane-related outages, and decreases in the amount being recovered for storm restoration costs through a monthly customer surcharge and in base rates. The monthly cost to customers was reduced in March 2008 when the storm costs were financed through the issuance of storm recovery bonds by Cleco Katrina/Rita. These decreases were partially offset by higher sales to municipal customers.

Fuel Cost Recovery

Fuel cost recovery revenue billed to customers during 2008 compared to 2007 increased \$46.2 million, or 7.3%, primarily due to increases in the per-unit cost of power purchased for utility customers and higher volumes of fuel used for electric generation. Partially offsetting the increase were decreased volumes of power purchased for utility customers and decreases in the per-unit cost of fuel used for electric generation.

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#### Other Operations

Other operations revenue increased \$1.5 million, or 4.3%, in 2008 compared to 2007, primarily due to \$3.7 million of higher transmission revenue, customer fees, and pole attachment revenue, partially offset by a \$2.2 million net loss relating to economic hedge transactions associated with fixed-price power being provided to a wholesale customer. For information on Cleco's energy commodity activities, see Item 7A, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk — Risk Overview — Commodity Price Risks."

#### Operating Expenses

Operating expenses increased \$31.3 million, or 3.4%, in 2008 compared to 2007. Fuel used for electric generation (recoverable) decreased \$38.7 million, or 14.6%, primarily due to lower per-unit costs of fuel used as compared to the same period of 2007, as a result of realized gains on fuel hedging due to the price volatility of natural gas. Partially offsetting this decrease were higher volumes of fuel used for electric generation, primarily from the absence in 2008 of plant outages as compared to the same period of 2007. Power purchased for utility customers (recoverable) increased \$85.0 million, or 23.0%, primarily due to higher per-unit costs of purchased power. Partially offsetting this increase were lower volumes of purchased power. Fuel used for electric generation and power purchased for utility customers generally are influenced by natural gas prices, as well as availability of transmission. However, other factors such as scheduled and/or unscheduled outages, unusual maintenance or repairs, or other developments may affect fuel used for electric generation and power purchased for utility customers. Non-recoverable fuel and power purchased increased \$1.5 million, or 6.1%, primarily due to higher capacity payments made during 2008. Other operations expense decreased \$4.0 million, or 4.1%, primarily due to lower employee benefit costs and administrative expenses. Maintenance expenses during 2008 decreased \$3.7 million, or 7.9%, compared to 2007 primarily due to less distribution and generating station maintenance work performed during 2008. Depreciation expense decreased \$2.1 million, or 2.7%, primarily due to \$3.6 million of lower storm amortization costs, partially offset by \$1.5 million related to normal recurring additions to fixed assets. Taxes other than income taxes decreased \$6.6 million, or 17.7%, primarily due to a change in the accounting treatment of city franchise fees as a result of an LPSC order and lower property taxes.

#### Interest Income

Interest income decreased \$1.5 million, or 27.3%, during 2008 compared to 2007 primarily due to a lower recovery of interest costs relating to Cleco Power's lower deferred lignite mining costs. For additional information, see "— Financial Condition — Other Matters — Lignite Deferral."

#### Allowance for Other Funds Used During Construction

Allowance for other funds used during construction increased \$32.0 million, or 97.1%, during 2008 compared to 2007 primarily due to increased construction activity at Rodemacher Unit 3. Allowance for other funds used during construction comprised 57.1% of Cleco Power's net income for 2008, compared to 38.9% for 2007.

#### Interest Charges

Interest charges increased \$17.7 million, or 59.9%, during 2008 compared to 2007 primarily due to the following: \$9.6 million related to the May 2008 issuance of senior notes; \$7.2 million related to the March 2008 issuance of storm recovery bonds; \$3.6 million related to the November 2007 issuance of solid waste disposal facility bonds; \$7.5 million related to the carrying cost of the tax benefits of storm damage costs; \$6.6 million primarily related to a favorable 2007 settlement with the IRS; and \$0.4 million related to the December 2008 issuance of GO Zone bonds. Partially offsetting this increase was \$6.5 million of allowance for borrowed funds used during construction associated with the construction activity at Rodemacher Unit 3, \$5.9 million related to the storm damage surcredit, \$2.1 million related to the repayment of medium-term notes during 2007, \$1.7 million related primarily to lower interest rates on Cleco Power's credit facility, and \$1.0 million related to interest on retainage from Shaw.



## Income Taxes

Income tax expense decreased \$1.7 million, or 5.6%, during 2008 compared to 2007, primarily due to a decrease in pre-tax income excluding equity AFUDC. The effective income tax rate is less than the expected statutory rate due to the significant impact of flow-through treatment on electric plant-related differences such as equity AFUDC.

## Midstream's Results of Operations —

Year ended December 31, 2008,

Compared to Year ended December 31, 2007

| (THOUSANDS)                                    | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, |          |                                     |           |
|--|---------------------------------|----------|-------------------------------------|-----------|
|  | 2008                            | 2007     | FAVORABLE/(UNFAVORABLE)<br>VARIANCE | CHANGE    |
| Operating revenue                              |                                 |          |                                     |           |
| Other operations                               | \$1                             | \$16     | \$ (15 )                            | (93.8 )%  |
| Affiliate revenue                              | 7,920                           | 5,050    | 2,870                               | 56.8 %    |
| Operating revenue                              | 7,921                           | 5,066    | 2,855                               | 56.4 %    |
| Operating expenses                             |                                 |          |                                     |           |
| Other operations                               | 6,670                           | 6,289    | (381 )                              | (6.1 )%   |
| Maintenance                                    | 3,800                           | 2,499    | (1,301 )                            | (52.1 )%  |
| Depreciation                                   | 307                             | 306      | (1 )                                | (0.3 )%   |
| Taxes other than income taxes                  | 395                             | 316      | (79 )                               | (25.0 )%  |
| Gain on sales of assets                        | (99 )                           | -        | 99                                  | -         |
| Total operating expenses                       | 11,073                          | 9,410    | (1,663 )                            | (17.7 )%  |
| Operating loss                                 | (3,152 )                        | (4,344 ) | 1,192                               | 27.4 %    |
| Interest income                                | -                               | 1,047    | (1,047 )                            | (100.0 )% |
| Equity (loss) income from investees            | \$(7,037 )                      | \$91,581 | \$ (98,618 )                        | (107.7 )% |
| Other income                                   | \$-                             | \$27,924 | \$ (27,924 )                        | (100.0 )% |
| Other expense                                  | \$32                            | \$1,253  | \$ 1,221                            | 97.4 %    |
| Interest charges                               | \$6,978                         | \$19,053 | \$ 12,075                           | 63.4 %    |
| Federal and state income tax (benefit) expense | \$(7,182 )                      | \$36,585 | \$ 43,767                           | 119.6 %   |
| Net (loss) income                              | \$(10,017 )                     | \$59,317 | \$ (69,334 )                        | (116.9 )% |

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Factors affecting Midstream during 2008 are described below.

#### Operating Revenue and Operating Expenses

Operating revenue increased \$2.9 million, or 56.4%, in 2008 compared to 2007. Operating expenses increased \$1.7 million, or 17.7%, in 2008 compared to 2007. The increases were primarily due to the accounting treatment of Acadia's power plant operations, maintenance, and engineering services resulting from Cajun's purchase of Calpine's 50% ownership interest in Acadia in September 2007. Prior to September 2007, Calpine employees provided power plant operations, maintenance, and engineering services to Acadia. Subsequent to September 2007, these services were provided by Midstream. As a result, revenue and expenses associated with plant operations for Acadia are included in affiliate revenue and operating expenses, respectively.

#### Interest Income

Interest income decreased \$1.0 million, or 100.0%, in 2008 compared to 2007, primarily due to lower investment balances at APH.

#### Equity Income from Investees

Equity income from investees decreased \$98.6 million, or 107.7%, in 2008 compared to 2007. The decrease was due to a \$91.5 million decrease in equity earnings at APH and a \$7.1 million decrease at Evangeline. This decrease at APH was primarily due to the absence in 2008 of the settlement of Acadia's pre-petition unsecured claims against CES and Calpine and amounts received by APH in 2007 relating to CAH's 50% equity ownership interest in Acadia. Partially offsetting these decreases was an impairment loss recorded during 2007. The decrease at Evangeline was primarily due to higher maintenance expenses largely relating to a planned combustion turbine major inspection outage during 2008, higher maintenance expenses under Evangeline's long-term maintenance contract, and higher other unplanned maintenance expenses as compared to 2007. As previously discussed, Midstream's ownership interests in Perryville and Attala were transferred to Cleco Corporation effective February 1, 2007, and are no longer reported as equity income from investees on Midstream's financial statements. In accordance with the authoritative guidance on segment reporting, operating results for prior periods have been adjusted to reflect this new structure. For additional information, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 11 — Disclosures about Segments."

#### Other Income

Other income decreased \$27.9 million, or 100.0%, during 2008 compared to 2007, as a result of amounts being received by APH during 2007 relating to Cajun's purchase of CAH's 50% equity ownership interest in Acadia. Of this amount, \$25.0 million represented consideration of APH's guaranteed payments from Acadia and \$2.9 million represented break-up fees.

#### Other Expense

Other expense decreased \$1.2 million, or 97.4%, during 2008 compared to 2007, primarily due to APH's payment during 2007 to acquire Calpine's interest in Acadia's claim against Cleco Power regarding a potential electric metering error at the Acadia facility.

#### Interest Charges

Interest charges decreased \$12.1 million, or 63.4%, during 2008 compared to 2007, primarily due to a lower interest rate and a lower balance on affiliate debt relating to APH's investment in Acadia.

#### Income Taxes

Income tax expense decreased \$43.8 million, or 119.6%, during 2008 compared to 2007, primarily due to a decrease in pre-tax income.

#### CLECO POWER LLC — NARRATIVE ANALYSIS OF RESULTS OF OPERATIONS

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For a narrative analysis of the results of operations explaining the reasons for material changes in the amount of revenue and expense items of Cleco Power between the year ended December 31, 2009 and the year ended December 31, 2008, see “Results of Operations — Cleco Power’s Results of Operations — Year ended December 31, 2009, Compared to Year ended December 31, 2008.”

For a narrative analysis of the results of operations explaining the reasons for material changes in the amount of revenue and expense items of Cleco Power between the year ended December 31, 2008, and the year ended December 31, 2007, see “Results of Operations — Cleco Power’s Results of Operations — Year ended December 31, 2008, Compared to Year ended December 31, 2007.”

The narrative analyses referenced above should be read in combination with Cleco Power’s Financial Statements and the Notes contained in this Form 10-K.

#### CRITICAL ACCOUNTING POLICIES

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Cleco’s critical accounting policies include those accounting policies that are both important to Cleco’s financial condition and results of operations and those that require management to make difficult, subjective, or complex judgments about future events, which could result in a material impact to the financial statements of Cleco Corporation’s segments or to Cleco as a consolidated entity. The financial statements contained in this report are prepared in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, which require Cleco to make estimates and assumptions. Estimates and assumptions about future events and their effects cannot be made with certainty. Management bases its current estimates and assumptions on historical experience and on various other factors that are believed to be reasonable under the circumstances. On an ongoing basis, these estimates and assumptions are evaluated and, if necessary, adjustments are made when warranted by new or updated information or by a change in circumstances or

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environment. Actual results may differ significantly from these estimates under different assumptions or conditions. For additional information on Cleco's accounting policies, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 2 — Summary of Significant Accounting Policies." Cleco believes that the following are the most significant critical accounting policies for the Company:

§ Cleco accounts for pensions and other postretirement benefits under applicable GAAP. To determine assets, liabilities, income, and expense relating to pension and other postretirement benefits, management must make assumptions about future trends. Assumptions and estimates include, but are not limited to, discount rate, expected return on plan assets, future rate of compensation increases, and medical inflation trend rates. These assumptions are reviewed and updated on an annual basis. Changes in the rates from year to year and newly enacted laws could have a material effect on Cleco's financial condition and results of operations by changing the recorded assets, liabilities, income, expense, or required funding of the pension plan obligation. One component of pension expense is the expected return on plan assets. It is an assumed percentage return on the market-related value of plan assets. The market-related value of plan assets differs from the fair value of plan assets by the amount of deferred asset gains or losses. Actual asset returns that differ from the expected return on plan assets are deferred and recognized in the market-related value of assets on a straight-line basis over a five-year period. The 2009 return on pension plan assets was 16.0% compared to an expected long-term return of 7.8%. For 2008, the return on plan assets was (26.9)% compared to an expected long-term return of 8.4%. During 2009, Cleco reduced its expected long-term return on plan assets from 8.4% to 7.8%. The reduction caused an increase in net pension expense of approximately \$1.4 million in 2009.

Cleco uses the Citigroup Pension Liability Index, adjusted for differences in cash flows, in determining the discount rate applied to its pension plans. Management believes the use of the Citigroup Pension Index, as adjusted, is appropriate because the index's cash flows are materially similar to those of Cleco's pension plans. As a result of the annual review of assumptions, the discount rate decreased from 6.01% to 5.91%.

A change in the assumed discount rate creates a deferred actuarial gain or loss. Generally, when the assumed discount rate decreases compared to the prior measurement date, a deferred actuarial loss is created. When the assumed discount rate increases compared to the prior measurement date, a deferred actuarial gain is created. Actuarial gains and losses also are created when actual results, such as assumed compensation increases, differ from assumptions. The net of the deferred gains and losses is amortized to pension expense over the average service life of the remaining plan participants, 16 years for Cleco's plan, when it exceeds certain thresholds. This approach to amortization of gains and losses has the effect of reducing the volatility of pension expense attributable to investment returns. Over time, it is not expected to reduce or increase the pension expense relative to an approach that immediately recognizes losses and gains.

The decrease in the discount rate combined with accumulated differences between assumed long-term return on plan assets and actual return is expected to increase pension expense by \$0.4 million in 2010 compared to 2009. Since both assumptions are evaluated yearly, the increase may not extend past 2010.

Cleco Power made \$18.8 million of discretionary contributions to the pension plan during 2009 as compared to a \$6.0 million discretionary contribution to the pension plan in 2008 and none in 2007. Future discretionary contributions may be made depending on changes in assumptions, the ability to utilize the contribution as a tax deduction and requirements concerning recognizing a minimum pension liability. Currently, Cleco Power expects to be required to make \$70.0 million in contributions to the pension plan over the next five years. The required contributions are driven by liability funding target percentages set by law which could cause the required contributions to be uneven among the years. The ultimate amount and timing of the contributions will be affected by changes in the discount rate, changes in the funding regulations, and actual returns on fund assets. For additional information on pensions and other postretirement benefits, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 9 — Pension Plan and Employee Benefits."

§ Income tax expense and related balance sheet amounts are comprised of a "current" portion and a "deferred" portion. The current portion represents Cleco's estimate of the income taxes payable or receivable for the current

year. The deferred portion represents Cleco's estimate of the future income tax effects of events that have been recognized in the financial statements or income tax returns in the current or prior years. Cleco makes assumptions and estimates when it records income taxes, such as its ability to deduct items on its tax returns, the timing of the deduction, and the effect of regulation by the LPSC on income taxes. Cleco's income tax expense and related assets and liabilities could be affected by changes in its assumptions and estimates and by ultimate resolution of assumptions and estimates with taxing authorities. The actual results may differ from the estimated results based on these assumptions and may have a material effect on Cleco's results of operations. For additional information about Cleco Corporation's income taxes, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 10 — Income Taxes."

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Effective January 1, 2007, Cleco adopted the provisions of the authoritative guidance relating to uncertain tax positions. The guidelines require management to estimate the reliability of positions taken on tax returns. These estimates could differ significantly from the ultimate outcome. For additional information on the adoption of these guidelines, see Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplemental Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 2 — Summary of Significant Accounting Policies — Recent Authoritative Guidance.”

§ Cleco Corporation consolidates entities as required by GAAP. Generally, a parent consolidates entities in which it controls, either directly or indirectly, the majority of the voting interest. Additionally, a parent could be required to consolidate an entity in which it does not control a majority voting interest if the subsidiary is a variable interest entity and meets certain criteria making the parent the primary beneficiary of an entity. An entity is a variable interest entity if it lacks the ability to finance its activities without support from other parties; if its owners lack controlling financial interest in the entity; or if the entity either conducts substantially all of its activities with or on behalf of an investor or if voting rights are disproportional to risks and rewards. While consolidation or the equity method of accounting will not affect net income applicable to common shareholders, it may affect specific line items within the income statement, such as revenue, specific expense line items, and income from equity investees. Consolidation or the equity method of accounting of an entity will affect specific balance sheet items such as property, plant and equipment and long-term debt, which will cause changes in total assets and total liabilities. Shareholders’ equity should not be affected by consolidation or the equity method of accounting of entities. Effective January 1, 2010, the requirements for consolidation changed. The implementation of this amendment on January 1, 2010, required Cleco Corporation to consolidate three wholly owned subsidiaries that had been accounted for using the equity method. Prior to January 1, 2010, Perryville, Attala, and Evangeline were presented in the consolidated financial statements;

- o All entities’ results of operations before taxes as one line item on the consolidated statements of income entitled Equity (loss) income from investees,
- o All entities’ assets and liabilities on the consolidated balance sheets as one line item entitled Equity investment in investees, and
- o All entities’ cash flows in the consolidated statement of cash flows as return on equity investment in investee, return of equity investment in investee and equity investment in investee.

On and after January 1, 2010, all entities’ assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and cash flows will be presented on the appropriate line items of the consolidated financial statements. Cleco has chosen to implement the consolidation prospectively and not retrospectively, therefore the consolidation will not be carried back to comparative prior periods in financial statements issued after implementation. For additional information on Perryville, Attala and Evangeline, see Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Note 2 — Summary of Significant Accounting Policies — Recent Authoritative Guidance” and Note 13 — “Equity Investment in Investees.”

§ Part of the compensation employees and directors receive is in the form of equity instruments. The instruments may take the form of restricted stock, stock options, stock equivalent units, or other types of equity instruments as described in the compensatory plans. Cleco recognizes equity compensation at the grant date fair value for instruments settled in equity and reporting date fair value for equity compensation settled in cash. Estimates used in the calculation require management judgments and could cause volatility in earnings. For additional information on stock-based compensation, see Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplemental Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 7 — Common Stock — Stock-Based Compensation.”

#### Cleco Power

Cleco Power’s prices are regulated by the LPSC and FERC. By determining what costs can be recovered by Cleco Power through the price it charges its customers, regulatory assets and liabilities are recognized. Future changes made by the regulatory bodies could have a material impact on the operations and financial condition of Cleco Power. Below are three areas that could be materially impacted by future actions of regulators.

- § The LPSC determines the ability of Cleco Power to recover prudent costs incurred in developing long-lived assets. If the LPSC was to rule that the cost of current or future long-lived assets was imprudent and not recoverable, Cleco Power could be required to write down the imprudent cost and incur a corresponding impairment loss. At December 31, 2009, the carrying value of Cleco Power's long-lived assets was \$2.2 billion. Currently, Cleco Power has concluded that none of its long-lived assets are impaired.
- § Cleco Power has concluded it is probable that regulatory assets can be recovered from ratepayers in future rates. At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power had \$327.5 million in regulatory assets, net of regulatory liabilities. Actions by the LPSC could limit the recovery of these regulatory assets, causing Cleco Power to record a loss on some or all of the regulatory assets. For additional information on the LPSC and regulatory assets, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 2 — Summary of Significant Accounting Policies — Regulation," Note 3 — "Regulatory Assets and Liabilities," and "— Financial Condition — Matters — Lignite Deferral."

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§ The LPSC determines the amount and type of fuel and purchased power costs that Cleco Power can charge customers through the fuel adjustment clause. Changes in the determination of allowable costs already incurred by Cleco Power could cause material changes in fuel revenue. For the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007, Cleco Power reported fuel revenue of \$453.6 million, \$680.9 million, and \$634.6 million, respectively.

#### Midstream

Generally, Midstream is most affected by market conditions and changes in contract counterparty credit ratings and financial condition. The most important are listed below.

§ Certain triggering events could cause Midstream to determine that its long-lived assets or its equity method investments may be impaired according to applicable accounting guidance. Triggering events which apply to long-lived assets include, but are not limited to, a significant decrease in the market value of long-lived assets, significant changes in a tolling agreement counterparty's financial condition, a significant change in legal factors, such as adverse changes in environmental laws, or a current operating or cash flow loss combined with a projection of continued losses in the future. An equity method investment is required to be tested for impairment if an "other than temporary" decline in market value occurs. Any impairment calculated is subject to many assumptions and estimations. Management must make assumptions about expected future cash flows, long-term interest rates, estimates about the probability of the occurrence of future events, and estimates of market value of assets without a readily observable market price. Differences between the estimate made at a particular balance sheet date and actual events could cause material adjustments to an impairment charge. In September 2007, Midstream recognized an impairment of its indirect equity investment in Acadia of \$45.8 million. At December 31, 2009, Midstream had \$1.0 million in long-lived assets and \$223.7 million in equity method investments. For additional information on the impairment charges, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 13 — Equity Investment in Investees."

§ During 2009, Acadia's long-lived assets met the criteria of held for sale. When assets are held for sale, depreciation expense ceases to be recognized and the assets are classified as current. The assets were tested for impairment. Due to the price for the assets being above the carrying cost, no impairment was recognized. If events occur that prevent the transaction from closing, some or all of Acadia's assets might be considered as held for use, impairment recalculated and recognized, and depreciation expense would be recognized. At December 31, 2009, Acadia had \$405.9 million of assets that met the criteria of held for sale. For additional information on Acadia, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 13 — Equity Investment in Investees."

§ Midstream records income from Evangeline as income from an equity investment and accounts for the Evangeline Tolling Agreement as an operating lease. If the tolling agreement was to be modified to the extent that it would make lease accounting no longer appropriate, future results could materially differ from those currently reported. Under current lease accounting rules, over the first 10 years of the tolling agreement, Evangeline will recognize revenue that will not be billed and collected until the last 10 years of the tolling agreement. If lease accounting was to cease, the revenue would be recognized as billed, causing the revenue recognized in the first 10 years to be lower than it would have been under lease accounting. As of December 31, 2009, Evangeline had recorded \$26.9 million in revenue that will not be billed and collected until the last 10 years of the tolling agreement, beginning in the year 2010. If the tolling agreement is modified substantially, the \$26.9 million may not be collectible, and Evangeline may be required to incur a loss of some or all of the \$26.9 million. In February 2010, Evangeline and JPMVEC entered into the Evangeline Restructuring Agreement. Under this agreement the existing Evangeline Tolling Agreement was terminated, and the parties entered into the Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement, effective March 1, 2010. The Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement expires on December 31, 2011, with an option for JPMVEC to extend the term of the agreement through December 31, 2012. Also, under the Evangeline Restructuring Agreement, \$126.6 million of Evangeline Senior Secured bonds owned by JPMVEC



were transferred to Evangeline and subsequently retired by Evangeline and \$5.3 million of accrued interest associated with the Evangeline bonds transferred to Evangeline was eliminated. Cleco received a \$56.7 million cash payment from JPMVEC, which was partially a settlement of the \$26.9 million operating lease asset that represented the straight line recognition of a fixed escalation. The Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement is expected to produce lower revenues than previously expected under the Evangeline Tolling Agreement. For additional information on the Evangeline transactions, see Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 23 — Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions.”

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## FINANCIAL CONDITION

### Liquidity and Capital Resources

#### General Considerations and Credit-Related Risks

##### Credit Ratings and Counterparties

Financing for operational needs and construction requirements is dependent upon the cost and availability of external funds from capital markets and financial institutions. Access to funds is dependent upon factors such as general economic and capital market conditions, regulatory authorizations and policies, Cleco Corporation's credit rating, the credit rating of Cleco Corporation's subsidiaries, the cash flows from routine operations, and the credit ratings of project counterparties. The following table presents the credit ratings of Cleco Corporation, Cleco Power, Evangeline, and Cleco's tolling agreement counterparty at December 31, 2009:

|                       | MOODY'S                     |                           | STANDARD & POOR'S           |                           |
|-----------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------------|
|                       | SENIOR<br>UNSECURED<br>DEBT | SENIOR<br>SECURED<br>DEBT | SENIOR<br>UNSECURED<br>DEBT | SENIOR<br>SECURED<br>DEBT |
| Cleco Corporation     | Baa3                        | -                         | BBB-                        | -                         |
| Cleco Power           | Baa2                        | -                         | BBB                         | -                         |
| Evangeline            | -                           | Ba2                       | -                           | -                         |
| Tolling Counterparty: |                             |                           |                             |                           |
| JPMorgan Chase & Co.  | Aa3                         | -                         | A+                          | -                         |

Cleco notes that credit ratings are not recommendations to buy, sell, or hold securities and may be subject to revision or withdrawal at any time by the assigning rating agency. Each rating should be evaluated independently of any other rating.

At December 31, 2009, Moody's and Standard & Poor's outlooks for both Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power were stable. In November 2009, Moody's downgraded Cleco Power's credit rating by one level. This downgrade placed Cleco Power's credit rating at Moody's at a level similar to Cleco Power's credit rating at Standard & Poor's. Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power pay fees and interest under their bank credit agreements based on the highest rating held. If Cleco Corporation or Cleco Power's credit rating were to be downgraded by Moody's and Standard & Poor's, Cleco Corporation and/or Cleco Power would be required to post additional fees and higher interest rates under their bank credit agreements. Cleco Power's collateral for derivatives is based on the lower rating held. If Cleco Power's credit ratings were to be downgraded by Standard & Poor's or Moody's, Cleco Power would be required to post additional collateral for derivatives. For additional information on the impacts of a downgrade in credit ratings, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 15 — Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Risks and Uncertainties — Cleco Power." At December 31, 2009, Moody's outlook for Evangeline was stable. In February 2010, Evangeline and JPMVEC entered into a new tolling agreement. JPMorgan Chase & Co. is guaranteeing JPMVEC's obligations under the Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement. The tolling agreement is the principal source of cash flow for Evangeline. For more information regarding the Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 23 — Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions." In August 2005, Cleco Power entered into an EPC contract with Shaw to construct Rodemacher Unit 3. Under the terms of the Amended EPC Contract, until the final acceptance of Rodemacher Unit 3, in the event Cleco Power does

not maintain a senior unsecured credit rating of either: (i) Baa3 or better from Moody's or (ii) BBB- or better from Standard & Poor's, Cleco Power will be required to provide a letter of credit to Shaw in the amount of \$20.0 million. In the event of further downgrade to both of its credit ratings to: (i) Ba2 or below from Moody's, and (ii) BB or below from Standard & Poor's, Cleco Power will be required to provide an additional \$15.0 million letter of credit to Shaw.

With respect to any open power or natural gas trading positions that Cleco may initiate in the future, Cleco may be required to provide credit support or pay liquidated damages. The amount of credit support that Cleco may be required to provide at any point in the future is dependent on the amount of the initial transaction, changes in the market price of power and natural gas, the changes in open power and gas positions, and changes in the amount counterparties owe Cleco. Changes in any of these factors could cause the amount of requested credit support to increase or decrease.

#### Global Economic Conditions

The current economic conditions may have an impact on Cleco's business and financial condition. Although Cleco has not experienced restrictions in the financial markets, Cleco's ability to access the capital markets may be restricted at a time when Cleco would like, or need, to do so, which could have a material impact on its ability to fund capital expenditures or debt service, or on Cleco's flexibility to react to changing economic and business conditions. The credit constraints could have a material negative impact on Cleco's lenders or Cleco's customers causing them to fail to meet their obligations to Cleco or to delay payment of such obligations. The lower interest rates that Cleco has been exposed to have been beneficial to recent debt issuances; however, these rates have negatively affected interest income for Cleco's short-term investments. Moreover, as a result of the 2008 global economic downturn, the pension plan portfolio experienced significant losses in 2008. If the market does not continue to improve, the plan could experience more losses in the future. For a discussion of certain risks related to market conditions, see Item 1A, "Risk Factors — Global Economic Downturn."

#### Fair Value Measurements

Various accounting pronouncements require certain assets and liabilities to be measured at their fair values. Some assets and liabilities are required to be measured at their fair value each reporting period, while others are required to be measured only one time, generally the date of acquisition or debt

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issuance. Cleco and Cleco Power are required to disclose the fair value of certain assets and liabilities by one of three levels when required for recognition purposes under GAAP. Other financial assets and liabilities, such as long-term debt, are reported at their carrying values at their date of issuance on the consolidated balance sheets with their fair values disclosed without regard to the three levels. For more information about fair value levels, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 5 — Fair Value Accounting."

#### Debt

At December 31, 2009, Cleco Corporation was in violation of a covenant under its credit facility, relating to a covenant included in the \$50.0 million Cleco Power bank term loan entered into in August 2009. In February 2010, Cleco Corporation obtained a waiver from its lenders for such non-compliance. Cleco Corporation paid the lenders no fees related to this waiver.

At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power was in compliance with the covenants in its credit facilities. In August 2009, Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power entered into amendments to their respective credit facilities that increased thresholds in a representation relating to pension plan obligations above the amount of the current plan assets. Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power incurred \$0.1 million in expenses obtaining bank waivers related to the amendments. If Cleco Corporation were to default under the covenants in its various credit facilities, it would be unable to borrow additional funds under the facilities. Further, if Cleco Power were to default under its credit facility, Cleco Corporation would be considered in default under its credit facility. The bonds issued by Evangeline are non-recourse to Cleco Corporation, and a default on these bonds would not be considered a default under Cleco Corporation's credit facility. If Cleco Corporation's credit rating were to be downgraded one level below investment grade, Cleco Corporation would be required to pay fees and interest at a rate of 0.45% higher than the current level for its \$150.0 million credit facility. A similar downgrade to the credit ratings of Cleco Power would require Cleco Power to pay fees and interest at a rate of 0.60% higher than the current level on its \$275.0 million credit facility.

#### Cleco Consolidated

Cleco had no short-term debt outstanding at December 31, 2009, or 2008. At December 31, 2009, Cleco's long-term debt outstanding was \$1.3 billion, of which \$11.5 million is long-term debt due within one year, compared to \$1.2 billion at December 31, 2008, which included \$63.5 million long-term debt due within one year. The long-term debt due within one year represents \$11.5 million of principal payments for the Cleco Katrina/Rita storm recovery bonds scheduled to be paid in the next twelve months.

For Cleco, long-term debt increased \$161.4 million during 2009 primarily due to the issuance of \$145.0 million of 6.50% senior notes due December 1, 2035, in November 2009, a \$65.0 million increase in Cleco Corporation's credit facility draws, the execution of a \$50.0 million variable-rate monthly bank loan in August 2009, and a \$19.1 million net increase in long-term capital leases. These increases were partially offset by the \$50.0 million repayment of medium-term notes at maturity in May 2009, the \$49.5 million repayment of insured quarterly notes in August 2009, and \$13.5 million related to scheduled Cleco Katrina/Rita storm recovery bond principal payments. During January 2009, Cleco Power entered into a capital lease agreement for barges to be used for fuel transportation for Rodemacher Unit 3, causing a \$19.1 million net increase in long-term debt. For additional information, see "— Cleco Corporation (Holding Company Level)" and "— Cleco Power" below, and also see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 15 — Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Other Contingencies — Fuel Transportation Agreement."

At December 31, 2009, and 2008, Cleco had a working capital surplus of \$252.1 million and \$105.5 million, respectively. Included in working capital at December 31, 2009 and 2008, was \$29.9 million and \$62.3 million, respectively, which was restricted for the use of debt payments. The \$146.6 million increase in working capital is primarily due to net proceeds from the issuance of bonds, partially offset by additions to property plant and equipment, including Rodemacher Unit 3.

At December 31, 2009, Cleco's Consolidated Balance Sheet reflected \$2.6 billion of total liabilities compared to \$2.3 billion at December 31, 2008. The \$0.3 billion increase in total liabilities was primarily due to increases in long-term debt, total other regulatory liabilities, and uncertain tax positions. As discussed above, long-term debt increased \$161.4 million during 2009. The \$97.3 million increase in total other regulatory liabilities from December 31, 2008, was primarily due to the increase in deferred construction carrying costs of Rodemacher Unit 3. The increase in uncertain tax positions contributed \$39.5 million of the change in total liabilities. For more information on the deferred construction carrying costs of Rodemacher Unit 3, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 3 — Regulatory Assets and Liabilities — Deferred Construction Carrying Costs." For more information on uncertain tax positions, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 10 — Income Taxes— Uncertain Tax Positions."

Cash and cash equivalents available at December 31, 2009, were \$145.2 million combined with \$315.0 million facility capacity (\$40.0 million from Cleco Corporation and \$275.0 million from Cleco Power) for total liquidity of \$460.2 million. Cash and cash equivalents available at December 31, 2009 increased \$47.7 million when compared to cash and cash equivalents available at December 31, 2008. This increase is primarily due to the issuance of bonds, reduced by additions to property, plant and equipment, including Rodemacher Unit 3.

At December 31, 2009, Cleco and Cleco Power were exposed to concentrations of credit risk through their short-term

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investments classified as cash equivalents. In order to mitigate potential credit risk, Cleco and Cleco Power have established guidelines for short-term investments. For more on the concentration of credit risk through short-term investments classified as cash equivalents, see Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 5 — Fair Value Accounting.”

#### Cleco Corporation (Holding Company Level)

Cleco Corporation had no short-term debt outstanding at December 31, 2009, or 2008. At December 31, 2009, Cleco Corporation’s long-term debt outstanding was \$95.0 million, of which none was due within one year, compared to \$30.0 million of long-term debt of which none was due within one year at December 31, 2008.

Cleco Corporation’s \$150.0 million five-year credit facility matures on June 2, 2011. This facility provides for working capital and other needs. Cleco Corporation’s borrowing costs under the facility are equal to LIBOR plus 0.65%, including facility fees. The facility contains the following material covenants:

- § a requirement that Cleco maintain at all times total indebtedness equal to or less than 65% of total capitalization;
- § a requirement that Cleco maintain a ratio of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization to interest expense as of the end of any fiscal quarter of at least 2.50 to 1.00;
- § a prohibition against incurring debt other than under the facility, subject to the following permitted exceptions, among others: (i) up to \$425.0 million (less borrowings under the facility) of specified types of other debt may be incurred; (ii) guarantees of Cleco Power obligations and (iii) other specified guarantees, up to specified amounts;
  - § a prohibition against creating liens upon any property, subject to permitted exceptions;
  - § restrictions on merging, consolidating, or selling assets outside the ordinary course of business;
- § limitations on the payment of dividends, redemptions or repurchases of equity securities and payments in respect of subordinated debt, subject to various exceptions;
- § a prohibition against making loans or investments, subject to permitted exceptions, including exceptions for investments of up to \$10.0 million per year in subsidiaries other than Cleco Power and loans of up to \$20.0 million in the aggregate to such subsidiaries;
  - § a prohibition against transactions with affiliates, subject to permitted exceptions;
- § a prohibition against Cleco and Cleco Power entering into agreements or arrangements that prohibit or restrict their ability to incur liens, or Cleco Power’s ability to pay dividends or to repay debt or make payments to Cleco, subject to permitted exceptions; and
- § a prohibition against entering into speculative and other hedge agreements intended to be a borrowing of funds.

At December 31, 2009, \$95.0 million was outstanding under Cleco Corporation’s \$150.0 million credit facility. The weighted average interest rate of outstanding borrowings under the credit facility at December 31, 2009 was 0.763%. Off-balance sheet commitments also reduced available borrowings under the credit facility by \$15.0 million, leaving available capacity of \$40.0 million. An uncommitted line of credit with a bank in an amount up to \$10.0 million is available to support Cleco Corporation’s working capital needs. For more information about these commitments, see Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 15 — Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Off-Balance Sheet Commitments and Disclosures about Guarantees.”

Cash and cash equivalents available at December 31, 2009, were \$7.1 million, combined with \$40.0 million credit facility capacity, for total liquidity of \$47.1 million. Cash and cash equivalents available at December 31, 2009 increased \$1.1 million when compared to cash and cash equivalents available at December 31, 2008, primarily due to routine working capital fluctuations.

Cleco Power

There was no short-term debt outstanding at Cleco Power at December 31, 2009, or 2008. At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power's long-term debt outstanding was \$1.2 billion, of which \$11.5 million was due within one year, compared to \$1.1 billion at December 31, 2008, of which \$63.5 million was due within one year. The \$11.5 million of long-term debt due within one year represents principal payments for the Cleco Katrina/Rita storm recovery bonds scheduled to be paid in the next twelve months.

For Cleco Power, long-term debt increased \$96.4 million during 2009 primarily due to the issuance of \$145.0 million of 6.50% senior notes, due December 1, 2035, in November 2009, the execution of a \$50.0 million variable-rate monthly bank loan in August 2009, and a \$19.1 million net increase in long-term capital leases. These increases were partially offset by the \$50.0 million repayment of a medium-term note at maturity in May 2009, the \$49.5 million repayment of insured quarterly notes in August 2009, and \$13.5 million of scheduled principal payments for the Cleco Katrina/Rita storm recovery bonds. During January 2009, Cleco Power entered into a capital lease agreement for barges to be used for fuel transportation for Rodemacher Unit 3, causing a \$19.1 million net increase in long-term debt. For additional information regarding the barge lease, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 15 — Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Other Contingencies — Fuel Transportation Agreement."

Cleco Power's \$275.0 million five-year credit facility matures on June 2, 2011. This facility provides for working capital and other needs. Cleco Power's borrowing costs under the facility are equal to LIBOR plus 0.50%, including facility fees. The facility includes the following material covenants:

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- § a requirement that Cleco Power maintain at all times total indebtedness equal to or less than 65% of total capitalization;
- § a requirement that Cleco Power maintain a ratio of earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation, and amortization to interest expense as of the end of any fiscal quarter of at least 2.50 to 1.00;
  - § a prohibition against creating liens upon any property, subject to permitted exceptions;
  - § restrictions on merging, consolidating, or selling assets outside the ordinary course of business;
    - § a prohibition against making loans, subject to permitted exceptions; and
    - § a prohibition against amending Cleco Power's Indenture of Mortgage dated July 1, 1950.

At December 31, 2009, and 2008, Cleco Power had a working capital surplus of \$182.7 million and \$88.0 million, respectively. Included in working capital at December 31, 2009 and 2008 was \$29.9 million and \$62.3 million, respectively, which was restricted for the use of debt payments. The \$94.7 million increase in working capital is primarily due to net proceeds from the issuance of bonds, partially offset by additions to property plant and equipment, including Rodemacher Unit 3.

At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power's Consolidated Balance Sheet reflected \$2.4 billion of total liabilities compared to \$2.1 billion at December 31, 2008. The \$0.3 billion increase in total liabilities during 2009 was primarily due to increases in total other regulatory liabilities, long-term debt, and accumulated deferred federal and state income taxes, net. The \$97.3 million increase in total other regulatory liabilities from December 31, 2008, was primarily due to the increase in deferred construction carrying costs of Rodemacher Unit 3. Long-term debt increased \$96.4 million during 2009, as discussed above. The \$47.3 million increase in accumulated deferred federal and state income taxes, net, was primarily due to a change in the tax accounting method for repairs. For more information on the deferred construction carrying costs of Rodemacher Unit 3, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 3 — Regulatory Assets and Liabilities — Deferred Construction Carrying Costs." At December 31, 2009, no borrowings were outstanding under Cleco Power's \$275.0 million, five-year revolving credit facility. An uncommitted line of credit with a bank in an amount up to \$10.0 million also is available to support Cleco Power's working capital needs.

In August 2009, Cleco Power redeemed all \$49.5 million principal amount of its outstanding 6.05% insured quarterly notes due June 2012. Once redeemed, the notes were replaced with a one-month LIBOR plus 3.00% floating rate bank loan, maturing on August 19, 2012. In July 2009, Cleco Power locked in a \$50.0 million interest rate swap arrangement related to this loan. This swap was effective on August 19, 2009 and will mature on May 31, 2012. For additional information, see Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors — Interest Rate Swap" and Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 5 — Fair Value Accounting — Interest Rate Swap." In October 2009, Cleco Power entered into a treasury rate lock contract in order to mitigate the interest rate exposure on a possible future debt issuance. The notional amount of the treasury rate lock was \$75.0 million. The reference rate of 4.005% was based on the 30-year treasury note yield as of October 2, 2009.

In November 2009, Cleco Power issued \$145.0 million aggregate principal amount of senior unsecured notes as additional notes of a class of \$150.0 million senior notes issued in November 2005. The interest rate for the notes is 6.50%, and the aggregate \$295.0 million of the notes mature on December 1, 2035. The net proceeds from the November 2009 offering were used for general corporate purposes, including financing a portion of the construction costs related to the Acadiana Load Pocket transmission project.

Also in November 2009, Cleco Power settled the treasury rate lock that was entered into in October 2009. The reference rate, based on the 30-year treasury note yield, on the date of settlement of the treasury rate lock was 4.378%, which resulted in Cleco Power receiving \$4.7 million from the counterparty. The treasury rate lock is considered a derivative instrument that qualifies as a cash flow hedge for accounting purposes. While the treasury rate lock meets the definition of "highly effective," it did contain some ineffectiveness relating to the discount period of the treasury rate lock (30 years) as compared to the discount period used to calculate the senior note issuance discount (26 years). Cleco Power recorded the ineffective portion of \$0.4 million as a reduction in interest expense. The remaining effective portion of \$4.3 million was recorded as an increase in accumulated other comprehensive



income. The \$4.3 million in accumulated other comprehensive income will be reclassified as a reduction to interest expense over the remaining 26-year life of the senior notes.

Cash and cash equivalents available at December 31, 2009, were \$138.1 million, combined with \$275.0 million facility capacity for total liquidity of \$413.1 million. Cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2009 increased \$46.6 million, when compared to cash and cash equivalents at December 31, 2008. This increase is primarily due to cash received from the issuance of bonds, partially offset by additions to property, plant and equipment, including Rodemacher Unit 3.

In February 2006, the LPSC approved Cleco Power's plans to build Rodemacher Unit 3. Terms of the approval included acceptance of an LPSC Staff recommendation that Cleco Power collect from customers an amount equal to 75% of the carrying costs of capital during the construction phase of the unit. In addition to this recovery, Cleco Power funded the construction costs related to Rodemacher Unit 3 by utilizing cash on hand, available funds from its credit facility, the issuance of long-term debt, and equity contributions from Cleco Corporation. In October 2009, the LPSC approved Cleco Power's new retail rate plan, which established that \$183.2 million be returned to customers over a five-year period. Once Rodemacher Unit 3 began commercial operations on

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February 12, 2010, Cleco Power began refunding the construction carrying costs to customers. At December 31, 2009, \$33.6 million was due to be returned within one year. For more information regarding the refunding of Rodemacher Unit 3 construction carrying costs, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 3 — Regulatory Assets and Liabilities — Deferred Construction Carrying Cost."

#### Midstream

Midstream had no short- or long-term debt outstanding at December 31, 2009, or 2008.

Evangeline, which is accounted for under the equity method, had no short-term debt outstanding at December 31, 2009, or 2008. Evangeline had \$161.8 million and \$168.9 million of long-term debt outstanding at December 31, 2009, and 2008, respectively, in the form of 8.82% Senior Secured bonds due 2019. Of these amounts, \$8.2 million and \$7.1 million were due within one year at December 31, 2009, and 2008, respectively. The Senior Secured bonds issued by Evangeline were non-recourse to Cleco Corporation. In February 2010, Evangeline and JPMVEC entered into the Evangeline Restructuring Agreement. In conjunction with the agreement, JPMVEC transferred \$126.6 million of Senior Secured bonds owned by JPMVEC to Evangeline, which bonds were subsequently retired, and the remaining \$35.2 million of principal bonds were called for irrevocable redemption. For more information, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 23 — Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions."

#### Cash Generation and Cash Requirements

##### Restricted Cash

Various agreements to which Cleco is subject contain covenants that restrict its use of cash. As certain provisions under these agreements are met, cash is transferred out of related escrow accounts and becomes available for general corporate purposes. At December 31, 2009, and 2008, \$56.4 million and \$103.0 million of cash, respectively, was restricted on Cleco Corporation's Consolidated Balance Sheets. At December 31, 2009, restricted cash consisted of \$0.1 million under the Diversified Lands mitigation escrow agreement, \$22.2 million reserved at Cleco Power for GO Zone project costs, \$25.4 million reserved at Cleco Power for future storm restoration costs, and \$8.7 million at Cleco Katrina/Rita restricted for payment of operating expenses and interest, and principal on storm recovery bonds. Restricted cash at Cleco Power at December 31, 2009, decreased \$46.5 million compared to December 31, 2008, primarily due to the use of \$22.4 million of funds for GO Zone project costs, the release of \$14.7 million for the construction of Cleco Power's solid waste disposal facilities, a \$7.5 million net decrease in Cleco Katrina/Rita restricted cash due to the payment of operating expenses and interest, and principal on storm recovery bonds, offset by collections, and Cleco Power's net use of \$1.9 million for approved storm damage costs. Evangeline's restricted cash is not reflected in Cleco Corporation's Consolidated Balance Sheets due to equity method accounting. Evangeline's restricted cash at December 31, 2009, and 2008, was \$30.1 million and \$25.0 million, respectively. This cash was restricted under Evangeline's Senior Secured bond indenture for major maintenance expenses and principal and interest payments on the Senior Secured bonds. In February 2010, Evangeline and JPMVEC entered into the Evangeline Restructuring Agreement. In conjunction with the agreement, Evangeline's restricted cash will be released to Cleco Corporation. For more information, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 23 — Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions."

##### Cleco Cash Flows

##### Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$135.2 million during 2009, \$89.5 million in 2008, and \$263.0 million in 2007.

Cash provided by operating activities during 2009 increased \$45.7 million from 2008, primarily due to higher collections of accounts receivable; increases in customer deposits; lower vendor payments; higher tax refunds; and lower gas prepayments. These were partially offset by higher purchases of fuel, materials, and supplies inventories, primarily related to preparation for Rodemacher Unit 3 to begin commercial operation; higher postretirement benefit contribution payments into the Cleco pension plan; and a large retainage payment made to Shaw related to work completed on Rodemacher Unit 3.

Cash from operating activities during 2008 decreased \$173.5 million from that reported in 2007, primarily due to the absence of proceeds from the 2007 sale of bankruptcy claims, lower dividends from equity investments in Acadia and Evangeline, and higher margin deposits. These were partially offset by higher collections of customer accounts and lower retainage payments to Shaw related to work completed on Rodemacher Unit 3.

#### Net Cash Used in Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities was \$177.2 million during 2009, \$368.7 million in 2008, and \$480.7 million in 2007. Net cash used in investing activities in 2009 was lower than 2008 primarily due to transfers from restricted accounts and lower additions to property, plant and equipment related to the Rodemacher Unit 3 project. Net cash used in investing activities in 2008 was lower than 2007 primarily due to lower additions to property, plant and equipment related to the Rodemacher Unit 3 project.

During 2009, Cleco had additions to property, plant and equipment, net of AFUDC of \$177.0 million, a \$15.7 million investment in New Market Tax Credits, a \$16.9 million investment in Acadia, and a \$12.9 million investment in Oxbow. This was partially offset by the transfer of \$46.5 million of cash from restricted accounts, primarily related to solid waste disposal and GO Zone bonds.

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During 2008, Cleco had additions to property, plant and equipment, net of AFUDC, of \$270.8 million, a \$12.2 million investment in New Market Tax Credits, a \$6.4 million investment in Perryville, and \$85.0 million of cash became restricted, primarily related to solid waste disposal, GO Zone, and storm restoration bonds. This was partially offset by a \$4.0 million return of equity from Evangeline.

During 2007, Cleco had additions to property, plant and equipment, net of AFUDC, of \$477.2 million, a \$2.2 million investment in company- and trust-owned life insurance policies, and an \$8.4 million investment in Acadia. This was partially offset by a \$6.5 million transfer of cash from restricted accounts, primarily related to solid waste disposal bonds.

#### Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$89.7 million during 2009, \$247.7 million in 2008, and \$154.2 million in 2007. Net cash provided by financing activities in 2009 was lower than 2008 primarily due to lower issuances of long-term debt, partially offset by lower retirements of long-term debt. Net cash provided by financing activities in 2008 was higher than 2007 primarily due to the issuance of long-term debt, partially offset by retirements of long-term debt and the absence in 2008 of proceeds from the 2007 conversion of stock options to common stock.

During 2009, Cleco received net proceeds of \$255.4 million for the issuance of long-term debt, consisting of \$145.0 million of long-term bonds, \$65.0 million of credit facility draws, and \$50.0 million in a bank term loan. This was partially offset by \$114.8 million of cash used for repayment of medium term notes and storm restoration bonds, and \$54.2 million used for common stock dividends.

During 2008, Cleco received net proceeds of \$651.5 million from the issuance of long-term debt, which was partially offset by \$190.0 million of cash used to repay borrowings under Cleco Power's credit facility, \$160.0 million of cash used for repayment of long-term debt, and \$54.0 million used for common stock dividends.

During 2007, Cleco received \$190.0 million from draws on Cleco Power's credit facility, \$60.0 million from the issuance of long-term debt, and \$9.5 million from the conversion of stock options to common stock. This was partially offset by \$50.3 million of cash used for repayment of long-term debt and \$53.7 million used for common and preferred stock dividends.

#### Cleco Power Cash Flows

##### Net Cash Provided by Operating Activities

Net cash provided by operating activities was \$141.7 million during 2009, \$62.1 million in 2008, and \$97.6 million in 2007.

Cash provided by operating activities during 2009 increased \$79.6 million from 2008, primarily due to higher collections of accounts receivable; increases in customer deposits; lower vendor payments; higher tax refunds; and lower gas prepayments. These were partially offset by higher purchases of fuel, materials, and supplies inventories, primarily related to preparation for Rodemacher Unit 3 to begin commercial operation; higher postretirement benefit contribution payments into the Cleco pension plan; and a large retainage payment made to Shaw related to work completed on Rodemacher Unit 3.

Cash from operating activities in 2008 decreased \$35.5 million from that reported in 2007, primarily due to higher margin deposits and higher materials inventory purchases. This was partially offset by lower retainage payments to Shaw related to work completed on Rodemacher Unit 3.

##### Net Cash Used in Investing Activities

Net cash used in investing activities was \$142.0 million during 2009, \$353.2 million in 2008, and \$469.6 million in 2007. Net cash used in investing activities in 2009 was lower than 2008 primarily due to transfers from restricted accounts and lower additions to property, plant and equipment related to the Rodemacher Unit 3 project. Net cash used in 2008 was lower than 2007 primarily due to lower additions to property, plant and equipment related to the Rodemacher Unit 3 project.

During 2009, Cleco Power had additions to property, plant and equipment, net of AFUDC of \$176.0 million and a \$12.9 million investment in Oxbow. This was partially offset by the transfer of \$46.5 million of cash from restricted accounts, primarily related to solid waste disposal and GO Zone bonds.

During 2008, Cleco Power had additions to property, plant and equipment, net of AFUDC of \$269.7 million and \$85.0 million of cash became restricted, primarily related to solid waste disposal, GO Zone, and storm restoration bonds.

During 2007, Cleco Power had additions to property, plant and equipment, net of AFUDC of \$476.2 million. This was partially offset by the transfer of \$6.5 million of cash from restricted accounts, primarily related to solid waste disposal bonds.

#### Net Cash Provided by Financing Activities

Net cash provided by financing activities was \$46.8 million during 2009, compared to \$370.8 million in 2008, and \$282.1 million in 2007. Net cash provided by financing activities in 2009 was lower than 2008 primarily due to lower issuance of long-term debt and a \$30.0 million distribution to Cleco. This was partially offset by lower retirements of long-term debt. Net cash provided by financing activities in 2008 was higher than 2007, primarily due to the higher issuance of long-term debt, partially offset by higher retirements of long-term debt and the absence in 2008 of the 2007 net contribution from Cleco.

#### Shelf Registrations

On October 30, 2009, a registration statement (No. 333-162772) providing for the issuance of up to \$300.0 million of Cleco Corporation debt securities was declared effective by the SEC. At December 31, 2009, all \$300.0 million remained available. On October 30, 2009, a registration statement (No. 333-162773) providing for the issuance of up to \$500.0 million of Cleco Power debt securities was declared effective by the SEC. At December 31, 2009, Registration Statement No.

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333-162773 had remaining capacity allowing for the issuance of up to \$355.0 million of debt securities.

#### Construction Overview

Cleco allocates its construction budget among its major first-tier subsidiaries — Cleco Power and Midstream. Cleco Power construction costs relate primarily to assets that may be included in Cleco Power's rate base and, if considered prudent by the LPSC, can be recovered from its customers. Those assets also earn a rate of return authorized by the LPSC and are subject to the rate agreement. Such assets consist of improvements to Cleco Power's distribution system, transmission system, and generating stations. Midstream's construction activities pertain predominately to Evangeline and Acadia.

Cleco's 2010 expenditures for construction and debt maturity are estimated to total \$191.0 million, which includes \$179.0 million of estimated construction expenditures, excluding AFUDC, and \$12.0 million of estimated debt maturity payments. Cleco's 2010 estimated construction expenditures include \$55.0 million for Acadiana Load Pocket project costs, excluding AFUDC, and \$12.0 million for Rodemacher Unit 3 project costs, excluding AFUDC.

For the five-year period ending in 2014, Cleco's expenditures for construction and debt maturity are expected to total approximately \$1.0 billion, which includes \$667.0 million of estimated construction expenditures, excluding AFUDC, and \$346.0 million of estimated debt maturity payments. Approximately 19% of the planned construction expenditures for the five-year period are expected to be for Cleco Power's portion of the joint project to upgrade the Acadiana Load Pocket transmission system. Total additional planned Acadiana Load Pocket project costs, excluding AFUDC, are estimated at \$124.0 million. Approximately 2% of the planned construction expenditures for the five-year period is expected to be for Cleco Power's construction of Rodemacher Unit 3. Total additional planned Rodemacher project costs, excluding AFUDC, are estimated at \$12.0 million. Approximately 20% of the planned construction expenditures will support line extensions and substation upgrades to accommodate new business and load growth at Cleco Power. The remaining 59% will be for the rehabilitation of older transmission, distribution, and generation assets at Cleco Power and the purchase of computer hardware and software upgrades for Cleco.

Evangeline's 2010 expenditures for construction and debt are estimated to total \$158.0 million, which includes \$3.0 million of estimated construction expenditures and \$155.0 million of estimated debt maturity payments. For the five-year period ending in 2014, Evangeline's expenditures for construction and debt maturity are expected to total \$163.0 million, which includes \$5.0 million of estimated construction expenditures and \$158.0 million of estimated debt maturity payments. The construction and debt maturity payments for Evangeline are not included in Cleco's totals due to the equity method of accounting for Evangeline. For more information on the equity method of accounting related to Evangeline, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 13 — Equity Investment in Investees." For information on the maturities of Cleco's debt, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 6 — Debt."

Acadia's 2010 expenditures for construction and debt maturity are estimated to total \$4.0 million, which includes estimated construction expenditures of \$4.0 million and no estimated debt payments. Due to the Cleco Power and Entergy Louisiana transactions, there are no estimated construction costs or debt payments after 2010. The construction and debt maturity payments for Acadia are not included in Cleco's totals due to the equity method of accounting. For more information on the equity method of accounting related to Acadia or the Cleco Power and Entergy Louisiana transactions, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 13 — Equity Investment in Investees" and Note 23 — "Subsequent Events — Acadia Transaction." Cleco believes cash and cash equivalents on hand, together with cash generated from operations, borrowings from credit facilities, and the net proceeds of any issuances of equity or debt securities, will be adequate to fund normal ongoing capital expenditures, working capital, and debt service requirements for the foreseeable future.

#### Cleco Power Construction Overview

Cleco Power's construction expenditures, excluding AFUDC, totaled \$176.0 million in 2009, \$269.7 million in 2008, and \$476.2 million in 2007. The decrease in construction expenditures from 2007 through 2009 was primarily due to

costs related to the construction at Rodemacher Unit 3.

Cleco Power's construction expenditures for 2010, excluding AFUDC, are estimated to be \$177.0 million. Cleco Power's 2010 estimated construction expenditures include \$55.0 million for Acadiana Load Pocket project costs, excluding AFUDC, and \$12.0 million for Rodemacher Unit 3 project costs, excluding AFUDC. For the five-year period ending in 2014, estimated construction expenditures are expected to total \$663.0 million. Approximately 19% of the planned construction expenditures for the five-year period are expected to be for Cleco Power's portion of the joint project to upgrade the Acadiana Load Pocket transmission system. Total additional planned Acadiana Load Pocket project costs, excluding AFUDC, are estimated at \$124.0 million. Approximately 2% of the planned construction is expected to be for Cleco Power's construction of Rodemacher Unit 3. Total additional planned Rodemacher project costs, excluding AFUDC, are estimated at \$12.0 million. Approximately 20% of the planned construction in the five-year period will support line extensions and substation upgrades to accommodate new business and load growth. The remaining 59% will be for the rehabilitation of older transmission, distribution, and generation assets.

For more information on the Acadiana Load Pocket, see “— Regulatory Matters — Wholesale Rates of Cleco — Acadiana Load Pocket.”

In 2009, 80.5% of Cleco Power's construction

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requirements were funded internally. In 2008 and 2007, 23.0% and 20.5%, respectively, of Cleco Power's construction requirements were funded internally. In 2010, 100% of Cleco Power's construction requirements are expected to be funded internally. For the five-year period ending 2014, 100% of the remaining construction requirements are expected to be funded internally. All computations of internally funded construction exclude AFUDC.

#### Other Subsidiary Construction

Other subsidiaries had construction expenditures of \$1.0 million during each of the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007. Other subsidiary expenditures for construction and debt payments in 2010 are estimated to total \$2.0 million. For the five-year period ending 2014, estimated construction expenditures and debt payments are expected to total \$3.0 million. The majority of the planned other construction in the five-year period will consist of upgrades of computer hardware and software for Support Group.

#### Other Cash Requirements

Cleco Power's regulated operations and Midstream's merchant power plants are Cleco's primary sources of internally generated funds. These funds, along with the issuance of additional debt and equity in future years, will be used for general corporate purposes, construction, and to repay corporate debt.

#### Contractual Obligations and Other Commitments

Cleco, in the course of normal business activities, enters into a variety of contractual obligations. Some of these result in direct obligations that are reflected in Cleco's Consolidated Balance Sheets while others are commitments, some firm and some based on uncertainties, that are not reflected in the consolidated financial statements. The obligations listed in the following table do not include amounts for ongoing needs for which no contractual obligation existed as of December 31, 2009, and represent only the projected future payments that Cleco was contractually obligated to make as of December 31, 2009.



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| CONTRACTUAL OBLIGATIONS<br>(THOUSANDS) | TOTAL       | PAYMENTS DUE BY PERIOD |           |           |                   |
|--|-------------|------------------------|-----------|-----------|-------------------|
|  |             | LESS THAN ONE YEAR     | 1-3 YEARS | 4-5 YEARS | MORE THAN 5 YEARS |
| Cleco Corporation *                    |             |                        |           |           |                   |
| Long-term debt obligations (1)         | \$95,267    | \$188                  | \$95,079  | \$-       | \$-               |
| Operating lease obligations (3)        | 403         | 158                    | 231       | 9         | 5                 |
| Purchase obligations (4)               | 22,451      | 11,620                 | 6,235     | 3,449     | 1,147             |
| Other long-term liabilities (5)        | 8,807       | 147                    | 1,173     | 342       | 7,145             |
| Pension obligations (6)                | 148,481     | 4,696                  | 10,395    | 11,319    | 122,071           |
| Total Cleco Corporation                | \$275,409   | \$16,809               | \$113,113 | \$15,119  | \$130,368         |
| Cleco Power                            |             |                        |           |           |                   |
| Long-term debt obligations (1)         | \$2,369,773 | \$84,277               | \$218,138 | \$287,651 | \$1,779,707       |
| Capital lease obligations (2)          | 41,747      | 4,748                  | 9,244     | 9,256     | 18,499            |
| Operating lease obligations (3)        | 40,767      | 9,354                  | 16,273    | 8,311     | 6,829             |
| Purchase obligations (4)               | 753,785     | 542,519                | 163,013   | 47,325    | 928               |
| Other long-term liabilities (5)        | 264,204     | 61,986                 | 84,713    | 28,681    | 88,824            |
| Total Cleco Power                      | \$3,470,276 | \$702,884              | \$491,381 | \$381,224 | \$1,894,787       |
| Midstream *                            |             |                        |           |           |                   |
| Purchase obligations (4)               | \$8         | \$8                    | \$-       | \$-       | \$-               |
| Other long-term liabilities (5)        | 231         | 67                     | 125       | 39        | -                 |
| Total Midstream                        | \$239       | \$75                   | \$125     | \$39      | \$-               |
| Total long-term debt obligations (1)   | \$2,465,040 | \$84,465               | \$313,217 | \$287,651 | \$1,779,707       |
| Total capital lease obligations (2)    | \$41,747    | \$4,748                | \$9,244   | \$9,256   | \$18,499          |
| Total operating lease obligations (3)  | \$41,170    | \$9,512                | \$16,504  | \$8,320   | \$6,834           |
| Total purchase obligations (4)         | \$776,244   | \$554,147              | \$169,248 | \$50,774  | \$2,075           |
| Total other long-term liabilities (5)  | \$273,242   | \$62,200               | \$86,011  | \$29,062  | \$95,969          |
| Total pension obligations (6)          | \$148,481   | \$4,696                | \$10,395  | \$11,319  | \$122,071         |
| Total                                  | \$3,745,924 | \$719,768              | \$604,619 | \$396,382 | \$2,025,155       |

(1) Long-term debt existing as of December 31, 2009, is debt that has a final maturity of January 1, 2011, or later (current maturities of long-term debt are due within one-year). Cleco's anticipated interest payments related to long-term debt also are included in this category. Scheduled maturities of debt will total \$11.5 million for 2010 and \$1.3 billion for the years thereafter. These amounts also include capital lease maturities. For additional information regarding Cleco's long-term debt, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 6 — Debt" and "— Debt" above.

(2) Capital leases are maintained in the ordinary course of Cleco's business activities. These leases include mobile data terminal leases and barges.

(3) Operating leases are maintained in the ordinary course of Cleco's business activities. These leases include tolling agreements and towboat, rail car, vehicle, office space, operating facilities, office equipment, and operating equipment leases and have various terms and expiration dates from 1 to 15 years. For additional information regarding Cleco's operating leases, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 14 — Operating Leases."

(4) Significant purchase obligations for Cleco are listed below:

**Fuel Contracts:** To supply a portion of the fuel requirements for Cleco Power's generating plants, Cleco has entered into various commitments to obtain and deliver coal, lignite, petroleum coke, and natural gas. Some of these contracts contain provisions for price escalation and minimum purchase commitments. Generally, fuel and purchased power expenses are recovered through the LPSC-established fuel adjustment clause, which enables Cleco Power to pass on to customers substantially all such charges. For additional information regarding fuel contracts, see Part I, Item 1, "Business — Operations — Cleco Power — Fuel and Purchased Power."

**Power Purchase Agreements:** Cleco Power has entered into agreements with energy suppliers for purchased power to meet system load and energy requirements, replace generation from Cleco Power owned units under maintenance and during outages, and meet operating reserve obligations. In general, these contracts provide for capacity payments, subject to meeting certain contract obligations, and energy payments based on actual power taken under the contracts. Cleco Power also has entered into agreements to purchase transmission capacity. For additional information regarding power purchase agreements, see Part I, Item 1, "Business — Operations — Fuel and Purchased Power — Power Purchases."

**EPC contract:** Cleco Power entered into the Amended EPC Contract with Shaw to construct Rodemacher Unit 3. For more information, see "— Regulatory Matters — Rodemacher Unit 3 — Construction."

**Gas Futures Contracts:** Cleco Power entered into natural gas purchase contracts in order to hedge the risk associated with the volatility in the cost of fuel purchased for utility generation and the risk associated with the fixed-price power that is being provided to a wholesale customer through December 2010. For more information, see Item 7A, "Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures about Market Risk — Risk Overview — Commodity Price Risk."

**Interest Rate Swap:** Cleco Power entered into an interest rate swap to minimize the risk associated with its variable-rate debt obligations. For additional information regarding the interest rate swap, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to Financial Statements — Note 5 — Fair Value Accounting — Interest Rate Swap."

**Purchase orders:** Cleco has entered into purchase orders in the course of normal business activities.

(5) Other long-term liabilities primarily consist of obligations for franchise payments, deferred compensation, facilities use, and various operating and maintenance agreements.

(6) Pension obligations consist of obligations for SERP and other postretirement obligations.

For purposes of this table, it is assumed that all terms and rates related to the above obligations will remain the same, and all franchises will be renewed according to the rates used in the table.

\*Long-term debt, long-term maintenance agreements, and various other operating and maintenance agreements related to Cleco Corporation's equity investments in Perryville and Attala, and Midstream's equity investments in Evangeline and Acadia are not reflected in the chart above. For additional information on these entities, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 13 — Equity Investment in Investees."

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#### Other Commitments

The obligations listed in the following table represent the projected future payments that Cleco may be obligated to make relative to uncertain tax positions as of December 31, 2009. For more information on Cleco's uncertain tax positions, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 10 — Income Taxes — Uncertain Tax Positions."

| UNCERTAIN TAX POSITIONS (THOUSANDS) | AT<br>DECEMBER<br>31, 2009 |     |
|-------------------------------------|----------------------------|-----|
| Tax liability                       | \$ 129,235                 |     |
| Interest                            | 40,518                     |     |
| Total*                              | \$ 169,753                 |     |
| Cleco                               | \$ 169,753                 | (1) |
| Cleco Power                         | \$ 106,511                 | (2) |
| Midstream                           | \$ 70,814                  | (3) |

\*Uncertain federal and state tax positions as of December 31, 2009, that will be settled at some future date with the IRS and Louisiana Department of Revenue.

(1) Includes interest of \$ 40,518

(2) Includes interest of \$22,151

(3) Includes interest of \$26,387

#### Off-Balance Sheet Commitments

Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power have entered into various off-balance sheet commitments, in the form of guarantees and standby letters of credit, in order to facilitate their activities and the activities of Cleco Corporation's subsidiaries and equity investees (affiliates). Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power have also agreed to contractual terms that require them to pay third parties if certain triggering events occur. These contractual terms generally are defined as guarantees in the authoritative guidance.

Cleco Corporation entered into these off-balance sheet commitments in order to entice desired counterparties to contract with its affiliates by providing some measure of credit assurance to the counterparty in the event Cleco's affiliates do not fulfill certain contractual obligations. If Cleco Corporation had not provided the off-balance sheet commitments, the desired counterparties may not have contracted with Cleco's affiliates, or may have contracted with them at terms less favorable to its affiliates.

The off-balance sheet commitments are not recognized on Cleco's Consolidated Balance Sheets, because it has been determined that Cleco's affiliates are able to perform the obligations under their contracts and that it is not probable that payments by Cleco will be required. Some of these commitments reduce borrowings available to Cleco Corporation under its credit facility pursuant to the terms of the credit facility. Cleco's off-balance sheet commitments as of December 31, 2009, are summarized in the following table, and a discussion of the off-balance sheet commitments follows the table. The discussion should be read in conjunction with the table to understand the impact of the off-balance sheet commitments on Cleco's financial condition.

AT DECEMBER  
31, 2009  
REDUCTIONS  
TO THE  
AMOUNT  
AVAILABLE

| (THOUSANDS)  | FACE       |            | NET      | TO BE DRAWN<br>ON<br>CLECO<br>CORPORATION'S<br>CREDIT<br>FACILITY |
|--|------------|------------|----------|---|
|  | AMOUNT     | REDUCTIONS | AMOUNT   |   |
| Cleco Corporation  |            |            |          |   |
| Guarantee issued to Entergy companies for performance obligations of Perryville                    | \$ 177,400 | \$ 135,000 | \$42,400 | \$ -  |
| Obligations under standby letter of credit issued to the Evangeline Tolling Agreement counterparty | 15,000     | -          | 15,000   | 15,000  |
| Guarantee issued to Entergy Mississippi on behalf of Attala  | 500        | -          | 500      | -   |
| Cleco Power  |            |            |          |   |
| Obligations under standby letter of credit issued to Louisiana Department of Labor                 | 3,525      | -          | 3,525    | -   |
| Total  | \$ 196,425 | \$ 135,000 | \$61,425 | \$ 15,000   |

Cleco Corporation provided a limited guarantee and an indemnification to Entergy Louisiana and Entergy Gulf States for Perryville's performance, indemnity, representation, and warranty obligations under the Sale Agreement, the Power Purchase Agreement, and other ancillary agreements related to the sale of the Perryville facility. As of December 31, 2009, the aggregate guarantee of \$177.4 million is limited to \$42.4 million due to the performance of some of the underlying obligations that were guaranteed. Management believes it is unlikely that Cleco Corporation will have any other liabilities which would give rise to indemnity claims. The discounted probability-weighted liability under the guarantees and indemnifications as of December 31, 2009, was \$0.3 million.

Prior to February 22, 2010, if Evangeline failed to perform certain obligations under the Evangeline Tolling Agreement, Cleco Corporation would have been required to make payments to the Evangeline Tolling Agreement counterparty. Cleco Corporation's obligation under the Evangeline commitment was in the form of a standby letter of credit from investment grade banks and was limited to \$15.0 million. Rating triggers did not exist in the Evangeline Tolling Agreement. Evangeline met its obligations under the Evangeline Tolling Agreement and Cleco Corporation was not required to make payments to the counterparty. The letter of credit was issued under Cleco Corporation's credit facility and therefore reduced the amount that could be borrowed under the credit facility. On February 22, 2010, Evangeline entered into the Evangeline 2010 Tolling Agreement and as a result, the need to provide a letter of credit was terminated. For additional information, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 23 — Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions."

In January 2006, Cleco Corporation provided a \$0.5 million guarantee to Entergy Mississippi for Attala's obligations under the Interconnection Agreement. This guarantee will be effective through the life of the agreement.

The State of Louisiana allows employers of certain financial net worth to self-insure their workers' compensation benefits.

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Cleco Power has a certificate of self-insurance from the Louisiana Office of Workers' Compensation and is required to post a \$3.5 million letter of credit, an amount equal to 110% of the average losses over the previous three years, as surety.

As part of the Lignite Mining Agreement amended in 2009, Cleco Power and SWEPCO, joint owners of Dolet Hills, have agreed to pay the lignite miner's loan and lease principal obligations when due, if the lignite miner does not have sufficient funds or credit to pay. Any amounts paid on behalf of the miner would be credited by the lignite miner against the next invoice for lignite delivered. At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power recorded a liability of \$3.8 million related to the amended agreement. The lignite mining contract is in place until 2026 and does not affect the amount Cleco Corporation can borrow under its credit facility.

The following table summarizes the expected termination dates of the guarantees and standby letters of credit discussed above:

|                              | AT DECEMBER 31, 2009                       |         |       |       |          |
|------------------------------|--|---------|-------|-------|----------|
|                              | AMOUNT OF COMMITMENT EXPIRATION PER PERIOD |         |       |       |          |
|                              | NET  |         |       |       | MORE     |
|                              | AMOUNT                                     | LESS    |       |       | THAN     |
| (THOUSANDS)                  | COMMITTED                                  | THAN    | 1-3   | 3-5   | 5 YEARS  |
|                              |  | ONE     | YEARS | YEARS |          |
|                              |  | YEAR    |       |       |          |
| Guarantees                   | \$ 42,900                                  | \$-     | \$-   | \$-   | \$42,900 |
| Standby letters of credit    | 18,525                                     | 3,525   | -     | -     | 15,000   |
| Total commercial commitments | \$ 61,425                                  | \$3,525 | \$-   | \$-   | \$57,900 |

#### Inflation

Annual inflation rates, as measured by the U.S. Consumer Price Index, have averaged approximately 2.12% during the three years ended December 31, 2009. Cleco believes inflation, at this level, does not materially affect its results of operations or financial condition. However, under existing regulatory practice, only the historical cost of a plant is recoverable from customers. As a result, Cleco Power's cash flows designed to provide recovery of historical plant costs may not be adequate to replace property, plant and equipment in future years.

#### Regulatory Matters

##### Generation RFP

##### 2008 Short-Term RFP for 2009 Resources

In March 2008, Cleco Power issued a RFP for a minimum of 50 MW up to 450 MW to meet its 2009 capacity and energy requirements. Cleco Power selected and negotiated a 235-MW peaking product with Acadia. The product was for supply that started March 1, 2009 and ended October 1, 2009.

On January 6, 2009, Cleco Power issued a RFP for a minimum capacity amount of 50 MW up to 200 MW in order to serve additional load. Cleco Power has selected and negotiated a 200-MW intermediate product with NRG Power Marketing, Inc. The product was for supply that started April 1, 2009, and ended November 1, 2009.

##### 2007 Long-Term RFP

In June 2007, Cleco Power filed a proposed RFP with the LPSC for up to approximately 600 MW of intermediate and/or peaking resources to meet projected load growth over a 10-year period beginning in 2010. To meet these needs, Cleco Power asked for products with a term of 2 to 30 years. Out of the approximately 600-MW total, up to

approximately 350 MW may be sourced from a peaking resource. After the LPSC review, the RFP was issued in October 2007, and bids were received in December 2007. On February 26, 2009, Cleco Power announced that it had chosen the acquisition of 50% of the Acadia Power Station, or one of its two 580-MW units, as the lowest bid in its 2007 long-term RFP. Cleco Power will own and operate one unit and operate the other 580-MW unit on behalf of Acadia or a future owner. Cleco Power and the parties have executed the definitive agreements. Cleco Power received LPSC and FERC approvals for the transaction in January 2010 and February 2010, respectively. Beginning in January 2010, Acadia operated the plant and served Cleco Power under a tolling agreement covering 50% of the Acadia Power Station. The tolling agreement was approved by the LPSC in October 2009 and by FERC in December 2009. The tolling agreement was terminated when the transaction closed in February 2010.

### Rodemacher Unit 3

#### Construction

In May 2006, Cleco Power began construction of Rodemacher Unit 3, a 600-MW solid fuel power plant at its Rodemacher facility. The unit commenced commercial operations on February 12, 2010, approximately four and one-half months behind the originally anticipated date of September 30, 2009. Rodemacher Unit 3 is in service as Cleco Power has accepted care, custody, and control of its operations. Rodemacher Unit 3 is capable of burning various solid fuels, but initially will primarily burn petroleum coke produced by several refineries throughout the Gulf Coast region. Cleco Power has entered into contracts with suppliers to collectively supply over 1.4 million tons of petroleum coke annually for a three-to five-year period beginning in 2009, representing over 90% of Rodemacher Unit 3 fuel requirements for such period. As of January 31, 2010, Cleco Power had stock piled over 445,000 tons of petroleum coke for future consumption.

In May 2006, Cleco Power and Shaw entered into an Amended EPC Contract, which provided for substantial completion of the construction of Rodemacher Unit 3 by September 30, 2009. Pursuant to various amendments, the date was established as September 28, 2009, as a result of a broader settlement of fuel and force majeure related Shaw claims. Under the amended contract, the lump-sum price is \$795.6

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million. Various claims remain in dispute resolution between Cleco Power and Shaw including the claims for force majeure related costs, which have been agreed upon as not to exceed \$24.0 million, less a settlement credit of \$6.0 million. As of December 31, 2009, Cleco Power had incurred approximately \$989.3 million in project costs, including AFUDC. The Rodemacher Unit 3 budget remains within 1% of its estimated projections, as the resulting additional AFUDC costs from delays were principally offset by Shaw payments for delay liquidated damages under the Amended EPC Contract. Such amounts withheld as of December 31, 2009 were \$9.8 million. In support of its performance obligations, Shaw, as of December 31, 2009, has provided two letters of credit collectively in the amount of \$117.5 million, an additional \$0.6 million of payment retainage, as well as a \$200.0 million payment and performance bond in favor of Cleco as specified under the Amended EPC Contract. The retention and letters of credit are provided in support of Shaw's potential payment of liquidated damages, or other payment performance obligations.

#### CCN

In May 2006, the LPSC issued its order granting Cleco Power a CCN to construct, own, and operate Rodemacher Unit 3. The CCN authorizes Cleco Power to issue up to \$700.0 million of securities and other financial instruments during the 2006 through 2010 time frame in order to finance Rodemacher Unit 3. The CCN requires that Cleco Power provide the LPSC Staff with an advanced review of any specific long-term debt issuance, and the Staff has the right to object.

A condition within the LPSC's implementing order requires that Cleco Power submit periodic updates during the construction phase of Rodemacher Unit 3. At its September 2006 business meeting, the LPSC approved a Rodemacher Unit 3 post-certification monitoring plan that requires, at least quarterly, reports addressing construction progress, expenditures, project financing, environmental compliance, and other related matters. Cleco Power is in compliance with this monitoring plan. The monitoring plan will remain in place for at least six months after the unit begins commercial operation, which was February 12, 2010.

#### Environmental Matters

For information on environmental matters, see Part I, Item 1, "Business — Regulatory Matters, Industry Developments, and Franchises — Environmental Matters."

#### Retail Rates of Cleco Power

Retail rates regulated by the LPSC accounted for approximately 95% of Cleco Power's 2009 and 2008 revenue.

#### Fuel Rates

The cost of fuel used for electric generation and the cost of power purchased for utility customers are recovered through an LPSC-established fuel adjustment clause that enables Cleco Power to pass onto its customers substantially all such charges. These fuel and purchased power costs are subject to audit by the LPSC pursuant to the Fuel Adjustment Clause General Order issued in November 1997 in Docket No. U-21497, which anticipates that an audit will be performed not less than every other year. The LPSC has reviewed Cleco Power's fuel and purchased power costs through the year 2002 and, in July 2006, began an audit of Cleco Power's fuel adjustment clause filings for the period January 2003 through December 2004. In March 2009, the LPSC indicated its intent to proceed with the audit for the years 2003 through 2008. This review is still pending. The total amount of fuel expenses included in the audit is approximately \$3.2 billion. Cleco Power could be required to make a substantial refund of previously recorded revenue as a result of these audits, and such refund could result in a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

To help stabilize electricity costs, the LPSC in 2001 suggested hedging the exposure to natural gas price volatility through the use of financial instruments. Cleco Power hedges a portion of the projected natural gas volumes used to serve its native electric load during each year. The hedge quantity is reviewed and adjusted periodically based on

projected market indicators.

In February 2008, the LPSC opened an inquiry and issued a request for comments to investigate the potential for incentive-based mechanisms for fuel cost recovery. In February 2009, the LPSC also reopened a docket to study if Louisiana should have a renewable target or efficiency mandates. Management is unable to predict the time of completion and cannot determine the impact any potential rulemaking may have on the financial condition and results of operations of Cleco Power.

#### Base Rates

Beginning in 1996, the amount of Cleco Power's yearly retail earnings has been subject to the terms of a RSP established by Cleco Power and the LPSC in a 1996 earnings review settlement. The RSP establishes a target return on common equity and requires all or a portion of regulated earnings for each yearly review period above the targeted regulatory rate of return on equity to be credited to Cleco Power's customers.

The terms of the then-current RSP were approved by the LPSC in July 2006, and became effective October 1, 2006, along with Cleco Power's request to extend the terms of the RSP to the commercial operation date of Rodemacher Unit 3, which was February 12, 2010. The then-current RSP allowed Cleco Power the opportunity to earn a maximum regulated return on equity of 11.65%. This maximum return was based on a return on equity of 11.25%, with any regulated earnings between 11.25% and 12.25% shared between shareholders and customers in a 40/60 ratio. All regulated earnings over 12.25% will be returned to customers. The amount of credits due customers, if any, is determined by Cleco Power and the LPSC annually, based on results for each 12-month period ended September 30. The RSP terms require the credits to be included on customers' bills the following summer.

For information concerning amounts accrued and refunded by Cleco Power as a result of the RSP and information



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on the Staff's RSP reviews, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 12 — Electric Customer Credits."

In July 2008, Cleco Power filed a request for a new rate plan with the LPSC to increase its base rates for electricity. Cleco Power sought recovery of revenues sufficient to cover the addition of Rodemacher Unit 3 to its existing expenses and rate base levels.

The new retail rate plan includes a Formula Rate Plan (FRP) that has a target return on equity of 10.7%, including returning to retail customers 60.0% of retail earnings between 11.3% and 12.3% and all retail earnings over 12.3%. The capital structure assumes an equity ratio of 51.0%. The FRP also has a mechanism allowing for recovery of future revenue requirements for the Acadiana Load Pocket transmission project and the acquisition of the Acadia Power Station as a result of the Cleco Power 2007 Long-Term RFP. The retail rate plan allows Cleco Power to propose additional capital projects for inclusion in the FRP to the LPSC during the FRP's initial four-year term. In October 2009, the LPSC voted unanimously to approve the retail rate plan for Cleco Power. The retail rate plan became effective upon the commercial operation of Rodemacher Unit 3, which was February 12, 2010.

The retail rate plan is expected to increase retail base revenues, in the first twelve months of Rodemacher Unit 3 commercial operations, by approximately \$173.0 million with an anticipated net billing decrease for retail customers of approximately \$40.0 million, or 5.0% (assuming a gas price of \$5/MMBtu), including a reduction of approximately \$97.0 million resulting from the cessation of collection of and the refund of Rodemacher Unit 3 construction financing based on a five-year crediting period. The retail rate plan provides for the placement of Rodemacher Unit 3 in rate base and recovery of the operating costs of Rodemacher Unit 3 in rate base and recovery of other costs including costs associated with damage caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. For information about the risk related to the base rates, see Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors — Cleco Power's Rates."

#### Storm Cost Recovery

During 2006, the LPSC approved an interim rate increase to recover storm restoration costs incurred by Cleco Power relating to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In September 2007, the LPSC approved securitization and recovery of Cleco Power's storm restoration costs related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In March 2008, the securitization financing was completed, collection of the interim surcharge ceased, and the right to bill and collect unamortized storm damage costs from customers was sold to Cleco Katrina/Rita, a special purpose, wholly owned subsidiary of Cleco Power. As part of the approval, the LPSC also authorized the funding and securitization of a \$50.0 million reserve for Cleco Power's future, extraordinary storm costs.

In September 2008, Cleco Power's distribution and transmission systems sustained substantial damage from Hurricanes Gustav and Ike. The current estimate of the cost of restoration for Hurricanes Gustav and Ike totaled approximately \$78.7 million, of which approximately 84% related to Hurricane Gustav and the remaining 16% to Hurricane Ike. Of the \$78.7 million, \$46.7 million was capitalized, and with approval from the LPSC, the remaining uncapitalized costs were offset against Cleco Power's existing storm damage reserves. Restoration costs incurred by Cleco Power from damage caused by Hurricanes Gustav and Ike were reviewed by the LPSC as part of the retail rate plan and were found to be prudently incurred; therefore, there was no disallowance of costs.

#### Wholesale Rates of Cleco

##### Power Sales

Cleco's wholesale electric power sales are regulated by FERC via cost- and market-based tariffs. Both Evangeline and Acadia have received approval by FERC to use market-based rates based on Cleco's initial request to FERC in 1999 for market-based rates and Cleco's demonstration of its lack of market power. These tariffs, including the associated codes of conduct accompanying them, are updated periodically to comply with FERC directives.

In April 2004, FERC issued an order revising the methodology to be used in assessing whether a jurisdictional electric utility has generation market power, requiring a utility to pass a screening test as a condition for securing and/or retaining approval to sell electricity in wholesale markets at market-based rates. Reviews conducted by FERC in 2005

and 2006 of filings submitted by Cleco's authorized power marketing entities, Cleco Power, Evangeline, and Acadia, concluded that Cleco had demonstrated a lack of market power in Cleco Power's control area, and the power marketing entities may continue to charge market-based rates for wholesale power. An updated market power analysis is to be filed with FERC every three years or when a major acquisition takes place.

In June 2009, Cleco Power filed a scheduled market power analysis. The review conducted by FERC for this filing concluded that Cleco demonstrated a lack of market power in Cleco Power's control area, and the power marketing entities may continue to charge market-based rates for wholesale power. Cleco Power anticipates filing another market power analysis after acquiring 50%, or one of the two 580-MW units at Acadia.

#### Transmission Service

Cleco's electric transmission rates are regulated by FERC via cost-based, pro forma open access transmission tariffs (OATTs), a FERC-approved document outlining rates, charges, rules and conditions under which a utility provides electric transmission service. The pro forma OATT was instituted by FERC in 1996 with the issuance of Order Nos. 888 and 889. These orders required FERC-regulated electric utilities to offer third parties access to transmission under terms and conditions comparable to the terms and conditions followed by the utilities for use of their own systems. The goal of these orders was to ensure that the provision of transmission

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service is reasonable and not unduly discriminatory or preferential.

On February 15, 2007, FERC issued Order No. 890 amending its regulations and the pro forma tariff adopted in FERC Order Nos. 888 and 889. The amendments addressed apparent deficiencies in the pro forma tariff and standardized several industry practices relating to the provision of wholesale transmission service. The order became effective on May 14, 2007, and contained various implementation deadlines ranging from 30 days to one year. Order No. 890 was modified by FERC with Order No. 890-A and 890-B, effective March 2008 and September 2008, respectively, which clarified certain changes to the pro forma OATT adopted in Order No. 890. Cleco Power has incorporated these new requirements and business practices into its operations and anticipates no significant impact to Cleco.

#### Acadiana Load Pocket

In September 2008, Cleco Power entered into an agreement with Lafayette Utilities System, a municipal utility, and Entergy Gulf States to upgrade interconnected transmission systems in south Louisiana. The project received the LPSC's approval in February 2009 and confirmation that it is in the public's interest. Also in February 2009, approval was received from the SPP, Cleco Power's reliability coordinator, to begin construction. The joint project includes expanding and upgrading the electric transmission infrastructure in south central Louisiana in an area known as the "Acadiana Load Pocket."

The project includes upgrades to certain existing electric facilities as well as the construction of new substations, transmission lines, and capacitor banks. The total estimated cost is approximately \$250.0 million. Each utility is responsible for various components of the project. Cleco Power's portion of the cost is approximately \$150.0 million, including AFUDC. The first phase of construction began in September 2009, with the final phase scheduled to be completed in 2012. At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power had spent \$13.7 million on the Acadiana Load Pocket project. Upgrading the interconnected transmission system is expected to increase capacity, reduce transmission constraints, and improve electric service for customers served by all three utilities.

#### Franchises

For information on the treatment of franchise fees paid to municipalities by the state's utilities, see Part I, Item 1, "Business — Regulatory Matters, Industry Developments, and Franchises — Franchises."

#### Market Restructuring

##### Wholesale Electric Markets

##### Regional Transmission Organization

In 1999, FERC issued Order No. 2000, which established a general framework for all transmission-owning entities in the nation to voluntarily place their transmission facilities under the control of an appropriate RTO. Although participation was voluntary, FERC made it clear that any jurisdictional entity not participating in a RTO likely would be subject to regulatory directives. FERC later relaxed its mandate to participate in a RTO, but continued to insist upon large regional models. Many transmission-owning entities and system operators have been trying to interpret and implement FERC's directives by attempting to organize and/or join acceptable RTOs. In October 2004, FERC granted the SPP status as a RTO.

In April 2004, Entergy filed at FERC to make potentially significant modifications to its transmission tariff. The modifications would incorporate an independent third-party entity, the ICT, into its transmission operations, with the ICT having access to pertinent information regarding the Entergy transmission system. After receiving approval from FERC and state commissions (including the LPSC), the SPP began a four-year trial as Entergy's acting ICT on November 17, 2006.

In March 2009, FERC required Entergy to explain its plans for a replacement arrangement or its intent to continue the ICT arrangement in its current or a modified form upon expiration of the ICT. In November 2009, Entergy filed a

process for evaluating modifications to, or the replacement of, the current ICT arrangements.

As with RTO developments at large, other various parties, including several state commissions, utilities, and other industry participants, are participants in the RTO and Entergy proceedings described above. As both the SPP and Entergy proceedings could impact the ability to transport power into and out of the Cleco control area, Cleco will continue monitoring developments in these proceedings and plans to be a participant in these and all other proceedings affecting the availability and sale of power in and around Louisiana.

#### Electric Reliability Organization

The Energy Policy Act of 2005 added Section 215 to the Federal Power Act, which provides for a uniform system of mandatory, enforceable reliability standards. In July 2006, FERC named NERC as the ERO that will be required to develop the mandatory reliability standards. Formed in 1968, NERC's goal is to help maintain and improve the reliability of North America's bulk power system. All public utilities subject to FERC's authority will be required to comply with the incorporated standards and could be subjected to financial penalties if they violate FERC's reliability or business practice standards. In March 2007, FERC issued Order No. 693 approving 83 standards submitted by NERC for approval. The rules essentially deal with documentation and the standardization of practices across the industry. FERC began enforcement of these standards on June 18, 2007. Cleco Power has incorporated these new reliability standards into its operations. Cleco will continue to monitor and provide input in the development of new proposed standards and will implement processes as necessary to achieve compliance with the standards.

In February 2010, the SPP RE (Southwest Power Pool Regional Entity) notified Cleco that an audit will be conducted of Cleco Corporation to determine its compliance with the NERC Reliability Standard Requirements. Cleco will be evaluated for compliance with all the NERC Monitored Compliance

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Reliability Standards for 2010 that apply to Cleco based on its registered functions for the three previous years after 2007. The audit is expected to begin in April 2010. Management is currently unable to predict the outcome of the audit and whether the result will have a material adverse effect on the Registrants' results of operations, financial condition, and cash flows.

For a discussion of risks associated with FERC's regulation of Cleco Power's wholesale electric business, see Part I, Item 1A, "Risk Factors — ERO."

#### Retail Electric Markets

Cleco Power and a number of parties, including other Louisiana electric utilities, certain power marketing companies, and various associations representing industry and consumers, have been participating in electric industry restructuring activities before the LPSC since 1997. During 2000, the LPSC Staff developed a transition to competition plan that was presented to the LPSC. In September 2004, the LPSC reviewed a large customer retail choice pilot program study compiled by the Louisiana State University Center for Energy Studies. The study concluded that retail customers 5 MW or larger could lower their electric costs through direct access to overbuilt regional electric markets. The study also concluded that there would be minimal negative impact to remaining customers based on utilities' ability to avoid purchase power costs for existing large customers. Cleco Power filed comments on the study in January 2005 stating the study's suggested savings were overstated, and the impact on remaining captive customers was understated. In April 2005, the LPSC conducted a technical conference to discuss retail choice for large customers. At this time, Cleco cannot predict whether any regulation enacting a large customer pilot program or otherwise affecting Cleco Power will be adopted and, if adopted, what form such legislation or regulation may take. A potentially competitive environment presents both the opportunity to supply electricity to new customers and the risk of losing existing customers. Cleco Power is striving to be able to compete effectively should retail access be adopted at some future time in Louisiana. At this time, the LPSC has deferred pursuing retail open access pending developments at the federal level and in other states.

In April 2002, the LPSC adopted order R-26172 governing the way electric generation sources are to be solicited and tested versus self-build options of a utility. Cleco Power conducted a RFP pursuant to this order during 2003. In January 2004, the LPSC amended its prior order to formally add the requirement that the soliciting utility employ an independent monitor. The independent monitor's role is to assure the RFP process is run fairly, that bidder data is treated confidentially, and that no preference is afforded bids from affiliate companies of the utility or the utility's own self-build proposals. For additional information on Cleco Power's 2007 and 2008 RFPs, see "— Regulatory Matters — Generation RFP."

Currently, the LPSC does not provide exclusive service territories for electric utilities under its jurisdiction. Instead, retail service is obtained through a long-term nonexclusive franchise. The LPSC uses a "300-foot rule" for determining the supplier for new customers. The "300-foot rule" requires a customer to take service from the electric utility that is within 300 feet of the respective customer. If the customer is beyond 300 feet from any existing utility service, they may choose their electric supplier. The LPSC is currently reviewing its "300-foot rule" (Docket No. R-28955). Management is unable to predict the time of completion and cannot determine the impact any potential rulemaking may have on the financial condition and results of operations of Cleco Power. The application of the current rule has led to competition with neighboring utilities for retail customers at the borders of Cleco Power's service areas. Such competition has led to complaints by competitors that Cleco Power has violated the 300-foot rule. Several complaints have been made by competitors who operate as rural electric cooperatives and, if the LPSC were to rule in favor of such competitors, Cleco Power may be fined. Management does not believe any such fines, if imposed, would have a material impact on Cleco Power's financial condition. Cleco Power also competes in its service area with suppliers of alternative forms of energy, some of which may be less costly than electricity for certain applications. Cleco Power could experience some competition for electric sales to industrial customers in the form of cogeneration or from independent power producers.

For information on dual franchise attempts, see Part I, Item 1, "Business — Regulatory Matters, Industry Developments, and Franchises — Franchises."

## Other Matters

### Lignite Deferral

Cleco Power operates a generating unit jointly owned with SWEPCO that uses lignite as its fuel source.

In May 2001, Cleco Power (along with SWEPCO) entered into the Lignite Mining Agreement with DHLC, the operator of the Dolet Hills mine. As ordered then by the LPSC, Cleco Power's retail customers began receiving fuel cost savings equal to 2% of the projected costs under the previous mining contract (the benchmark price) through the year 2011. Actual mining costs incurred above 98% of the benchmark price were deferred, and can be recovered from retail customers through the fuel adjustment clause only when the actual mining costs are below 98% of the benchmark price. The benchmark price used the GDP-IPD index as a proxy for the numerous escalators in the previous mining contract. During the course of the contract, Cleco Power and SWEPCO determined that the GDP-IPD index did not appropriately reflect the increase in mining costs caused by sharp increases in diesel fuel and electricity costs associated with the mining operation. Because of this disconnect between the GDP-IPD index and actual mining costs, a significant amount of mining costs was being deferred by Cleco Power.

In 2006, Cleco Power recognized that there was a possibility it may not recover all or part of the lignite mining costs it had deferred. On November 15, 2006, Cleco Power and SWEPCO submitted a joint application to the LPSC requesting

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approval for Cleco Power to recover its existing deferral balance, and eliminate any future benchmarking of lignite mining costs. In December 2007, the LPSC approved a settlement agreement between Cleco Power, SWEPCO and the LPSC Staff authorizing Cleco Power to recover the existing deferred mining cost balance, including interest, over approximately 11.5 years. The settlement also established a new benchmark utilizing the contract's escalators to assure a minimum 2% savings to customers compared to the costs under the prior mining contract. Under the settlement, the benchmarking was scheduled to end after April 2011. Cleco Power and SWEPCO also agreed to commit to continued operation of the mining operation through 2016 as long as the operation of the mine was considered prudent. Cleco Power did not record any additional deferred fuel costs under the new benchmarking method.

In September 2009, in connection with its approval of the Oxbow Lignite Mine acquisition, the LPSC agreed to discontinue benchmarking and the corresponding potential to defer future lignite mining costs while preserving the recovery of the legacy deferred fuel balance previously authorized. At December 31, 2009, and 2008, Cleco Power had \$24.2 million and \$26.8 million, respectively, in deferred costs remaining uncollected.

#### Advanced Metering Infrastructure

In October 2009, Cleco Power received notification of its selection to receive a \$20.0 million grant from the DOE to deploy advanced metering infrastructure technology for Cleco Power's 277,000 customers. Cleco Power applied to the DOE under a small grant process, which capped the grant award at \$20.0 million. The DOE selected 100 smart-grid initiatives out of approximately 400 applications for funding under the smart-grid investment grant program. The grant program is a part of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, an economic stimulus package passed by Congress in February 2009.

Implementing smart-grid technology includes installing smart meters with two-way communication capabilities along with implementing a territory-wide communication network and data management system. Cleco Power's primary initial benefit is savings gained through operational efficiencies. Another benefit is increased information about customer usage, which will give Cleco Power better distribution system planning data, better response to customer usage questions, and faster detection and restoration of system outages. Future benefits could include providing customers with real-time energy usage information and rate options.

Cleco Power estimates the project will cost \$73.0 million, with the DOE grant providing \$20.0 million toward the project and Cleco Power providing the remaining \$53.0 million. Cleco Power is currently reviewing additional actions the DOE may require, whether the LPSC will allow acceptable treatment, and how Cleco plans to fund the remaining \$53.0 million. Cleco Power, therefore, has not yet accepted the DOE grant. If Cleco Power decides to accept the grant and move forward with the project, the project will be expected to be completed in 2012.

#### Oxbow Lignite Mine Acquisition

In April 2009, Cleco Power entered into an agreement with SWEPCO to purchase Oxbow from NAC. In September 2009, the LPSC approved the joint application authorizing the acquisition of Oxbow. On December 29, 2009, Cleco Power and SWEPCO completed the transaction. Cleco Power's 50% portion of the purchase price for the lignite reserves was \$12.9 million. SWEPCO likewise paid \$12.9 million for its 50% interest in the lignite reserves. SWEPCO's subsidiary, DHLC, acquired the mining equipment and related assets and permits for \$15.6 million and will operate the new mine along with its current operations at the Dolet Hills Lignite Mine on similar terms. The recoverable lignite reserves of approximately 100 million tons contained within the Oxbow Mine permit area, together with the reserves from the Dolet Hills Lignite Mine are expected to be sufficient to fuel the Dolet Hills Power Station until at least 2026. The existing Red River Lignite Supply and Transportation Agreement with NAC terminated upon the closing of this transaction.

#### Teche Blackstart Project

In January 2009, Cleco Power filed an application with the LPSC to improve its blackstart process by purchasing a 33-MW gas turbine to be sited at the Teche Power Station and designated as Teche Unit 4. The purpose of the project

is to allow Cleco Power to return its generating system to service more efficiently than is currently possible in the event of a total system shutdown. As part of the Teche Power Station, Teche Unit 4 will be located in a region known as the Acadiana Load Pocket, an area that has experienced considerable growth in recent years. Cleco Power chose to acquire a refurbished gas turbine at considerable cost savings as compared to purchasing a similar new unit. The LDEQ issued an air permit in November 2009. The LPSC application was approved in December 2009.

At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power had incurred \$8.9 million of the estimated \$31.0 million total expenditures for this project. This estimate includes the necessary upgrades to allow the purchased unit to also function as a generation resource suitable for peaking capacity. Phase I of the project, which included procurement of the gas turbine, has been completed. Phase II, which includes site construction, is expected to begin in March 2010, and the project is expected to be completed in the second quarter of 2011.

#### Pension Protection Act of 2006

In August 2006, the President signed the Pension Protection Act of 2006. The new law replaces the defined benefit pension plan funding rules with a new funding system that became effective in 2008. Plan contributions are required if assets are less than 100% of liabilities. Pension plans that were not fully funded at the beginning of 2008 were to meet interim targets of 92% in 2008, 94% in 2009, and 96% in 2010.



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Furthermore, the calculation for the pension funding liability was subject to a new methodology beginning in 2008. The new methodology features the yield on investment grade corporate bonds (of the highest quality rating levels) with maturity dates that match the durations of the pension liabilities owed plan participants (broken down into three maturity segments). A temporary extension of the single corporate bond rate remained in effect for plan year 2007.

In December 2008, this Act was amended. The primary amendments include allowing a phase-in of the funding targets, allowing a 24-month asset smoothing and allowing plans to look back to prior year funding percentages to determine restrictions on benefits.

Cleco expects the implementation of the Pension Protection Act, in conjunction with the material 2008 plan portfolio losses, will result in annual pension contributions going-forward that are significantly higher than those estimates calculated in prior years. For a discussion of certain risks related to market conditions, see item 1A, "Risk Factors — Global Economic Downturn."

#### New Accounting Standards

For discussion of new accounting standards, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 2 — Summary of Significant Accounting Policies — Recent Authoritative Guidance."

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

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### Risk Overview

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Market risk inherent in Cleco's market risk-sensitive instruments and positions includes potential changes arising from changes in interest rates and the commodity market prices of power and natural gas in the industry on different energy exchanges. Cleco is subject to market risk associated with economic hedges relating to open natural gas contracts. Cleco also is subject to market risk associated with its remaining tolling agreement counterparty. For additional information concerning Cleco's market risk associated with its remaining counterparty, see Item 7, "Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations — Financial Condition — Liquidity and Capital Resources — General Considerations and Credit-Related Risks."

Cleco uses the authoritative guidance on derivatives and hedging to determine whether the market risk-sensitive instruments and positions are required to be marked-to-market. Generally, Cleco Power's market risk-sensitive instruments and positions qualify for the normal-purchase, normal-sale exception to mark-to-market accounting since Cleco Power takes physical delivery and the instruments and positions are used to satisfy customer requirements. Cleco's exposure to market risk, as discussed below, represents an estimate of possible changes in the fair value or future earnings that would occur, assuming possible future movements in the interest rates and commodity prices of power and natural gas. Management's views on market risk are not necessarily indicative of actual results, nor do they represent the maximum possible gains or losses. The views do represent, within the parameters disclosed, what management estimates may happen.

Cleco monitors credit risk exposure through reviews of counterparty credit quality, aggregate counterparty credit exposure, and aggregate counterparty concentration levels. Cleco manages these risks by establishing appropriate credit and concentration limits on transactions with counterparties and requiring contractual guarantees, cash deposits or letters of credit from counterparties or their affiliates, as deemed necessary. Cleco Power has agreements in place with various counterparties that authorize the netting of financial transactions and contract payments to mitigate credit risk for transactions entered into for risk management purposes.

Access to capital markets is a significant source of funding for both short- and long-term capital requirements not satisfied by operating cash flows. Recent market conditions have limited the availability and have increased the costs of capital for many companies. The inability to raise capital on favorable terms could negatively affect Cleco's ability to maintain and expand its businesses. After assessing the current operating performance, liquidity, and credit ratings, management believes that it will have access to the capital markets at prevailing market rates for companies with

comparable credit ratings. In November 2009, Moody's downgraded Cleco Power's credit rating by one level. This downgrade placed Cleco Power's credit rating at Moody's at a level similar to Cleco Power's credit rating at Standard & Poor's. Cleco Corporation and Cleco Power pays fees and interest under its bank credit agreements based on the highest rating held. If Cleco Corporation or Cleco Power's credit rating were to be downgraded by Moody's and Standard & Poor's, Cleco Corporation and/or Cleco Power would be required to pay additional fees and higher interest rates under its bank credit agreements. Cleco Power's collateral for derivatives is based on the lowest rating held. If Cleco Power's credit ratings were to be downgraded by Standard & Poor's or Moody's, Cleco Power would be required to pay additional collateral for derivatives.

#### Interest Rate Risks

Cleco monitors its mix of fixed- and variable-rate debt obligations in light of changing market conditions and from time to time may alter that mix, for example, refinancing balances outstanding under its variable-rate credit facility with fixed-rate debt. For details, see Item 8, "Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 6 — Debt." Calculations of the changes in fair market value and interest expense of the debt securities are made over a one-year period.

Sensitivity to changes in interest rates for fixed-rate obligations is computed by calculating the current fair market value using a net present value model based upon a 1% change in

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the average interest rate applicable to such debt. Sensitivity to changes in interest rates for variable-rate obligations is computed by assuming a 1% change in the current interest rate applicable to such debt.

As of December 31, 2009, the carrying value of Cleco's long-term fixed-rate debt was approximately \$1.2 billion, with a fair market value of approximately \$1.2 billion. There is a \$33.9 million difference between the carrying value of the debt and the market value of such debt which is driven by the spread between the stated rate of Cleco's debt as compared to the current market yield for debt with similar risk profiles, maturities, and terms as Cleco's debt. Fair value was determined using quoted market prices. Each 1% increase in the average interest rates applicable to such debt would result in a corresponding decrease of approximately \$70.7 million in the fair value of these instruments. If these instruments are held to maturity, no change in stated value will be realized.

Cleco had no short-term variable-rate debt as of December 31, 2009.

At December 31, 2009, Cleco Corporation had \$95.0 million principal amount of long-term variable-rate debt outstanding under its \$150.0 million five-year credit facility at a weighted interest rate of 0.763%. The borrowings under the credit facility are considered long-term as the credit facility does not expire until 2011. The borrowing costs under the facility are equal to LIBOR plus 0.65%, including facility fees. The existing borrowings had 30-day terms and matured on January 15, 2010, and January 29, 2010; \$75.0 million of the borrowings were renewed at maturity, rather than repaid. Each 1% increase in the interest rate applicable to such debt would have resulted in a \$1.0 million decrease in pre-tax earnings of Cleco.

Cleco Power had an additional \$50.0 million long-term variable rate debt outstanding. For more information regarding Cleco Power's long-term variable-rate debt outstanding and interest rate swap, refer to "— Cleco Power" below.

#### Commodity Price Risks

Management believes Cleco has controls in place to minimize the risks involved in its financial and energy commodity activities. Independent controls over energy commodity functions consist of a middle office (risk management), a back office (accounting), regulatory compliance staff, as well as monitoring by a risk management committee comprised of officers and the General Manager – Internal Audit, who are approved by Cleco Corporation's Board of Directors. Risk limits are recommended by the Risk Management Committee and monitored through a daily risk report that identifies the current VaR, current market conditions, and concentration of energy market positions. During 2005, Cleco Power entered into certain financial hedge transactions it considers economic hedges to mitigate the risk associated with fixed-price power to be provided to a wholesale customer through December 2010. These transactions are derivatives as defined by the authoritative guidance on derivatives and hedging but do not meet the accounting criteria to be considered hedges. These transactions are marked-to-market with the resulting gain or loss recorded on the income statement as a component of operating revenue. At December 31, 2009, the positions had a negative mark-to-market value of \$0.4 million, which is a decrease of \$0.2 million from the negative mark-to-market value of \$0.2 million at December 31, 2008. In addition, these positions resulted in a realized loss of \$1.6 million in 2009. In light of these economic hedge transactions, volatility in natural gas prices will likely cause fluctuations in the market value of open natural gas positions and ultimately in Cleco Power's future earnings.

Cleco Power provides fuel for generation and purchases power to meet the power demands of customers. Cleco Power has entered into positions to mitigate the volatility in customer fuel costs, as encouraged by an LPSC order. Cleco Power's fuel stabilization policy targets higher levels of minimum hedging percentages and mitigate the volatility in customer fuel costs. The change in positions could result in increased volatility in the marked-to-market amounts for the financial positions. These positions are marked-to-market with the resulting gain or loss recorded on the balance sheet as a component of the accumulated deferred fuel asset or liability and a component of the risk management assets or liabilities. When these positions close, actual gains or losses are deferred and included in the fuel adjustment clause in the month the physical contract settles. Based on market prices at year end, the net mark-to-market impact related to open natural gas positions at December 31, 2009, and 2008, were losses of \$24.9 million and \$57.4 million, respectively. The majority of these natural gas positions will close over the next twelve months. Deferred losses relating to closed natural gas positions at December 31, 2009, and 2008, totaled \$2.6 million

and \$6.4 million, respectively.

Cleco utilizes a VaR model to assess the market risk of its hedging portfolios, including derivative financial instruments. VaR represents the potential loss in fair value for an instrument from adverse changes in market factors over a defined period of time with a specified confidence level. VaR is calculated daily, using the variance/covariance method with delta approximation, assuming a holding period of one day, and a 95% confidence level for natural gas and power positions. Volatility is calculated daily from historical forward prices using the exponentially weighted moving average method.

Based on these assumptions, the VaR relating to Cleco Power's hedge transactions for 2009, as well as the VaR at December 31, 2009, and 2008, are summarized in the following table.

| (THOUSANDS)      | FOR THE YEAR ENDED |           |           | AT DECEMBER 31, |           |
|------------------|--------------------|-----------|-----------|-----------------|-----------|
|                  | DECEMBER 31, 2009  |           |           | 2009            | 2008      |
|                  | HIGH               | LOW       | AVERAGE   |                 |           |
| Economic hedges  | \$268.1            | \$69.4    | \$139.7   | \$110.9         | \$239.0   |
| Fuel cost hedges | \$7,292.8          | \$1,846.0 | \$3,879.8 | \$2,848.5       | \$6,519.0 |

All open positions were transacted by Cleco Power. The decrease in VaR for economic hedges at December 31, 2009, compared to December 31, 2008, is primarily due to the decrease in forward positions. Under Cleco's economic hedge VaR model, changes in market value of open positions in excess of \$0.2 million over Cleco's estimated VaR are deemed

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material. During 2009, the \$0.2 million limit was exceeded seven times.

The following table summarizes the market value maturities of open natural gas contracts at December 31, 2009. All contracts were transacted by Cleco Power.

| (THOUSANDS) | MATURITY<br>LESS<br>THAN<br>ONE<br>YEAR |           | MATURITY<br>1-3 YEARS | MATURITY<br>OVER<br>THREE<br>YEARS |            | TOTAL<br>FAIR<br>VALUE |
|-------------|---|-----------|-----------------------|------------------------------------|------------|------------------------|
|             |   |           |                       |                                    |            |                        |
| Assets      | \$ 50                                   | \$ -      | \$ -                  | \$ -                               | \$ 50      |                        |
| Liabilities | \$ 65,589                               | \$ 40,661 | \$ -                  | \$ -                               | \$ 106,250 |                        |

For additional information on the market value maturities of contracts, see Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 5 — Fair Value Accounting.”

#### Cleco Power

Please refer to “— Risk Overview” above for a discussion of market risk inherent in Cleco Power’s market risk-sensitive instruments.

Cleco Power has entered into various fixed- and variable-rate debt obligations. For details, see Item 8, “Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Notes to the Financial Statements — Note 6 — Debt.” Please refer to “— Interest Rate Risks” above for a discussion of how Cleco Power monitors its mix of fixed- and variable-rate debt obligations and the manner of calculating changes in fair market value and interest expense of its debt obligations.

As of December 31, 2009, the carrying value of Cleco Power’s long-term fixed-rate debt was approximately \$1.2 billion, with a fair market value of approximately \$1.2 billion. There is a \$33.9 million difference between the carrying value of the debt and the market value of such debt which is driven by the spread between the stated rate of Cleco Power’s debt as compared to the current market yield for debt with similar risk profiles, maturities, and terms as Cleco Power’s debt. Fair value was determined using quoted market prices. Each 1% increase in the average interest rates applicable to such debt would result in a corresponding decrease of approximately \$70.7 million in the fair values of these instruments. If these instruments are held to maturity, no change in stated value will be realized.

Cleco Power had no short-term variable-rate debt as of December 31, 2009.

At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power had \$50.0 million of long-term variable-rate debt outstanding with an interest rate of 3.00% plus one-month LIBOR. Each 1% increase in the interest rate applicable to such debt would cause a \$0.5 million decrease in the pre-tax earnings of Cleco Power. During 2009, Cleco Power locked in an interest rate swap, effective concurrent with issuing the \$50.0 million variable-rate debt, for the notional amount of the debt requiring a monthly net settlement between Cleco Power’s fixed 1.84% and the swap counterparty’s floating payment of the one-month LIBOR. Each 1% increase in the interest rate applicable to the interest rate swap would cause a \$0.5 million increase in the pre-tax earnings of Cleco Power.

At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power had no borrowings outstanding under its \$275.0 million five-year credit facility. Please refer to “— Commodity Price Risks” above for a discussion of controls, transactions, VaR, and market value maturities associated with Cleco Power’s energy commodity activities.

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ITEM 8. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTARY DATA

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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To the Shareholders and Board of  
Directors of Cleco Corporation:

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements listed in the index appearing under Item 15(a)(1) present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Cleco Corporation (the "Company") and its subsidiaries at December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statement schedules listed in the index appearing under Item 15(a)(2) present fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein when read in conjunction with the related consolidated financial statements. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for these financial statements and financial statement schedules, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting appearing under Item 9A. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements, on the financial statement schedules, and on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our integrated audits. We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. An audit includes examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company changed the manner in which it accounts for uncertain tax positions in 2007.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that

controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.

/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
February 25, 2010

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

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To the Member and Board of  
Managers of Cleco Power LLC:

In our opinion, the consolidated financial statements listed in the index appearing under Item 15 (a)(1) present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of Cleco Power LLC and its subsidiary (the "Company") at December 31, 2009 and 2008, and the results of their operations and their cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2009 in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America. In addition, in our opinion, the financial statement schedule listed in the index appearing under Item 15 (a)(2) presents fairly, in all material respects, the information set forth therein when read in conjunction with the related consolidated financial statements. Also in our opinion, the Company maintained, in all material respects, effective internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009, based on criteria established in Internal Control - Integrated Framework issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). The Company's management is responsible for these financial statements and financial statement schedule, for maintaining effective internal control over financial reporting and for its assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting, included in Management's Report on Internal Control Over Financial Reporting appearing under Item 9A. Our responsibility is to express opinions on these financial statements, on the financial statement schedule, and on the Company's internal control over financial reporting based on our audits (which was an integrated audit in 2009). We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States). Those standards require that we plan and perform the audits to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement and whether effective internal control over financial reporting was maintained in all material respects. Our audits of the financial statements included examining, on a test basis, evidence supporting the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements, assessing the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by management, and evaluating the overall financial statement presentation. Our audit of internal control over financial reporting included obtaining an understanding of internal control over financial reporting, assessing the risk that a material weakness exists, and testing and evaluating the design and operating effectiveness of internal control based on the assessed risk. Our audits also included performing such other procedures as we considered necessary in the circumstances. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinions.

As discussed in Note 2 to the consolidated financial statements, the Company changed the manner in which it accounts for uncertain tax positions in 2007.

A company's internal control over financial reporting is a process designed to provide reasonable assurance regarding the reliability of financial reporting and the preparation of financial statements for external purposes in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. A company's internal control over financial reporting includes those policies and procedures that (i) pertain to the maintenance of records that, in reasonable detail, accurately and fairly reflect the transactions and dispositions of the assets of the company; (ii) provide reasonable assurance that transactions are recorded as necessary to permit preparation of financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles, and that receipts and expenditures of the company are being made only in accordance with authorizations of management and directors of the company; and (iii) provide reasonable assurance regarding prevention or timely detection of unauthorized acquisition, use, or disposition of the company's assets that could have a material effect on the financial statements.

Because of its inherent limitations, internal control over financial reporting may not prevent or detect misstatements. Also, projections of any evaluation of effectiveness to future periods are subject to the risk that controls may become inadequate because of changes in conditions, or that the degree of compliance with the policies or procedures may deteriorate.



/s/ PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP  
New Orleans, Louisiana  
February 25, 2010

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CLECO CORPORATION  
CLECO POWER

2009 FORM 10-K

CLECO CORPORATION

Consolidated Statements of Income

| (THOUSANDS, EXCEPT SHARE AND PER SHARE AMOUNTS)  | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER |             |            |
|--|-----------------------------|-------------|------------|
|  | 31,<br>2009                 | 2008        | 2007       |
| Operating revenue  |                             |             |            |
| Electric operations  | \$808,646                   | \$1,032,970 | \$988,193  |
| Other operations   | 33,651                      | 36,768      | 35,285     |
| Affiliate revenue  | 11,461                      | 10,460      | 7,138      |
| Total operating revenue  | 853,758                     | 1,080,198   | 1,030,616  |
| Operating expenses   |                             |             |            |
| Fuel used for electric generation  | 261,456                     | 235,706     | 273,954    |
| Power purchased for utility customers  | 216,906                     | 471,261     | 385,247    |
| Other operations   | 109,060                     | 99,028      | 102,479    |
| Maintenance  | 51,300                      | 47,089      | 49,498     |
| Depreciation   | 78,204                      | 77,876      | 79,904     |
| Taxes other than income taxes  | 29,947                      | 34,471      | 41,975     |
| Loss (gain) on sales of assets   | 76                          | (110 )      | 15         |
| Total operating expenses   | 746,949                     | 965,321     | 933,072    |
| Operating income   | 106,809                     | 114,877     | 97,544     |
| Interest income  | 1,512                       | 5,417       | 11,754     |
| Allowance for other funds used during construction   | 73,269                      | 64,953      | 32,955     |
| Equity (loss) income from investees  | (17,423 )                   | (5,542 )    | 93,148     |
| Other income   | 5,581                       | 1,263       | 29,531     |
| Other expense  | (2,807 )                    | (7,970 )    | (4,405 )   |
| Interest charges   |                             |             |            |
| Interest charges, including amortization of debt expenses, premium and discount, net of capitalized interest | 77,228                      | 72,042      | 51,111     |
| Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction  | (26,173 )                   | (19,642 )   | (13,145 )  |
| Total interest charges   | 51,055                      | 52,400      | 37,966     |
| Income before income taxes   | 115,886                     | 120,598     | 222,561    |
| Federal and state income tax expense   | 9,579                       | 18,457      | 70,772     |
| Net income   | 106,307                     | 102,141     | 151,789    |
| Preferred dividends requirements, net of tax   | 46                          | 46          | 458        |
| Net income applicable to common stock  | \$106,261                   | \$102,095   | \$151,331  |
| Average shares of common stock outstanding   |                             |             |            |
| Basic  | 60,187,894                  | 59,990,229  | 58,976,052 |
| Diluted  | 60,498,205                  | 60,214,640  | 59,717,528 |
| Basic earnings per share   |                             |             |            |
| Net income applicable to common stock  | \$1.77                      | \$1.70      | \$2.55     |
| Diluted earnings per share   |                             |             |            |
| Net income applicable to common stock  | \$1.76                      | \$1.70      | \$2.54     |
| Cash dividends paid per share of common stock  | \$0.900                     | \$0.900     | \$0.900    |

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



CLECO CORPORATION  
CLECO POWER

2009 FORM 10-K

CLECO CORPORATION

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## Consolidated Balance Sheets

| (THOUSANDS)  | AT DECEMBER 31, |             |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
|  | 2009            | 2008        |
| Assets   |                 |             |
| Current assets   |                 |             |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | \$145,193       | \$97,483    |
| Restricted cash  | 29,941          | 62,311      |
| Customer accounts receivable (less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1,173 in 2009 and \$1,632 in 2008) | 29,550          | 40,677      |
| Accounts receivable – affiliate  | 12,129          | 3,428       |
| Other accounts receivable  | 28,878          | 34,209      |
| Taxes receivable   | 15,449          | 13,663      |
| Unbilled revenue   | 21,975          | 19,713      |
| Fuel inventory, at average cost  | 80,038          | 57,221      |
| Material and supplies inventory, at average cost   | 41,410          | 37,547      |
| Risk management assets   | 2,854           | 368         |
| Accumulated deferred federal and state income taxes, net   | 6,799           | -           |
| Accumulated deferred fuel  | 35,059          | 69,154      |
| Cash surrender value of company-/trust-owned life insurance policies                                       | 30,269          | 22,934      |
| Prepayments  | 3,571           | 3,751       |
| Regulatory assets – other  | 9,914           | 2,553       |
| Other current assets   | 896             | 1,367       |
| Total current assets   | 493,925         | 466,379     |
| Property, plant and equipment  |                 |             |
| Property, plant and equipment  | 2,144,491       | 2,015,269   |
| Accumulated depreciation   | (999,204 )      | (948,581 )  |
| Net property, plant and equipment  | 1,145,287       | 1,066,688   |
| Construction work in progress  | 1,101,743       | 978,598     |
| Total property, plant and equipment, net   | 2,247,030       | 2,045,286   |
| Equity investment in investees   | 251,617         | 249,144     |
| Prepayments  | 5,096           | 6,067       |
| Restricted cash  | 26,510          | 40,671      |
| Regulatory assets and liabilities – deferred taxes, net  | 264,343         | 174,804     |
| Regulatory assets – other  | 201,381         | 158,206     |
| Intangible asset   | 157,098         | 167,826     |
| Other deferred charges   | 47,847          | 32,821      |
| Total assets   | \$3,694,847     | \$3,341,204 |

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

(Continued on next page)

CLECO CORPORATION  
CLECO POWER

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CLECO CORPORATION

Consolidated Balance Sheets (Continued)

| (THOUSANDS)   | AT DECEMBER 31, |             |
|---|-----------------|-------------|
|   | 2009            | 2008        |
| Liabilities and shareholders' equity  |                 |             |
| Liabilities   |                 |             |
| Current liabilities   |                 |             |
| Long-term debt due within one year  | \$11,478        | \$63,546    |
| Accounts payable  | 111,358         | 117,337     |
| Retainage   | 813             | 12,734      |
| Accounts payable – affiliate  | 2,370           | 8,229       |
| Customer deposits   | 34,195          | 27,155      |
| Interest accrued  | 11,880          | 16,787      |
| Accumulated current deferred taxes, net   | -               | 64,838      |
| Risk management liability   | 13,767          | 30,109      |
| Regulatory liabilities - other  | 33,592          | 392         |
| Deferred compensation   | 7,091           | 5,118       |
| Other current liabilities   | 15,260          | 14,588      |
| Total current liabilities   | 241,804         | 360,833     |
| Deferred credits  |                 |             |
| Accumulated deferred federal and state income taxes, net  | 460,894         | 373,825     |
| Accumulated deferred investment tax credits   | 9,954           | 11,286      |
| Postretirement benefit obligations  | 146,270         | 155,910     |
| Regulatory liabilities – other  | 149,638         | 85,496      |
| Restricted storm reserve  | 25,434          | 27,411      |
| Uncertain tax positions   | 115,643         | 76,124      |
| Other deferred credits  | 108,839         | 82,635      |
| Total deferred credits  | 1,016,672       | 812,687     |
| Long-term debt, net   | 1,320,299       | 1,106,819   |
| Total liabilities   | 2,578,775       | 2,280,339   |
| Commitments and Contingencies (Note 15)   |                 |             |
| Shareholders' equity  |                 |             |
| Preferred stock   |                 |             |
| Not subject to mandatory redemption, \$100 par value, authorized 1,491,900 shares, issued 10,288 shares at December 31, 2009, and 2008, respectively  | 1,029           | 1,029       |
| Common shareholders' equity   |                 |             |
| Common stock, \$1 par value, authorized 100,000,000 shares, issued 60,277,462 and 60,066,345 shares and outstanding 60,259,368 and 60,042,514 shares at December 31, 2009, and 2008, respectively | 60,277          | 60,066      |
| Premium on common stock   | 399,148         | 394,517     |
| Retained earnings   | 667,220         | 615,514     |
| Treasury stock, at cost 18,094 and 23,831 shares at December 31, 2009, and 2008, respectively   | (311 )          | (428 )      |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss  | (11,291 )       | (9,833 )    |
| Total common shareholders' equity   | 1,115,043       | 1,059,836   |
| Total shareholders' equity  | 1,116,072       | 1,060,865   |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity  | \$3,694,847     | \$3,341,204 |

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

CLECO CORPORATION  
CLECO POWER

2009 FORM 10-K

CLECO CORPORATION

## Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

| (THOUSANDS)   | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER |            |            |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
|   | 2009                        | 2008       | 2007       |
| Operating activities  |                             |            |            |
| Net income  | \$ 106,307                  | \$ 102,141 | \$ 151,789 |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |                             |            |            |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 121,436                     | 120,652    | 82,131     |
| Loss (gain) on sales of property, plant and equipment                             | 76                          | (110 )     | 15         |
| Provision for doubtful accounts   | 1,682                       | 3,826      | 2,873      |
| Proceeds from sale of bankruptcy settlement claims                                | -                           | -          | 78,200     |
| Return on equity investment in investees  | 750                         | 5,106      | 68,702     |
| Loss (income) from equity investments   | 17,423                      | 5,542      | (93,148 )  |
| Unearned compensation expense   | 6,087                       | 2,540      | 8,111      |
| Employee stock ownership plan expense   | -                           | -          | 2,721      |
| Allowance for other funds used during construction                                | (73,269 )                   | (64,953 )  | (32,955 )  |
| Amortization of investment tax credits  | (1,332 )                    | (1,380 )   | (1,435 )   |
| Net deferred income taxes   | (5,983 )                    | 5,154      | 6,180      |
| Deferred fuel costs   | 7,223                       | 6,444      | 11,024     |
| Loss (gain) on economic hedges  | 167                         | 2,213      | (1,066 )   |
| Cash surrender value of company-/trust-owned life insurance                       | (5,180 )                    | 5,334      | (1,042 )   |
| Changes in assets and liabilities:  |                             |            |            |
| Accounts receivable   | 8,310                       | (5,557 )   | (12,206 )  |
| Accounts and notes receivable, affiliate  | (8,701 )                    | 14,242     | 15,198     |
| Unbilled revenue  | (2,262 )                    | (1,954 )   | 623        |
| Fuel, materials and supplies inventory  | (26,680 )                   | (12,282 )  | (3,363 )   |
| Prepayments   | 1,575                       | 1,050      | 1,111      |
| Accounts payable  | 11,231                      | 2,806      | 10,008     |
| Accounts and notes payable, affiliate   | (22,796 )                   | (34,260 )  | (11,598 )  |
| Customer deposits   | 12,906                      | 5,961      | 5,447      |
| Postretirement benefit obligations  | (11,555 )                   | 4,899      | (431 )     |
| Regulatory assets and liabilities, net  | 32,922                      | 43,790     | 18,532     |
| Other deferred accounts   | (46,051 )                   | (114,855 ) | (20,356 )  |
| Retainage payable   | (11,921 )                   | 12,709     | (12,384 )  |
| Taxes accrued   | 23,612                      | 1,984      | (27,906 )  |
| Interest accrued  | (4,138 )                    | (4,439 )   | 954        |
| Risk management assets and liabilities, net                                       | 4,406                       | (16,482 )  | 15,672     |
| Other operating   | (1,066 )                    | (595 )     | 1,624      |
| Net cash provided by operating activities(1)                                      | 135,179                     | 89,526     | 263,025    |
| Investing activities  |                             |            |            |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment  | (250,286 )                  | (335,757 ) | (510,192 ) |
| Allowance for other funds used during construction                                | 73,269                      | 64,953     | 32,955     |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment                               | 751                         | 1,894      | 601        |
| Return of equity investment in investee   | 850                         | 3,852      | 96         |
| Equity investment in investees  | (45,539 )                   | (18,522 )  | (8,427 )   |

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|  |            |            |            |
|--|------------|------------|------------|
| Premiums paid on company-/trust-owned life insurance | (2,752 )   | (1,664 )   | (2,232 )   |
| Transfer of cash from (to) restricted accounts       | 46,531     | (85,021 )  | 6,490      |
| Other investing                                      | -          | 1,540      | -          |
| Net cash used in investing activities(1)             | (177,176 ) | (368,725 ) | (480,709 ) |

(Continued on next page)



CLECO CORPORATION  
CLECO POWER

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CLECO CORPORATION

Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows (Continued)

| (THOUSANDS)   | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER |            |            |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
|   | 2009                        | 2008       | 2007       |
| Financing activities  |                             |            |            |
| Retirement of long-term obligations                                   | (114,846 )                  | (350,296 ) | (50,207 )  |
| Repayment of capital leases   | (1,422 )                    | (116 )     | (111 )     |
| Issuance of long-term debt  | 255,369                     | 651,541    | 250,000    |
| Deferred financing costs  | (1,953 )                    | (361 )     | (2,593 )   |
| Settlement of treasury rate lock                                      | 4,696                       | -          | -          |
| Dividends paid on preferred stock                                     | (46 )                       | (46 )      | (458 )     |
| Dividends paid on common stock  | (54,221 )                   | (54,036 )  | (53,282 )  |
| Other financing   | 2,130                       | 983        | 10,877     |
| Net cash provided by financing activities                             | 89,707                      | 247,669    | 154,226    |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents                  | 47,710                      | (31,530 )  | (63,458 )  |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period                      | 97,483                      | 129,013    | 192,471    |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period                            | \$ 145,193                  | \$ 97,483  | \$ 129,013 |
| Supplementary cash flow information                                   |                             |            |            |
| Interest paid (net of amount capitalized)                             | \$ 84,629                   | \$ 52,913  | \$ 52,045  |
| Income taxes (refunded) paid, net                                     | \$(30,309 )                 | \$ 40,213  | \$ 87,631  |
| Supplementary noncash investing and financing activities              |                             |            |            |
| Accrued additions to property, plant and equipment not reported above | \$ 3,069                    | \$ 16,935  | \$ 30,179  |
| Incurrence of capital lease obligation - barges                       | \$ 22,050                   | \$ -       | \$ -       |
| Return on equity investment in investee                               | \$ -                        | \$ -       | \$ 78,200  |
| Issuance of treasury stock – LTICP                                    | \$ 117                      | \$ 103     | \$ 86      |
| Issuance of common stock – LTICP/ESPP (2)                             | \$ 290                      | \$ 163     | \$ 22,151  |

(1) Non-cash activities between the operating and investing sections in the amount of \$222.1 million are excluded from the 2008 cash flow statement. These non-cash activities are related to 2008 storm costs and storm financing. There were no similar activities in 2009.

(2) Includes conversion of preferred stock to common stock of \$19,063 in 2007.

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

CLECO CORPORATION  
CLECO POWER

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CLECO CORPORATION

Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

| (THOUSANDS)   | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER |            |            |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
|   | 2009                        | 2008       | 2007       |
| Net income  | \$ 106,307                  | \$ 102,141 | \$ 151,789 |
| Other comprehensive (loss) income, net of tax:  |                             |            |            |
| Net unrealized loss from available-for-sale securities (net of tax benefit of \$11 in 2008, and 2007)   | -                           | (73 )      | (18 )      |
| Amortization of post-retirement benefit net losses (net of tax benefit of \$158 in 2009, \$193 in 2008, and \$29 in 2007)                             | (160 )                      | (215 )     | (18 )      |
| Post-retirement benefit (loss) gain incurred during the year (net of tax benefit of \$2,553 in 2009, \$668 in 2008, and tax expense of \$806 in 2007) | (3,403 )                    | (1,154 )   | 955        |
| Cash flow hedges:   |                             |            |            |
| Net derivatives loss arising during the period (net of tax benefit of \$456 in 2009)  | (730 )                      | -          | -          |
| Reclassification of interest expense (net of tax expense of \$115 in 2009)  | 184                         | -          | -          |
| Net gain from treasury rate lock (net of tax expense of \$1,664 in 2009)  | 2,660                       | -          | -          |
| Reclassification of interest expense (net of tax benefit of \$5 in 2009)  | (9 )                        | -          | -          |
| Other comprehensive (loss) income, net of tax   | (1,458 )                    | (1,442 )   | 919        |
| Comprehensive income, net of tax  | \$ 104,849                  | \$ 100,699 | \$ 152,708 |
| The accompanying notes are an integral part of the consolidated financial statements.   |                             |            |            |

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Common Shareholders' Equity

| (THOUSANDS, EXCEPT SHARE AMOUNTS)          | COMMON STOCK |           | PREMIUM ON COMMON STOCK | RETAINED EARNINGS | TREASURY STOCK | ACCUMULATED OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS |             | TOTAL COMMON EQUITY |
|--|--------------|-----------|-------------------------|-------------------|----------------|--------------------------------------|-------------|---------------------|
|  | SHARES       | AMOUNT    | STOCK                   | SHARES            | COST           | LOSS                                 | EQUITY      |                     |
| BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 2007                   | 57,524,498   | \$ 57,524 | \$ 358,707              | \$ 469,824        | (31,957)       | \$(616 )                             | \$( 9,310 ) | \$ 876,129          |
| Common stock issued for compensatory plans | 2,447,447    | 2,448     | 32,933                  |                   |                |                                      |             | 35,381              |
| Issuance of treasury stock                 |              |           | 18                      |                   | 3,601          | 86                                   |             | 104                 |
| Common stock issuance costs                |              |           | (93 )                   |                   |                |                                      |             | (93 )               |
| Dividend requirements,                     |              |           |                         | (458 )            |                |                                      |             | (458 )              |

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|   |            |           |            |            |          |          |              |              |  |
|---|------------|-----------|------------|------------|----------|----------|--------------|--------------|--|
| preferred stock,<br>net                               |            |           |            |            |          |          |              |              |  |
| Cash dividends,<br>common stock,<br>\$0.900 per share |            |           |            | (53,431 )  |          |          |              | (53,431 )    |  |
| Net income  |            |           |            | 151,789    |          |          |              | 151,789      |  |
| Other<br>comprehensive<br>income, net of tax          |            |           |            |            |          |          | 919          | 919          |  |
| BALANCE,<br>DECEMBER 31,<br>2007                      | 59,971,945 | \$ 59,972 | \$ 391,565 | \$ 567,724 | (28,356) | \$(530 ) | \$ (8,391 )  | \$ 1,010,340 |  |
| Common stock<br>issued for<br>compensatory<br>plans   | 94,400     | 94        | 2,932      |            |          |          |              | 3,026        |  |
| Issuance of<br>treasury stock                         |            |           | 20         |            | 4,525    | 102      |              | 122          |  |
| Dividend<br>requirements,<br>preferred stock,<br>net  |            |           |            | (46 )      |          |          |              | (46 )        |  |
| Cash dividends,<br>common stock,<br>\$0.900 per share |            |           |            | (54,305 )  |          |          |              | (54,305 )    |  |
| Net income  |            |           |            | 102,141    |          |          |              | 102,141      |  |
| Other<br>comprehensive<br>loss, net of tax            |            |           |            |            |          |          | (1,442 )     | (1,442 )     |  |
| BALANCE,<br>DECEMBER 31,<br>2008                      | 60,066,345 | \$ 60,066 | \$ 394,517 | \$ 615,514 | (23,831) | \$(428 ) | \$ (9,833 )  | \$ 1,059,836 |  |
| Common stock<br>issued for<br>compensatory<br>plans   | 211,117    | 211       | 4,615      |            |          |          |              | 4,826        |  |
| Issuance of<br>treasury stock                         |            |           | 16         |            | 5,737    | 117      |              | 133          |  |
| Dividend<br>requirements,<br>preferred stock,<br>net  |            |           |            | (46 )      |          |          |              | (46 )        |  |
| Cash dividends,<br>common stock,<br>\$0.900 per share |            |           |            | (54,555 )  |          |          |              | (54,555 )    |  |
| Net income  |            |           |            | 106,307    |          |          |              | 106,307      |  |
| Other<br>comprehensive<br>loss, net of tax            |            |           |            |            |          |          | (1,458 )     | (1,458 )     |  |
| BALANCE,<br>DECEMBER 31,                              | 60,277,462 | \$ 60,277 | \$ 399,148 | \$ 667,220 | (18,094) | \$(311 ) | \$ (11,291 ) | \$ 1,115,043 |  |

2009

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

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CLECO CORPORATION  
CLECO POWER

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CLECO POWER

Consolidated Statements of Income

| (THOUSANDS)   | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER |             |           |
|---|-----------------------------|-------------|-----------|
|   | 2009                        | 2008        | 2007      |
| Operating revenue   |                             |             |           |
| Electric operations   | \$808,646                   | \$1,032,970 | \$988,193 |
| Other operations  | 33,558                      | 36,675      | 35,176    |
| Affiliate revenue   | 1,395                       | 2,037       | 2,050     |
| Total operating revenue   | 843,599                     | 1,071,682   | 1,025,419 |
| Operating expenses  |                             |             |           |
| Fuel used for electric generation   | 261,456                     | 235,706     | 273,954   |
| Power purchased for utility customers   | 216,906                     | 471,261     | 385,247   |
| Other operations  | 99,704                      | 93,288      | 97,320    |
| Maintenance   | 47,179                      | 43,030      | 46,704    |
| Depreciation  | 77,064                      | 76,420      | 78,522    |
| Taxes other than income taxes   | 29,758                      | 31,011      | 37,658    |
| Loss on sales of assets   | 70                          | -           | 15        |
| Total operating expenses  | 732,137                     | 950,716     | 919,420   |
| Operating income  | 111,462                     | 120,966     | 105,999   |
| Interest income   | 1,449                       | 3,943       | 5,422     |
| Allowance for other funds used during construction                              | 73,269                      | 64,953      | 32,955    |
| Other income  | 2,370                       | 1,467       | 1,793     |
| Other expense   | (3,525 )                    | (2,258 )    | (2,318 )  |
| Interest charges  |                             |             |           |
| Interest charges, including amortization of debt expenses, premium and discount | 84,735                      | 66,925      | 42,710    |
| Allowance for borrowed funds used during construction                           | (26,173 )                   | (19,642 )   | (13,145 ) |
| Total interest charges  | 58,562                      | 47,283      | 29,565    |
| Income before income taxes  | 126,463                     | 141,788     | 114,286   |
| Federal and state income taxes  | 15,297                      | 27,956      | 29,613    |
| Net income  | \$111,166                   | \$113,832   | \$84,673  |

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

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CLECO POWER

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Consolidated Balance Sheets

| (THOUSANDS)  | AT DECEMBER 31, |             |
|--|-----------------|-------------|
|  | 2009            | 2008        |
| Assets   |                 |             |
| Utility plant and equipment  |                 |             |
| Property, plant and equipment  | \$2,127,536     | \$1,999,119 |
| Accumulated depreciation   | (987,055 )      | (937,568 )  |
| Net property, plant and equipment  | 1,140,481       | 1,061,551   |
| Construction work in progress  | 1,100,295       | 977,377     |
| Total utility plant, net   | 2,240,776       | 2,038,928   |
| Current assets   |                 |             |
| Cash and cash equivalents  | 138,113         | 91,542      |
| Restricted cash  | 29,941          | 62,311      |
| Customer accounts receivable (less allowance for doubtful accounts of \$1,173 in 2009 and \$1,632 in 2008) | 29,550          | 40,677      |
| Other accounts receivable  | 27,460          | 34,130      |
| Taxes receivable   | -               | 5,992       |
| Accounts receivable – affiliate  | 2,836           | 2,059       |
| Unbilled revenue   | 21,975          | 19,713      |
| Fuel inventory, at average cost  | 80,038          | 57,221      |
| Material and supplies inventory, at average cost   | 41,410          | 37,547      |
| Accumulated deferred federal and state income taxes, net   | 3,634           | -           |
| Risk management assets   | 2,854           | 368         |
| Prepayments  | 3,107           | 3,099       |
| Regulatory assets – other  | 9,914           | 2,553       |
| Accumulated deferred fuel  | 35,059          | 69,154      |
| Cash surrender value of life insurance policies  | 5,845           | 5,563       |
| Other current assets   | 350             | 1,144       |
| Total current assets   | 432,086         | 433,073     |
| Prepayments  | 5,096           | 6,067       |
| Restricted cash, less current portion  | 26,413          | 40,574      |
| Regulatory assets and liabilities – deferred taxes, net  | 264,343         | 174,804     |
| Regulatory assets – other  | 201,381         | 158,206     |
| Intangible asset   | 157,098         | 167,826     |
| Equity investment in investee  | 12,873          | -           |
| Other deferred charges   | 23,896          | 22,119      |
| Total assets   | \$3,363,962     | \$3,041,597 |
| Liabilities and member's equity  |                 |             |
| Member's equity  | \$1,009,849     | \$929,178   |
| Long-term debt, net  | 1,225,299       | 1,076,819   |
| Total capitalization   | 2,235,148       | 2,005,997   |
| Current liabilities  |                 |             |
| Long-term debt due within one year   | 11,478          | 63,546      |
| Accounts payable   | 103,359         | 109,450     |
| Accounts payable – affiliate   | 25,940          | 7,536       |
| Retainage  | 813             | 12,734      |

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|  |             |             |
|--|-------------|-------------|
| Customer deposits  | 34,195      | 27,155      |
| Taxes accrued  | 3,438       | -           |
| Interest accrued   | 11,854      | 16,762      |
| Accumulated deferred taxes, net                          | -           | 67,233      |
| Risk management liability                                | 13,767      | 30,109      |
| Regulatory liabilities – other                           | 33,592      | 392         |
| Other current liabilities                                | 10,906      | 10,200      |
| Total current liabilities                                | 249,342     | 345,117     |
| Commitments and Contingencies (Note 15)                  |             |             |
| Deferred credits   |             |             |
| Accumulated deferred federal and state income taxes, net | 451,671     | 337,148     |
| Accumulated deferred investment tax credits              | 9,954       | 11,286      |
| Postretirement benefit obligations                       | 114,700     | 128,373     |
| Regulatory liabilities – other                           | 149,638     | 85,496      |
| Restricted storm reserve                                 | 25,434      | 27,411      |
| Uncertain tax positions                                  | 75,487      | 54,306      |
| Other deferred credits                                   | 52,588      | 46,463      |
| Total deferred credits                                   | 879,472     | 690,483     |
| Total liabilities and member's equity                    | \$3,363,962 | \$3,041,597 |

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

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CLECO POWER

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## Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows

| (THOUSANDS)   | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER |            |            |
|---|-----------------------------|------------|------------|
|   | 2009                        | 2008       | 2007       |
| Operating activities  |                             |            |            |
| Net income  | \$ 111,166                  | \$ 113,832 | \$ 84,673  |
| Adjustments to reconcile net income to net cash provided by operating activities: |                             |            |            |
| Depreciation and amortization   | 88,843                      | 86,035     | 80,176     |
| Loss on sales of property, plant and equipment                                    | 70                          | -          | 15         |
| Provision for doubtful accounts   | 1,682                       | 3,821      | 2,873      |
| Unearned compensation expense   | 1,855                       | 143        | 3,039      |
| Allowance for other funds used during construction                                | (73,269 )                   | (64,953 )  | (32,955 )  |
| Amortization of investment tax credits  | (1,332 )                    | (1,380 )   | (1,435 )   |
| Net deferred income taxes   | 3,230                       | 14,482     | (16,127 )  |
| Deferred fuel costs   | 7,223                       | 6,444      | 11,024     |
| Loss (gain) on fuel hedges  | 167                         | 2,213      | (1,066 )   |
| Cash surrender value of company-owned life insurance                              | (454 )                      | (427 )     | (291 )     |
| Changes in assets and liabilities:  |                             |            |            |
| Accounts receivable   | 9,646                       | (5,972 )   | (12,013 )  |
| Accounts and notes receivable, affiliate  | (656 )                      | 15,453     | (14,444 )  |
| Unbilled revenue  | (2,262 )                    | (1,954 )   | 623        |
| Fuel, materials and supplies inventory  | (26,680 )                   | (12,282 )  | (3,363 )   |
| Prepayments   | 1,386                       | 941        | 1,016      |
| Accounts payable  | 10,831                      | 942        | 9,991      |
| Accounts and notes payable, affiliate   | 17,855                      | (11,826 )  | (15,708 )  |
| Customer deposits   | 12,906                      | 5,961      | 5,447      |
| Postretirement benefit obligations  | (13,720 )                   | 1,766      | 343        |
| Regulatory assets and liabilities, net  | 32,922                      | 43,790     | 17,758     |
| Other deferred accounts   | (37,021 )                   | (118,075 ) | (20,813 )  |
| Retainage payable   | (11,921 )                   | 12,709     | (12,384 )  |
| Taxes accrued   | 9,430                       | (12,950 )  | (6,651 )   |
| Interest accrued  | (4,140 )                    | (67 )      | 358        |
| Risk management assets and liabilities, net                                       | 4,406                       | (16,482 )  | 15,672     |
| Other operating   | (437 )                      | (86 )      | 1,833      |
| Net cash provided by operating activities(1)                                      | 141,726                     | 62,078     | 97,591     |
| Investing activities  |                             |            |            |
| Additions to property, plant and equipment  | (249,252 )                  | (334,652 ) | (509,198 ) |
| Allowance for other funds used during construction                                | 73,269                      | 64,953     | 32,955     |
| Proceeds from sale of property, plant and equipment                               | 751                         | 1,894      | 601        |
| Equity investment in investee   | (12,873 )                   | -          | -          |
| Premiums paid on company-owned life insurance                                     | (424 )                      | (424 )     | (470 )     |
| Transfer of cash from (to) restricted accounts                                    | 46,531                      | (85,019 )  | 6,495      |
| Net cash used in investing activities(1)  | (141,998 )                  | (353,248 ) | (469,617 ) |
| Financing activities  |                             |            |            |
| Retirement of long-term obligations   | (114,846 )                  | (250,296 ) | (50,207 )  |



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|   |            |           |           |
|---|------------|-----------|-----------|
| Repayment of capital leases   | (1,422 )   | (116 )    | (111 )    |
| Issuance of long-term debt  | 190,369    | 621,541   | 250,000   |
| Deferred financing costs  | (1,954 )   | (361 )    | (2,590 )  |
| Contribution from parent  | -          | -         | 85,000    |
| Distribution to parent  | (30,000 )  | -         | -         |
| Settlement of treasury rate lock                                      | 4,696      | -         | -         |
| Net cash provided by financing activities                             | 46,843     | 370,768   | 282,092   |
| Net increase (decrease) in cash and cash equivalents                  | 46,571     | 79,598    | (89,934 ) |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of period                      | 91,542     | 11,944    | 101,878   |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period                            | \$ 138,113 | \$ 91,542 | \$ 11,944 |
| Supplementary cash flow information                                   |            |           |           |
| Interest paid (net of amount capitalized)                             | \$ 81,508  | \$ 47,840 | \$ 45,026 |
| Income taxes paid   | \$ 4,444   | \$ 2,100  | \$ 67,966 |
| Supplementary non-cash investing and financing information            |            |           |           |
| Accrued additions to property, plant and equipment not reported above | \$ 3,069   | \$ 16,935 | \$ 30,179 |
| Incurrence of capital lease obligation - barges                       | \$ 22,050  | \$ -      | \$ -      |

(1) Non-cash activities between the operating and investing sections in the amount of \$222.1 million are excluded from the 2008 cash flow statement. These non-cash activities are related to 2008 storm costs and storm financing. There were no similar activities in 2009.

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

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Consolidated Statements of Comprehensive Income

| (THOUSANDS)   | FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, |            |           |
|---|---------------------------------|------------|-----------|
|   | 2009                            | 2008       | 2007      |
| Net income  | \$ 111,166                      | \$ 113,832 | \$ 84,673 |
| Other comprehensive (loss) income, before tax:  |                                 |            |           |
| Amortization of post-retirement benefit net losses (net of tax benefit of \$322 in 2009, \$321 in 2008, and \$262 in 2007)                            | (433 )                          | (431 )     | (390 )    |
| Post-retirement benefit (loss) gain incurred during the year (net of tax benefit of \$1,715 in 2009, \$162 in 2008, and tax expense of \$447 in 2007) | (2,168 )                        | (333 )     | 423       |
| Cash flow hedges:   |                                 |            |           |
| Net derivatives loss arising during the period (net of tax benefit of \$456 in 2009)  | (730 )                          | -          | -         |
| Reclassification of interest expense (net of tax expense of \$115 in 2009)  | 184                             | -          | -         |
| Net gain from treasury rate lock (net of tax expense of \$1,664 in 2009)  | 2,660                           | -          | -         |
| Reclassification of interest expense (net of tax benefit of \$5 in 2009)  | (8 )                            | -          | -         |
| Other comprehensive (loss) income, net of tax   | (495 )                          | (764 )     | 33        |
| Comprehensive income, net of tax  | \$ 110,671                      | \$ 113,068 | \$ 84,706 |

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

Consolidated Statements of Changes in Member's Equity

| (THOUSANDS)                            | ACCUMULATED     |                          |                       |
|--|-----------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|
|  | MEMBER'S EQUITY | OTHER COMPREHENSIVE LOSS | TOTAL MEMBER'S EQUITY |
| BALANCE, JANUARY 1, 2007               | \$ 650,849      | \$ (4,445 )              | \$ 646,404            |
| Other comprehensive income, net of tax | -               | 33                       | 33                    |
| Contribution from parent               | 85,000          | -                        | 85,000                |
| Net income                             | 84,673          | -                        | 84,673                |
| BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2007             | 820,522         | (4,412 )                 | 816,110               |
| Other comprehensive loss, net of tax   | -               | (764 )                   | (764 )                |
| Net income                             | 113,832         | -                        | 113,832               |
| BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2008             | 934,354         | (5,176 )                 | 929,178               |
| Other comprehensive loss, net of tax   | -               | (495 )                   | (495 )                |
| Distribution to parent                 | (30,000 )       | -                        | (30,000 )             |
| Net income                             | 111,166         | -                        | 111,166               |
| BALANCE, DECEMBER 31, 2009             | \$ 1,015,520    | \$ (5,671 )              | \$ 1,009,849          |

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

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|   |                                   |
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Notes to the Financial Statements

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Note 1 — The Company

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General

Cleco Corporation is a holding company composed of the following:

- § Cleco Power is an integrated electric utility services subsidiary regulated by the LPSC and FERC, which determine the rates Cleco Power can charge its customers, as well as other regulators. Cleco Power serves approximately 277,000 customers in 107 communities in central and southeastern Louisiana. Cleco Power also engages in energy management activities and owns a 50 percent interest in an entity that owns lignite reserves. Cleco Power owns all of the outstanding membership interests in Cleco Katrina/Rita, a special purpose entity, that is consolidated with Cleco Power in its financial statements.
- § Midstream is a merchant energy subsidiary regulated by FERC. Midstream owns and operates a merchant power plant (Evangeline) and at December 31, 2009, owned a 50 percent interest in a merchant power plant (Acadia), which it operated on behalf of its partner. For more information on agreements Acadia has entered into with Cleco Power and Entergy Louisiana for the purchase of the Acadia plant, see Note 15 — “Litigation, Other Commitments and Contingencies, and Disclosures about Guarantees — Acadia Transactions” and Note 23 — “Subsequent Events — Evangeline Transactions” and “— Acadia Transaction.”
- § Cleco Corporation’s other operations consist of a holding company, two transmission interconnection facility subsidiaries, a shared services subsidiary, and an investment subsidiary.

Note 2 — Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

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Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements and the reported amounts of revenue and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

Principles of Consolidation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements of Cleco include the accounts of Cleco and its majority-owned subsidiaries after elimination of intercompany accounts and transactions.

Using the authoritative guidance for variable interest entities, Cleco has determined that it is not the primary beneficiary of Evangeline, Perryville, Attala, Acadia, and Oxbow. Cleco determined it was not the primary beneficiary by examining all interests that could absorb expected losses and expected gains. This examination used assumptions about the expected rate of inflation, changes in the market price of natural gas as compared to the market price of electricity, length of

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contracts, variability of revenue stream as compared to variability of expenses, and maximum exposure to loss. Cleco reports its investment in these entities on the equity method of accounting. As a result, the assets and liabilities of these entities are represented by one line item corresponding to Cleco's equity investment in these entities. The pre-tax results of operations of these entities are reported as equity income or loss from investees on Cleco Corporation's Consolidated Statements of Income. For additional information on the operations of these entities, see Note 13 — "Equity Investment in Investees."

#### Reclassifications

Certain reclassifications have been made to the 2008 and 2007 financial statements to conform them to the presentation used in the 2009 financial statements. These reclassifications had no effect on Cleco Corporation's net income applicable to common stock or total common shareholders' equity or Cleco Power's net income or total member's equity.

#### Statements of Cash Flows

The Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows of Cleco Corporation and the Consolidated Statements of Cash Flows of Cleco Power are prepared using the "indirect method" described in the authoritative guidance for the presentation of the statement of cash flows. This method requires that net income be adjusted to remove the effects of all deferrals and accruals of operating cash receipts and payments and the effects of all investing and financing cash flow items. Derivatives meeting the definition of an accounting hedge are classified in the same category as the item being hedged.

#### Regulation

Cleco Power maintains its accounts in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts prescribed for electric utilities by FERC, as adopted by the LPSC. Cleco Power's retail rates are regulated by the LPSC, and its rates for transmission services and wholesale power sales are regulated by FERC. Cleco Power follows the authoritative guidelines for industry regulated operations, which allows utilities to capitalize or defer certain costs based on regulatory approval, and management's ongoing assessment that it is probable these items will be recovered through the ratemaking process.

Pursuant to this authoritative guidance, Cleco Power has recorded regulatory assets and liabilities primarily for the effects of income taxes. In addition, Cleco Power has recorded regulatory assets for deferred mining costs, interest costs, estimated future asset removal costs, postretirement plan costs, tree trimming costs, training costs, storm surcredit, fuel and energy purchases, and related hedging gains and losses, and has recorded regulatory liabilities for fuel transportation revenue and recovered construction carrying costs, as a result of rate actions of regulators. For information regarding the regulatory assets and liabilities recorded by Cleco Power, see Note 3 — "Regulatory Assets and Liabilities."

Any future plan adopted by the LPSC for purposes of transitioning utilities from LPSC regulation to retail competition may affect the regulatory assets and liabilities recorded by Cleco Power if the criteria for the application of the authoritative guidelines for industry regulated operations cannot continue to be met. At this time, Cleco cannot predict whether any legislation or regulation affecting Cleco Power will be enacted or adopted and, if enacted, what form such legislation or regulation may take.

#### Asset Retirement Obligation

Cleco has recorded asset retirement obligations (liabilities) in accordance with the authoritative guidance. This authoritative guidance requires an entity to record an ARO when there is a legal obligation under existing or enacted law, statute, written or oral contract, or by legal construction under the doctrine of promissory estoppel to incur costs to remove an asset when the asset is retired. These guidelines also require an ARO which is conditional on a future event to be recorded even if the event has not yet occurred.

At the point the liability for asset retirement is incurred, the authoritative guidance requires capitalization of the costs to the related property, plant and equipment asset. For asset retirement obligations existing at the time of adoption, the statement requires capitalization of costs at the level that existed at the point of incurring the liability. These capitalized costs are depreciated over the same period as the related property asset. Cleco Power also defers the current depreciation of the asset retirement cost as a regulatory asset.

Under the authoritative guidance, the initial ARO liability recorded is accreted to its present value each accounting period. Cleco Power defers this accretion as a regulatory asset based on its determination that these costs can be collected from customers. For additional information on Cleco's AROs, see Note 3 — "Regulatory Assets and Liabilities — Deferred Asset Removal Costs."

#### Property, Plant and Equipment

Property, plant and equipment consist primarily of regulated utility generation and energy transmission assets. Regulated assets, utilized primarily for retail operations and electric transmission and distribution, are stated at the cost of construction, which includes certain materials, labor, payroll taxes and benefits, administrative and general costs, and the estimated cost of funds used during construction. Jointly owned assets are reflected in property, plant and equipment at Cleco Power's share of the cost to construct or purchase the assets. For information on jointly owned assets, see Note 4 — "Jointly Owned Generation Units."

Cleco's cost of improvements to property, plant and equipment is capitalized. Costs associated with repairs and major maintenance projects are expensed as incurred. Cleco capitalizes the cost to purchase or develop software for internal use. The amounts of unamortized computer software costs at December 31, 2009, and 2008 were \$3.2 million and \$3.8 million, respectively. Amortization of capitalized computer software costs charged to expense for the years ending December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007 was \$1.5 million, \$3.0 million, and \$3.8 million, respectively.

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Upon retirement or disposition, the cost of Cleco Power's depreciable plant and the cost of removal, net of salvage value, are charged to accumulated depreciation. For Cleco's other depreciable assets, upon disposition or retirement, the difference between the net book value of the property and any proceeds received for the property is recorded as a gain or loss on asset disposition on Cleco's Consolidated Statements of Income. Any cost incurred to remove the asset is charged to expense. Annual depreciation provisions expressed as a percentage of average depreciable property for Cleco Power were 3.22% for 2009, 3.29% for 2008, and 3.31% for 2007.

Depreciation on property, plant and equipment is calculated primarily on a straight-line basis over the useful lives of the assets, as follows:

|               | YEARS |
|---------------|-------|
| Utility plant | 5-58  |
| Other         | 5-44  |

Property, plant and equipment consist of:

| (THOUSANDS)                         | AT DECEMBER 31, |             |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------|-------------|
|                                     | 2009            | 2008        |
| Regulated utility plants            | \$2,126,646     | \$1,998,235 |
| Other                               | 17,845          | 17,034      |
| Total property, plant and equipment | 2,144,491       | 2,015,269   |
| Accumulated depreciation            | (999,204 )      | (948,581 )  |
| Net property, plant and equipment   | \$1,145,287     | \$1,066,688 |

The table below discloses the amounts of plant acquisition adjustments reported in Cleco Power's property, plant and equipment and the associated accumulated amortization reported in accumulated depreciation. The plant acquisition adjustment primarily relates to the 1997 acquisition of Teche. The acquisition adjustment represents the amount paid by Cleco Power for the assets of Teche in excess of their carrying value.

| (THOUSANDS)                      | AT DECEMBER 31, |         |
|----------------------------------|-----------------|---------|
|                                  | 2009            | 2008    |
| Plant acquisition adjustment     | \$5,359         | \$5,359 |
| Less accumulated amortization    | 3,215           | 2,960   |
| Net plant acquisition adjustment | \$2,144         | \$2,399 |

#### Deferred Project Costs

Cleco Power defers costs related to the initial stage of a construction project during which time the feasibility of the construction of property, plant and equipment is being investigated. Cleco Power had spent approximately \$0.8 million as of December 31, 2009, and December 31, 2008, respectively, for various resource planning projects. These projects are still in the initial stages of development and as a result are classified as other deferred charges on Cleco Power's Consolidated Balance Sheets.

#### Inventories

Fuel inventories consist of coal, lignite, petroleum coke, and oil used to generate electricity.

Materials and supplies inventory consists of transmission and distribution line construction and repair material, and generating station and transmission and distribution substation repair materials.

Both fuel and materials and supplies inventories are stated at average cost and are issued from inventory using the average cost of existing inventory. The amount of storeroom operating expenses allocated to inventory for the years ended December 31, 2009, and 2008 was \$2.9 million and \$2.6 million, respectively. Deferred storeroom operating

expenses remaining in materials and supplies inventory as of December 31, 2009, and 2008 were \$3.5 million and \$4.4 million, respectively.

#### Accounts Receivable

Accounts receivable are recorded at the invoiced amount and do not bear interest. It is the policy of management to review the outstanding accounts receivable monthly, as well as the bad debt write-offs experienced in the past, and establish an allowance for doubtful accounts. Account balances are charged off against the allowance when management determines it is probable the receivable will not be recovered. As of December 31, 2009, and 2008, the allowance for doubtful accounts amounted to \$1.2 million and \$1.6 million, respectively. There is no off-balance sheet credit exposure related to Cleco's customers.

#### Reserves

Cleco maintains property insurance on generating stations, buildings and contents, and substations. Cleco is self-insured for any damage to transmission and distribution lines. To mitigate the exposure to potential financial loss for damage to lines, Cleco maintains an LPSC-approved reserve, supported by monthly charges to operating expense.

The following table represents Cleco and Cleco Power's restricted and unrestricted storm reserves.

#### Cleco

| (THOUSANDS)                         | BALANCE<br>AT<br>BEGINNING<br>OF<br>PERIOD | ADDITIONS | DEDUCTIONS | BALANCE<br>AT<br>END OF<br>PERIOD |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| <b>Unrestricted Storm Reserve</b>   |  |           |            |                                   |
| Years ended December 31,            |  |           |            |                                   |
| 2009                                | \$ 210                                     | \$ 3,643  | \$ 2,707   | \$1,146                           |
| 2008                                | \$ 6,789                                   | \$ 26,021 | \$ 32,600  | \$210                             |
| 2007                                | \$ 2,770                                   | \$ 7,440  | \$ 3,421   | \$6,789                           |
| <b>Restricted Storm Reserve (1)</b> |  |           |            |                                   |
| Years ended December 31,            |  |           |            |                                   |
| 2009                                | \$ 27,411                                  | \$ 825    | \$ 2,801   | \$25,435                          |
| 2008                                | \$ -                                       | \$ 52,188 | \$ 24,777  | \$27,411                          |
| (1) None for 2007                   |  |           |            |                                   |



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Cleco Power

| (THOUSANDS)                  | BALANCE<br>AT<br>BEGINNING<br>OF<br>PERIOD | ADDITIONS | DEDUCTIONS | BALANCE<br>AT<br>END OF<br>PERIOD |
|------------------------------|--|-----------|------------|-----------------------------------|
| Unrestricted Storm Reserve   |  |           |            |                                   |
| Years ended December 31,     |  |           |            |                                   |
| 2009                         | \$ 210                                     | \$ 3,643  | \$ 2,707   | \$ 1,146                          |
| 2008                         | \$ 6,789                                   | \$ 26,021 | \$ 32,600  | \$ 210                            |
| 2007                         | \$ 2,770                                   | \$ 7,440  | \$ 3,421   | \$ 6,789                          |
| Restricted Storm Reserve (1) |  |           |            |                                   |
| Years ended December 31,     |  |           |            |                                   |
| 2009                         | \$ 27,411                                  | \$ 825    | \$ 2,801   | \$ 25,435                         |
| 2008                         | \$ -                                       | \$ 52,188 | \$ 24,777  | \$ 27,411                         |
| (1) None for 2007            |  |           |            |                                   |

Cleco also maintains liability and workers' compensation insurance to mitigate financial losses due to injuries and damages to the property of others. The general liability and workers compensation reserves are immaterial because the balance of these items as of December 31, 2009 together represent 0.2% of total liabilities. Cleco's insurance covers claims that exceed certain self-insured limits. For claims that do not meet the limits to be covered by insurance, Cleco maintains reserves.

#### Cash Equivalents

Cleco considers highly liquid, marketable securities, and other similar instruments with original maturity dates of three months or less at the time of purchase to be cash equivalents.

#### Restricted Cash

Various agreements to which Cleco is subject contain covenants that restrict its use of cash. As certain provisions under these agreements are met, cash is transferred out of related escrow accounts and becomes available for general corporate purposes. At December 31, 2009, and 2008, \$56.4 million and \$103.0 million of cash, respectively, were restricted. At December 31, 2009, restricted cash consisted of \$0.1 million under the Diversified Lands mitigation escrow agreement, \$22.2 million reserved at Cleco Power for GO Zone project costs, \$25.4 million reserved at Cleco Power for future storm restoration costs, and \$8.7 million at Cleco Katrina/Rita restricted for payment of operating expenses, interest, and principal on storm recovery bonds. Restricted cash for Cleco Power at December 31, 2009, decreased \$46.5 million compared to December 31, 2008, primarily due to the use of \$22.4 million of funds for GO Zone project costs, the release of \$14.7 million for the construction of Cleco Power's solid waste disposal facilities at Rodemacher Unit 3, a \$7.5 million net decrease in Cleco Katrina/Rita restricted cash primarily due to the payment of operating expenses, interest, and principal on storm recovery bonds, partially offset by collections, and Cleco Power's net use of \$1.9 million for approved storm damage costs.

#### Equity Investments

Cleco reports its investment in unconsolidated affiliated companies on the equity method of accounting, as defined in the authoritative guidance on investments. The amounts reported on Cleco's balance sheet represent assets contributed by Cleco plus Cleco's share of the net income of the affiliate, less any distributions of earnings (dividends) received from the affiliate. For additional information, see Note 13 — "Equity Investment in Investees."

Cleco applies the provisions of the authoritative guidance on investments to account for equity method investment impairments. Under this standard, Cleco evaluates at each balance sheet date whether events and circumstances have occurred that indicate a possible other-than-temporary decline in the fair value of the investment and the possible inability to recover the carrying value through operations. Cleco uses estimates of the future cash flows from the investee and observable market transactions in order to calculate fair value and recoverability. An impairment is recognized when an other-than-temporary decline in market value occurs and recovery of the carrying value is not probable. During 2007, Cleco recorded a pre-tax impairment loss of \$45.8 million (\$28.2 million after tax) on its indirect investment in Acadia. The impairment was recorded on the income from equity investees line item on the income statement. No impairments were recorded for 2009 or 2008. For more information, see Note 13 — “Equity Investment in Investees.”

Effective January 1, 2010, the requirements for consolidation changed. On and after January 1, 2010, the assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses, and cash flows for Evangeline, Attala, and Perryville will be presented in the appropriate line items of the consolidated financial statements. For additional information, see “— Recent Authoritative Guidance” below.

#### Income Taxes

Cleco accounts for income taxes under the appropriate authoritative guidance. Cleco’s income tax expense and related regulatory assets and liabilities could be affected by changes in its assumptions and estimates and by ultimate resolution of assumptions and estimates with taxing authorities. Cleco files a federal consolidated income tax return for all wholly owned subsidiaries. The LPSC generally requires Cleco Power to flow the state tax benefit of deductions immediately to customers. The LPSC specifically requires that the state tax benefits associated with the deductions related to storm damages be normalized. For additional information on income taxes, see Note 10 — “Income Taxes.”

#### Investment Tax Credits

Investment tax credits, which were deferred for financial statement purposes, are amortized to income over the estimated service lives of the properties that gave rise to the credits.

#### Debt Expenses, Premiums, and Discounts

Expenses, premiums, and discounts applicable to debt securities are amortized to income ratably over the lives of the related issues. Expenses and call premiums related to refinanced Cleco Power debt are deferred and amortized over the life of the new issue.

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#### Revenue and Fuel Costs

**Utility Revenue.** Revenue from sales of electricity is recognized based upon the amount of energy delivered. The costs of fuel and purchased power used for retail customers currently are recovered from customers through the fuel adjustment clause, based upon fuel costs and amounts of purchased power incurred in prior months. These adjustments are subject to audit and final determination by regulators. Excise taxes and pass-through fees collected on the sale of electricity are not recorded in utility revenue.

**Unbilled Revenue.** Cleco Power accrues estimated revenue monthly for energy delivered since the latest billings. The monthly estimated unbilled revenue amounts are recorded as revenue and a receivable and are reversed the following month.

**Other Revenue.** Other revenue is recognized at the time products or services are provided to and accepted by customers. Economic hedges are derivatives and do not meet the criteria to be considered accounting hedges. These transactions are marked-to-market with the resulting gain or loss recorded as a component of other revenue. For additional information on mark-to-market accounting, see “— Risk Management” below.

**Equity Income.** The results of equity investees are not consolidated with the results of Cleco, but instead are reported as equity investments. Their revenues and expenses are netted and reported on one line item as equity income from investees on Cleco Corporation’s Consolidated Statements of Income. For more information, see Note 13 — “Equity Investment in Investees.”

Cleco Power directly owns 50% of Oxbow. Oxbow’s revenues are primarily derived from royalties associated with lignite mined to supply the Dolet Hill Power Station. Oxbow recognizes revenue when its lignite is mined. Midstream directly owns all of the equity interest in Evangeline and at December 31, 2009, indirectly owned 50% of Acadia. Evangeline’s revenues are derived from its tolling agreement, which is considered to be an operating lease pursuant to the authoritative guidance for leases. Several revenue provisions within the tolling agreement contain annual fixed escalations, which are required to be recognized straight-line over the life of the tolling agreement instead of when due to be paid by the tolling agreement counterparty. Other provisions, such as penalties and bonuses, are considered to be contingent rents and are recognized when the contingencies are fulfilled. A significant portion of Evangeline’s revenue is derived from its capacity payment, which it receives when the plant is available to produce electricity. Evangeline also recognizes variable revenue from the tolling agreement which depends on the way the plant is dispatched and how much electricity is produced. In June 2009, FASB amended the authoritative guidance on consolidation. For additional information, see “— Recent Authoritative Guidance.”

Acadia’s revenues are primarily derived from the interaction of the natural gas market as compared to the electricity market. Acadia recognizes revenue when it produces and sells electricity into the wholesale market, which generally occurs when market value of electricity is above the cost to produce electricity and transmission services are available.

Cleco Corporation owns 100% of Perryville and Attala. Both companies provide transmission to a single customer. The transmission tariffs charged by both companies are regulated by FERC.

**Franchise Fees.** Cleco Power collects a consumer fee for one of its franchise agreements. This fee is not recorded on Cleco’s income statement as revenue and expense, but is reflected at gross amounts on Cleco’s balance sheet as a receivable until it is collected and as a payable until the liability is paid. Cleco currently does not have any excise taxes reflected on its income statement.

#### AFUDC

The capitalization of AFUDC by Cleco Power is a utility accounting practice prescribed by FERC and the LPSC. AFUDC represents the estimated cost of financing construction and is not a current source of cash. Under

regulatory practices, a return on and recovery of AFUDC is permitted in setting rates charged for utility services. The composite AFUDC rate, including borrowed and other funds, was 12.3% on a pre-tax basis (7.6% net of tax) for 2009, 12.8% on a pretax basis (7.9% net of tax) for 2008, and 12.2% on a pre-tax basis (7.5% net of tax) for 2007.

#### Capitalized Interest

Cleco and its subsidiaries, except Cleco Power (see AFUDC above), capitalize interest costs related to longer-term construction projects. Other than AFUDC at Cleco Power, no interest was capitalized in 2009, 2008, or 2007.

#### Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures

Various accounting pronouncements require certain assets and liabilities to be measured at their fair values. Some assets and liabilities are required to be measured at their fair value each reporting period, while others are required to be measured only one time, generally the date of acquisition or debt issuance. Cleco and Cleco Power are required to disclose the fair value of certain assets and liabilities by one of three levels when required for recognition purposes under GAAP. Other financial assets and liabilities, such as long-term debt, are reported at their carrying values at their date of issuance on the condensed consolidated balance sheets with their fair values disclosed without regard to the three levels. For more information about fair value levels, see Note 5 — “Fair Value Accounting.”

#### Risk Management

Market risk inherent in Cleco Power’s market risk-sensitive instruments and positions includes potential changes arising from changes in interest rates and the commodity market

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prices of power and natural gas on different energy exchanges. Cleco's Energy Market Risk Management Policy authorizes the use of various derivative instruments, including exchange traded futures and option contracts, forward purchase and sales contracts, and swap transactions to reduce exposure to fluctuations in the price of power and natural gas. Cleco uses the authoritative guidance as it relates to derivatives and hedging to determine whether the market risk-sensitive instruments and positions are required to be marked-to-market. Generally, Cleco Power's market risk-sensitive instruments and positions qualify for the normal-purchase, normal-sale exception to mark-to-market accounting because Cleco Power takes physical delivery and the instruments and positions are used to satisfy customer requirements. Cleco Power has entered into certain financial transactions it considers economic hedges to mitigate the risk associated with the fixed-price power to be provided to a wholesale customer through December 2010. The economic hedges cover approximately 98% of the estimated daily peak hour power sales to the wholesale customer. These transactions are marked-to-market with the resulting gain or loss recorded on the income statement as a component of operating revenue. For the year ended December 31, 2009, and 2008, the following gains and losses related to these economic hedge transactions were recorded in other operations revenue.

| (THOUSANDS)          | FOR THE YEAR<br>ENDED DECEMBER 31, |            |
|----------------------|------------------------------------|------------|
|                      | 2009                               | 2008       |
| Realized (loss) gain | \$(1,638 )                         | \$873      |
| Mark-to-market loss  | (167 )                             | (2,213 )   |
| Total loss           | \$(1,805 )                         | \$(1,340 ) |

Cleco Power has entered into other positions to mitigate the volatility in customer fuel costs. These positions are marked-to-market with the resulting gain or loss recorded on the balance sheet as a component of the accumulated deferred fuel asset or liability and a component of risk management assets or liabilities. When these positions close, actual gains or losses will be included in the fuel adjustment clause and reflected on customers' bills as a component of the fuel cost adjustment. Based on market prices at December 31, 2009, and 2008, the net mark-to-market impact relating to these positions were losses of \$24.9 million and \$57.4 million, respectively. The decreased loss is primarily due to the closing of certain natural gas positions. Deferred losses relating to closed natural gas positions totaled \$2.6 million and \$6.4 million at December 31, 2009, and 2008, respectively.

Cleco Power maintains margin accounts with commodity brokers used to partially fund the acquisition of natural gas futures, options and swap contracts. These contracts/positions are used to mitigate the risks associated with the fixed-price power sales and volatility in customer fuel costs noted above. At December 31, 2009, and 2008, Cleco Power had deposited net collateral of \$10.0 million and \$16.5 million, respectively, to cover margin requirements relating to open natural gas futures, options and swap positions.

Cleco and Cleco Power maintain a master netting agreement policy and monitor credit risk exposure through review of counterparty credit quality, counterparty credit exposure, and counterparty concentration levels. Cleco manages these risks by establishing appropriate credit and concentration limits on transactions with counterparties and by requiring contractual guarantees, cash deposits, or letters of credit from counterparties or their affiliates, as deemed necessary. Cleco Power has agreements in place with various counterparties that authorize the netting of financial buys and sells and contract payments to mitigate credit risk for transactions entered into for risk management purposes.

In August 2009, Cleco Power entered into a \$50.0 million bank loan with variable interest, paid monthly, calculated at 3.00% plus the one-month LIBOR. The loan matures on August 19, 2012. In order to mitigate risk of the future floating interest rates, Cleco Power entered into an interest rate swap in the third quarter of 2009. Based on the notional amount of the bank loan, the swap requires a monthly net settlement between Cleco Power's fixed payment of 1.84% and the swap counterparty's floating payment of the one-month LIBOR. The swap matures on May 31, 2012. Under the authoritative guidance for derivatives and hedging, the swap meets the criteria of a cash flow hedge. Changes in the swap's fair value related to the effective portion of cash flow hedges are recognized in other

comprehensive income, whereas changes in the fair value related to the ineffective portion are recognized in earnings. As time passes and settlements are made, the swap's other comprehensive income fair values are reclassified into earnings as a component of interest expense. For the year ended December 31, 2009, there were \$0.3 million of reclassification adjustments from other comprehensive income to interest expense. There was no impact to earnings due to ineffectiveness for the year ended December 31, 2009. For more information on accounting for derivatives, see Note 5 — "Fair Value Accounting."

#### Recent Authoritative Guidance

The Registrants adopted, or will adopt, the recent authoritative guidance listed below on their respective effective dates.

In April 2008, FASB amended the factors that should be considered in developing renewal or extension assumptions used to determine the useful life of a recognized intangible asset. This amendment allows an entity to use its own experience in renewing arrangements or to use market assumptions about renewal in determining the useful life of a recognized intangible asset. This amendment also requires additional disclosure about the renewal costs. This amendment is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2008. The adoption of this amendment did not have an impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In June 2008, FASB amended the authoritative guidance on earnings per share to determine whether non-vested instruments issued in stock-based payment transactions are participating securities when calculating earnings per share. This amendment states that non-vested stock-based instruments that contain nonforfeitable rights to dividends or dividend equivalents are participating securities and are required

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to be included in the computation of earnings per share pursuant to the two-class method. This amendment is effective for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after December 15, 2008. Earnings per share for prior periods presented are required to be adjusted retrospectively to conform to this amendment. The implementation of this amendment did not have an impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In September 2008, FASB amended the authoritative guidance on fair value measurements and disclosures for accounting and disclosure at fair value for liabilities that contain inseparable third-party credit enhancements. This amendment requires issuers of liabilities to exclude the third-party credit enhancement when calculating the fair value of the liability for both recognition and disclosure purposes. Also, proceeds received by the issuer for liabilities within the scope of this amendment represent consideration for both the liability and the credit enhancement and shall be allocated to both the liability and the premium for the credit enhancement. The provisions of this amendment are effective on a prospective basis in the first reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2008. The implementation of this amendment did not have an impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In December 2008, FASB amended the authoritative guidance for compensation as it relates to retirement benefits and an employer's disclosures about plan assets of a defined benefit pension or other postretirement plan. This amendment also includes a technical change that requires a nonpublic entity to disclose net periodic benefit costs for each annual period for which a statement of income is presented. This amendment is effective for the first fiscal year ending after December 15, 2009. Since the adoption of this amendment is a change in disclosure, the adoption will not have any effect on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In February 2009, the SEC issued its final rules requiring public companies to provide the SEC with supplemental financial information in interactive data format using eXtensible Business Reporting Language or XBRL. The information will be provided as an exhibit to the related SEC filing. The Registrants are required to include certain financial information in XBRL format in certain SEC filings beginning with the interim fiscal period ending June 30, 2010.

In April 2009, FASB amended the authoritative guidance on business combinations to address application issues raised by preparers, auditors, and members of the legal profession on initial recognition and measurement, subsequent measurement and accounting, and disclosure of assets and liabilities arising from contingencies in a business combination. This amendment applies to all assets acquired and liabilities assumed in a business combination that arise from contingencies that would be within the scope of the contingencies accounting standard if the contingency is not acquired or assumed in a business combination, except for assets and liabilities arising from contingencies that are subject to specific guidance in the business combinations accounting standard. An acquirer is required to develop a systematic and rational basis for subsequently measuring and accounting for assets and liabilities arising from contingencies depending on their nature. An acquirer is required to disclose information that enables users of its financial statements to evaluate the nature and financial effects of a business combination that occurs either during the current reporting period or after the reporting period but before the financial statements are issued. This amendment was effective for assets and liabilities arising from contingencies in business combinations for which the acquisition date is on or after the beginning of the first annual reporting period beginning on or after December 15, 2008. The adoption of this amendment had no impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In April 2009, FASB amended the other-than-temporary impairment guidance in GAAP for debt securities to make the guidance more operational and to improve the presentation and disclosure of other-than-temporary impairments on debt and equity securities in the financial statements. If the fair value of a debt security is less than its amortized value, this amendment requires companies to assess whether the impairment is recognized depending on a combination of its intent to sell the security and its ability to hold the security until recovery of its amortized cost basis. If an entity intends to sell the debt security or it is more likely than not the entity will be required to sell the security, an other-than-temporary impairment is considered to have occurred and an impairment expense equal to the difference between fair market value and amortized costs should be recognized. If an entity does not intend to sell the security and it is not more likely than not the entity will be required to sell the security, then the entity will only recognize the credit loss as an expense. The amount of loss relating to other factors will be recognized as a reduction

in other comprehensive income. This amendment also includes guidance on calculating credit loss and additional disclosures. This amendment is effective for interim and annual reporting periods ending after June 15, 2009. The implementation of this amendment did not have an impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In April 2009, FASB amended the accounting standard to provide additional guidance for estimating fair value when the volume and level of activity for the asset or liability have significantly decreased. This amendment also includes guidance on identifying circumstances that indicate a transaction is not orderly. This amendment applies to all assets and liabilities within the scope of the fair value accounting standard. When weighing indications of fair value resulting from the use of multiple valuation techniques, a reporting entity shall consider the reasonableness of the range of fair value estimates. The objective is to determine the point within that range that is most representative of fair value under current market conditions. A reporting entity shall evaluate the circumstances to determine whether the transaction is orderly based on the weight of the evidence. In its determinations, a reporting entity need not undertake all possible efforts, but shall not ignore information that is available without undue cost and effort. A



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reporting entity would be expected to have sufficient information to conclude whether a transaction is orderly when it is party to the transaction. This amendment is effective for interim and annual reporting periods ending after June 15, 2009, and shall be applied prospectively. This amendment does not require disclosures for earlier periods presented for comparative purposes at initial adoption. In periods after initial adoption, this amendment requires comparative disclosures only for periods ending after initial adoption. The implementation of this amendment did not have an impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In April 2009, FASB amended the accounting standards which require disclosures about fair value of financial instruments for interim reporting periods of publicly traded companies. These amendments apply to all financial instruments within the scope of the authoritative guidance for financial instruments, financial services, and receivables held by publicly traded companies. A publicly traded company is required to include disclosures about the fair value of its financial instruments whenever it issues summarized financial information for interim reporting periods. These amendments are effective for interim reporting periods ending after June 15, 2009 with early adoption permitted for periods ending after March 15, 2009. These amendments do not require disclosures for earlier periods presented for comparative purposes at initial adoption. In periods after initial adoption, these amendments require comparative disclosures only for periods ending after initial adoption. Since the adoption of these amendments is only a change in disclosure, adoption did not have any effect on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In June 2009, FASB amended the authoritative guidance on accounting for events occurring subsequent to the balance sheet date, but before the issuance of financial statements. Certain subsequent events would require an entity to make adjustments to the financial statements and disclosure, whereas other events would only require disclosure. Additionally, all entities are required to disclose the date through which they have evaluated subsequent events and whether the date corresponds with the release of their financial statements. This amendment is effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after June 15, 2009. Implementation of this amendment did not have an impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In June 2009, FASB amended the authoritative guidance on transfer and servicing to improve the relevance, representational faithfulness, and comparability of the information that a reporting entity provides in its financial statements about a transfer of financial assets; the effects of a transfer on its financial position, financial performance, and cash flows; and a transferor's continuing involvement, if any, in transferred financial assets. This amendment is effective for fiscal years beginning after November 15, 2009. Implementation of this amendment did not have an impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In June 2009, FASB amended the authoritative guidance on consolidation which requires an enterprise to perform an analysis to determine whether the enterprise's variable interest or interests give it a controlling financial interest in a variable interest entity. In order to be the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity, an enterprise must have (a) the power to direct the activities of a variable interest entity that most significantly impact the entity's economic performance, and (b) the obligation to absorb losses of the entity that could potentially be significant to the variable interest entity or the right to receive benefits from the entity that could potentially be significant to the variable interest entity. Along with these criteria, an enterprise is now required to assess whether it has an implicit financial responsibility to ensure that a variable interest entity operates as designed when determining (a) above. Also, the enterprise is required to perform ongoing reassessments of whether an enterprise is the primary beneficiary of a variable interest entity. The quantitative approach previously required for determining the primary beneficiary has been eliminated. Additional disclosures are now required in order to provide users of financial statements with more transparent information about an enterprise's involvement in a variable interest entity. This amendment is effective for the first fiscal year beginning after November 15, 2009. The implementation of this amendment on January 1, 2010 required Cleco Corporation to consolidate three wholly owned subsidiaries that had been accounted for using the equity method. Prior to January 1, 2010, Perryville, Attala, and Evangeline are presented in the consolidated financial statements as follows:

§

All entities' results of operations before taxes as one line item on the consolidated statements of income entitled Equity (loss) income from investees,

§ All entities' assets and liabilities on the consolidated balance sheets as one line item entitled Equity investment in investees, and

§ All entities' cash flows in the consolidated statement of cash flows as return on equity investment in investee, return of equity investment in investee and equity investment investee.

On and after January 1, 2010, the entities' assets, liabilities, revenues, expenses and cash flows will be presented on the appropriate line items of the consolidated financial statements. Cleco has chosen to implement the consolidation prospectively and not retrospectively, therefore the consolidation will not be carried back to comparative prior periods in financial statements issued after implementation. For additional information on Perryville, Attala and Evangeline, see Note 13 — "Equity Investment in Investees."

In June 2009, FASB amended the authoritative guidance which identified the sources of accounting principles and the framework for selecting them. The Accounting Codification has become the source of authoritative GAAP recognized by FASB to be applied by nongovernmental entities. This amendment was effective for financial statements issued for interim and annual periods ending after September 15, 2009.

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In August 2009, FASB amended the authoritative guidance on fair value measurements and disclosures in order to clarify the fair value of a liability. The best measurement of a liability would be a quoted price in an active market of the liability or an identical liability. If the quoted price of the liability is not available, then an entity could use a quoted price of the liability quoted as an asset, quoted prices of similar liabilities traded as assets, or a valuation technique consistent with the principles contained in the Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures Topic, such as present value. If an asset quote is used, the fair market value should be adjusted for factors specific to an asset that is not applicable to a liability. Regardless of the method used to determine fair value, restrictions on transfer of the liability should not be factored into the valuation of the liability. This amendment is effective for the first reporting period beginning after October 1, 2009. The implementation of this amendment did not have an impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In September 2009, FASB issued various technical corrections to the Accounting Codification that did not have a material effect on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In September 2009, FASB amended the authoritative guidance regarding revenue recognition of arrangements with multiple deliverables. If an arrangement contains multiple deliverables, the selling entity must first determine the best estimate of the selling price of each deliverable. Then the selling entity must allocate the selling price of the entire arrangement based upon the relative best estimate of the selling price of each deliverable. This amendment also contains additional disclosures such as the nature of the arrangement, significant deliverables and general timing. This amendment is effective for arrangements entered into or materially modified in fiscal years beginning on or after June 15, 2010. Management is currently evaluating the impact this amendment will have on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

In September 2009, FASB amended fair value measurements by providing additional guidance related to measuring the fair value of certain alternative investments, such as interests in hedge funds, private equity funds, real estate funds, venture capital funds, offshore fund vehicles, and fund-of-funds. If certain conditions are met, this amendment allows reporting entities to use net asset value per share to estimate the fair value of these investments as a practical expedient. The amendment also requires disclosures by major category of investment about the attributes of the investments, such as the nature of any restrictions on the investor's ability to redeem its investments at the measurement date, any unfunded commitments, and the investment strategies of the investees. This amendment is effective for interim and annual periods ending after December 15, 2009, with early application permitted. Implementation of this amendment did not have an impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the Registrants.

#### Earnings per Average Common Share

The following table shows the calculation of basic and diluted earnings per share.

|  | FOR THE YEAR ENDED<br>DECEMBER 31, |        |                        |            |        |                        |        |        |                        |
|--|------------------------------------|--------|------------------------|------------|--------|------------------------|--------|--------|------------------------|
|  | 2009                               |        | 2008                   |            | 2007   |                        |        |        |                        |
| (THOUSANDS,<br>EXCEPT SHARES AND<br>PER SHARE<br>AMOUNTS)        | INCOME                             | SHARES | PER<br>SHARE<br>AMOUNT | INCOME     | SHARES | PER<br>SHARE<br>AMOUNT | INCOME | SHARES | PER<br>SHARE<br>AMOUNT |
| Income from continuing operations                                | \$ 106,307                         |        | \$ 102,141             | \$ 151,789 |        |                        |        |        |                        |
| Deduct: non-participating stock dividends (4.5% preferred stock) | 46                                 |        | 46                     | 46         |        |                        |        |        |                        |
| Deduct: participating preferred stock dividends                  | -                                  |        | -                      | 412        |        |                        |        |        |                        |

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|   |           |            |        |           |            |        |           |            |        |
|---|-----------|------------|--------|-----------|------------|--------|-----------|------------|--------|
| Deduct: amount allocated to participating preferred | -         |            |        | -         |            |        | 698       |            |        |
| Basic net income applicable to common stock         | \$106,261 | 60,187,894 | \$1.77 | \$102,095 | 59,990,229 | \$1.70 | \$150,633 | 58,976,052 | \$2.55 |
| Effect of dilutive securities                       |           |            |        |           |            |        |           |            |        |
| Add: stock option grants                            | -         | 32,050     |        | -         | 59,429     |        | -         | 120,503    |        |
| Add: restricted stock (LTICP)                       | -         | 278,261    |        | -         | 164,982    |        | 27        | 198,646    |        |
| Add: convertible ESOP preferred stock               | -         | -          |        | -         | -          |        | 1,110     | 422,327    |        |
| Diluted net income applicable to common stock       | \$106,261 | 60,498,205 | \$1.76 | \$102,095 | 60,214,640 | \$1.70 | \$151,770 | 59,717,528 | \$2.54 |

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Stock option grants excluded from the computation of 2009 diluted earnings per share are presented in the table below. These stock option grants were excluded from the computation of 2009 diluted earnings per share because they had exercise prices higher than the average market price. There were no stock option grants excluded from the computation of 2008 or 2007 diluted earnings per share.

|                              | FOR THE YEAR ENDED<br>DECEMBER 31, 2009 |                            |        |
|------------------------------|---|----------------------------|--------|
|                              | STRIKE<br>PRICE                         | AVERAGE<br>MARKET<br>PRICE | SHARES |
| Stock option grants excluded | 23.31-<br>\$24.25                       | \$23.28                    | 57,766 |

#### Stock-Based Compensation

For information on Cleco's stock-based compensation, see Note 7 — "Common Stock — Stock-Based Compensation."

#### Note 3 — Regulatory Assets and Liabilities

Cleco Power follows the authoritative guidance of regulated operations, which allows utilities to capitalize or defer certain costs based on regulatory approval and management's ongoing assessment that it is probable these items will be recovered through the ratemaking process.

Pursuant to the authoritative guidance on regulated industry operations, Cleco Power has recorded regulatory assets and liabilities primarily for the effects of income taxes. In addition, Cleco Power has recorded regulatory assets for deferred mining costs, interest costs, estimated future asset removal costs, postretirement plan costs, tree trimming costs, training costs, storm surcredit, fuel and energy purchases, and related hedging gains and losses, and has recorded regulatory liabilities for fuel transportation revenue and recovered construction carrying costs, as a result of rate actions of regulators.

The deferred mining costs, deferred interest costs, deferred postretirement plan costs, deferred asset removal costs, deferred tree trimming costs, deferred training costs, deferred storm surcredit, lignite mining agreement contingency, and a portion of the deferred construction carrying costs are presented in the line items entitled "Regulatory Assets — Other," the deferred fuel and purchased power costs and related hedging gains and losses are presented on the line item entitled "Accumulated Deferred Fuel," the deferred fuel transportation revenue and the remaining deferred construction carrying costs are presented on the line items entitled "Regulatory Liabilities — Other," on Cleco Corporation's Consolidated and Cleco Power's Consolidated Balance Sheets. Under the current regulatory environment, Cleco Power believes these regulatory assets will be fully recoverable; however, if in the future, as a result of regulatory changes or competition, Cleco Power's ability to recover these regulatory assets would no longer be probable, then to the extent that such regulatory assets were determined not to be recoverable, Cleco Power would be required to write-down such assets. In addition, potential deregulation of the industry or possible future changes in the method of rate regulation of Cleco Power could require discontinuance of the application of these authoritative guidelines. Cleco Power does not earn a return on these regulatory assets through current rates, but is collecting carrying costs on the outstanding deferred costs relating to deferred mining costs and deferred fuel and purchased power.

The following chart summarizes Cleco Power's regulatory assets and liabilities at December 31, 2009, and 2008.

| (THOUSANDS)                                   | AT DECEMBER 31, |          | REMAINING<br>RECOVERY<br>PERIOD |
|---|-----------------|----------|---------------------------------|
|   | 2009            | 2008     |                                 |
| Total federal regulatory asset — income taxes | \$ 53,902       | \$35,447 |                                 |

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|   |            |            |          |
|---|------------|------------|----------|
| Total state regulatory asset — income taxes                   | 13,267     | 16,335     |          |
| AFUDC   | 130,338    | 85,331     |          |
| AFUDC equity gross up   | 72,499     | 44,111     |          |
| Total investment tax credit                                   | (5,663 )   | (6,420 )   |          |
| Total regulatory assets and liabilities — deferred taxes, net | 264,343    | 174,804    |          |
| Deferred mining costs   | 24,215     | 26,811     | 9.5 yrs. |
| Deferred interest costs                                       | 7,401      | 7,779      | 30 yrs.  |
| Deferred asset removal costs                                  | 712        | 658        | 40 yrs.  |
| Deferred postretirement plan costs                            | 106,735    | 112,213    | -        |
| Deferred tree trimming costs                                  | 13,485     | 5,915      | 5 yrs.   |
| Deferred training costs                                       | 7,045      | 2,520      | 50 yrs.  |
| Deferred storm surcredits, net                                | 7,747      | 4,863      | 13 yrs.  |
| Deferred construction carrying costs                          | 40,174     | -          | 5 yrs.   |
| Lignite mining agreement contingency                          | 3,781      | -          | -        |
| Total regulatory assets - other                               | 211,295    | 160,759    |          |
| Deferred fuel transportation revenue                          | -          | (392 )     |          |
| Deferred construction carrying costs                          | (183,230 ) | (85,496 )  | 5 yrs.   |
| Deferred fuel and purchased power                             | 35,059     | 69,154     |          |
| Total regulatory assets and liabilities, net                  | \$ 327,467 | \$ 318,829 |          |

#### Deferred Taxes

Cleco Power has recorded a net regulatory asset related to deferred income taxes in accordance with the authoritative guidance on income taxes. The related regulatory asset or liability recorded represents the effect of tax benefits or detriments that must be flowed through to customers as they are received or paid. Generally, the recovery periods for regulatory assets and liabilities are based on assets' lives, which are typically 30 years or greater. The amounts deferred are attributable to differences between book and tax recovery periods. At December 31, 2009, and 2008, Cleco Power had regulatory assets and liabilities – deferred taxes, net of \$264.3 million and \$174.8 million, respectively. The \$89.5 million increase from December 31, 2008, was primarily the result of the collection and deferral of carrying costs for Cleco Power's construction of Rodemacher Unit 3.

#### Deferred Mining Costs

Cleco Power operates a generating unit jointly owned with SWEPCO that uses lignite as its fuel source. In May 2001, Cleco Power (along with SWEPCO) entered into the Lignite Mining Agreement with DHLIC, the operator of the Dolet Hills mine. As ordered then by the LPSC, Cleco Power's retail customers began receiving fuel cost savings equal to 2% of the projected costs under the previous mining contract (the benchmark price) through the year 2011. Actual mining costs incurred above 98% of the benchmark price

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were deferred, and could be recovered from retail customers through the fuel adjustment clause only when the actual mining costs are below 98% of the benchmark price. The benchmark price used the GDP-IPD index as a proxy for the numerous escalators in the previous mining contract. During the course of the contract, Cleco Power and SWEPCO determined that the GDP-IPD index did not appropriately reflect the increase in mining costs caused by sharp increases in diesel fuel and electricity costs associated with the mining operation. Because of this disconnect between the GDP-IPD index and actual mining costs, a significant amount of mining costs was being deferred by Cleco Power. At December 31, 2009, and 2008, Cleco Power had \$24.2 million and \$26.8 million, respectively, in deferred costs remaining uncollected.

In 2006, Cleco Power recognized that there was a possibility it may not recover all or part of the lignite mining costs it had deferred. In November 2006, Cleco Power and SWEPCO submitted a joint application to the LPSC requesting approval for Cleco Power to recover its existing deferral balance, and eliminate any future benchmarking of lignite mining costs. In December 2007, the LPSC approved a settlement agreement between Cleco Power, SWEPCO and the LPSC Staff authorizing Cleco Power to recover the existing deferred mining cost balance, including interest, over approximately 11.5 years. The settlement also established a new benchmark utilizing the contract's escalators to assure a minimum 2% savings to customers compared to the costs under the prior mining contract. Under the settlement, the benchmarking was scheduled to end after April 2011. Cleco Power and SWEPCO also agreed to commit to continued operation of the mining operation through 2016 as long as the operation of the mine was considered prudent. Cleco Power did not record any additional deferred fuel costs under the new benchmarking method.

On September 30, 2009, in connection with its approval of the Oxbow Lignite Mine acquisition, the LPSC agreed to discontinue benchmarking and the corresponding potential to defer future lignite mining costs while preserving the recovery of the legacy deferred fuel balance previously authorized.

#### Deferred Interest Costs

Cleco Power's deferred interest costs include additional deferred capital construction financing costs authorized by the LPSC. At December 31, 2009, and 2008, these costs totaled \$7.4 million and \$7.8 million, respectively, and are being amortized over the estimated lives of the respective assets constructed.

#### Deferred Asset Removal Costs

Under the authoritative guidance for asset retirement and environmental obligations, Cleco Power determined that a liability exists for cleanup and closing costs of solid waste facilities associated with its generating stations that use lignite and coal for fuel. Applying these guidelines, Cleco Power determined that a liability exists for costs which may be incurred in the future for removal of asbestos from its general service buildings, the removal of transmission towers on leased rights-of-way and for the abatement of PCBs in transformers.

At December 31, 2009, and 2008, the liability for solid waste facility closure costs at the generating station using lignite is estimated at \$0.4 million and is included in other deferred credits. At December 31, 2009, and 2008, Cleco Power's liability for removal of asbestos is estimated at \$0.3 million and also is included in other deferred credits.

#### Deferred Postretirement Costs

Authoritative guidance on retirement benefits compensation requires companies to recognize the funded status of their postretirement benefit plans as a net liability or asset. The net liability or asset is defined as the difference between the benefit obligation and the fair market value of plan assets. For defined benefit pension plans, the benefit obligation is the projected benefit obligation. Historically, the LPSC has allowed Cleco Power to recover pension plan expense. Cleco Power, therefore, recognizes a regulatory asset based on its determination that these costs can be collected from customers. The amount and timing of the recovery will be based on the changing funded status of the pension plan in future periods. At December 31, 2009, and 2008, Cleco Power had postretirement plan costs deferred as a regulatory asset of \$106.7 million and \$112.2 million, respectively. For additional information on Cleco's pension

plan and adoption of these authoritative guidelines, see Note 9 — “Pension Plan and Employee Benefits.”

#### Deferred Tree Trimming Costs

In January 2008, the LPSC approved Cleco Power’s request to establish a regulatory asset for costs incurred to trim, cut, or remove trees that were damaged by Hurricanes Katrina and Rita, but were not addressed as part of the restoration efforts. The regulatory asset is capped at \$12.0 million in actual expenditures plus a 12.4% grossed-up rate of return. Recovery of these expenditures was requested in Cleco Power’s base rate application filed in July 2008, and was approved by the LPSC in October 2009. At December 31, 2009, the regulatory asset consisted of \$12.0 million of actual expenditures and \$1.5 million related to the grossed-up rate of return. On February 12, 2010, Rodemacher Unit 3 commenced commercial operations and Cleco Power began amortizing the regulatory asset over a five-year period.

#### Deferred Training Costs

In February 2008, the LPSC approved Cleco Power’s request to establish a regulatory asset which is being charged with training costs associated with existing processes and technology for new employees at Rodemacher Unit 3. Recovery of these expenditures was requested in Cleco Power’s base rate application filed in July 2008, and were covered by the retail rate plan which was approved by the LPSC in October 2009. At December 31, 2009, and 2008, Cleco Power had deferred \$7.0 million and \$2.5 million, respectively, of Rodemacher Unit 3 training costs. On February 12, 2010, Rodemacher Unit 3 commenced commercial operations and Cleco Power began amortizing the regulatory asset over a 50-year period.



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#### Deferred Storm Surcredit, Net

Cleco Power has recorded a storm surcredit as the result of a settlement with the LPSC that addressed, among other things, the recovery of the storm damages related to Hurricanes Katrina and Rita. In the settlement, Cleco Power was required to implement a surcredit to provide ratepayers with the economic benefit of the carrying charges of all accumulated deferred income tax liabilities due to the storm damage costs at a 12.2% rate of return which was set in LPSC Order No. U-29157A. The accumulated deferred income tax liability includes the tax benefit on deductions for operation and maintenance expenses, casualty loss, and depreciation against taxable income in the year incurred and all subsequent periods. The settlement, through a true-up mechanism, allows the surcredit to be adjusted to reflect the actual tax deductions allowed by the IRS.

Cleco Power also was allowed to record a corresponding regulatory asset in an amount representing the flow back of the carrying charges to ratepayers. This amount is being amortized over the life of the storm recovery bonds. The corresponding regulatory asset will be adjusted through the same surcredit true-up mechanism at the time of a final determination of the tax benefit for storm damage costs by the IRS.

As a result of the settlement with the LPSC, Cleco Power was required to implement a surcredit when funds were withdrawn from the restricted storm reserve. In July and September 2009 and in October 2008, Cleco Power withdrew funds from the restricted storm reserve to pay for storm damages resulting in the establishment of a surcredit. Cleco Power requested and received approval from the LPSC to replenish the restricted storm reserve with the surcredit associated with the storms. At December 31, 2009, and 2008, Cleco Power had \$7.7 million and \$4.9 million, respectively, in deferred storm surcredit, net.

#### Deferred Fuel Transportation Revenue

In June 2003, pipeline assets owned by a Cleco Power affiliate, providing transportation of fuel to two Cleco Power generating stations, were sold to Cleco Power. Prior to June 2003, the expenses associated with the pipeline assets were recovered from customers through Cleco Power's fuel adjustment clause, since these expenses were billed to Cleco Power by the affiliate energy company. Rather than prepare a formal rate filing requesting recovery of the pipeline assets' cost, in March 2005, Cleco Power requested and the LPSC authorized Cleco Power to recover the cost of the assets until Cleco Power's next base rate case. In July 2008, Cleco Power filed a request for a new rate plan with the LPSC. The regulatory liability was completely amortized during 2009, before the new RSP became effective.

#### Deferred Construction Carrying Costs

In February 2006, the LPSC approved Cleco Power's plans to build Rodemacher Unit 3. Terms of the approval included authorization for Cleco Power to collect from customers an amount equal to 75% of the LPSC-jurisdictional portion of the carrying costs of capital during the construction phase of the unit. In any calendar year during the construction period, the amount collected from customers is not to exceed 6.5% of Cleco Power's projected retail revenues. Cleco Power began collection of the carrying costs and established a regulatory liability in May 2006. For the twelve-month periods ended December 31, 2009, and 2008, Cleco Power had collected \$56.9 million and \$54.1 million, respectively, in construction carrying costs.

In October 2009, the LPSC voted unanimously to approve Cleco Power's retail rate plan. The retail rate plan established that \$183.2 million be returned to customers over a five-year period and that Cleco Power will record a regulatory asset for all amounts above the actual amount collected from customers. At December 31, 2009, the regulatory liability and the related regulatory asset were \$183.2 million and \$40.2 million, respectively. At December 31, 2009, \$33.6 million was due to be returned to customers within one year. On February 12, 2010, Rodemacher Unit 3 commenced commercial operations and Cleco Power began amortizing the regulatory asset over a five-year period.

#### Deferred Fuel and Purchased Power Costs

The cost of fuel used for electric generation and the cost of power purchased for utility customers are recovered through the LPSC-established fuel adjustment clause, which enables Cleco Power to pass on to its customers substantially all such charges. For the year 2009, approximately 95% of Cleco Power's total fuel cost was regulated by the LPSC, while the remainder was regulated by FERC. Deferred fuel and purchased power costs recorded at December 31, 2009, and 2008, were under-recoveries of \$35.1 million and \$69.2 million, respectively, and are scheduled to be collected from customers in future months. The \$34.1 million decrease in the under-recovered funds was primarily the result of \$32.5 million decreased loss in the mark-to-market of open gas positions and a \$3.7 million decreased loss on closed natural gas hedge positions. These decreases were partially offset by the deferral of \$2.1 million in additional fuel and purchased power costs.

#### Amended Lignite Mining Agreement Contingency

In April 2009, Cleco Power and SWEPCO entered into a series of transactions to acquire additional lignite reserves and mining equipment from NAC. Cleco Power and SWEPCO each agreed to purchase a 50% ownership interest in Oxbow from NAC for a combined price of \$25.7 million. Through mineral lease agreements and ownership of fee land, Oxbow controls approximately 43 million tons of lignite reserves in an area referred to as the Oxbow Mine. In a separate, but related, transaction DHLC agreed to purchase all of the mining equipment located at the Oxbow Mine from NAC. Cleco Power, SWEPCO, and DHLC also entered into the Amended Lignite Mining Agreement which requires DHLC to mine lignite at the existing Dolet Hills Mine along with the Oxbow Mine and deliver the lignite to the Dolet Hills Power Station. The Amended Lignite Mining Agreement requires Cleco Power and SWEPCO to purchase the lignite mined and delivered by DHLC at cost plus a specified management fee. The two

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mining areas are expected to be sufficient to provide the Dolet Hills Power Station with lignite fuel until at least 2026. In September 2009, the LPSC approved the joint application authorizing the transactions. The transactions closed in December 2009.

Among the provisions of the Amended Lignite Mining Agreement, it is a requirement that if DHLC is unable to pay for loans and lease payments when due, Cleco Power will pay 50% of the amounts due. Any payments under this provision will be considered a prepayment of lignite to be delivered in the future and will be credited to future invoices from DHLC. This provision meets the recognition requirements as a guarantee to an unrelated third party. Cleco Power recognized a liability of \$3.8 million upon the closing of the transactions. A regulatory asset of \$3.8 million was also recognized due to Cleco Power's ability to recover prudent fuel costs from customers through the fuel adjustment clause. The liability and related regulatory asset will be derecognized when the Amended Lignite Mining Agreement terminates. The maximum projected payment by Cleco Power under this guarantee is estimated to be \$72.5 million; however, the Amended Lignite Mining Agreement does not contain a cap. The projection is based on the forecasted loan and lease obligations to be incurred by DHLC, primarily for purchases of equipment. Cleco Power has the right to dispute the incurrence of loan and lease obligations through the review of the mining plan before the incurrence of such loan and lease obligations.

#### Note 4 — Jointly Owned Generation Units

Two electric generation units operated by Cleco Power are jointly owned with other utilities. The joint-owners are responsible for their own share of the capital and the operating and maintenance costs of the respective units. Cleco Power recognized \$111.9 million, \$104.8 million, and \$92.3 million as its proportionate share of operating and maintenance expenses associated with these two units, which include fuel costs of \$91.9 million, \$86.9 million, and \$72.0 million, during the years ended December 31, 2009, 2008, and 2007, respectively.

| (DOLLAR AMOUNTS IN THOUSANDS)         | AT DECEMBER 31, 2009  |                |           |
|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|----------------|-----------|
|                                       | RODEMACHER<br>UNIT #2 | DOLET<br>HILLS | TOTAL     |
| Utility plant in service              | \$ 86,236             | \$288,962      | \$375,198 |
| Accumulated depreciation              | \$ 67,449             | \$191,074      | \$258,523 |
| Ownership                             | 30                    | % 50           | %         |
| Name plate capacity (MW)              | 523                   | 650            |           |
| Cleco Power's ownership interest (MW) | 157                   | 325            |           |

#### Note 5 — Fair Value Accounting

The amounts reflected in Consolidated Balance Sheets of Cleco and Cleco Power at December 31, 2009, and 2008, for cash and cash equivalents, accounts receivable, accounts payable, and short-term debt approximate fair value because of their short-term nature. Estimates of the fair value of Cleco and Cleco Power's long-term debt and Cleco's nonconvertible preferred stock are based upon the quoted market price for the same or similar issues or by a discounted present value analysis of future cash flows using current rates obtained by Cleco and Cleco Power for debt and by Cleco for preferred stock with similar maturities.

Cleco's convertible preferred stock relates to establishment of the ESOP. The ESOP borrowed \$30.0 million, and subsequently, Cleco Power purchased the loan. The amount of the loan was directly offset by Cleco Power's guarantee of the loan. The fair value of Cleco's convertible preferred stock was estimated assuming its conversion into Cleco Corporation common stock at the market price per common share at December 31, 2006, with proceeds from the sale of the common stock used to repay the principal balance of Cleco Power's loan to the ESOP. The loan was repaid in full in July 2006, and the ESOP preferred stock was converted to Cleco Corporation common stock in the first quarter of 2007.

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The estimated fair value of energy market positions is based upon observed market prices when available. When such market prices are not available, management estimates market value at a discrete point in time by assessing market conditions and observed volatility. These estimates are subjective in nature and involve uncertainties. Therefore, actual results may differ from these estimates.

Cleco

| (THOUSANDS)   | AT DECEMBER 31,   |                                    |                   |                                    |
|---|-------------------|------------------------------------|-------------------|------------------------------------|
|   | CARRYING<br>VALUE | 2009<br>ESTIMATED<br>FAIR<br>VALUE | CARRYING<br>VALUE | 2008<br>ESTIMATED<br>FAIR<br>VALUE |
| Financial instruments not marked-to-market          |                   |                                    |                   |                                    |
| Cash and cash equivalents                           | \$ 145,193        | \$ 145,193                         | \$97,483          | \$ 97,483                          |
| Restricted cash                                     | \$ 56,451         | \$ 56,451                          | \$102,982         | \$ 102,982                         |
| Long-term debt, excluding debt issuance costs       | \$ 1,319,540      | \$ 1,353,479                       | \$1,172,874       | \$ 1,110,171                       |
| Preferred stock not subject to mandatory redemption | \$ 1,029          | \$ 874                             | \$1,029           | \$ 699                             |

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| (THOUSANDS)                               | 2009              |  |                            |                   | AT DECEMBER 31,<br>2008                                  |                            |
|---|-------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------------------|
|   | ORIGINAL<br>VALUE | OTHER<br>UNREALIZED<br>LOSSES<br>DURING<br>THE<br>PERIOD | ESTIMATED<br>FAIR<br>VALUE | ORIGINAL<br>VALUE | OTHER<br>UNREALIZED<br>LOSSES<br>DURING<br>THE<br>PERIOD | ESTIMATED<br>FAIR<br>VALUE |
| Financial instruments<br>marked-to-market |                   |  |                            |                   |  |                            |
| Energy market positions                   |                   |  |                            |                   |  |                            |
| Assets                                    | \$87,149          | \$ (15,671 )   | \$ 71,197                  | \$159,432         | \$(47,293 )  | \$ 117,851                 |
| Liabilities                               | \$131,692         | \$ (9,630 )  | \$ 122,062                 | \$221,083         | \$(10,315 )  | \$ 210,768                 |
| Interest rate swap liability              | \$-               | \$ (890 )  | \$ 890                     | \$-               | \$-  | \$ -                       |

## Cleco Power

| (THOUSANDS)                                   | 2009              |                            | AT DECEMBER 31,<br>2008 |                            |
|---|-------------------|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------------|
|   | CARRYING<br>VALUE | ESTIMATED<br>FAIR<br>VALUE | CARRYING<br>VALUE       | ESTIMATED<br>FAIR<br>VALUE |
| Financial instruments not marked-to-market    |                   |                            |                         |                            |
| Cash and cash equivalents                     | \$ 138,113        | \$ 138,113                 | \$91,542                | \$ 91,542                  |
| Restricted cash                               | \$ 56,354         | \$ 56,354                  | \$102,885               | \$ 102,885                 |
| Long-term debt, excluding debt issuance costs | \$ 1,224,540      | \$ 1,258,479               | \$1,142,874             | \$ 1,080,171               |

| (THOUSANDS)                               | 2009              |  |                            |                   | AT DECEMBER 31,<br>2008                                  |                            |
|---|-------------------|--|----------------------------|-------------------|--|----------------------------|
|   | ORIGINAL<br>VALUE | OTHER<br>UNREALIZED<br>LOSSES<br>DURING<br>THE<br>PERIOD | ESTIMATED<br>FAIR<br>VALUE | ORIGINAL<br>VALUE | OTHER<br>UNREALIZED<br>LOSSES<br>DURING<br>THE<br>PERIOD | ESTIMATED<br>FAIR<br>VALUE |
| Financial instruments<br>marked-to-market |                   |  |                            |                   |  |                            |
| Energy market positions                   |                   |  |                            |                   |  |                            |
| Assets                                    | \$87,149          | \$ (15,671 )   | \$ 71,197                  | \$159,432         | \$(47,293 )  | \$ 117,851                 |
| Liabilities                               | \$131,692         | \$ (9,630 )  | \$ 122,062                 | \$221,083         | \$(10,315 )  | \$ 210,768                 |
| Interest rate swap liability              | \$-               | \$ (890 )  | \$ 890                     | \$-               | \$-  | \$ -                       |

The financial instruments not marked-to-market are reported on Cleco's and Cleco Power's Consolidated Balance Sheets at carrying value. The financial instruments marked-to-market represent market risk recorded in the financial statements because, to the extent Cleco and Cleco Power have an open position, they are exposed to the risk that fluctuating market prices may adversely affect their financial condition or results of operations upon settlement. Original value represents the fair value of the positions at the time originated.

At December 31, 2009, Cleco and Cleco Power were exposed to concentration of credit risk through their short-term investments classified as cash equivalents and restricted cash. Cleco had \$198.2 million (\$141.8 million of cash and \$56.4 million of restricted cash) in short-term investments in institutional money market funds. If the money market funds failed to perform under the terms of the investment, Cleco would be exposed to a loss of the invested amounts. Cleco Power had \$191.2 million (\$134.8 million of cash and \$56.4 million of restricted cash) in short-term investments in institutional money market funds. If the money market funds failed to perform under the terms of the investments, Cleco Power would be exposed to a loss of the invested amounts. Collateral on these types of investments is not required by either Cleco or Cleco Power. In order to mitigate potential credit risk, Cleco and Cleco Power have established guidelines for short-term investments. Money market funds must have at least \$1.0 billion in assets under management; must have been in existence for not less than two years; must have portfolios not comprised of more than 50% of securities issued by foreign entities; and must be rated in the top two ratings' categories by at least one nationally recognized rating agency. Commercial paper must be issued by a company with headquarters in the U.S. and rated not less than A1 by Standard & Poor's or P1 by Moody's. For split-rated issuers, the second rating must not be lower than either A2 or P2; the issuer's long-term debt must be rated not lower than A by Standard & Poor's or A2 by Moody's; and the issuer cannot be on negative credit watch. Investments in commercial paper rated A2 by Standard & Poor's or P2 by Moody's may be made if approved by the appropriate level of management. Cleco Power was exposed to concentration of credit risk through its energy marketing assets. At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power had energy marketing assets with an estimated fair value of \$71.2 million. These energy marketing assets represent open natural gas purchase positions, primarily financial hedge transactions. Cleco Power entered into these positions to mitigate the volatility in the cost of fuel purchased for utility generation and the risk associated with the fixed-price power that is being provided to a wholesale customer through December 2010. If the counterparties to these assets fail to perform under the terms of the investment, Cleco Power would be exposed to a loss of \$71.2 million. For information about credit risk management and how these risks are mitigated on energy marketing assets, see Note 2 — "Summary of Significant Accounting Policies — Risk Management."

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**Interest Rate Swap**

In August 2009, Cleco Power entered into a \$50.0 million bank loan with variable interest, paid monthly, and calculated at 3.00% plus the one-month LIBOR. The loan matures on August 19, 2012. In order to mitigate risk of the future floating interest rates, Cleco Power entered into an interest rate swap with JPMorgan Chase Bank, N.A in the third quarter of 2009. Based on the notional amount of the bank loan, the swap requires a monthly net settlement between Cleco Power’s fixed payment of 1.84% and the swap counterparty’s floating payment of the one-month LIBOR. The swap matures on May 31, 2012. Both the bank loan and the swap were effective the same day and require monthly payments near the end of the month. From the inception of the loan to December 31, 2009, Cleco Power recognized net interest expense equal to an annual rate of 4.84% on the bank loan. Since both the bank loan and the swap require payments near the end of the month, the cash payments are materially close to the interest expense recognized.

The swap is considered a derivative and is carried on the balance sheet at its fair value. Its fair value is calculated by the present value of the fixed payments as compared to expected future LIBOR rates. Since future LIBOR rates are not available for each month until termination, quoted LIBOR rates from an active exchange for observable time periods were used to create a forward “LIBOR curve” for all months until termination. Because of the inputs and common techniques used to calculate fair value, the swap valuation is considered Level 2.

The swap meets the criteria of a cash flow hedge under the authoritative guidance as it relates to derivatives and hedging. Changes in the swap’s fair value related to the effective portion are recognized in other comprehensive income, whereas changes in the fair value related to the ineffective portion are recognized in earnings. As time passes and settlements are made, the swap’s other comprehensive income fair values are reclassified into earnings as a component of interest expense. For the year ended December 31, 2009, there were \$0.3 million of reclassification adjustments from other comprehensive income to interest expense. There was no impact to earnings due to ineffectiveness for the year ended December 31, 2009.

**Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures**

Entities are required to classify assets and liabilities measured at their fair value according to three different levels depending on the inputs used in determining fair value.

- § Level 1 – unadjusted quoted prices in active, liquid markets for the identical asset or liability;
- § Level 2 – quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets or other inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, including inputs that can be corroborated by observable market data, observable interest rate yield curves and volatilities;
- § Level 3 – unobservable inputs based upon the entities’ own assumptions.

The tables below disclose for Cleco and Cleco Power the fair value of financial assets and liabilities measured on a recurring basis and within the scope of the authoritative guidance for fair value measurements and disclosures.

Cleco

**CLECO CONSOLIDATED FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS AT REPORTING DATE  
 USING:**

|             |                            |  |  |   |                            |  |  |   |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|
| (THOUSANDS) | AT<br>DECEMBER<br>31, 2009 | QUOTED<br>PRICES<br>IN<br>ACTIVE<br>MARKET<br>FOR<br>IDENTICAL | SIGNIFICANT<br>OTHER<br>OBSERVABLE<br>INPUTS<br>(LEVEL<br>2) | SIGNIFICANT<br>UNOBSERVABLE<br>INPUTS<br>(LEVEL<br>3) | AT<br>DECEMBER<br>31, 2008 | QUOTED<br>PRICES<br>IN<br>ACTIVE<br>MARKET<br>FOR<br>IDENTICAL | SIGNIFICANT<br>OTHER<br>OBSERVABLE<br>INPUTS<br>(LEVEL<br>2) | SIGNIFICANT<br>UNOBSERVABLE<br>INPUTS<br>(LEVEL<br>3) |
|-------------|----------------------------|--|--|---|----------------------------|--|--|---|

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| Asset Description                | ASSETS<br>(LEVEL<br>1)    |             |                   |             | ASSETS<br>(LEVEL<br>1) |             |                   |             |
|----------------------------------|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
|                                  | Energy market derivatives | \$ 141      | \$ -              | \$ 141      | \$ -                   | \$ 3,687    | \$ -              | \$ 3,687    |
| Institutional money market funds | 198,155                   | -           | 198,155           | -           | 204,789                | -           | 204,789           | -           |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$ 198,296</b>         | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 198,296</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 208,476</b>      | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 208,476</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |

CLECO CONSOLIDATED FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS AT REPORTING DATE USING:

| Liability Description     | QUOTED PRICES IN ACTIVE MARKETS FOR IDENTICAL ASSETS AT DECEMBER 31, 2009 |                  |                             |                               | QUOTED PRICES IN ACTIVE MARKETS FOR SIGNIFICANT OTHER OBSERVABLE INPUTS (LEVEL 2) AT DECEMBER 31, 2008 |                  |                             |                               | QUOTED PRICES IN ACTIVE MARKETS FOR SIGNIFICANT UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS (LEVEL 3) AT DECEMBER 31, 2008 |                  |                             |                               |
|---------------------------|---|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|--|------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|
|                           | AT DECEMBER 31, 2009  | ASSETS (LEVEL 1) | OBSERVABLE INPUTS (LEVEL 2) | UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS (LEVEL 3) | AT DECEMBER 31, 2008   | ASSETS (LEVEL 1) | OBSERVABLE INPUTS (LEVEL 2) | UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS (LEVEL 3) | AT DECEMBER 31, 2008   | ASSETS (LEVEL 1) | OBSERVABLE INPUTS (LEVEL 2) | UNOBSERVABLE INPUTS (LEVEL 3) |
| Energy market derivatives | \$ 25,441   | \$ 8,106         | \$ 17,335                   | \$ -                          | \$ 61,295  | \$ 13,757        | \$ 47,538                   | \$ -                          | \$ 61,295  | \$ 13,757        | \$ 47,538                   | \$ -                          |
| Interest rate swap        | 890   | -                | 890                         | -                             | -  | -                | -                           | -                             | -  | -                | -                           | -                             |
| <b>Total</b>              | <b>\$ 26,331</b>  | <b>\$ 8,106</b>  | <b>\$ 18,225</b>            | <b>\$ -</b>                   | <b>\$ 61,295</b>   | <b>\$ 13,757</b> | <b>\$ 47,538</b>            | <b>\$ -</b>                   | <b>\$ 61,295</b>   | <b>\$ 13,757</b> | <b>\$ 47,538</b>            | <b>\$ -</b>                   |



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Cleco Power

## CLECO POWER FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS AT REPORTING DATE USING:

| (THOUSANDS)<br>Asset Description | QUOTED PRICES IN ACTIVE MARKETS FOR IDENTICAL ASSETS |             |                   |             | QUOTED PRICES IN ACTIVE MARKETS FOR SIGNIFICANT OTHER OBSERVABLE INPUTS |             |                   |             |
|----------------------------------|--|-------------|-------------------|-------------|---|-------------|-------------------|-------------|
|                                  | AT DECEMBER 31, 2009                                 | LEVEL 1)    | (LEVEL 2)         | 3)          | AT DECEMBER 31, 2008  | LEVEL 1)    | (LEVEL 2)         | 3)          |
| Energy market derivatives        | \$ 141   | \$ -        | \$ 141            | \$ -        | \$ 3,687  | \$ -        | \$ 3,687          | \$ -        |
| Institutional money market funds | 191,155  | -           | 191,155           | -           | 198,989   | -           | 198,989           | -           |
| <b>Total</b>                     | <b>\$ 191,296</b>                                    | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 191,296</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 202,676</b>   | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 202,676</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |

## CLECO POWER FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS AT REPORTING DATE USING:

| (THOUSANDS)<br>Liability Description | QUOTED PRICES IN ACTIVE MARKETS FOR IDENTICAL ASSETS |                 |                  |             | QUOTED PRICES IN ACTIVE MARKETS FOR SIGNIFICANT OTHER OBSERVABLE INPUTS |                  |                  |             |
|--------------------------------------|--|-----------------|------------------|-------------|---|------------------|------------------|-------------|
|                                      | AT DECEMBER 31, 2009                                 | LEVEL 1)        | (LEVEL 2)        | 3)          | AT DECEMBER 31, 2008  | LEVEL 1)         | (LEVEL 2)        | 3)          |
| Energy market derivatives            | \$ 25,441  | \$ 8,106        | \$ 17,335        | \$ -        | \$ 61,295   | \$ 13,757        | \$ 47,538        | \$ -        |
| Interest rate swap                   | 890  | -               | 890              | -           | -   | -                | -                | -           |
| <b>Total</b>                         | <b>\$ 26,331</b>                                     | <b>\$ 8,106</b> | <b>\$ 18,225</b> | <b>\$ -</b> | <b>\$ 61,295</b>  | <b>\$ 13,757</b> | <b>\$ 47,538</b> | <b>\$ -</b> |

The derivative assets and liabilities are classified as either current or non-current depending on when the positions close. All energy market derivative current assets and current liabilities are reported as a net current risk management asset or liability. All energy market derivative non-current assets and non-current liabilities are reported net in other deferred charges or other deferred credits. Net presentation is appropriate due to the right of offset included in the master netting agreements. On the balance sheet, the net current and net non-current derivative positions are netted with the applicable margin deposits. At December 31, 2009, a net current risk management asset of \$2.9 million represented current deferred options. At December 31, 2009, a net current risk management liability of \$13.8 million represented the current derivative positions of \$22.9 million reduced by current margin deposits of \$9.1 million. The non-current liability derivative positions of \$2.4 million reduced by non-current margin deposits of \$0.9 million were recorded in other deferred credits. The institutional money market funds were reported on the Cleco Consolidated

balance sheet in cash and cash equivalents, current restricted cash, and non-current restricted cash in the amounts of \$141.8 million, \$29.9 million, and \$26.5 million, respectively. At Cleco Power, cash and cash equivalents, current restricted cash, and restricted non-current cash were \$134.8 million, \$29.9 million, and \$26.4 million, respectively, as of December 31, 2009.

Cleco utilizes different valuation techniques for fair value calculations. In order to measure the fair value for Level 1 assets and liabilities, Cleco obtains the closing price from published indices in active markets for the various instruments and multiplies this price by the appropriate number of instruments held. Level 2 fair values for assets and liabilities are determined by obtaining the closing price from published indices in active markets for instruments that are similar to Cleco's assets and liabilities. The fair value obtained is then discounted to the current period using a U.S. Treasury published interest rate as a proxy for a risk-free rate of return. For some options, Cleco uses the Black-Scholes model using observable and available inputs to calculate the fair value, consistent with the income approach. These techniques have been applied consistently from fiscal period to fiscal period. Level 3 fair values allow for situations in which there is little, if any, market activity for the asset or liability at the measurement date. Cleco had no Level 3 assets or liabilities at December 31, 2009, or 2008.

#### Derivatives and Hedging

A disclosure amendment to the authoritative guidance on derivatives and hedging which requires entities to provide greater transparency in interim and annual financial statements became effective for financial statements issued for fiscal years and interim periods beginning after November 15, 2008. This amendment required enhanced disclosures about a company's derivative activities and how the related hedged items affect a company's financial position, financial performance, and cash flows. Cleco is required to provide qualitative disclosures about derivative fair value, gains and losses, and credit-risk-related contingent features in derivative agreements.

The following table presents the fair values of derivative instruments and their respective line item as recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheets of Cleco and Cleco Power at December 31, 2009:

| (THOUSANDS)<br>AT DECEMBER 31, 2009 | DERIVATIVES NOT DESIGNATED<br>AS HEDGING INSTRUMENTS<br>LIABILITY DERIVATIVES<br>BALANCE<br>SHEET LINE<br>ITEM | FAIR VALUE   |
|-------------------------------------|--|--------------|
| Commodity contracts                 |  |              |
| Economic hedges:                    |  |              |
| Current                             | Risk management liability, net   | \$ (405 )    |
| Fuel cost hedges:                   |  |              |
| Current                             | Risk management liability, net   | (22,502 )    |
| Long-term                           | Other deferred credits   | (2,394 )     |
| Total                               |  | \$ (25,301 ) |

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The following table presents the effect of derivatives not designated as hedging instruments on Cleco and Cleco Power's Consolidated Statements of Income for year ended December 31, 2009:

| (THOUSANDS)         | LOSS IN<br>INCOME OF<br>DERIVATIVES<br>LINE ITEM | AMOUNT OF<br>LOSS<br>RECOGNIZED<br>IN INCOME<br>ON<br>DERIVATIVES<br>YEAR ENDED<br>DECEMBER<br>31, 2009 |
|---------------------|--|---|
| Commodity contracts |  |   |
| Economic hedges     | Other operations revenue                         | \$ 1,805 (1)  |
| Fuel cost hedges(2) | Fuel used for electric generation                | 92,609  |
| <b>Total</b>        |  | <b>\$ 94,414</b>  |

(1)For the year ended December 31, 2009, Cleco recognized \$0.2 million of mark-to-market losses related to economic hedges.

(2)In accordance with the authoritative guidance for regulated operations, an additional \$24.9 million of unrealized losses and \$2.6 million of deferred losses associated with fuel cost hedges are reported in Accumulated Deferred Fuel on the balance sheet. As gains and losses are realized in future periods, they will be recorded as Fuel Used for Electric Generation on the Income Statement. For more information, see Note 3 — "Regulatory Assets and Liabilities — Deferred Fuel and Purchased Power Costs."

At December 31, 2009, Cleco had 15.2 million MMBtus hedged for natural gas fuel costs, which is approximately 28% of the estimated natural gas requirements for a two-year period. Cleco had an additional 0.4 million MMBtus hedged through 2010, resulting from economic hedges, which is approximately 88% of the estimated daily peak-hour sales to a wholesale customer.

The following table presents the fair values of derivatives designated as hedging instruments and their respective line item as recorded on the Consolidated Balance Sheets of Cleco and Cleco Power at December 31, 2009:

| (THOUSANDS)<br>AT DECEMBER 31, 2009 | DERIVATIVES DESIGNATED<br>AS HEDGING INSTRUMENTS<br>LIABILITY DERIVATIVES<br>BALANCE<br>SHEET<br>LINE ITEM | FAIR VALUE |
|-------------------------------------|--|------------|
| Interest rate swap                  |  |            |
| Cash flow hedges:                   |  |            |
| Current                             | Other current liabilities  | \$ 638     |
| Long-term                           | Other deferred   | 252        |

|       |         |        |
|-------|---------|--------|
|       | credits |        |
| Total |         | \$ 890 |

The following table presents the effect of derivatives designated as hedging instruments on Cleco and Cleco Power's Consolidated Statements of Income for the year ended December 31, 2009:

| (THOUSANDS)        | AMOUNT<br>OF (LOSS)<br>GAIN<br>RECOGNIZED<br>IN OCI<br>YEAR<br>ENDED<br>DECEMBER<br>31, 2009 | LOCATION OF<br>(LOSS) GAIN<br>RECLASSIFIED<br>FROM<br>ACCUMULATED<br>OCI<br>INTO INCOME<br>(EFFECTIVE<br>PORTION) | AMOUNT OF<br>(LOSS) GAIN<br>RECLASSIFIED<br>FROM<br>ACCUMULATED<br>OCI<br>INTO<br>INCOME<br>(EFFECTIVE<br>PORTION)<br>YEAR ENDED<br>DECEMBER<br>31, 2009 |
|--------------------|--|---|--|
| Interest rate swap | \$ (1,186 )  | Interest charges  | \$ (299 )  |
| Treasury rate lock | \$ 4,324   | Interest charges  | \$ 14  |

Cleco and Cleco Power recorded a reduction to interest expense of \$0.4 million related to the ineffectiveness of hedges for the year ended December 31, 2009. At December 31, 2009, Cleco Power expects \$0.2 million of the effective portion of the treasury rate lock cash flow hedge to be reclassified from accumulated OCI to a reduction in interest charges over the next twelve months. The short-term liability associated with the mark-to-market of the interest rate swap is \$0.6 million and is expected to be reclassified as an increase to interest charges over the next twelve months. This amount may change based on the market value of the interest rate swap over the next year. For additional information on the interest rate swap, see “— Interest Rate Swap.” For additional information on the treasury rate lock, see “— Note 6 — Debt.”

#### Note 6 — Debt

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Cleco's total indebtedness as of December 31, 2009, and 2008, was as follows.

|             |                         |
|-------------|-------------------------|
| (THOUSANDS) | AT DECEMBER 31,<br>2009 |
|-------------|-------------------------|