TORTOISE ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE CORP Form N-CSRS July 17, 2009

#### UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION Washington, D.C. 20549

## FORM N-CSR

# CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES

Investment Company Act file number **<u>811-21462</u>** 

**Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corporation** (Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

11550 Ash Street, Suite 300, Leawood, KS 66211

(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

David J. Schulte <u>11550 Ash Street, Suite 300, Leawood, KS 66211</u> (Name and address of agent for service)

<u>913-981-1020</u> Registrant's telephone number, including area code

Date of fiscal year end: November 30

Date of reporting period: May 31, 2009

Item 1. Report to Stockholders.

### **Company at a Glance**

*Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corp. is a pioneering closed-end investment company investing primarily in equity securities of publicly-traded Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) operating energy infrastructure assets.* 

#### Investment Goals: Yield, Growth and Quality

We seek a high level of total return with an emphasis on current distributions paid to stockholders.

In seeking to achieve **yield**, we target distributions to our stockholders that are roughly equal to the underlying yield on a direct investment in MLPs. In order to accomplish this, we maintain our strategy of investing primarily in energy infrastructure MLPs with attractive current yields and growth potential.

We seek to achieve distribution **growth** as revenues of our underlying companies grow with the economy, with the population and through rate increases. This revenue growth generally leads to increased operating profits, and when combined with internal expansion projects and acquisitions, is expected to provide attractive growth in distributions to us. We also seek distribution growth through capital market strategies involving timely debt and equity offerings by Tortoise Energy that are typically primarily invested in MLP issuer direct placements.

We seek to achieve **quality** by investing in companies operating energy infrastructure assets that are critical to the U.S. economy. Often these assets would be difficult to replicate. We also back experienced management teams with successful track records. By investing in Tortoise Energy, our stockholders have access to a portfolio that is diversified through geographic regions and across product lines, including natural gas, natural gas liquids, crude oil and refined products.

#### About Energy Infrastructure Master Limited Partnerships

MLPs are limited partnerships whose units trade on public exchanges such as the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE), the NYSE Alternext US and NASDAQ. Buying MLP units makes an investor a limited partner in the MLP. There are currently more than 70 MLPs in the market, mostly in industries related to energy and natural resources.

Tortoise Energy invests primarily in MLPs and their affiliates in the energy infrastructure sector. Energy infrastructure MLPs are engaged in the transportation, storage and processing of crude oil, natural gas and refined products from production points to the end users. Our investments are primarily in mid-stream (mostly pipeline) operations, which typically produce steady cash flows with less exposure to commodity prices than many alternative investments in the broader energy industry. With the growth potential of this sector along with our disciplined investment approach, we endeavor to generate a predictable and increasing distribution stream for our investors.

#### A Tortoise Energy Investment Versus a Direct Investment in MLPs

Tortoise Energy provides its stockholders an alternative to investing directly in MLPs and their affiliates. A direct MLP investment potentially offers an attractive distribution with a significant portion treated as return of capital, and a historically low correlation to returns on stocks and bonds. However, the tax characteristics of a direct MLP investment are generally undesirable for tax-exempt investors such as retirement plans. Tortoise Energy is structured as a C Corporation [] accruing federal and state income taxes, based on taxable earnings and profits. Because of this innovative structure, pioneered by Tortoise Capital Advisors, institutions and retirement accounts are able to join individual stockholders as investors in MLPs.

Additional features of Tortoise Energy include:

- One Form 1099 per stockholder at the end of the year, thus avoiding multiple K-1s and multiple state filings for individual partnership investments;
- A professional management team, with nearly 100 years combined investment experience, to select and manage the portfolio on your behalf;
- The ability to access investment grade credit markets to enhance stockholder return; and
- ♦ Access to direct placements and other investments not available through the public markets.

Allocation of Portfolio Assets May 31, 2009 (Unaudited)

June 30, 2009

### Dear Fellow Stockholders,

Since the inception of TYG in February 2004, we have maintained that midstream MLPs should generate long-term returns of approximately 10 to 15 percent through a combination of yield, distribution growth and resulting capital appreciation. Over the past 10 years MLPs have achieved annual total returns of 14.2 percent.<sup>(1)</sup> However, during the 2008 stock market volatility, MLPs experienced exceptionally weak stock market returns, despite positive cash flow. While the MLP market has rebounded thus far in 2009, we believe MLPs remain undervalued compared to long-term spreads and cash flow multiples.

#### Master Limited Partnership Investment Overview and Outlook

For the quarter ended May 31, 2009, the MLP market, represented by the Wachovia MLP Index, reflected a total return of 21.2 percent compared to 6.1 percent for the prior quarter ended Feb. 28, 2009. The improved performance was driven primarily by resilient MLP business fundamentals, improved capital market access and a rebound from the 2008 sell off.

Our portfolio remains predominantly (approximately 82 percent) invested in long-haul interstate pipeline companies. These companies own interests or operate 150,000 miles of natural gas pipelines, 70,000 miles of petroleum pipelines and operate more than 400 refined product terminals. Without these essential assets, significant portions of our country would not have gasoline or diesel fuel to drive cars or trucks, jet fuel to fly planes or natural gas to heat homes or run electric generating facilities.

These essential assets have provided an attractive yield to investors and that yield has grown due to population growth, expansion projects and acquisitions. We believe those growth drivers should produce growth rates of 4 to 6 percent over the long-term, though growth will likely fall below these levels until the capital markets fully recover. Despite the potential for continued risk in the economy, we believe MLPs should prove more defensive and offer the security of steady distributions and attractive total return profiles versus other yield investments.

#### **Performance Review**

Our total return based on market value, including the reinvestment of distributions, was 25.2 percent for the quarter ended May 31, 2009, and 55.1 percent for the six months ended May 31, 2009.

We paid a distribution of \$0.54 per common share (\$2.16 annualized) to our stockholders on June 1, 2009, unchanged from the previous quarter. This represented an annualized yield of 8.5 percent based on the closing

price of \$25.28 on May 31, 2009. Based upon our current expectations, we believe our portfolio companies will continue to pay us distributions which will allow quarterly distributions to our stockholders of not less than \$0.54 during fiscal year 2009.

On June 19, 2009, we entered into an amendment to our bank credit facility agreement that extends the facility through June 20, 2010. Terms of the amendment provide for an unsecured facility of \$70 million. We currently have \$18.9 million outstanding on our credit facility.

Additional information about our financial performance and use of leverage is available in the Management[]s Discussion of this report.

### **Organizational Changes**

On June 3, 2009, Tortoise Capital Advisors, L.L.C. (Tortoise) the adviser of Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corp., announced that senior management of Tortoise entered into an agreement with Mariner Holdings, LLC (Mariner) to purchase all of the ownership interests in Tortoise owned by Kansas City Equity Partners (KCEP) and affiliates of KCEP and Fountain Capital Management. As part of the transaction, Mariner will purchase a majority stake in Tortoise, with the intention to provide growth capital and resources. With the provision of such growth capital and resources, Mariner will provide Tortoise with a complementary strategic partner in the asset management business.

The transaction is expected to close in the third calendar quarter of 2009 and is subject to the receipt of certain approvals, including the approval by TYG stockholders of a new investment advisory agreement with Tortoise, and the fulfillment of certain other conditions. A special meeting to vote on the matter has been scheduled for Sept. 11, 2009, and the proxy voting materials have been mailed. Our board has recommended that our stockholders approve the agreement and we encourage you to vote on this proposed agreement.

#### Conclusion

We maintain that our long-term thesis of yield, growth and quality remains fully intact. As of June 30, 2009, the Wachovia MLP Index yielded 9.3 percent. Combining that yield with a long-term growth rate of 4 to 6 percent implies long-term returns in the 10 to 15 percent range, and this comes from assets that are essential to providing basic energy products that the U.S. economy requires to successfully function.

We pride ourselves on having transparent and user-friendly investor information through our financial reports, our Web site and our Investor Relations services. As always, we welcome investor questions and comments and we thank you for your support of TYG.

Sincerely,

The Managing Directors Tortoise Capital Advisors, L.L.C. *The adviser to Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corp.* 

H. Kevin Birzer

Zachary A. Hamel

Kenneth P. Malvey

Terry Matlack (1) The Wachovia MLP Index. David J. Schulte

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### Key Financial Data (Supplemental Unaudited Information)

(dollar amounts in thousands unless otherwise indicated)

The information presented below regarding Distributable Cash Flow and Selected Operating Ratios is supplemental non-GAAP financial information, which we believe is meaningful to understanding our operating performance. The Selected Operating Ratios are the functional equivalent of EBITDA for non-investment companies, and we believe they are an important supplemental measure of performance and promote comparisons from period-to-period. Supplemental non-GAAP measures should be read in conjunction with our full financial statements.

		2008		
	Q2 <sup>(1)</sup>	Q3 <sup>(1)</sup>	Q4 <sup>(1)</sup>	<b>Q1</b> <sup>(1)</sup>
Total Distributions Received from Investments			_	_
Distributions received from master limited partnerships	\$18,502	\$18,763	\$17,210	\$16,271
Dividends paid in stock	2,837	2,962	2,833	2,860
Dividends from common stock	21	22	14	[
Short-term interest and dividend income	130	96	47	6
Total from investments	21,490	21,843	20,104	19,137
Operating Expenses Before Leverage Costs and Current Taxes				
Advisory fees, net of expense reimbursement	2,560	2,416	1,764	1,413
Other operating expenses	373	352	483	298
	2,933	2,768	2,247	1,711
Distributable cash flow before leverage costs and current taxes	18,557	19,075	17,857	17,426
Leverage costs(2)	8,059	6,407	4,968	3,962
Current income tax expense	190	224	224	20
Distributable Cash Flow(3)	\$10,308	\$12,444	\$12,665	\$13,444
Distributions paid on common stock	\$11,504	\$12,478	\$13,128	\$12,659
Distributions paid on common stock per share	0.5575	0.5600	0.5600	0.5400
Payout percentage for period(4)	111.6%	100.3%	103.7%	6 94.2%
Net realized gain (loss), net of income taxes	(609)	3,424	(13,412)	(7,777)
Total assets, end of period	1.212.938	1.151.531	692,183	719.479
Average total assets during period(5)	1,217,415	1,159,099	897.579	699,809
Leverage (long-term debt obligations, preferred stock and short-term borrowings)(6)		396,750	280,000	260,250
Leverage as a percent of total assets	33.9%	34.5%	40.5%	% 36.2%
Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) net of income taxes, end of period	228,022	179,840	(24,824)	25,452
Net assets, end of period	626,341	613,913	407,031	433,698
Average net assets during period(7)	616,498	600,096	466,664	422,065
Net asset value per common share	30.35	27.55	17.36	18.50
Market value per share	32.60	30.52	17.11	20.65
Shares outstanding	20,634,877	22,282,025	23,442,791	23,442,791

Selected Operating Ratios(8)				
As a Percent of Average Total Assets				
Total distributions received from investments	7.02%	7.50%	9.01%	11.09%
Operating expenses before leverage costs and current taxes	0.96%	0.95%	1.01%	0.99%
Distributable cash flow before leverage costs and current taxes	6.06%	6.55%	8.00%	10.10%
As a Percent of Average Net Assets				
Distributable cash flow(3)	6.65%	8.25%	10.92%	12.92%

(1) Q1 is the period from December through February. Q2 is the period from March through May. Q3 is the period from June through August. Q4 is the period from September through November.

(2) Leverage costs include interest expense, recurring agent fees, interest rate swap expenses and distributions to preferred stockholders.

(3) [Net investment income (loss), before income taxes] on the Statement of Operations is adjusted as follows to reconcile to Distributable Cash Flow (DCF): increased by the return of capital on MLP distributions and the value of paid-in-kind distributions, premium on redemption of long-term debt obligations, non-recurring agent fees and amortization of debt issuance costs; and decreased by distributions to preferred stockholders, current taxes paid, and realized and unrealized gains (losses) on interest rate swap settlements.

(4) Distributions paid as a percentage of Distributable Cash Flow.

(5) Computed by averaging month-end values within each period.

(6) The balance on the short-term credit facility was \$7,500,000 as of May 31, 2009.

(7) Computed by averaging daily values within each period.

(8) Annualized for periods less than one full year. Operating ratios contained in our Financial Highlights are based on net assets and include current and deferred income tax expense and leverage costs.

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### Management[]s Discussion(Unaudited)

#### Management S Discussion

The information contained in this section should be read in conjunction with our Financial Statements and the Notes thereto. In addition, this report contains certain forward-looking statements. These statements include the plans and objectives of management for future operations and financial objectives and can be identified by the use of forward-looking terminology such as <code>[may,] [will,] [expect,] [intend,] [anticipate,] [estimate,] or [continue] or the new thereof or other variations thereon or comparable terminology. These forward-looking statements are subject to the inherent uncertainties in predicting future results and conditions. Certain factors that could cause actual results and conditions to differ materially from those projected in these forward-looking statements are set forth in the <code>[Risk Factors]</code> section of our public filings with the SEC.</code>

#### **Overview**

Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corp\_s goal is to provide a growing distribution stream to our investors. We seek to provide our stockholders with an efficient vehicle to invest in the energy infrastructure sector. While we are a registered investment company under the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended (the [1940 Act]), we are not a [regulated investment company] for federal tax purposes. Our distributions do not typically generate unrelated business taxable income (UBTI) and our stock may therefore be suitable for holding by pension funds, IRAs and mutual funds, as well as taxable accounts. We invest primarily in MLPs through private and public market purchases. MLPs are publicly traded partnerships whose equity interests are traded in the form of units on public exchanges, such as the NYSE or NASDAQ.

#### **Company Update**

Market values of our MLP investments increased during 2nd quarter 2009 from their levels at February 28, 2009, having a positive impact on our capital structure and increasing the existing cushion on our leverage coverage ratios. We have entered into an amendment to our bank credit facility that extends through June 20, 2010. Additional information on our leverage is disclosed below and in our Notes to Financial Statements.

While we expect the current year to be challenging for almost every industry, including the energy infrastructure sector, we continue to believe the flow of energy commodities remains critical to our economy and that the long-term prospect for MLPs is attractive.

#### **Critical Accounting Policies**

The financial statements are based on the selection and application of critical accounting policies, which require management to make significant estimates and assumptions. Critical accounting policies are those that are both important to the presentation of our financial condition and results of operations and require management[]s most difficult, complex, or subjective judgments. Our critical accounting policies are those applicable to the valuation of investments, tax matters and certain revenue recognition matters as discussed in Note 2 in the Notes to Financial Statements.

#### **Determining Distributions to Stockholders**

Our portfolio generates cash flow from which we pay distributions to stockholders. Our Board of Directors considers our distributable cash flow ([DCF[]) in determining distributions to stockholders. Our Board of Directors reviews the distribution rate quarterly, and may adjust the quarterly distribution throughout the year. Our goal is to declare what we believe to be sustainable increases in our regular quarterly distributions. We have targeted to pay at least 95 percent of DCF on an annualized basis.

### **Determining DCF**

DCF is simply distributions received from investments less expenses. The total distributions received from our investments include the amount received by us as cash distributions from MLPs, paid-in-kind distributions, and dividend and interest payments. The total expenses include current or anticipated operating expenses, leverage costs and current income taxes. Each are summarized for you in the table on page 2 and are discussed in more detail below.

The Key Financial Data table discloses the calculation of DCF and should be read in conjunction with this discussion. The difference between distributions received from investments in the DCF calculation and total investment income as reported in the Statement of Operations, is reconciled as follows: GAAP recognizes that a significant portion of the cash distributions received from MLPs are treated as a return of capital and therefore excluded from investment income, whereas the DCF calculation includes the return of capital; and distributions received from investments in the DCF calculation include the value of dividends paid-in-kind (additional stock or MLP units), whereas such amounts are not included as income for GAAP purposes. The treatment of expenses in the DCF calculation also differs from what is reported in the Statement of Operations. In addition to the total operating expenses as disclosed in the Statement of Operations, the DCF calculation reflects interest expense, recurring agent fees, distributions to preferred stockholders and realized and unrealized gains (losses) on interest rate swap settlements as leverage costs, as well as current taxes paid.

#### **Distributions Received from Investments**

Our ability to generate cash is dependent on the ability of our portfolio of investments to generate cash flow from their operations. In order to maintain and grow distributions to our stockholders, we evaluate each holding based upon its contribution to our investment income, our expectation for its growth rate, and its risk relative to other potential investments.

We concentrate on MLPs we believe can expect an increasing demand for services from economic and population growth. We seek well-managed businesses with hard assets and stable recurring revenue streams. Our focus remains primarily on investing in fee-based service providers that operate long-haul, interstate pipelines. We further diversify among issuers, geographies and energy commodities to seek a distribution payment which approximates an investment directly in energy infrastructure MLPs. In addition, most energy infrastructure companies are regulated and utilize an inflation escalator index that factors in inflation as a cost pass-through. So, over the long-term, we believe MLPs[] distributions will outpace inflation and interest rate increases, and produce positive returns. However, during the last year the economy has been retrenching which may lead some MLPs to slow distribution growth or possibly reduce distributions.

Total distributions received from our investments for the 2nd quarter 2009 was approximately \$19.3 million, representing a 10 percent decrease as compared to 2nd quarter 2008 and a 1 percent increase as compared to 1st quarter 2009. These changes reflect the result of net portfolio sales over the last 12 months and net distribution increases from our MLP investments.

#### Expenses

We incur two types of expenses: (1) operating expenses, consisting primarily of the advisory fee; and (2) leverage costs. On a percentage basis, operating expenses before leverage costs and current taxes were an annualized 1.09 percent of average total assets for the 2nd quarter 2009 as compared to 0.96 percent for the 2nd quarter 2008 and 0.99 percent for the 1st quarter 2009. Advisory fees for the 2nd quarter 2009 increased 25 percent from 1st quarter 2009 as a result of increased average managed assets from increasing MLP asset values and the expiration of the 0.10 percent expense reimbursement. If yields on our MLP investments continue to revert more to their historical norm, all else being equal, MLP asset values will increase as will our managed assets and advisory fees. Other operating expenses were relatively unchanged as compared to 1st quarter 2009.

Leverage costs consist of four major components: (1) the direct interest expense on our Tortoise Notes and short-term credit facility; (2) the agent fees, which are the marketing and rating agency costs for the leverage; (3) the realized and unrealized gain or loss on interest rate swap settlements (if any); and (4) distributions to preferred stockholders.

Total leverage costs for DCF purposes were approximately \$4.0 million for the 2nd quarter 2009 as compared to \$8.1 million for the 2nd quarter 2008 and \$4.0 million for the 1st quarter 2009, as detailed below.

	2Q 08	1Q 09	2Q 09
Interest expense	\$ 4,163,676	\$ 2,814,867	\$ 2,845,920
Agent fees	139,449	53,629	54,789
Net realized and unrealized loss			
on interest rate swap settlements	1,112,069		
Distributions to preferred stockholders	2,643,459	1,093,820	1,118,014
Total leverage costs	\$ 8,058,653	\$ 3,962,316	\$ 4,018,723
Average outstanding leverage (in millions)	\$ 438.9	\$ 260.6	\$ 259.0

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### Management[]s Discussion(Unaudited)

(Continued)

The decrease in total leverage costs from 2nd quarter 2008 to 2nd quarter 2009 reflects the reduction in average outstanding leverage of approximately \$180 million during the period. The average annualized total cost of leverage (total leverage costs divided by average outstanding leverage) was 6.16 percent for the 2nd quarter 2009 as compared to 6.17 percent for the 1st quarter 2009, and 7.30 percent for 2nd quarter 2008.

Our effective cost of fixed-rate leverage as of May 31, 2009 was 6.40 percent including the \$170 million aggregate Series A and E Notes (rates fixed into 2012 and 2015, respectively), \$70 million notional amount of outstanding auction rate preferred shares (rates fixed through August 2010), and agent fees. This rate does not include balances on our bank line of credit which accrues interest at a variable rate equal to one-month LIBOR plus 2.00 percent. At May 31, 2009, approximately 97 percent of our leverage was at a fixed rate. Our all-in financing rate may vary in future periods as Notes are redeemed or mature, or extended auction rate leverage is reset or refinanced. Additional information on our leverage is disclosed below in Liquidity and Capital Resources and in our Notes to Financial Statements.

### **Distributable Cash Flow**

For 2nd quarter 2009, our DCF was approximately \$13.1 million, an increase of 27 percent as compared to 2nd quarter 2008 and a decrease of 2 percent as compared to 1st quarter 2009. The increase from 2nd quarter 2008 is the net result of lower total distributions received from investments which were more than offset by reduced expenses, primarily advisory fees and leverage costs. The decrease from 1st quarter 2009 reflects an increase in distributions received from investments offset by an increase in asset-based advisory fees. We paid a distribution of \$12.7 million, or 96.3 percent of DCF, during the quarter. On a per share basis, we declared a \$0.54 distribution on May 12, 2009. This is a decrease of \$0.0175 or 3.1 percent as compared to 2nd quarter 2008 and unchanged from 1st quarter 2009.

Factoring in portfolio sales in fiscal year 2008 to fund leverage reductions and assuming moderate to no increases in projected distribution income from MLPs and our cost of leverage, we currently expect to pay quarterly distributions to our stockholders of not less than \$0.54 per share during the remainder of fiscal year 2009. This represents a current estimate and is subject to change based upon actual results and Board approval.

### **Liquidity and Capital Resources**

We had total assets of \$840 million at quarter-end. Our total assets reflect the value of our investments, which are itemized in the Schedule of Investments. It also reflects cash, interest and other receivables and any expenses that may have been prepaid. During 2nd quarter 2009, total assets increased from approximately \$719 million to \$840 million, an increase of \$121 million. This change was primarily the result of an increase in unrealized appreciation of investments of approximately \$135 million during the quarter (excluding return of capital on distributions during

the quarter) and the use of \$13 million in cash to redeem short-term borrowings.

Total leverage outstanding at May 31, 2009 of approximately \$247.5 million is comprised of \$170 million in senior notes, \$70 million in preferred shares and \$7.5 million outstanding under the credit facility. Total leverage represented 29.5 percent of total assets at May 31, 2009, slightly below our target ratio of 33 percent and a decrease of 6.7 percent as compared to February 28, 2009. Our leverage ratio is impacted by increases or decreases in MLP values, issuance of equity and/or the sale of securities where proceeds are used to reduce leverage.

Subsequent to quarter-end, we entered into an amendment to our bank credit facility that extends the facility through June 20, 2010. Terms of the amendment provide for an unsecured facility of \$70 million. During the extension, outstanding balances generally will accrue interest at a variable rate equal to one-month LIBOR plus 2.00 percent with a fee of 0.25 percent on any unused balance.

We have used leverage to acquire MLPs consistent with our investment philosophy. The terms of our leverage are governed by regulatory and contractual asset coverage requirements that arise from the use of leverage. Under the 1940 Act, we may not pay distributions to our common stockholders if we do not meet a 300 percent asset coverage ratio for debt and 200 percent asset coverage ratio for debt and preferred shares after payment of the distribution, and we may not pay distributions on our preferred shares if we fail to meet a 200 percent asset coverage ratio on our debt. Under the agreement with our bank lenders, if portfolio values decline such that we no longer meet the asset coverage ratios under the 1940 Act, we must repay a portion of our bank line until we meet the coverage requirement. Further, under the terms of our institutional senior notes and preferred shares, if we fail to meet basic maintenance ratios as of any valuation date (generally Fridays) or fail to satisfy the 1940 Act asset coverage as of the last business day of any month, we could be subject to mandatory redemption of the senior notes or preferred shares if such failure is not waived or cured. In some cases we may be delayed in paying common stock or preferred share distributions until such coverage ratios can be met.

As disclosed in Section 18 of the 1940 Act, the 300 percent asset coverage ratio for debt is equal to total assets less all liabilities and indebtedness not represented by debt divided by debt. The 200 percent asset coverage ratio for preferred shares is equal to the same numerator as the 300 percent test divided by the sum of debt and preferred shares. Deferred tax assets are a component of total assets in calculation of these ratios. Our coverage ratios are currently updated each week and available on our web site at www.tortoiseadvisors.com.

### **Taxation of our Distributions and Deferred Taxes**

We invest in partnerships which generally have larger distributions of cash than the accounting income which they generate. Accordingly, the distributions include a return of capital component for accounting and tax purposes. Distributions declared and paid by us in a year generally differ from taxable income for that year, as such distributions may include the distribution of current year taxable income or return of capital.

The taxability of the distribution you receive depends on whether we have annual earnings and profits. If so, those earnings and profits are first allocated to the preferred shares and then to the common shares.

In the event we have earnings and profits allocated to our common shares, all or a portion of our distribution will be taxable at the 15 percent Qualified Dividend Income ([QDI]) rate, assuming various holding requirements are met by the stockholder. The portion of our distribution that is taxable may vary for either of two reasons: first, the characterization of the distributions we receive from MLPs could change annually based upon the K-1s we receive and become less return of capital and more in the form of income. Second, we could sell an MLP investment and realize a gain or loss at any time. It is for these reasons that we inform you of the tax treatment after the close of each year as the ultimate result is undeterminable until the year is over.

For book and tax purposes, distributions to stockholders for the fiscal year ended 2008 were comprised of 100 percent return of capital. We currently expect that a substantial portion of our 2009 distributions will consist of return of capital, although the ultimate determination will not be made until January 2010, after determining our earnings and profits.

The unrealized gain or loss we have in the portfolio is reflected in the Statement of Assets and Liabilities. At May 31, 2009, our investments at value are \$836 million, with an adjusted cost of \$648 million. The \$188 million difference reflects unrealized appreciation that would be realized for financial statement purposes if those investments were sold at those values. The Statement of Assets and Liabilities reflects either a deferred tax liability

or deferred tax asset depending upon unrealized gains (losses) on investments, realized gains (losses) on investments and net operating losses. At May 31, 2009, the balance sheet reflects a deferred tax liability of approximately \$59 million or \$2.53 per share. Details of our deferred taxes are disclosed in Note 5 in our Notes to Financial Statements.

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### **Schedule of Investments**

May 31, 2009 (Unaudited)

(Unaudited)	Shares	Fair Value
Master Limited Partnerships and		
Related Companies 🛛 163.5%1)		
Crude/Refined Products Pipelines 🛛 79.8%(1)		
United States [] 79.8%(1)		
Buckeye Partners, L.P.	506,000	\$ 21,752,940
Enbridge Energy Partners, L.P.	713,745	28,799,611
Enbridge Energy Partners, L.P.(2)(3)	1,142,777	45,939,644
Holly Energy Partners, L.P.	484,600	14,586,460
Kinder Morgan Management, LLC(3)	1,484,285	66,629,554
Magellan Midstream Partners, L.P.	1,763,298	61,627,265
NuStar Energy L.P.	723,600	39,096,108
Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.	1,269,000	56,191,320
SemGroup Energy Partners, L.P.	342,162	2,137,486
Sunoco Logistics Partners L.P.	848,733	44,490,584
TEPPCO Partners, L.P.	870,997	25,981,841
	010,331	407,232,813
Natural Gas/Natural Gas Liquids Pipelines [] 55.0%(1)		407,252,015
United States $\square$ 55.0%(1)		
Boardwalk Pipeline Partners, LP	1,024,300	21,141,552
El Paso Pipeline Partners, L.P.	1,352,700	25,971,840
Energy Transfer Equity, L.P.	554,110	14,562,011
Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.	1,539,995	65,157,188
Enterprise Products Partners L.P.	2,761,009	71,786,234
ONEOK Partners, L.P.	236,086	11,424,202
Spectra Energy Partners, LP	492,900	10,454,409
TC PipeLines, LP	1,271,206	44,098,136
Williams Pipeline Partners L.P.	836,875	16,193,531
		280,789,103
Natural Gas Gathering/Processing 🛛 17.3%(1)		,,
United States    17.3%(1)		
Copano Energy, L.L.C.	999,100	15,795,771
Copano Energy, L.L.C.(2)(4)	285,740	4,046,078
Crosstex Energy, L.P.	137,600	430,689
DCP Midstream Partners, LP	797,100	15,336,204
Duncan Energy Partners L.P.	49,026	943,750
Exterran Partners, L.P.	204,585	2,772,127
MarkWest Energy Partners, L.P.	1,508,500	27,137,915
Targa Resources Partners LP	1,323,150	17,399,423
Western Gas Partners LP	205,075	3,108,937
Williams Partners L.P.	76,600	1,418,632

Propane Distribution [] 9.3%(1)

United States 🛛 9.3%(1)			
Inergy, L.P.		1,846,374	46,897,900
Inergy Holdings, L.P.		20,283	780,895
			47,678,795
Shipping 🛛 2.1%(1)			
Republic of the Marshall Islands 🛛 0.6%(1)			
Teekay LNG Partners L.P.		156,200	2,999,040
United States 🛛 1.5%(1)			
	to review		
	compensation		
	arrangements for		
	Trustees and make		
	appropriate		
	recommendations to		
	the Board for		
K-Sea Transportation Partners L.P.	approval.		

The Investment Committee approves all of our acquisitions, dispositions, development projects, financings, joint ventures, equity issuances and other investments that are individually in excess of \$10 million, and any of such items that are greater than \$50 million must also be approved by the full Board.

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee serves the following purposes:

- o recommends to the Board the structure and operations of the Board;
- o identifies individuals qualified to serve as Trustees and recommends that the Board select the Trustee nominees identified by the Committee for election at the next annual meeting of shareholders;
- o recommends to the Board the responsibilities of each Board committee, the structure and operation of each committee and the Trustee nominees for assignment to each committee;
- o oversees the Board's annual evaluation of its performance and the performance of other Board committees;
- o reviews and monitors management development and succession planning activities; and
- o develops and recommends to the Board for adoption a set of Corporate Governance Guidelines applicable to the Company and periodically reviews the same.

All members of the Audit, Nominating and Corporate Governance and Compensation Committees are independent Trustees. The practices of the Audit, Nominating and Corporate Governance and Compensation Committees are outlined in their respective charters, which are available on our Internet website in the subsection entitled "Corporate Governance" or in print to any shareholder upon request. To the extent modifications are made to the charters, such modifications will be reflected on our Internet website.

The committees on which Trustees served and the number of meetings held during 2011 are set forth below.

Board Member	Audit	Compensation	Investment	Nominating and Corporate Governance
Jay H. Shidler		•	С	ü
Clay W. Hamlin, III			ü	
Thomas F. Brady		С		ü
Robert L. Denton	ü			С
Betsy A. Hight		ü		ü
David M. Jacobstein	ü		ü	
Steven D. Kesler	ü		ü	
Richard Szafranski		ü		ü
Kenneth D. Wethe	С		ü	
Meetings Held in 2011	9	9	11	5

 $\mathbf{C}$  = Chairman of the Committee.

ü = Member of the Committee.

Prior to the expiration of his term in May 2011, Kenneth S. Sweet, Jr. served on the Compensation Committee and the Investment Committee.

During 2011, the Board held four quarterly meetings and eight special meetings. Each incumbent Trustee in 2011 attended at least 75% of the aggregate of the meetings of the Board and meetings held by all committees on which such Trustee served.

#### How are our Trustees nominated?

The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee of the Board is responsible for recommending nominations to the Board and shareholders. In arriving at nominations, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee reviews with the Board the size, function, and needs of the Board and, in doing so, takes into account the principle that the Board as a whole should be competent in the following areas: (1) industry knowledge; (2) accounting and finance; (3) business judgment; (4) management and communication skills; (5) leadership; (6) public real estate investment trusts ("REITs") and commercial real estate business; (7) business strategy; (8) crisis management; (9) corporate governance; and (10) risk management. The Board also seeks members from diverse backgrounds. Trustees should have experience in positions with a high degree of responsibility, be leaders in the companies or institutions with which they are or were affiliated, and be selected based upon contributions that they can make to the Company. In determining whether to recommend a Trustee for re-election, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee also considers the Trustee's past attendance at meetings and participation in and contributions to the activities of the Board and its committees.

Our Board does not have an explicit diversity policy. Nevertheless, diversity of race, ethnicity, gender, age, cultural background and professional experiences is considered in evaluating candidates for nomination. The Board believes that its members should have reputations for integrity and ethical behavior and that they should collectively represent a broad spectrum of experience and expertise. Diversity is important because a variety of points of view contribute to a more effective decision-making process.

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The Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee has a policy regarding consideration of shareholder recommendations for Trustee nominees, which is set forth below:

The Committee considers nominees recommended by the Company's common shareholders using the same criteria it employs in identifying its own nominees. Any shareholder wishing to make a recommendation should send the following information to the Chairman of the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee, care of Karen M. Singer, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, at our mailing address set forth on the first page of this proxy statement, no later than the date that is 120 days prior to the one-year anniversary of the date of the mailing of the Company's proxy statement for its most recent annual meeting of shareholders:

the name of the candidate and the information about the individual that would be required to be included in a proxy statement under the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission;

information about the relationship between the candidate and the nominating shareholder;

the consent of the candidate to serve as a Trustee;

proof of the number of shares of the Company's common shares that the nominating shareholder owns and the length of time the shares have been owned; and

a separate statement of the candidate's qualifications relating to the Board's membership criteria.

#### What is the Board's approach to risk oversight?

The Board plays an important role in the risk oversight of the Company. The Board establishes and monitors the Company's risk tolerance and oversees its risk management activities primarily by:

approving the strategic direction of the Company on an annual basis;

maintaining for itself and its committees direct decision-making authority with respect to matters with significant inherent risks, including material acquisition, disposition, development and financing activities and the appointment, retention and compensation of senior management;

reviewing and discussing regular periodic reports relating to the performance of the Company and risks to the achievement of its objectives;

approving the Company's annual budget and capital plan; and

overseeing specific areas of the Company's business by the Compensation, Audit and Nominating and Corporate Governance Committees.

The Board and its Committees also rely on management to bring significant matters to their attention.

Pursuant to its charter, the Audit Committee is responsible for the review of the Company's risk assessment and management activities. The Committee discharges these responsibilities by reviewing and discussing with management, the Company's internal audit function and the Company's independent registered public accounting firm any significant risks or exposures faced by the Company, the steps taken to identify, minimize, monitor or control such risks or exposures, and the Company's underlying policies with respect to risk assessment and risk

management. Consistent with NYSE Rules, the Audit Committee also provides oversight at the Board level with respect to risk assessment and risk management, particularly regarding the activities of the Company's internal audit function and integrity of the Company's financial statements and internal control over financial reporting. The Company's internal audit function reports to the Audit Committee regarding such activities on an ongoing basis, including at each of the Audit Committee's meetings. The Board is informed regarding these risk oversight activities at the quarterly meetings of the Board.

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In addition, the Board believes that because its leadership and management functions are separated, the Board's ability to take a more objective, independent approach to overseeing risk is enhanced.

#### **Our Executive Officers**

Below is information with respect to our executive officers (in addition to Roger A. Waesche, Jr.) (sometimes referred to herein as our "executive officers" or "executives").

**Stephen E. Riffee,** 54, has been our Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer since August 2006. Prior to that time, Mr. Riffee served CarrAmerica Realty Corporation, a real estate investment trust, as Chief Financial Officer from April 2002 to July 2006 and Senior Vice President, Controller and Treasurer from July 1999 to March 2002. Prior to joining CarrAmerica Realty Corporation, Mr. Riffee held positions with Marriott International, Inc. and Burlington Northern Railroad and practiced as a Certified Public Accountant with KPMG Peat Marwick.

**Wayne Lingafelter**, 52, has been our Executive Vice President, Development & Construction Services since January 2009, previously serving as Senior Vice President-Development & Construction since May 2008. Prior to joining us, Mr. Lingafelter served Duke Realty Corporation, a real estate investment trust, for 20 years in several positions, the most recent of which included Senior Vice President of Government Solutions from February 2006 to May 2008 and Senior Vice President of Cleveland Operations from 2002 to February 2006.

**Stephen E. Budorick**, 51, has been our Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer since September 2011. Prior to joining us, Mr. Budorick served as Executive Vice President of Asset Management at Callahan Partners, LLC, a private real estate owner and developer, for five years. From 1997 to 2006, Mr. Budorick was Executive Vice President in charge of Trizec Properties, Inc.'s Central Region and from 1991 to 1997, he was Executive Vice President responsible for third-party management at Miglin Beitler Management Company. Mr. Budorick also worked in asset management at LaSalle Partners, Inc. from 1988 to 1991 and facilities management and planning at American Hospital Association from 1983 to 1988.

Karen M. Singer, 47, has been our Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since September 2006, after holding the position of Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary since January 2004. Ms. Singer served as Assistant Secretary and Associate General Counsel of the Company from September 1998 through December 2003. From August 1996 through August 1998, Ms. Singer was Assistant General Counsel of Constellation Real Estate, Inc. From 1989 through January 1996, Ms. Singer was in private practice as an associate at Weinberg and Green, LLC, now a part of Saul Ewing LLP, where she provided a broad spectrum of real estate related services to various clients. Ms. Singer currently serves on the Board of Directors of American Red Cross-Chesapeake Region, Art With a Heart, Inc., and Esophageal Cancer Action Network, Inc.

**Randall M. Griffin**, 67, has been a member of our Board since February 2005 and is our Chief Executive Officer until his retirement on March 31, 2012. Mr. Griffin's background includes over 38 years of experience in real estate. He served as our President and Chief Executive Officer from April 2005 until September 2010 and served as our President and Chief Operating Officer from September 1998 through March 2005. From June 1993 until September 1998, Mr. Griffin served as President of Constellation Real Estate Group, Inc. and Constellation Real Estate, Inc., both of which were wholly-owned subsidiaries of CEG. From 1990 through March 1993, Mr. Griffin worked as Vice President-Development for EuroDisney Development in Paris, France. From 1976 to 1990, Mr. Griffin worked for Linclay Corporation, a St. Louis-based real estate development, management and investment company, most recently as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. He serves on the Board of Governors of The National Aquarium in Baltimore and on its Executive Committee, and on the Board of Directors of the National Aquarium Society in Washington, DC, the Center for



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Aquatic Life and Conservation and the National Aquarium Conservation Center. He also serves on the Board of the Maryland Public Arts Commission and serves as Chair of the Maryland 9/11 Memorial Advisory Committee. He previously served on the Boards of The KEYW Holding Corporation, the Maryland Business Roundtable for Education, the BWI Business Partnership, the Board of Governors of the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts and the Board of Visitors of the University of Maryland, Baltimore County. Mr. Griffin received an MBA from the Harvard Business School.

#### Share Ownership of our Trustees, Executive Officers and 5% Beneficial Owners

The following table shows certain information as of March 13, 2012 (unless otherwise noted) regarding the beneficial ownership of our common shares by each Trustee, each nominee for election as Trustee, each executive officer, all Trustees and executive officers as a group and each person known to us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of our outstanding common shares. Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission and means sole or shared voting or dispositive power with respect to securities. Each party named in the table below has sole voting and dispositive power with respect to the securities listed opposite such party's name, except as otherwise noted.

	Common Shares Beneficially Owned(1)	Percent of All Common Shares Beneficially Owned(2)	Options Exercisable within 60 days after March 13, 2012
The Vanguard Group, Inc.(3)	7,404,259	10.3%	
BlackRock, Inc.(4)	6,347,563	8.8	
APG Asset Management US Inc.(5)	5,334,427	7.4	
LaSalle Investment Management, Inc.(6)	5,140,255	7.1	
Security Capital Research & Management Incorporated(7)	4,141,508	5.7	
Brookfield Management Inc.(8)	4,047,468	5.6	
Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Holdings, Inc.(9)	3,891,643	5.4	
Jay H. Shidler(10)	1,835,856	2.5	20,000
Clay W. Hamlin, III(11)	1,538,560	2.1	25,000
Thomas F. Brady	39,000	*	35,000
Robert L. Denton(12)	355,000	*	20,000
Randall M. Griffin(13)	470,029	*	
Elizabeth A. Hight	2,667	*	
David M. Jacobstein	9,500	*	5,000
Steven D. Kesler	54,223	*	40,000
Richard Szafranski.	9,000	*	5,000
Kenneth D. Wethe(14)	85,413	*	15,000
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.	248,445	*	
Stephen E. Riffee.	109,670	*	
Wayne H. Lingafelter	33,549	*	
Stephen E. Budorick.	28,884	*	
Karen M. Singer	51,157	*	
All Trustees and Executive Officers as a Group (15 persons)(15)	4,870,913	6.4%	165,000

Represents less than one percent.

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- With respect to each shareholder (or group thereof), assumes that all units in our operating partnership, Corporate Office Properties, L.P. (the "Operating Partnership"), owned by such shareholder(s) listed are exchanged for common shares and assumes we elect to issue common shares rather than pay cash upon exchange of partnership units. Also includes common shares issuable under options held by such shareholder(s) exercisable within 60 days after March 13, 2012, as reflected in the third column of this table.
- (2) Common shares issuable upon the conversion of units in the Operating Partnership and the exercise of options exercisable currently or within 60 days after March 13, 2012 are deemed outstanding and to be beneficially owned by the person holding such units or options for purposes of computing such person's percentage ownership, but are not deemed outstanding for the purpose of computing the percentage ownership of any other person.

#### (3)

(1)

The Vanguard Group ("Vanguard") has sole voting power with respect to 50,394 shares, sole investment power with respect to 7,353,865 shares and shared investment power with respect to 50,394 shares. Vanguard is located at 100 Vanguard Blvd., Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355. The information in this note was derived from a Schedule 13G/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by Vanguard on February 8, 2012.

#### (4)

(5)

BlackRock, Inc. ("BlackRock") has sole voting and investment power with respect to 6,347,563 shares. BlackRock is located at 40 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, New York 10022. The information in this note was derived from a Schedule 13G/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by BlackRock on February 10, 2012.

APG Asset Management US Inc. ("APG") has sole voting and investment power with respect to 5,334,427 shares. APG is located at 666 Third Avenue, New York, New York 10017. The information in this note was derived from a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by APG on February 8, 2012.

(6)

LaSalle Investment Management, Inc. ("LaSalle Inc.") beneficially owns 298,626 shares, with sole investment power over such shares. LaSalle Investment Management, L.P. ("LaSalle L.P.") beneficially owns 4,841,629 shares, with sole voting power over 754,047 of such shares and sole investment power over all such shares. The table above includes the total common shares beneficially owned by LaSalle Inc. and LaSalle L.P. since they are members of a group, but the shares of ownership and investment power reported in the prior sentence for each of LaSalle Inc. and LaSalle, L.P. exclude the shares of each other member of such group. LaSalle Inc. is located at 200 East Randolph Drive, Chicago, Illinois 60601. LaSalle L.P. is located at 100 East Pratt Street, Baltimore, Maryland 21202. The information in this note was derived from a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by LaSalle Inc. and LaSalle L.P. on February 10, 2012.

#### (7)

Security Capital Research & Management Incorporated ("SC-R&M") has sole voting power with respect to 3,034,288 shares and sole investment power with respect to 4,141,508 shares. SC-R&M is located at 10 South Dearborn Street, Suite 1400, Chicago, Illinois 60603. The information in this note was derived from a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by SC-R&M on February 13, 2012.

#### (8)

Brookfield Investment Management Inc. ("Brookfield") has sole voting power with respect to 942,300 shares and sole investment power with respect to 4,047,468 shares. Brookfield is located at Three World Financial Center, 200 Vesey Street, New York, New York 10281. The information in this note was derived from a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by Brookfield on February 14, 2012.

(9)

Sumitomo Mitsui Trust Holdings, Inc. ("SMTH") has sole voting power with respect to 3,891,643 shares and sole investment power with respect to 40,780 shares. SMTH is located at GranTokyo

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South Tower, 9-2, Marunouchi 1-chome, Chiyoda-ku, Tokyo, 100-6615, Japan. The information in this note was derived from a Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission by SMTH on February 14, 2012.

#### (10)

Jay H. Shidler's common shares beneficially owned include 1,785,856 common units in the Operating Partnership exchangeable for common shares. Mr. Shidler's address is Davies Pacific Center, 841 Bishop Street, Suite 1700, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813.

#### (11)

Clay W. Hamlin, III's common shares beneficially owned include 1,509,560 common units in the Operating Partnership exchangeable for common shares; Mr. Hamlin has sole investment power with respect to 87,042 of these units and shared investment power for the remainder of these units. Mr. Hamlin's address is 40 Morris Avenue, Suite 100, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania 19010.

#### (12)

Robert L. Denton's common shares beneficially owned include 333,000 common units in the Operating Partnership exchangeable for common shares, 90,000 of which were pledged as security for a line of credit. Mr. Denton's address is 9 West 57th Street, Suite 1670, New York, New York 10019.

#### (13)

Randall M. Griffin's common shares beneficially owned include 70,000 shares owned through the Griffin Retained Annuity Trust, for which Mr. Griffin has shared voting and investment power.

#### (14)

Kenneth D. Wethe's common shares beneficially owned include 63,621 shares held through Enterprise Education Foundation, for which Mr. Wethe serves as Chairman of the Board of Trustees. Mr. Wethe has shared voting and investment power with respect to these shares.

#### (15)

Includes 3,628,416 common units in the Operating Partnership exchangeable for common shares. These common units are beneficially owned by Mr. Shidler, Mr. Hamlin and Mr. Denton as described in Notes 10, 11 and12 above.

#### Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

The rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission require that we disclose late filings of initial reports of share ownership and reports of changes in share ownership by our Trustees, officers and greater than 10% shareholders. Our Trustees, officers and greater than 10% shareholders are required by those rules to furnish us with copies of the reports of share ownership (and changes in share ownership) they file with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Based solely on our review of the copies of such reports received by us and other information provided by these parties, we believe that during the year ended December 31, 2011, our Trustees, officers and greater than 10% shareholders filed all required reports on a timely basis.

#### Code of Ethics; Review and Approval of Related Party Transactions

The Company has a Code of Business Conduct and Ethics for all employees and Trustees and a Code of Ethics for Financial Officers. These codes of ethics documents are available in the investor relations section of the Company's Internet website in the subsection entitled "Corporate Governance." The Company's Internet website address is www.copt.com. We intend to make available on our Internet website any future amendments or waivers to our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics and Code of Ethics for Financial Officers within four business days after any such amendments or waivers. In addition, shareholders may request a copy of these codes of ethics documents, free of charge, by making this request in writing to our Vice President, Investor Relations at ir@copt.com or at our mailing address.

Our Code of Business Conduct and Ethics mandates that the Audit Committee must review and approve any "related party transaction," as defined by relevant SEC rules (generally, transactions involving amounts exceeding \$120,000 in which a related person has a direct or indirect material interest). In considering the transaction, the Audit Committee will consider all relevant factors, including, among others, our business rationale for entering into the transaction, any potential alternatives to entering into the transaction is on terms that would be comparable to those available to third parties and the overall fairness of the transaction to the Company.

In general, either management or the affected Trustee or executive officer will bring the matter to the attention of either the chairman of the Audit Committee or our Senior Vice President, Secretary and General Counsel. If a member of the Audit Committee is involved in the transaction, he will be recused from all discussions and decisions about the transaction. The transaction must be approved in advance whenever practicable, and if not practicable, must be ratified as promptly as practicable.

#### **Report of the Audit Committee**

The Audit Committee of Corporate Office Properties Trust's Board is comprised of the four Trustees named below. Each of the Trustees meets the independence and experience requirements of the NYSE and satisfies the Securities and Exchange Commission's additional independence requirements for members of audit committees. The Board has determined that Kenneth D. Wethe is an "audit committee financial expert" as defined by the Securities and Exchange Commission. The Audit Committee adopted and the Board approved, a charter outlining the Audit Committee's practices. A copy of the charter is available in the investor relations section of the Company's Internet website in the subsection entitled "Corporate Governance." The Audit Committee's charter is also available in print to any shareholder upon request. To the extent modifications are made to the Audit Committee's charter, such modifications will be reflected on the Company's Internet website.

Management is responsible for the Company's financial statements, financial reporting process, internal financial controls, compliance with legal and regulatory requirements and ethical behavior. The Company's independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for expressing opinions on the conformity of the Company's consolidated financial statements with generally accepted accounting principles, the fairness of the presentation of the Company's financial statement schedule and the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting. The Company's internal audit function is responsible for, among other things, helping to evaluate and improve the effectiveness of risk management, control and governance processes, and identifying opportunities to assist in improving the Company's operations. The role of the Audit Committee is to oversee these activities.

Management completed the documentation, testing and evaluation of the Company's system of internal control over financial reporting in response to the requirements set forth in Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and related regulations. The Audit Committee was kept apprised of the progress of the evaluation and provided oversight and advice to management during the process. In connection with this oversight, the Committee received periodic updates provided by management, the internal audit function and the independent registered public accounting firm at each regularly scheduled Committee meeting. At the conclusion of the process, management provided the Committee with a report on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, and represented to the Audit Committee that the Company's internal control over financial reporting was effective as of December 31, 2011 based on the criteria established in *Internal Control-Integrated Framework* issued by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission. The Committee also reviewed Management's Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting contained in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, as well as the independent registered public accounting firm's Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K). The Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm (included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K; and (2) the effectiveness of internal control over financial statement schedule included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K; and (2) the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting. The Committee continues to oversee the Company's efforts related to its internal control over financial reporting and management's preparations for the evaluation in 2012.

The Audit Committee met with the Company's accounting and financial management team, the internal audit function and the independent registered public accounting firm to review the Company's annual and quarterly periodic filings containing annual and quarterly consolidated financial statements prior to the Company's submission of such filings to the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, the Audit Committee met with the internal audit function and with the independent registered public accounting firm without the presence of management.

Management represented to the Audit Committee that the Company's consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2011 were prepared in accordance with generally accepted

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accounting principles. The Audit Committee discussed with the independent registered public accounting firm the matters required to be discussed under Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended, which addresses communication between audit committees and independent registered public accounting firms. The Audit Committee received from the independent registered public accounting firm the written disclosures and letter required by Public Company Oversight Board Rule 3526, which addresses independence discussions between auditors and audit committees. The Audit Committee also held discussions with the independent registered public accounting firm regarding their independence from the Company and its management and considered whether the independent registered public accounting firm's provision of audit and non-audit services provided to the Company during 2011 was compatible with maintaining the registered public accounting firm's independence.

In reliance on the reviews and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board that the Company's audited consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2011 be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2011 for filing with the Securities and Exchange Commission. This report is provided by the following independent Trustees, who constitute the Audit Committee.

#### AUDIT COMMITTEE

Kenneth D. Wethe, Chair Robert L. Denton David M. Jacobstein Steven D. Kesler

The Report of the Audit Committee shall not be deemed incorporated by reference by any general statement that incorporates by reference any portion of this proxy statement into any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, except to the extent that the Company specifically incorporates this information by reference, and shall not otherwise be deemed filed under such acts.

#### **Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm**

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP ("PwC") served as our independent registered public accounting firm for the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010. PwC also provided the Company with other auditing and advisory services. We are cognizant of the need for PwC to maintain its independence and objectivity in order to effectively serve in its role as our independent registered public accounting firm. As a result, our Audit Committee restricted the services for which PwC can be engaged to those services that could not impair or appear to impair PwC's independence and objectivity. In making this determination, the Audit Committee contemplates the nature of the services, the benefits that PwC performing such services brings both to the services and to their audit and PwC's proposed cost for providing such services.

The Audit Committee has procedures in place regarding the pre-approval of all services provided by PwC. Specifically, management contacts the Audit Committee Chair regarding the potential need for a service from PwC. PwC then provides an engagement letter to management pertaining to the service, which management reviews for the service description and proposed fee. Once management agrees with the engagement letter, it forwards the engagement letter to the Audit Committee Chair. The Audit Committee Chair then reviews the engagement letter for the criteria described in the previous paragraph and if, based on such review, he approves of the terms of the engagement letter, he forwards the letter to the other Audit Committee members requesting that they respond within a certain period of time should they not approve of the engagement letter. The Audit Committee has delegated pre-approval authority to the Chair for certain audit-related services. All fees paid to PwC in 2011 were approved by the Audit Committee in accordance with this policy.

For the years ended December 31, 2011 and 2010, we incurred the approximate fees and expenses set forth below with PwC:

	2011			2010		
Audit fees(1)	\$	858,049	\$	914,334		
Audit-related fees(2)		52,755		89,633		
Tax fees(3)		188,215		130,650		
Total	\$	1,099,019	\$	1,134,617		

(1)

Audit fees include fees billed for services rendered in connection with audits of (i) our consolidated financial statements and financial schedule included in Form 10-K and (ii) the effectiveness of the Company's internal control over financial reporting, as well as reviews of quarterly consolidated financial statements included in Forms 10-Q. These fees totaled \$790,049 in 2011 and \$775,834 in 2010. Audit fees also include issuances of comfort letters on filings associated with offerings and consents on registration statements.

(2)

Audit-related fees consist of fees billed for assurance and related services that are reasonably related to the performance of the audit or review of our consolidated financial statements but not included in (1) above. This category includes fees for the audit of financial statements of our employee retirement savings plan and certain acquired properties and consulting on financial accounting and reporting.

(3)

Tax fees consist of fees billed for professional services rendered for tax compliance, tax advice, tax planning and services in connection with technology used for tax compliance in 2011 and 2010.

None of the fees reflected above were approved by the Audit Committee pursuant to the "de-minimis exception" in Rule 2-01 of Regulation S-X.

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We expect that PwC will serve as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2012, though we have asked that our shareholders ratify PwC's service as discussed under Proposal 2 below. We expect that a representative of PwC will be present at the 2012 Annual Meeting. The representative will have an opportunity to make a statement if he or she desires to do so and to answer appropriate questions.

#### Proposal 2 Ratification of the Appointment of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

The Audit Committee of the Board of Trustees has selected and appointed PwC as our independent registered public accounting firm to audit our consolidated financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2012. Although ratification by shareholders is not required by law or by our Bylaws, the Audit Committee believes that submission of its selection to shareholders is a matter of good corporate governance. Even if the appointment is ratified, the Audit Committee, in its discretion, may select a different independent registered public accounting firm at any time if the Audit Committee believes that such a change would be in the best interests of the Company and its shareholders. If our shareholders do not ratify the appointment of PwC, the Audit Committee will take that fact into consideration, together with such other factors it deems relevant, in determining its next selection of independent registered public accounting firm.

# The Board recommends a vote "FOR" approval of the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the current fiscal year.

#### Proposal 3 Advisory Vote to Approve Executive Compensation

The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act of 2010, or the Dodd-Frank Act, enables our shareholders to vote to approve, on an advisory basis, the compensation of our named executive officers as disclosed in this proxy statement in accordance with the Securities and Exchange Commission's rules. This is commonly known as, and is referred to herein as, a "say-on-pay" proposal or resolution.

Our compensation programs are designed to clearly link annual and long-term financial results and shareholder return to executive rewards. The majority of each executive's pay is tied directly to goal achievement; this pay for performance approach ensures that the financial interests of our executives are aligned with those of our shareholders. Please refer to the section entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis" for additional details about our executive compensation programs, including information about the compensation of our named executive officers for 2011.

The Compensation Committee annually reviews all elements of our compensation program for named executive officers to ensure its alignment with our philosophy and corporate governance approach, including its effectiveness in aligning the financial interests of our executives with those of our shareholders. Accordingly, pursuant to Section 14A(a)(1) of the Exchange Act, we are providing shareholders with the opportunity to approve the following non-binding, advisory resolution:

"RESOLVED, that the compensation paid to the Company's named executive officers, as disclosed in this proxy statement pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the section entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis," compensation tables and narrative discussion, is hereby APPROVED."

#### The Board recommends a vote "FOR" the approval of this resolution.

We are asking our shareholders to indicate their support for our named executive officers' compensation as described in this proxy statement. This say-on-pay proposal gives our shareholders the opportunity to express their views on our named executive officers' compensation. This vote is not limited to any specific item of compensation, but rather addresses the overall compensation of our

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named executive officers and our philosophy, policies and practices relating to their compensation as described in this proxy statement pursuant to Item 402 of Regulation S-K promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

#### Vote Required; Effect of Vote

The affirmative vote of a majority of the votes cast on this proposal will be required for approval.

The say-on-pay resolution is advisory, and therefore will not have any binding legal effect on us or the Compensation Committee. However, the Compensation Committee does value the opinions of our shareholders and will take the results of the vote on this proposal into account in its future decisions regarding the compensation of our named executive officers.

2	4
2	U

#### **Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation**

The Compensation Committee is comprised entirely of the three independent Trustees listed below. The Committee members do not have any non-trivial professional, familial or financial relationship with the Chief Executive Officer, other executive officers or the Company, other than their relationships as Trustees.

#### **Report of the Compensation Committee**

The Compensation Committee has reviewed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and discussed it with management. Based on its review and discussions with management, the Committee recommended to our Board that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for 2011 and the Company's 2012 proxy statement. This report is provided by the following independent Trustees, who comprise the Committee.

#### COMPENSATION COMMITTEE

Thomas F. Brady, Chairman Elizabeth A. Hight Richard Szafranski 27

#### **Compensation Discussion and Analysis**

#### **Executive Summary**

Difficult economic and leasing conditions and an unanticipated decline in the price of our common shares made 2011 a very challenging year for the Company. Our management team, in the midst of planned succession activities, took action to address these challenges, including its implementation of a plan to dispose of office properties and land that are no longer closely aligned with the Company's strategy (the "Strategic Reallocation Plan"). We believe it is important to continue to attract, retain and motivate superior talent as we address a variety of challenges and return to delivering exceptional results to our shareholders. Our compensation programs are specifically designed to link annual and long-term financial results and total shareholder return to executive compensation. The majority of each executive's pay is tied directly to goal achievement; our pay for performance approach is designed to ensure that the financial interests of our executives are closely aligned with those of our shareholders.

#### Pay for Performance Highlights for 2011:

Our CEO's total compensation for 2011 was 50% less than his total compensation for 2010, reflective of the Company's year-over-year decrease in performance.

Our CEO's annual cash incentive award is entirely tied to our financial results, the objectives of which are equally weighted between diluted funds from operations per share, as adjusted for comparability (defined herein as "diluted FFO per share"), and diluted adjusted funds from operations per share (defined herein as "diluted AFFO per share"). For 2011, we achieved diluted FFO per share of \$2.17 relative to the established target of \$2.42, and diluted AFFO per share of \$1.53, relative to the established target annual incentive equal to 175% of his base salary, he did not receive any annual cash incentive payout since the company failed to achieve the threshold level for either measure.

Our other NEOs' annual cash incentive awards are tied to both our financial results, as discussed above, and to individual objectives, with annual cash incentive award targets ranging from 115% to 125% of base salary. As a result of the Company's inability to achieve the threshold level of performance for the stated financial objectives in 2011, as well as the decrease in total shareholder return ("TSR") for the year, the Board exercised its discretion and did not award any annual cash incentive awards to the other executives, despite their achievement of certain individual objectives.

During 2009, our Compensation Committee developed a new plan for executive long-term equity incentive awards, utilizing for the first time an award type called performance share units ("PSUs"), which were first granted in March 2010. We believe these forward-looking awards, which focus entirely on relative TSR over a three-year performance period, closely align our NEOs' and our shareholders' risks and rewards. The number of shares awarded at the end of the period depends entirely on relative performance, and if the Company's results are in the bottom quartile, no shares will be earned. COPT's previous long-term equity incentive plan was performance-based, but backward-looking. Restricted shares with a three-year period ending with the most recent fiscal year. We believe that a separate restricted share award in 2010 was appropriate to reward strong relative TSR performance at the 75th percentile compared to our peer group achieved during the 2007-2009 performance period. Notwithstanding this additional restricted share award made in 2010 due to the transition to the new plan, a majority of the equity awards (average 56% in 2010 and 81% in 2011) were awarded in the form of PSUs. The payout of the earned shares ultimately depends on our share price,

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and thus we believe that the PSU plan further motivates our NEOs to achieve strong returns over a sustained period of time.

- o 2010 PSU Grants: The PSUs awarded to Mr. Griffin in 2010 will terminate upon his March 31, 2012 retirement date and, based on the Company's projected relative TSR through that date, are not expected to result in any payout value. At the end of 2011, our executives other than Mr. Griffin, with the approval of the Board, chose to surrender the PSUs awarded to them in 2010. As a result, we recognized all previously unrecognized compensation costs related to the surrendered PSUs in 2011, and will have no further compensation charges in future years in connection with the surrendered PSUs.
- o 2011 Grants: Mr. Griffin's 2011 equity grant, awarded as restricted shares, was an exception to our usual approach due to his impending retirement, which was contemplated to occur prior to the end of the three-year performance period used for the PSUs. Even though he was expected to continue his service as a Trustee, the Board did not believe that providing performance based incentives to a Trustee was an appropriate governance or pay practice. In 2011, all of our other NEOs were awarded PSUs, equal to 81% of their total long-term equity award, with the balance granted as restricted shares.

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Long-Term Equity Award Grant Value vs. Projected Payout: At December 31, 2011, as reflected below, since the 2010 PSUs are not projected to provide a payout to Mr. Griffin and the 2011 PSUs are projected to provide a payout below target to the other NEOs, the payout value of both Mr. Griffin's and Mr. Waesche's long term equity awards (restricted shares plus performance shares) were significantly below grant date fair value.

#### Mr. Griffin (retiring CEO)

Mr. Waesche (incoming CEO)

o No additional awards will be given for prior performance to our retiring CEO or our incoming CEO, as this below target outcome supports our pay for performance philosophy.

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As reflected below, over the period 2007 to 2011, realizable pay for both Mr. Griffin and Mr. Waesche was closely correlated with the Company's indexed total shareholder return ("Indexed TSR"). Indexed TSR represents the cumulative return on a \$100 investment in our common shares made at the beginning of the measurement period. As illustrated, realizable pay is the combined value of salary, annual cash incentive awards and projected payout value of the equity awards as of December 31, 2011.

Mr. Griffin (retiring CEO)

Mr. Waesche (incoming CEO)

#### Pay for Performance Highlights for 2012:

Based on the Company's commitment to align pay and performance, the following steps have been taken for 2012:

No discretionary salary increases will be provided to any of the NEOs for 2012.

The 2012 annual cash incentive award plan will emphasize the achievement of challenging operational goals (focused primarily on leasing, occupancy and cost savings) and the successful execution of our Strategic Reallocation Plan, while continuing to focus on diluted FFO per share and diluted AFFO per share results. In addition, target annual cash incentive awards for 2012 will be reduced by 40% from the 2011 award levels established for target performance.

The large majority of our long-term equity awards for all NEOs will continue to be provided in the form of PSUs, and the balance will be in the form of restricted shares. On March 1, 2012, Mr. Waesche was awarded a long-term equity incentive grant that was 100% PSUs, and the other NEOs were awarded long-term equity incentive grants that were 75% PSUs and 25% restricted shares. We believe this mix reflects our commitment to aligning pay with our shareholders' interests, while providing an element of retention during a challenging period.

#### Other Compensation Program Highlights:

The Compensation Committee of the Board (the "Committee") annually reviews in detail all elements of our compensation program to ensure its alignment with our philosophy and corporate governance approach. Some highlights include:

Clawback: An annual incentive recoupment policy was adopted in 2012 and will be revised, if necessary, in light of applicable SEC regulations regarding clawbacks, once such regulations are enacted.

Tax gross-ups: We will not enter into any new, or materially amended, employment agreements that provide for gross-up payments, including any new or amended agreement with our incoming CEO. On September 29, 2011, the Company entered into an employment agreement with Mr. Budorick that does not provide for tax gross-ups or any other perquisites other than employee benefit programs generally available to our other employees.

Risk oversight: The Company prepares annually an Enterprise Risk Management Assessment. The Committee carefully considers the risks associated with all of our compensation programs.

Annual pay for performance analysis: We compare our pay and performance against those of our peers to ensure that actual results reflect our philosophy of aligning payouts with results.

Independent compensation consultant: The Committee uses an independent consultant that is precluded from performing any work directly for the management of the Company, unless pre-approved by the Committee. No such additional work was requested or performed in 2011.

Peer Group: We use the same appropriately sized and defined peer group for compensation benchmarking purposes as we do for measuring relative total shareholder return under the long-term equity incentive plan. We review the peer group annually for continued appropriateness.

Succession Planning: The Board proactively engages in succession planning activities. In September 2011, we announced that Mr. Griffin would retire from his role as CEO effective March 31, 2012 and that Roger A. Waesche, Jr., our President, would serve as CEO and as a member of our Board of Trustees effective April 1, 2012. In September 2011, Stephen E.

Budorick joined the Company as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer ("COO"), to succeed Mr. Waesche in his prior role as COO.

Hedging: We have in place a policy on securities trading which, among other things, prohibits any hedging activity in Company issued securities by NEOs or Trustees.

Stock Options: We do not reprice underwater stock options.

Stock ownership guidelines: Guidelines for both NEOs and Trustees have been in place since March 2009. Guidelines for the NEOs range from two times to five times salary, and guidelines for non-employee Trustees are three times the sum of their retainer plus committee fees. These guidelines are validated against market practice biennially.

#### Named Executive Officers

This Compensation Discussion and Analysis describes the material elements of compensation for our Named Executive Officers ("NEOs") as listed in the Summary Compensation Table of this proxy.

#### **Compensation Objectives**

The compensation of each NEO is significantly affected by the Company's performance and each individual's performance. We generally target compensation to be commensurate with that of executives performing similar responsibilities for an appropriate peer group of companies. Our NEO's compensation relative to that of counterparts in the peer group can vary based on the individual's skill and experience in the position (both overall and with the Company), the performance of the NEO and the business unit managed, the amount that we pay our other NEOs, and the competition in the marketplace for the talents of the executive. We believe that providing the opportunity to earn a higher relative level of total compensation when warranted by superior performance is important in order for us to retain and motivate our NEOs.

Our incentive programs provide compensation in the form of both annual cash and long-term equity awards in order to reward both short and long-term performance. The allocation of total compensation between cash and long-term equity awards is reviewed annually in comparison to the peer group to assist in determining the compensation of our NEOs both in total and by component. Long-term equity awards represent a significant, if not the largest, component of our NEOs' incentive compensation, as further described in the section below entitled "Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards."

#### Role of the Compensation Committee of the Board

The Compensation Committee is appointed by, and acts on behalf of, the Board. The Committee's general purpose includes establishing and periodically reviewing the Company's compensation philosophy and the adequacy of compensation plans and programs for NEOs and other Company employees. Other responsibilities of the Committee are described in the section entitled "Our Board of Trustees" in this proxy statement.

Compensation decisions for our NEOs must be approved by the independent non-management members of the Board after recommendation by the Committee. The Board is responsible for oversight of the Committee's activities, except where the Committee has sole authority to act as required by an NYSE listing standard or applicable law or regulation. The Committee has complete and open access to management and any other resources of the Company required to assist it in carrying out its duties and responsibilities, including sole authority, in its discretion, to retain, set compensation for and terminate any consultants, legal counsel, or other advisors.



#### Annual Shareholder Say-on-Pay Votes

The Company provides its shareholders with the opportunity to cast an annual advisory vote on executive compensation (a "say-on-pay proposal"). At the Company's annual meeting of shareholders held in May 2011, a substantial majority (96.2%) of the votes cast on the say-on-pay proposal at that meeting were voted in favor of the proposal. The Compensation Committee believes this vote affirmed shareholders' support of the Company's approach to executive compensation. The Committee will continue to consider the outcome of the Company's say-on-pay votes when making future compensation decisions for the NEOs.

#### **Use of Independent Consultants**

The Committee makes use of analyses provided, at its request, by external consultants in determining executive compensation. The Committee engages Pay Governance LLC for these services. Pay Governance LLC provides data relevant to benchmarking executive compensation, discussions of compensation practices, and observations to the Committee regarding compensation programs and pay levels. Pay Governance LLC did not perform any work for the Company at the direction of management during 2011. As appropriate, the Committee meets with its independent consultant in executive session without management present.

#### **Role of Management**

The CEO meets with the Committee to make compensation recommendations, present analyses based on the Committee's requests, and discuss the Committee's recommendations to the Board. The CEO discusses the impact of business results on compensation recommendations, reviews executive benchmarking data, and informs the Committee of the other NEOs' performance. The CEO also presents management's perspective on business objectives and discusses the CEO's perspective on succession planning for the Company. Our CEO attends Committee meetings and general meetings of the Board, but he does not attend those portions of Board and Compensation Committee meetings intended to be held without members of management present, including those relating to the CEO's compensation.

Ms. Holly G. Edington, our Senior Vice President, Human Resources, who reports directly to our CEO, also takes direction from, and provides suggestions to, the Committee, oversees the formulation of compensation plans incorporating the recommendations of the Committee and assists the Chairman of the Compensation Committee in preparing the agenda for meetings.

#### **Compensation Comparisons**

To meet our objectives of attracting and retaining superior talent, we annually review pay practices of our peers. However, we do not set our NEO pay as a direct function of market pay levels. Instead, we use market data to help confirm that our pay practices are reasonable. We review our peer group annually, seeking to include companies that are similar in size and business structure to us. Within these peers, we then focus on executives with responsibilities similar to ours. In order to provide data for this benchmarking analysis, the independent consultant obtains an understanding of the goals, objectives and responsibilities of each executive position based on reviews of job descriptions and discussions with management and the Committee.

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The Committee, with the assistance of its independent consultant, developed a peer group comprised of 20 companies for 2011 to use for purposes of assessing the compensation of our NEOs. The peer group includes a blend of publicly-traded office, diversified, and industrial REITs. Inclusion is based on the following criteria: market capitalization; geographic location; and comparability of management structure. In general, companies are selected such that we fall near the median with regard to market capitalization. The companies included in the 2011 peer group are set forth below:

Alexandria Real Estate Equities, Inc. AMB Property Corporation(1) BioMed Realty Trust, Inc. Boston Properties, Inc. Brandywine Realty Trust Brookfield Properties Corporation Cousins Properties, Incorporated Digital Realty Trust, Inc. Douglas Emmett, Inc. Duke Realty Corporation EastGroup Properties, Inc. Highwoods Properties, Inc. Kilroy Realty Corporation Lexington Realty Trust Liberty Property Trust Mack-Cali Realty Corporation PS Business Parks, Inc. SL Green Realty Corp. Vornado Realty Trust Washington Real Estate Investment Trust

(1)

AMB and Prologis, Inc. merged in mid-2011. The combined company is trading as Prologis, Inc.

The independent consultant provided peer group compensation data to the Committee. Base salaries, annual cash incentive awards, long-term equity awards and total compensation for our NEOs were compared to compensation information for comparable positions in each of the companies in the peer group. The independent consultant provided detailed benchmarking information at the 25th, 50th, and 75th percentiles and the average in order to assist the Committee in understanding how the Company's executive compensation compared to that of peers. The consultant also provided the Committee with data drawn from executive compensation surveys, such as that prepared by the National Association of Real Estate Investment Trusts.

As in prior years, the independent consultant also conducted a comprehensive pay for performance assessment of the Company's executive compensation program and the linkage between organizational performance and the value of the compensation delivered to the executives. The assessment indicated that over the three-year period 2008-2010, the Company's CEO and other NEOs' pay and performance relative to peers were generally aligned, with both pay and performance ranking at or above the median of the peer group.

#### **Base Salary**

We view base salary as the fixed rate of pay throughout the year that is required to attract and retain executives. The base salaries of our NEOs are determined in consideration of their position's scope of responsibilities and their individual skills and experience. They are eligible for periodic increases in their base salary as a result of individual performance and significant increases in their duties and responsibilities. NEOs' salary levels are also influenced by a variety of factors considered by the Committee, including budget considerations, the desire to create an appropriate level of differentiation between the base salaries of the executives, and peer group data. The Committee reviewed a summary of base salaries for executives in our peer group.

Annual base salary actions in 2011 included the following:

	D	2010	D	2011	61 X
Name of Executive	ва	se Salary	ва	ise Salary	% Increase
Randall M. Griffin	\$	645,000	\$	645,000	0.0%
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.	\$	485,000	\$	485,000	0.0%
Stephen E. Riffee	\$	415,000	\$	415,000	0.0%
Wayne H. Lingafelter	\$	350,000	\$	395,000	12.9%
Stephen E. Budorick		N/A	\$	350,000	N/A

The increase received by Mr. Lingafelter was to bring his base salary to a level deemed appropriate by the Committee for his role and contributions to the Company relative to the other NEOs. All other executives were deemed to be adequately compensated at their current levels; therefore, their base salaries were not adjusted. Mr. Budorick joined the company as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer on September 29, 2011.

The Board determined that no salary increases will be given to the NEOs for 2012, with the exception of Mr. Budorick, who has a contractual increase to his annual base salary of \$25,000, or 7.1%, effective April 1, 2012.

#### **Annual Cash Incentive Awards**

NEOs receive annual cash incentive awards based on the Company's overall financial performance and, in most cases, each NEO's performance against individual objectives. In the first quarter of each year, the Committee approves both performance goals for the annual cash incentive plan and associated potential award payouts. Each NEO's potential annual cash incentive award is set as a percentage of the NEO's salary, and three levels of performance objectives and associated payouts are established: threshold, target and maximum. The target performance objectives approximate management's estimate of the related objectives set forth in the annual budget as approved by the Board; this level of performance is intended to be challenging, yet attainable. The maximum level of performance for objectives is intended to have a much lower likelihood of being attained, but is intended to still be attainable with superior performance. The threshold level of performance for objectives is established at a level that is somewhat higher than the lower range of the objectives set forth in the budget and, therefore, has a higher likelihood of being attained than the target. Actual awards are determined once actual performance with respect to these objectives is known, and results are interpolated between the performance levels as appropriate. The Committee retains the authority to adjust annual cash incentive awards at its discretion.

#### 2011 Performance Objectives for Annual Cash Incentive Awards

The Committee sets both Company financial objectives and individual objectives that may be qualitative or quantitative. The mix between these objectives varies by NEO based on their responsibilities and reinforces executive accountability for results, and was allocated as follows for 2011:

	Weight of Objectives on 2011 Annual Cash Incentive Award						
	Company ( Diluted	Objectives Diluted					
	FFO per	AFFO per	Individual				
Name of Executive	Share	Share	Objectives	Total			
Randall M. Griffin	50.0%	50.0%	N/A	100.0%			
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.	37.5%	37.5%	25.0%	100.0%			
Stephen E. Riffee	37.5%	37.5%	25.0%	100.0%			
Wayne H. Lingafelter	37.5%	37.5%	25.0%	100.0%			
Stephen E. Budorick(1)	37.5%	37.5%	25.0%	100.0%			

(1)

Per Mr. Budorick's employment agreement, he was eligible to participate in the annual cash incentive plan for 2011, with a payout prorated based on his hire date of September 29, 2011. No specific individual objectives were defined for Mr. Budorick in 2011 given that he joined the Company in the later portion of the year and, therefore, an award attributable to the 25% for individual objectives was subject to Committee discretion. No actual payout was ultimately awarded.

The Company objectives were calculated in the same manner as in our reported financial results and for 2011 were:

Company Objective		reshold Level	arget .evel	Maximum Level	
Diluted FFO per share	\$	2.36	\$ 2.42	\$	2.53
Diluted AFFO per share	\$	1.64	\$ 1.75	\$	1.86

The Committee, with the assistance of management, developed the 2011 Company and individual objectives using the Company's annual budget and information regarding other related business and operations initiatives. The Company financial measures used in 2011 were diluted FFO per share and diluted AFFO per share. Both measures are frequently used by equity REITs to evaluate financial performance. We use these financial measures because they are useful metrics in evaluating the effectiveness of our operations and are core objectives in our annual budgets. Further, we believe that growth in these measures in the long run contributes to the creation of shareholder value and, as a result, linking compensation to these measures helps to align the interests of our NEOs with those of our shareholders.

Mr. Griffin's annual cash incentive award was based solely on achievement of the Company's financial performance objectives described above.

Individual performance objectives for the other NEOs were tailored to the operations of the business unit for which the individual was responsible. As appropriate, individual objectives are either quantitative or qualitative in nature. Individual objectives include the following:

Mr. Waesche: value creation measures (such as achieving certain measures for net operating income, acquisition activity, capital expenditures, growth in same-office property cash net operating income and occupancy); and strategic objectives (including succession planning and organizational realignments). The weightings of these objectives as a percentage of his total

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individual objectives ranged from 15% to 30%, with value creation objectives weighted at the highest end of that range;

Mr. Riffee: effectiveness in capital planning and plan execution; expansion of capital partner relationships; leadership of the Company's data strategy; leadership development of the finance team; improvement in Enterprise Risk Management integration across the Company; and improvement of the effectiveness of the Company's investor relations activities. The weightings of these objectives as a percentage of his total individual objectives ranged from 10% to 25%, with objectives relating to capital plan execution weighted at the highest end of that range; and

Mr. Lingafelter: value creation through development and delivery of new and renovated buildings; executive sponsorship of a major Company initiative; and implementation of organizational changes. The weightings of these objectives as a percentage of his total individual objectives ranged from 10% to 30%, with the value creation objective weighted at the highest end of that range.

#### 2011 Annual Cash Incentive Award Targets

The Committee generally sets target payouts in consideration of peer levels. This is the level to be paid when target performance is achieved. The expectation is that actual payouts will compare more favorably to peer levels when performance is exceptional. The table below sets forth the potential award payouts as a percentage of base salary:

Name of Executive	Threshold Level Payout	Target Level Payout	Maximum Level Payout
Randall M. Griffin	100%	175%	250%
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.	85%	125%	175%
Stephen E. Riffee	85%	115%	140%
Wayne H. Lingafelter(1)	85%	115%	140%
Stephen E. Budorick	85%	115%	140%

(1)

Mr. Lingafelter's potential award payout levels were increased from the 2010 levels of 80%/105%/130% to a level the Committee deemed appropriate based on his role and contributions relative to the other NEOs.

#### 2011 Annual Cash Incentive Award Results

The Company achieved diluted FFO per share of \$2.17, relative to the established target of \$2.42, and diluted AFFO per share of \$1.53, relative to the established target of \$1.75. Since the Company failed to meet the threshold level of performance for these objectives, no cash payout was made to Mr. Griffin. In addition, and, in conjunction with the negative total shareholder return for the year, the Board exercised its discretion and did not award any annual cash incentive payouts to the other NEOs, despite their achievement of certain individual objectives.

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The chart below reflects our pay for performance philosophy, demonstrating that the annual cash incentive awards for both our retiring and incoming CEOs for each of the last two years decreased commensurate with diminishing indexed TSR in each of those years:

#### Long-Term Equity Incentive Awards

Our long-term equity incentive awards are designed to align the interests of the NEOs with those of our shareholders by rewarding them for sustained performance. Since a portion of these awards typically vest over a period of time, they also encourage the executives to remain with the Company's practice is generally to issue such awards to NEOs on the date of the first quarterly Board meeting of each year.

Prior to 2010, the Company usually granted restricted shares to NEOs by assessing the trailing three-year performance on FFO, AFFO and TSR as compared to the Company's established peer group. If the weighted average of these measures yielded performance at a level beneath the 25th percentile, no restricted shares would be awarded. Restricted shares have also been granted to new executives upon their hiring. Once granted, restricted shares vest over a defined period of time as long as the individual remains employed by the Company. Recipients of restricted shares are entitled to receive dividends on such shares and can cast votes on shareholder matters for such shares prior to share vesting.

Effective in 2010, the Committee implemented a new PSU plan for executive long-term equity incentive awards. The actual awards that will be earned are a function entirely of the Company's total shareholder return performance over a forward-looking three-year period in comparison to peers. The Committee believes that awarding a majority of the executive long-term equity incentive awards

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through the use of PSU grants provides a number of improvements over the Company's prior approach, including the following:

NEO and shareholder risks and rewards are more closely aligned by a long-term, forward-looking plan focused primarily on relative total shareholder return;

retention of key executives is enhanced due to the payout opportunities available in the event of superior relative performance;

grants and potential awards under the plan are clearly determined and communicated to the NEOs at the beginning of the performance period; and

dividends are accrued but not paid out on the PSUs until they are earned at the end of the defined performance period, thus putting additional compensation at risk based on performance.

#### Awards Made in 2011

On March 3, 2011, the Board granted PSUs as set forth below, representing the majority (81%) of the respective individuals' long-term equity incentive award.

	Target Award as a % of Base	Target Number of
Name of Executive	Salary	PSUs
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.	200%	27,762
Stephen E. Riffee	150%	17,816
Wayne H. Lingafelter	100%	11,305

These target award percentages were developed using a broad perspective and multiple data points, including: (1) peer long-term equity award data; (2) the Company's historical long-term equity award levels; and (3) the target total compensation to be delivered to NEOs. The number of PSUs granted was derived by first multiplying the individuals' base salaries by their respective target award percentages, and dividing the result by the average of the closing price of our common shares on the NYSE over the 15 successive trading days ending with the grant date. These grants have a performance period beginning on the grant date and concluding the earlier of: (1) three years from the grant date; (2) the date of termination by the Company without cause, the death or disability of the NEO or the constructive discharge of the NEO (collectively, "qualified termination"); or (3) a change in control of the Company.

The actual number of these PSUs that will be distributed at the end of the three-year performance period ("earned PSUs") will be determined based on the percentile rank of the Company's total shareholder return relative to those of the companies in the 2011 peer group, as set forth in the following schedule, with interpolation between points:

Percentile Rank	Earned PSUs Payout %
75th or greater	200% of PSUs granted
50th	100% of PSUs granted
25th	50% of PSUs granted
Below 25th	0% of PSUs granted

At the end of the performance period, the Company, in settlement of the award, will issue a number of fully-vested common shares equal to the sum of: (1) the number of earned PSUs in settlement of the award plan; and (2) the aggregate dividends that would have been paid with respect to the common shares issued in settlement of the earned PSUs through the date of settlement had such shares been issued on the grant date, divided by the share price on such settlement date, as defined under the terms of the agreement. PSUs do not carry voting rights.

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If a performance period ends due to a change in control or qualified termination, the number of earned PSUs is prorated based on the portion of the three-year performance period that has elapsed. If employment is terminated by the employee or the Company for cause, all PSUs are forfeited.

Mr. Griffin was not included in the 2011 PSU plan because of the strong possibility that his employment would cease before the end of the full three-year performance cycle, and even though at that time he was expected to continue as a Trustee, the Committee did not believe that providing performance based incentives to a Trustee was an appropriate governance or pay practice. Mr. Budorick was also not included in the 2011 PSU plan since he was hired subsequent to when grants under the plan were made.

On March 3, 2011, the Board also approved grants of restricted shares as set forth below:

	Number of Restricted Shares
Name of Executive	Awarded
Randall M. Griffin	67,398
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.	9,193
Stephen E. Riffee	5,900
Wayne H. Lingafelter	3,744

These restricted shares vest in equal one-third increments annually over a three-year period provided that the individuals remain employed by the Company. On September 29, 2011, Mr. Budorick was awarded 25,000 restricted shares as a hire-on grant per his employment agreement. His shares vest in equal one-fifth increments annually over a five year period as long as he remains employed by the Company.

The Committee's decision to award restricted share grants in March 2011, in addition to the PSUs, took into account that in 2010, the Company transitioned from a backward looking performance-based plan to a forward looking performance-based plan. Any awards earned under the 2010 PSU program would not be distributed until March 2013 and any awards earned under the 2011 PSU plan would not be distributed until March 2010, as well as the grants awarded to Messrs. Waesche, Riffee and Lingafelter in 2011, were designed to reward them for the Company's total shareholder return performance ranking at the 75th percentile of the companies in the 2010 peer group for the three years ended December 31, 2009, and also provide a retention component to their compensation during the plan transition period.



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In March 2011, Mr. Griffin was awarded time-vested restricted shares instead of a performance based award, due to his impending retirement, as described above. At the time of this award, Mr. Griffin's total compensation for 2011 (base salary, long-term equity incentive award and estimated annual cash bonus to be awarded) was projected to be 31% lower than his total 2010 compensation, which the Board considered appropriate since the focus at that time had been on year-over-year compensation movement aligned with Company performance. Historical TSR under Mr. Griffin's oversight had been at levels above our peers and above the S&P MidCap 400 Index, as displayed below:

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Beginning in late July 2011, we experienced an unanticipated decline in the price of our common shares, which we believe was exacerbated largely by S&P's downgrade of the U.S. Government (USG) debt rating from AAA to AA+, and the market reacting to the second year of gridlock from the USG, which resulted in another continuing budget resolution instead of a fiscal year 2012 budget. Given the nature of our business, and that as of December 31, 2011, 60% of the Company's annualized rental revenue from operating properties was generated from properties occupied primarily by tenants in the USG and defense information technology sectors, the Company's stock price was significantly impacted.

OFC Stock Price Daily for 2011

Representing 22% of our annualized rental revenue at December 31, 2011, the USG is our largest tenant. We believe that S&P's downgrade of the USG's debt rating disproportionately affected our stock price relative to other REITs.

COPT'S 2011 Stock Performance Relative to RMZ and SNL Indices

SNL = SNL Financial, Inc a provider of raw/primary data for financial services companies, including REITs.

RMZ = the MSCI® US REIT Index a real-time, price-only index that tracks the collective performance of roughly 100 U.S. equity REITs.

Total shareholder return fell to negative 34.4% for 2011, and as previously stated, Mr. Griffin did not receive an annual cash incentive award for this year. Therefore, his total compensation for 2011 was actually 50% lower than his 2010 total compensation (not 31% as projected at the time the award was granted), as shown in the chart below:

		Total Annual (	Con	npensation for 3	3 years 2009 - 2011	
Rand Griffin, CEO	2009	2010		2011		Total
Base Salary	\$ 625,000	\$ 645,000	\$	645,000		\$ 1,915,000
Annual Cash Incentive	1,558,500	1,031,372		0		2,589,872
Equity: Restricted Shares(1)	1,952,296	<b>2,083,319</b> (2)	1	2,370,388		6,406,003
Equity: PSUs	N/A	2,267,807(3)		0		2,267,807
Other Compensation	25,706	25,512		26,223		77,441
Total Compensation	\$ 4,161,502	\$ 6,053,010	\$	3,041,611		\$ 13,256,123
% decrease over prior year				<b>(50</b> %)	overall	
Total Compensation without						
Transition Grant in 2010	\$ 4,161,502	\$ 3,969,691	\$	3,041,611(4)		\$ 11,172,804
				%)		
% decrease over prior year				( <b>23</b> rela	nted to performance	

(1)

100% of long-term equity incentive compensation in 2009 and 2010 was performance based, as restricted shares were awarded based on backward-looking three-year performance relative to our peers during the 2007-2009 timeframe at the 75th percentile.

#### (2)

Restricted shares awarded in 2010 essentially represent a double grant related to our transition to the new long-term incentive plan, which distorts the three-year total compensation.

(3)

The 2010 PSUs awarded to Mr. Griffin will terminate commensurate with his March 31, 2012 retirement, and based on projected relative total shareholder return through that date, are not expected to result in any payout.

#### (4)

CEO compensation for 2011 was 23% lower than 2010 (eliminating the impact of the double grant in 2010), indicative of the decline in Company performance. The overall year-over-year decrease was 50%.

In late 2011, following the sharp decline in our share price and when it became apparent that the Company's TSR for 2011 would be at the lowest end of our peer group, in support of our commitment to align pay and performance, the Board took the following actions:

No salary increases for NEOs in 2012.

Reductions to target annual cash incentive payouts for 2012, down by 40% from 2011.

100% of the long-term equity award granted in 2012 to the incoming CEO and 75% of the awards granted to the other NEOs was in the form of performance shares, based on three-year relative performance to peers.

#### **Retirement Benefits**

Our retirement benefits are designed to assist our NEOs in accumulating sufficient wealth to provide income during their retirement years. The retirement benefits are designed to attract and retain executives and to encourage such executives to save money for their retirement, while allowing us to maintain a competitive cost structure. Information pertaining to our retirement benefits is set forth below.

#### 401(k) Plan

Our NEOs participate in a 401(k) defined contribution plan covering substantially all of our employees. The plan provides for Company matching contributions in an amount equal to an aggregate of 3.5% on the first 6% of participant pre-tax and/or after tax contributions to the plan.

#### Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan

We offer our senior management team (director level and above), as well as our Trustees, a nonqualified deferred compensation plan. This plan allows for the deferral of up to 100% of a participant's cash compensation on a pre-tax basis and enables such participants to receive a tax-deferred return on such deferrals. Participants may diversify their investments among a wide array of investment alternatives, including mutual funds and brokerage accounts. The plan does not guarantee a return or provide for above-market preferential earnings. The plan is not qualified under the Employee Retirement and Income Security Act of 1974. The deferral account balances increase or decrease in value based on the performance of the investments selected by the participants. Participants in this plan defer their contributions for three years from the beginning of the calendar year following the year in which the deferral election is made. Participant's account balance will be distributed within 60 days of separation unless the participant is a "specified employee," as defined in the plan, in which case such distribution shall not be made for six months. Payments are due to parties designated by the participant in lump sum upon the death of a participant. Participant becomes permanently disabled. Participation in the deferred compensation plan is voluntary. Information about the NEOs' participation in our deferred compensation plans is set forth below in the tables entitled "All Other Compensation" and "Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Table."

#### Severance and Change-in-Control Benefits

All employment agreements have termination of employment clauses related to: (1) premature termination; (2) constructive termination; (3) cause; (4) death; (5) disability; (6) change in control; and (7) voluntary termination. The terms of our employment agreements reflect negotiations with our NEOs in order to recruit and retain their services. We periodically review these clauses against market practice to ensure the terms of these agreements remain competitive.

The employment agreements provide for severance payments and accelerated vesting of long-term equity incentive awards in the event of termination by us without cause (premature termination) or by the employee based upon constructive termination. The employment agreements provide for these items in order to assist employees in their transition to new employment.

The employment agreements also provide for payments and accelerated vesting of long-term equity incentive awards in the event of a change in control of the Company. We adopted the change in control provisions to increase the likelihood that, in the event that the Company is considering a change in control transaction, the employees involved in considering the offer will act in the interest of the shareholders. If a change in control were to occur, the employees would likely no longer be in a position to influence our performance and may not be in a position to earn their incentive awards or vest in their equity awards. Therefore, the change-in-control provisions are designed to make a transaction as neutral to the employees' economic interests as possible. In 2010, the Committee agreed not to enter into any new, or materially amended, employment agreements, including any new or amended agreement with our incoming CEO, which provide for gross-up payments in the event of a change in control. All NEOs have gross-up provisions as part of their existing employment agreements,



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with the exception of Mr. Budorick who entered into his employment agreement with the Company on September 29, 2011.

The terms of severance and change in control benefits are described in detail in the section below entitled "Potential Payments on Termination, Change in Control, Death or Disability."

Due to the authority vested with the NEOs and the knowledge of Company proprietary information held by such individuals, the Company must protect its real estate interests in each of its major markets. For this reason, executive employment agreements include non-compete provisions for either a 12 or 24-month period following termination of employment.

#### **Other Benefits and Perquisites**

As employees, our NEOs are eligible to participate in employee benefit programs generally available to our other employees, including medical, dental, life and disability insurance. In addition, we compensate our NEOs with certain personal benefits and perquisites that are not available to our other employees; these benefits and perquisites include the following:

reimbursement for a defined amount of personal financial and tax preparation fees; and

supplemental long-term disability insurance coverage in the case of our Chief Executive Officer, President and Chief Financial Officer (our President has elected not to receive such coverage).

Our NEOs also receive certain benefits that are offered to other management level employees, such as auto allowances (except for Mr. Budorick) and participation in an Executive Wellness Program. As with all other employees of the Company, they also receive a monetary award for achieving service anniversary milestones. The value of these benefits that is received is essentially equivalent to that offered to the broader management and/or employee group.

The value of these benefits is included in the tables entitled "Summary Compensation Table" and "All Other Compensation." At the time Messrs. Griffin, Waesche, Riffee and Lingafelter's employment agreements were negotiated, the Committee believed that these benefits aligned with industry practice and our desire to attract and retain superior management talent for the benefit of the Company. As with Mr. Budorick's employment agreement, any new or materially modified agreements will not contain provisions for perquisites that are considered poor pay practices.

#### Accounting for Compensation Elements

The tax and accounting implications associated with the key elements of our executive compensation are set forth below:

Salary is expensed as incurred.

Annual cash incentive awards are recognized over the period to which such awards relate.

Option, restricted share and PSU grants are recognized over the period during which the employee is required to provide service in exchange for the award (generally the vesting or performance period).



#### **Tax Compliance Policy**

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Code"), limits the deductibility on certain corporations' income tax return to compensation of \$1 million for NEOs. Certain performance-based compensation plans are excluded from this limitation provided that the shareholders approve the plan and certain other requirements are met. The Compensation Committee's policy with respect to Section 162(m) is to make reasonable efforts to ensure that compensation is deductible to the extent permitted, while simultaneously providing the Company's NEOs with appropriate rewards for their performance. We did not pay any compensation in 2011 that was not deductible under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code, and we do not believe that any future nondeductible compensation that is paid will have a material impact on the Company.

Section 409A of the Code relates to the tax treatment of earnings when a payment the Company is obligated to make to an NEO is deferred to a future tax year. The Company, with the assistance of external counsel, previously completed a review of all its various executive compensation and benefits plans, as well as employment agreements, to ensure compliance with Section 409A.

Sections 280G and 4999 of the Code relate to a 20% excise tax that may be levied on a payment made to an NEO as a result of a change-in-control if the payment exceeds three times the individual's base earnings (as defined by the Code section). The current employment agreements (except for Mr. Budorick), which were negotiated prior to 2009, include provisions that provide a tax gross-up if subject to the excise tax imposed by 280G. At this time, only Mr. Lingafelter would be due reimbursement under this provision. The Company has determined that it will not enter into any new or materially amended, employment agreements that provide for such tax gross-ups, as reflected by the provisions of Mr. Budorick's recently executed agreement.

#### **Executive Ownership and Capital Accumulation**

We believe that the ownership of shares in the Company by NEOs assists in aligning their interests with those of our shareholders. On February 26, 2009, the Board approved share ownership guidelines for our Trustees and NEOs. The ownership guidelines are as follows:

Role	Value of Common Shares to be Owned
Trustees	3 times annual retainer and fees for four quarterly meetings
Chief Executive Officer	5 times base salary
President	3 times base salary
Chief Operating Officer	3 times base salary
Chief Financial Officer	3 times base salary
Executive Vice President Development & Construction Services	2 times base salary

The ownership guidelines generally include common shares beneficially owned by the respective individuals, including unvested restricted shares, certain share equivalents under Company sponsored plans and units in the Company's Operating Partnership owned by such individuals, although the guidelines exclude outstanding stock options and PSUs.

For Trustees and NEOs in office as of March 1, 2009, the effective date of these Ownership Guidelines was March 1, 2009. For those individuals, the share ownership goal was determined using their retainers or base salaries in effect as of that date and a common share price of \$26.18 per share. The share ownership goal under the ownership guidelines for persons assuming a Trustee or executive level position after March 1, 2009 is determined using their retainers or base salaries as of the date they become subject to the ownership guidelines and using the average closing price of our common shares on the NYSE for the 60 trading days prior to such date. Once established, a person's share ownership goal will not change because of changes in his retainer or base salary or fluctuations in our

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common share price. An individual's share ownership goal will only be re-established upon a change to a different executive position. Generally, individuals will have a five-year period to attain their share ownership goals. Trustees and NEOs subject to the Ownership Guidelines as of March 1, 2009 have until March 1, 2014 to achieve the ownership guidelines. If an individual's share ownership goal increases because of a change in position, a five-year period to achieve the incremental amount of shares will begin on the effective date of the change in position.

The Committee currently does not explicitly consider the accumulated wealth of the NEOs from prior years' awards under our long-term equity plan in making compensation decisions.

#### **Trading Controls**

NEOs and Trustees are required to receive the permission of Ms. Karen M. Singer, Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary, prior to entering into transactions in Company shares or share equivalents. NEOs and Trustees are subject to black-out periods on the trading of Company shares for a period of time before the completion of each quarter end and a period of time following the release of earnings for each quarter end.

NEOs and Trustees bear full responsibility if they violate the Company Policy Statement on Securities Trading by permitting shares to be bought or sold without pre-approval by Ms. Singer or when trading is restricted. The Policy Statement on Securities Trading also specifically prohibits NEOs and Trustees from participating in any hedging activities in Company shares.

#### **Compensation and Risk**

We reviewed the elements of executive and non-executive compensation to determine whether they encourage excessive or unintended risk-taking and concluded that:

significant weighting toward long-term equity compensation discourages short-term risk taking;

vesting schedules for restricted shares and PSUs cause management to have a significant amount of unvested awards at any time;

performance goals are set based on a business plan approved by the Board and their achievement does not automatically entitle management to annual cash incentive awards or equity awards, which are at the discretion of the Board;

the Board exercises approval rights over significant investment decisions that could expose the Company to long-term risks;

share ownership guidelines suggest management hold a certain amount of our stock such that the NEOs' interests are aligned with shareholders; and

our clawback policy allows the Company to recoup incentive awards paid to NEOs and certain other key employees, in the event such recoupment is warranted.

Accordingly, we concluded that risks arising from our policies and practices for compensating employees are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on the Company.

#### **Summary Compensation Table**

The following table summarizes the compensation earned by our NEOs for 2011, 2010 and 2009.

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary	Bonus(1)		Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation( <b>£</b>	All Other	Total
Randall M. Griffin		\$ 645,000	\$	\$ 2,370,388	· · ·		5 3,041,611
Chief Executive Officer(5)	2010	645,000	Ψ	4,351,126	1,031,372	25,512	6,053,010
	2009	625.000	35,062	1,952,296	1,523,438	25,706	4,161,502
<b>Roger A. Waesche, Jr</b> . President(5)	2011 2010 2009	485,000 485,000 475,000	,	1,687,820 2,328,783 1,300,216	517,675 720,000	19,044 13,364 16,342	2,191,864 3,344,822 2,511,558
Stephen E. Riffee	2011	415,000		1,083,159		22,029	1,520,188
Executive Vice President and	2010	415,000		1,470,810	455,332	21,775	2,362,917
Chief Financial Officer	2009	400,000		735,047	526,000	23,610	1,684,657
Wayne H. Lingafelter Executive Vice President of Development & Construction	2011 2010 2009	395,000 350,000 325,000	34,250	687,317 796,657 98,125	376,165 385,750	21,927 21,775 24,093	1,104,244 1,544,597 867,218
<b>Stephen E. Budorick</b> Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer(6)	2011	90,192	33,000	560,750		23,024	706,966

(1)

The amount included in this column for Mr. Budorick represents a signing bonus agreed to by the Company at the commencement of his employment. The amounts included in this column for Messrs. Griffin and Lingafelter represent additional cash amounts awarded in 2010 above the awards determined by results relative to established performance objectives for services performed during 2009. In addition, Mr. Lingafelter's amount includes \$20,000 paid in 2009 representing a prorated portion of a signing bonus agreed to by the Company at the commencement of his employment.

(2)

Represents the grant date fair value of PSUs and restricted shares awarded during the calendar year. The settlement value of the PSU award, if any, will be realized by the executive three years from the date of grant based on relative total shareholder return performance over such period of performance. See Notes 2 and 14 to the Company's consolidated financial statements included in the Company's Annual Report for the year ended December 31, 2011 for additional information regarding PSUs and restricted shares. PSUs awarded to Messrs. Waesche, Riffee and Lingafelter in 2010 were surrendered in late 2011.

(3)

Represents annual cash incentive awards paid in 2012, 2011 and 2010 determined by actual performance against the pre-established Company and individual performance objectives as compensation for services performed during 2011, 2010 and 2009, respectively. Mr. Griffin's award is based entirely on achievement of the Company objectives. For 2011, the threshold level of the Company objectives was not achieved, resulting in no payout for this portion of the NEOs' potential award. Also, the Board exercised its discretion and did not award any annual cash incentive payouts to the NEOs with respect to their individual performance objectives, despite their achievement of certain of these individual objectives.

(4)

Refer to the table below entitled "All Other Compensation" for details on these amounts, which include perquisites, auto allowances and personal financial and tax preparation fees paid by the Company on behalf of the officers, Company match on employee

contributions to the Company's 401(k) and nonqualified deferred compensation plans, reimbursement for moving costs and milestone service awards received for attaining a certain length of employment with the Company under a program available to the Company's other employees.

(5)

On September 16, 2010, the Board elected Mr. Waesche as President, in addition to his previous duties as Chief Operating Officer. Mr. Griffin, who had served as President, continued in his role as Chief Executive

Officer. On March 31, 2012, Mr. Griffin will retire and Mr. Waesche will assume the role of Chief Executive Officer.

(6)

Mr. Budorick was appointed as Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer effective September 29, 2011.

# All Other Compensation

Name	Year	Financial Advice and Tax Preparation Benefits	Auto Allowance and Lease Costs	Johns Hopkins Wellness Program Participatio	Matching of Contributions to 401(k) and Deferred Compensation n Plans	Other	Total
Randall M. Griffin	2011 2010 2009	\$ 10,300 9,105 10,767	\$ 7,348 7,832 6,364		\$ 8,575 8,575 8,575	\$	\$ 26,223 25,512 25,706
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.	2011 2010 2009		10,469 4,789 4,207		8,575 8,575 8,575	3,560	19,044 13,364 16,342
Stephen E. Riffee	2011 2010 2009		13,200 13,200 13,200	1,683	8,575 8,575 8,575	254 152	22,029 21,775 23,610
Wayne H. Lingafelter	2011 2010 2009		13,200 13,200 13,154	2,758	8,575 8,575 8,130	152 51	21,927 21,775 24,093
Stephen E. Budorick(1)	2011					23,024	23,024

(1)

Represents reimbursement for relocation expenses incurred. Mr. Budorick's agreement does not provide for reimbursement for financial advice, tax preparation fees or auto allowance and lease costs.

#### **Employment Agreements**

Employment agreements with our NEOs establish various parameters of their compensation, particularly their base salaries and certain benefit entitlements. A description of material terms of these agreements follows:

Randall M. Griffin is party to an agreement that commenced on April 1, 2005 and expires on March 31, 2012;

Roger A. Waesche, Jr. is party to an agreement that commenced on July 1, 2002 and expires on June 30, 2013;

Stephen E. Riffee is party to an agreement that commenced on August 14, 2006 and expires on August 13, 2012;

Wayne H. Lingafelter is party to an agreement that commenced on January 2, 2009 and expires on January 1, 2015; and

Stephen E. Budorick is party to an agreement that commenced on September 29, 2011 and expires on September 28, 2014.

Each of these agreements, except for Mr. Griffin's and Mr. Budorick's, has a continuous and self-renewing one-year term after the basic term unless otherwise indicated by either the Company or the employee prior to a specified point in time during the then current term. No new or materially amended agreements will provide for such an "evergreen" renewal provision, as demonstrated by the term of Mr. Budorick's agreement. All agreements may be terminated by either the Company or the employee at any time on one day's prior notice. Under the employment agreements, the executive officers are required to devote their full business time to our affairs and are prohibited from competing directly or indirectly with us during the term of the agreement and for a period thereafter. The agreements provide that incentive compensation shall be set by the Board upon the Compensation Committee's recommendation. The Board may take action in future years to increase NEO's base salaries. Base salary and allowance for automobile, personal financial planning and income tax preparation as of December 31, 2011 provided for under these agreements are set forth below:

	Base S	A	lowance for utomobile, Personal Financial anning and ncome Tax	
Name of Executive	Decemb	er 31, 2011	Р	reparation
Randall M. Griffin	\$	645,000	\$	21,000
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.		485,000		18,200
Stephen E. Riffee		415,000		18,200
Wayne H. Lingafelter		395,000		18,200
Stephen E. Budorick		350,000		No Provision

These employment agreements provide for severance packages in the event of (1) termination by us without cause or by the employee based upon constructive termination or discharge or (2) a change of control of Corporate Office Properties Trust, as defined in the agreements. These provisions are discussed further in the section below entitled "Potential Payments on Termination, Change in Control, Death or Disability."

#### 2011 Grants of Plan-Based Awards

The following table sets forth information about equity and non-equity awards granted to the NEOs for 2011.

Name	Grant Type	Grant Date(1)	Estimated Possible Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards (\$)(2) Threshold Target Maximum (\$) (\$) (\$) T			Estimated Possible Payouts Under Equity Incentive Plan Awards (#)(3) Threshold Target Maximum			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock (#)(4)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock Awards (\$)(3)(4)(5)
Randall M.							8		()(-)	(+)(-)(-)(-)
Griffin	Annual Restricted	3/3/2011 3/3/2011	\$ 645,000	\$ 1,128,750	\$ 1,612,500	1			67,398	\$ 2,370,388
Roger A.										
Waesche, Jr.	Annual PSU Restricted	3/3/2011 3/3/2011 3/3/2011	412,250	606,250	848,750	13,881	27,762	55,524	9,193	1,364,502 323,318
									,,.,.	,
Stephen E. Riffee	Annual PSU Restricted	3/3/2011 3/3/2011 3/3/2011	352,750	477,250	581,000	8,908	17,816	35,632	5,900	875,656 207,503
Wayne H.									-,,	,
Lingafelter	Annual PSU Restricted	3/3/2011 3/3/2011 3/3/2011	335,750	454,250	553,000	5,653	11,305	22,610	3,744	555,641 131,676
Stephen E.									,.	,
Budorick(6)	Annual Restricted	9/29/2011 9/29/2011	74,375	100,625	122,500				25,000	560,750

(1)

March 3, 2011 is the date on which the Board established the range of potential cash annual incentive awards for 2011 performance by NEOs employed as of that date. March 3, 2011 is also the date on which the Board made grants of PSUs and restricted shares under the long-term equity incentive program for such NEOs employed as of that date.

(2)

As described in the section entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis," the Board approved annual cash incentive awards for the NEOs, as a percentage of base salary, for three levels of performance. These columns show the estimated future payouts of annual incentive awards for the three levels of performance approved by the Board for 2011, as converted from the percentages of 2011 base salary. Based on the failure to achieve the Company objectives, and the Board's exercise of discretion in relation to individual performance objectives, no non-equity incentive award payouts were made with respect to 2011 performance.

(3)

The Target column reflects the PSU awards made under the long-term incentive plan approved by the Board on March 3, 2011. The Threshold and Maximum columns reflect the estimated payout at those levels as indicated by the terms of the PSU award agreement described in the section of this proxy statement entitled "Compensation Discussion and Analysis." The actual awards distributed in 2014 will be a function entirely of the Company's total shareholder return performance over the defined performance period in comparison to peers. At the end of the performance period, the Company, in settlement of the award, will issue a number of fully-vested common shares equal to the sum of: (1) the number of earned PSUs in settlement of the award plan; and (2) the aggregate dividends that would have been paid with respect to the common shares issued in settlement of the earned PSUs through the date of settlement had such shares been issued on the grant date, divided by the share price on such settlement date, as defined under the terms of the agreement.

(4)

For the executives other than Mr, Budorick, this column reflects the restricted share awards made under the long-term incentive plan. The award to Mr. Budorick reflected in this column represents shares awarded upon the commencement of his employment. These shares vest as the individual remains with the Company as follows: shares awarded under the long-term incentive plan in equal one-third increments annually over a three-year period; and shares awarded upon the commencement of Mr. Budorick's employment in equal 20% increments annually over a five year period.

(5)

The grant date fair value of PSUs was \$49.15 per PSU as calculated using a Monte Carlo model, which included assumptions of, among other things, the following: baseline common share value of \$35.17; expected volatility for our common shares of 61.1%; and risk-free interest rate of 1.32%. The grant date fair value of restricted shares was calculated using the closing common share price on the NYSE on March 3, 2011 of \$35.17.

#### Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2011

The table below provides information about unvested restricted shares and unearned PSUs at December 31, 2011 for the NEOs.

		Stock Awards				
Name	Grant Date	Number of Shares That Have Not Vested(1)	Market Value of Shares That Have Not Vested (\$)(2)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Units(3)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Units(\$)(4)	
Randall M. Griffin	2/26/2009 3/4/2010 3/3/2011	26,073 36,704 67,398	\$ 554,312 780,327 1,432,881	24,532	\$ 521,550	
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.	2/26/2009 3/4/2010 3/3/2011	17,364 16,737 9,193	369,159 355,829 195,443	14,958	318,007	
Stephen E. Riffee	2/28/2008 2/26/2009 3/4/2010 3/3/2011	30,000 9,817 10,571 5,900	637,800 208,709 224,739 125,434	9,599	204,075	
Wayne H. Lingafelter	5/31/2008 3/1/2009 3/4/2010 3/3/2011	8,000 1,309 5,726 3,744	170,080 27,829 121,735 79,597	6,092	129,505	
Stephen E. Budorick	9/29/2011	25,000	531,500			

#### (1)

This column represents the number of restricted shares awarded. The forfeiture restrictions on these awards that were unvested at December 31, 2011 lapsed or will lapse on the following dates:

Grant Date	Vesting Schedule
2/28/2008	100% vests on 2/28/2013.
5/31/2008	50% of the award vests on 5/31/2012 and 50% vests on 5/31/2013.
2/26/2009	100% vested on 3/1/2012.
3/1/2009	100% vested on 3/1/2012.
3/4/2010	50% of the award vested on 3/4/2012 and 50% vests on 3/4/2013 (except for Mr. Griffin's shares, which vest upon the expiration of his term as Trustee on 5/10/2012).
3/3/2011	One third vested on 3/3/2012 and one-third vests on each of the following dates: 3/3/2013 and 3/3/2014 (except for Mr. Griffin's shares, which vest upon the expiration of his term as Trustee on 5/10/2012).
9/29/2011	20% of the award vests on each of the following dates: 12/1/2012, 12/1/2013, 12/1/2014, 12/1/2015 and 12/1/2016.

(2)

This column represents the value of the restricted share awards. The value is calculated by multiplying the number of shares subject to vesting or issuable by \$21.26, the closing price of our common shares on the NYSE on December 31, 2011.

The amount reported in this column represents the number of common shares that would be issuable in settlement of the PSUs at the threshold level of performance, including the effect of aggregate dividends declared through December 31, 2011. The PSUs have a performance period beginning on the grant date and

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concluding on the earlier of: (1) the date that is three years from the grant date; (2) the date of termination by the Company without cause, the death or disability of the executive or the constructive discharge of the executive (collectively, "qualified termination"); or (3) the date of a sale event. At the end of the performance period, the Company, in settlement of the award, will issue a number of fully-vested common shares equal to the sum of: (1) the number of earned PSUs in settlement of the award plan; and (2) the aggregate dividends that would have been paid with respect to the common shares issued in settlement of the earned PSUs through the date of settlement had such shares been issued on the grant date, divided by the share price on such settlement date, as defined under the terms of the agreement.

#### (4)

This column represents the market value of the PSU awards. The value is calculated by multiplying the number of common shares that would be issuable in settlement of the PSUs at the threshold level of performance, as reported in the previous column, by \$21.26, the closing price of our common shares on the NYSE on December 31, 2011. At the end of 2011, our NEOs other than Mr. Griffin, with the approval of the Board, chose to surrender the PSUs awarded to them in 2010. As a result, we recognized all previously unrecognized compensation costs related to the surrendered PSUs in 2011, and will have no further compensation charges in future years in connection with the surrendered PSUs. While the payout of Mr. Griffin's 2010 PSUs will be calculated upon his retirement on March 31, 2012, no payout of that award is anticipated.

#### **Option Exercises and Stock Vested in 2011**

The table below provides information about the value realized on options exercised and restricted shares vesting during 2011 for the NEOs.

	Option Awards Number of Shares			Restricted Share Awards Number of Shares			
Name	Acquired on Exercise		lue Realized Exercise(1)	Acquired on Vesting		lue Realized 1 Vesting(2)	
Randall M. Griffin	138,068	\$	3,005,878	76,323	\$	2,707,180	
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.				39,696		1,409,182	
Stephen E. Riffee				28,028		921,925	
Wayne H. Lingafelter				8,170		288,124	

(1)

Value realized on options exercised is calculated by multiplying the difference between the option exercise price and the common share price upon exercise of options by the number of common shares underlying the options.

(2)

Value realized on vesting of restricted shares is calculated by multiplying the average of the high and low common share prices, as reported by the NYSE on the vesting date, by the number of shares vesting.

#### Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

The following table shows the contributions, earnings and account balances for the NEOs in the Company's nonqualified deferred compensation plan:

Named Executive	Executive Contribution in 2011(1)	s (Loss	Aggregate ses) Earnings n 2011(2)	Aggregate Balance at 12/31/11(3)	
Randall M. Griffin	\$	\$	(417,064)	\$ 2,028,539	
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.			(20,183)	911,800	
Stephen E. Riffee	12,45	50	1,229	100,573	

(1)

The amounts in this column include amounts reflected in the Summary Compensation Table in the salary column, as well as non-equity incentive plan compensation paid in 2011 for 2010.

#### (2)

The amounts in this column reflect aggregate earnings on participant-directed investments. The nonqualified deferred compensation plan does not pay above-market interest rates.

#### (3)

The table below sets forth the portions of the amounts included in this column that were reported in the Summary Compensation Table appearing in the Company's proxy statements in this year or in prior years:

	Amounts Reported as Compensation					
Named Executive	<b>Current Year</b>	Prior Years		Total		
Randall M. Griffin	\$	\$ 1,966,781	\$	1,966,781		
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.		538,901		538,901		
Stephen E. Riffee	12,450	73,555		86,005		

#### Potential Payments on Termination, Change in Control, Death or Disability

The employment agreement of Mr. Griffin provides for the following severance package in the event of (1) termination by us without cause or by the executive based upon constructive termination or (2) a change in control of the Company or Mr. Griffin's employer:

in the event of termination by us without cause or by Mr. Griffin based upon constructive termination, payment equal to his base annual salary multiplied by three plus the average of his three most recent annual incentive awards multiplied by three;

in the event of a change in control of the Company or Mr. Griffin's employer, payment equal to his base annual salary multiplied by the number of years then remaining in the employment agreement term (but not less than three years) plus the average of his three most recent annual incentive awards multiplied by the number of years then remaining in the employment agreement term (but not less than three years);

perquisites and benefits for 24 months following termination unless such benefits are available to him through other employment after termination;

full vesting of previously unvested share options and restricted shares subject to time-based vesting with the right to exercise options for up to 18 months following termination;

vesting of performance based awards in accordance with the terms of the applicable award agreements; and

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in the case of a change in control, reimbursement for any parachute excise taxes and all Federal and state income or other taxes with respect to payment of the amount of such excise tax, including all such taxes with respect to any such grossing-up amount.

Mr. Griffin's employment agreement terminates as of March 31, 2012, and we do not expect any of the adverse severance provisions to be triggered.

The employment agreement of Mr. Waesche provides for the following severance package in the event of (1) termination by us without cause or by Mr. Waesche based upon constructive termination or (2) a change in control of the Company or Mr. Waesche's employer:

payment equal to his base annual salary multiplied by three;

payment equal to the average of his three most recent annual incentive awards multiplied by three;

perquisites and benefits for 24 months following termination unless such benefits are available to him through other employment after termination;

full vesting of previously unvested share options and restricted shares subject to time-based vesting with the right to exercise options for up to 18 months following termination;

vesting of performance based awards in accordance with the terms of the applicable award agreements; and

in the case of a change in control, reimbursement for any parachute excise taxes and all Federal and state income or other taxes with respect to payment of the amount of such excise tax, including all such taxes with respect to any such grossing-up amount.

The employment agreements of Mr. Riffee and Mr. Lingafelter provide for the following severance package in the event of (1) termination by us without cause or by the executive based upon constructive termination or (2) a change in control of the Company or the executive's employer:

payment equal to his base annual salary multiplied by three;

payment equal to the average of his three most recent annual incentive awards multiplied by three;

perquisites and benefits for 12 months following termination unless such benefits are available to him through other employment after termination;

full vesting of previously unvested share options and restricted shares subject to time-based vesting with the right to exercise options for up to 18 months following termination;

vesting of performance based awards in accordance with the terms of the applicable award agreements; and

in the case of a change in control, reimbursement for any parachute excise taxes and all Federal and state income or other taxes with respect to payment of the amount of such excise tax, including all such taxes with respect to any such grossing-up amount.

The employment agreement of Mr. Budorick provides for the following severance package in the event of (1) termination by us without cause or by the executive based upon constructive discharge or (2) a change in control of the Company or the executive's employer:

payment equal to his base annual salary multiplied by (1) two for termination without cause or constructive discharge or (2) 2.99 for a change in control;

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payment equal to the average of his three most recent annual incentive awards multiplied by (1) two for a termination without cause or constructive discharge or (2) 2.99 for a change in control;

a pro-rated annual incentive cash bonus for the year of termination;

perquisites and benefits for 12 months following termination unless such benefits are available to him through other employment after termination;

full vesting of previously unvested restricted shares subject to time-based vesting with the right to exercise options for up to 18 months following termination; and

vesting of performance based awards in accordance with the terms of the applicable award agreements.

Under the employment agreements, a termination by us without cause is termination of employment for any reason other than (1) expiration of the term of the employment agreement or any renewal term; (2) termination upon disability; or (3) a "for-cause" termination. A "for-cause" termination is the termination of employment by us on the basis or as a result of (1) a violation by the employee of any applicable law or regulation respecting the Company's business; (2) the employee's conviction of a felony or any crime involving moral turpitude; (3) any act of dishonesty or fraud, or the employee's commission of an act which in the opinion of the Board disqualifies the individual from serving as an NEO or Trustee; (4) the willful or negligent failure of the employee to perform his duties under the employment agreement, which failure continues for a period of 30 days after written notice thereof is given to the individual; or (5) a violation of any provision of the Company's Code of Business Conduct and Ethics by the employee.

Under the employment agreements, constructive termination is termination initiated by the individual upon being "constructively discharged" by us, which means the occurrence of any of the following events (not in connection with a "for-cause" termination): (1) the employee is not re-elected to, or is removed from, his position, other than as a result of the election or appointment to positions of equal or superior scope and responsibility; (2) the employee shall fail to be vested by the Company with the powers, authority and support services normally attendant to any of said offices; (3) the Company notifies the employee that their employment will be terminated or materially modified in the future or that the employee will be constructively discharged in the future; (4) the Company changes the primary employment location of the employee to a place that is more than 50 miles from the primary employment location as of the date of the employment agreement; or (5) the Company otherwise commits a material breach of its obligations under the employment agreement.

Under the employment agreements, a change in control means the occurrence of any of the following during the term of the employment agreement: (1) the consummation of the acquisition by any person, (as such term is defined in Section 13(d) or 14(d) of the Exchange Act of beneficial ownership (within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act) of 50% or more of the combined voting power embodied in the then outstanding voting securities of the Company or the employee's employer; (2) the consummation of: (a) a merger or consolidation of the Company or the employee's employer, if the shareholders of the Company or the employee immediately before such merger or consolidation do not, as a result of such merger or consolidation, own, directly or indirectly, more than 50% of the combined voting power of the then outstanding voting securities of the combined voting power of the voting securities of the Company or the employee's employer. If the shareholders of the voting securities of the Company or the employee's employer or consolidation in substantially the same proportion as was represented by their ownership of the combined voting power of the voting securities of the Company or the employee's employee's employer outstanding immediately before such merger or consolidation; or (b) the sale or other disposition of all or substantially all of the assets of the Company or the employee; or (3) approval by the shareholders of the Company or the employee of a complete or substantial liquidation or dissolution of the Company or the employee.

In the event of death or disability, the employment agreements provide for the full vesting of all options and restricted shares subject to time-based vesting granted to executive officers under any stock plan or similar program. Vesting of performance based awards is in accordance with the terms of the applicable award agreements.

The table below reflects the payments that may be made to the NEOs pursuant to the provisions discussed above, assuming that the termination event described occurred on December 31, 2011.

Name	Cash Severance Payments(1)	Continuation of Medical/ Welfare Benefits(2)	Value of Restricted Share Vestings(3)	Parachute Excise Tax Gross-Up Payment(4)	Total Termination Benefits
Randall M. Griffin			_		
Premature/Constructive					
Termination	\$ 5,849,872	\$ 57,516	\$ 2,767,521	\$	\$ 8,674,909
Change in Control	5,849,872	57,516	2,767,521		8,674,909
Death or Disability			2,767,521		2,767,521
Roger A. Waesche, Jr.					
Premature/Constructive					
Termination	3,310,675	64,283	920,423		4,295,381
Change in Control	3,310,675	64,283	920,423		4,295,381
Death or Disability			920,423		920,423
Stephen E. Riffee					
Premature/Constructive					
Termination	2,711,332	32,142	1,196,676		3,940,150
Change in Control	2,711,332	32,142	1,196,676		3,940,150
Death or Disability			1,196,676		1,196,676
Wayne H. Lingafelter					
Premature/Constructive					
Termination	2,146,542	32,142	399,227		2,577,911
Change in Control	2,146,542	32,142	399,227	811,785	3,389,696
Death or Disability			399,227		399,227
Stephen E. Budorick					
Premature/Constructive					
Termination	1,400,000	9,652	531,500		1,941,152
Change in Control	2,093,000	9,652	531,500		2,634,152
Death or Disability			531,500		531,500

(1)

Cash payments due to the named executive officers upon separation from service within the meaning of Section 409A of the Code would be considered deferred compensation, and as such shall not be payable until the date that is the earlier of: (a) the executive's death; or (b) the later of (i) six months and one day after the executive's separation from service or (ii) March 16, 2012.

(2)

These benefits were computed based on the monthly medical and welfare benefits, auto allowances, and financial planning allowances for the named executive officers as of December 31, 2011 multiplied by the number of months over which such benefits are to continue beyond such executives' employment termination.

(3)

Value on restricted share vestings is calculated by multiplying the number of shares subject to vesting as of December 31, 2011 by \$21.26, the closing price of our common shares on the NYSE on December 31, 2011.

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#### (4)

The gross-up payments do not take into account mitigation for payments in consideration of non-competition agreements or as reasonable compensation. The amounts in the table are based on an excise tax rate of 20%, a Federal income tax rate of 35%, a Medicare tax rate of 1.45% and a state income tax rate of 5.50%. While the employment agreements of Messrs. Griffin, Waesche, Riffee and Lingafelter provide for reimbursement of parachute excise taxes and related tax gross-ups, we determined that only Mr. Lingafelter would have excise taxes due in the periods used in the computation. The employment agreement of Mr. Budorick does not provide for reimbursement of parachute excise taxes and related tax gross-ups. We will not enter into any new, or materially amended, employment agreements that provide for gross-up payments, including any new or amended agreement for Mr. Waesche following his promotion to CEO.

#### **Equity Compensation Plan Information**

The table below provides information as of December 31, 2011 regarding our compensation plans under which equity securities are authorized for issuance to employees or non-employees in exchange for consideration in the form of goods and services.

Plan Category	Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights (a)	Exe C	ghted-average ercise Price of Outstanding Options, arrants and Rights (b)	Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans (Excluding Securities in Column (a)) (c)
Equity compensation plans approved by security holders	945,422	\$	36.63	3,274,213(1)
Equity compensation plans not approved by security holders			N/A	, , , ,
Total	945,422	\$	36.63	3,274,213

(1)

Represents awards available to be issued under the Amended and Restated 2008 Omnibus Equity and Incentive Plan; the Plan provides for a maximum of 5,900,000 of the Registrant's common shares of beneficial interest to be issued in the form of share options, share appreciation rights, deferred share awards, restricted share awards, unrestricted share awards, performance shares, dividend equivalent rights and other equity-based awards and for the granting of cash-based awards.