

BOWATER INC
Form 10-Q
August 05, 2005

UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549
FORM 10-Q

(Mark One)

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

For the quarterly period ended June 30, 2005

OR

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

For the transition period from _____ to
Commission file number 1-8712
BOWATER INCORPORATED

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

62-0721803

(State or other jurisdiction of incorporation or organization)

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

55 East Camperdown Way, P.O. Box 1028, Greenville, SC 29602

(Address of principal executive offices)

(Zip Code)

(864) 271-7733

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

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

Indicate the number of shares outstanding of each of the issuer's classes of common stock, as of August 4, 2005.

| Class | Outstanding at August 4, 2005 |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Common Stock, \$1.00 Par Value | 55,922,574 Shares |

BOWATER INCORPORATED
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BOWATER INCORPORATED
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF OPERATIONS
(Unaudited, in millions of US dollars except per-share amounts)

| | Three Months Ended | | Six Months Ended | |
|--|--------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| | June 30, 2005 | June 30, 2004 | June 30, 2005 | June 30, 2004 |
| Sales | \$ 897.5 | \$ 788.0 | \$ 1,734.5 | \$ 1,533.3 |
| Cost of sales, excluding depreciation, amortization and cost of timber harvested | 642.5 | 577.3 | 1,250.1 | 1,144.8 |
| Depreciation, amortization and cost of timber harvested | 81.6 | 84.9 | 163.4 | 171.1 |
| Distribution costs | 89.4 | 79.4 | 172.3 | 156.4 |
| Selling and administrative expense | 41.1 | 31.8 | 80.0 | 68.8 |
| Asset impairment | 11.9 | | 11.9 | |
| Net gain on sale of assets | 9.8 | 5.1 | 20.8 | 4.2 |
| Operating income (loss) | 40.8 | 19.7 | 77.6 | (3.6) |
| Other expense (income) | | | | |
| Interest income | (1.1) | (1.1) | (2.2) | (2.1) |
| Interest expense, net of capitalized interest | 49.3 | 49.9 | 99.5 | 98.1 |
| Other, net | 1.3 | (3.9) | (2.9) | (5.1) |
| | 49.5 | 44.9 | 94.4 | 90.9 |
| Loss before income taxes and minority interests | (8.7) | (25.2) | (16.8) | (94.5) |
| Income tax benefit | (5.6) | (22.9) | (13.4) | (56.7) |
| Minority interests in net income (loss) of subsidiaries | 0.5 | (1.0) | (0.7) | (4.0) |
| Net loss | (3.6) | (1.3) | (2.7) | (33.8) |
| Other comprehensive loss, net of tax | | | | |
| Foreign currency translation adjustments | (0.6) | (1.8) | (1.2) | (2.6) |
| Minimum pension liability adjustments | 0.2 | 1.8 | 0.5 | 2.0 |
| Net change in derivative instruments | (18.3) | (34.7) | (44.1) | (53.0) |
| Comprehensive loss | \$ (22.3) | \$ (36.0) | \$ (47.5) | \$ (87.4) |
| Basic loss per common share | \$ (0.06) | \$ (0.02) | \$ (0.05) | \$ (0.59) |
| Diluted loss per common share | \$ (0.06) | \$ (0.02) | \$ (0.05) | \$ (0.59) |

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| | | | | |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|
| Dividends declared per common share | \$ 0.20 | \$ 0.20 | \$ 0.40 | \$ 0.40 |
|-------------------------------------|---------|---------|---------|---------|

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

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BOWATER INCORPORATED
CONSOLIDATED BALANCE SHEET
(Unaudited, in millions of US dollars)

| | June 30, 2005 | December 31, 2004 |
|--|------------------|----------------------|
| ASSETS | | |
| Current assets: | | |
| Cash and cash equivalents | \$ 51.0 | \$ 29.7 |
| Accounts receivable, net | 446.4 | 377.0 |
| Inventories | 333.8 | 327.9 |
| Unrealized gain on hedged transactions | 49.3 | 100.2 |
| Other current assets | 57.6 | 67.9 |
| Total current assets | 938.1 | 902.7 |
| Timber and timberlands | 185.8 | 186.2 |
| Fixed assets, net | 3,168.4 | 3,301.1 |
| Goodwill | 828.2 | 828.2 |
| Other assets | 217.6 | 240.7 |
| Total assets | \$5,338.1 | \$ 5,458.9 |
| LIABILITIES AND SHAREHOLDERS EQUITY | | |
| Current liabilities: | | |
| Current installments of long-term debt | \$ 20.7 | \$ 14.0 |
| Short-term bank debt | 105.0 | 73.0 |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | 444.4 | 458.4 |
| Dividends payable | 11.2 | 11.2 |
| Total current liabilities | 581.3 | 556.6 |
| Long-term debt, net of current installments | 2,400.4 | 2,427.9 |
| Pension, other post-retirement benefits and other long-term liabilities | 492.1 | 495.2 |
| Deferred income taxes | 358.0 | 403.4 |
| Minority interests in subsidiaries | 67.5 | 68.5 |
| Shareholders equity: | | |
| Common stock, \$1 par value. Authorized 100,000,000 shares; issued 67,529,294 and 67,438,584 shares at June 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively | 67.5 | 67.4 |
| Exchangeable shares, no par value. Unlimited shares authorized; 1,434,445 and 1,466,358 outstanding at June 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively | 68.1 | 69.7 |
| Additional paid-in capital | 1,621.6 | 1,618.3 |
| Retained earnings | 240.9 | 266.5 |
| Unearned compensation | | (0.1) |
| Accumulated other comprehensive loss | (73.4) | (28.6) |
| | (485.9) | (485.9) |

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Treasury stock, at cost, 11,606,382 and 11,608,385 shares at June 30, 2005 and December 31, 2004, respectively

| | | |
|--|-----------|------------|
| Total shareholders' equity | 1,438.8 | 1,507.3 |
| Total liabilities and shareholders' equity | \$5,338.1 | \$ 5,458.9 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

BOWATER INCORPORATED
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CAPITAL ACCOUNTS
For The Six Months Ended June 30, 2005
(Unaudited, in millions of US dollars except per-share amounts)

| | Common Stock | Exchangeable Shares | Additional Paid-in Capital | Retained Earnings | Unearned Compensation | Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss | Treasury Stock |
|---|-----------------|------------------------|----------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------------|---|-------------------|
| Balance at December 31, 2004 | \$ 67.4 | \$ 69.7 | \$ 1,618.3 | \$ 266.5 | \$ (0.1) | \$ (28.6) | \$(485.9) |
| Retraction of exchangeable shares (31,913 shares issued and exchangeable shares retracted) | | (1.6) | 1.6 | | | | |
| Net loss | | | | (2.7) | | | |
| Dividends (\$0.40 per share) | | | | (22.9) | | | |
| Foreign currency translation | | | | | | (1.2) | |
| Stock options exercised (69,000 shares) | 0.1 | | 1.8 | | | | |
| Tax benefit on exercise of stock options | | | 0.3 | | | | |
| Pension plan additional minimum liability, net of tax provision of \$0.3 | | | | | | 0.5 | |
| Treasury stock used for dividend reinvestment plans and to pay employee and director benefits (2,003 shares) | | | | | | | |
| Amortization of unearned compensation | | | | | 0.1 | | |

Restricted stock
cancellation (10,203
shares)

(0.4)

Unrealized loss on
hedged transactions,
net of tax benefit of
\$27.1

(44.1)

Balance at June 30,
2005

\$ 67.5

\$ 68.1

\$1,621.6

\$ 240.9

\$

\$ (73.4)

\$(485.9)

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

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BOWATER INCORPORATED
CONSOLIDATED STATEMENT OF CASH FLOWS
(Unaudited, in millions of US Dollars)

| | Six Months Ended | |
|--|------------------|------------------|
| | June 30, 2005 | June 30, 2004 |
| Cash flows from operating activities: | | |
| Net loss | \$ (2.7) | \$ (33.8) |
| Adjustments to reconcile net loss to net cash from operating activities: | | |
| Depreciation, amortization and cost of timber harvested | 163.4 | 171.1 |
| Asset impairment charge | 11.9 | |
| Deferred income taxes | (18.8) | (61.8) |
| Amortization of unearned compensation | 0.1 | 0.5 |
| Minority interests in net loss of subsidiaries | (0.7) | (4.0) |
| Net gain on fixed assets and land sales | (20.8) | (4.2) |
| Changes in working capital: | | |
| Accounts receivable, net | (69.4) | (36.1) |
| Inventories | (5.9) | 6.2 |
| Income taxes receivable | 3.1 | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (6.9) | 12.3 |
| Income taxes payable | | (27.2) |
| Other, net | (1.9) | (1.3) |
| Net cash from operating activities | 51.4 | 21.7 |
| Cash flows from investing activities: | | |
| Cash invested in fixed assets, timber and timberlands | (50.1) | (38.9) |
| Disposition of assets, including timber and timberlands | 23.0 | 7.3 |
| Net cash used for investing activities | (27.1) | (31.6) |
| Cash flows from financing activities: | | |
| Cash dividends, including minority interests | (22.9) | (23.2) |
| Short-term financing | 340.0 | 389.8 |
| Short-term financing repayments | (308.0) | (479.2) |
| Long-term financing | | 245.9 |
| Payments of long-term debt | (14.0) | (113.8) |
| Stock options exercised | 1.9 | 5.2 |
| Net cash from (used for) financing activities | (3.0) | 24.7 |
| Net increase in cash and cash equivalents | 21.3 | 14.8 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year | 29.7 | 19.4 |
| Cash and cash equivalents at end of period | \$ 51.0 | \$ 34.2 |

SUPPLEMENTAL DISCLOSURES OF CASH FLOW INFORMATION:

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Cash paid during the period for:

| | | |
|---|---------|---------|
| Interest, including capitalized interest of \$0.2 and \$0 | \$ 94.3 | \$ 98.3 |
| Income taxes | \$ | \$ 30.5 |

See accompanying notes to consolidated financial statements

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BOWATER INCORPORATED
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Unaudited

1. Summary of Significant Accounting Policies

Basis of Presentation

The accompanying consolidated financial statements include the accounts of Bowater Incorporated and subsidiaries (Bowater). The consolidated balance sheet as of June 30, 2005, and the related statements of operations, capital accounts and cash flows for the periods ended June 30, 2005 and 2004 are unaudited. In our opinion, all adjustments (consisting of normal recurring adjustments) necessary for fair presentation of the interim financial statements have been made. The results of the interim period ended June 30, 2005, are not necessarily indicative of the results to be expected for the full year. These financial statements should be read in conjunction with the consolidated financial statements, critical accounting policies, significant accounting policies and the notes to the consolidated financial statements included in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K. Certain prior-year amounts in the financial statements and the notes have been reclassified to conform to the 2005 presentation. The reclassifications had no effect on total shareholders' equity or net loss.

2. Stock Based Compensation

Bowater accounts for stock-based compensation utilizing the intrinsic value method in accordance with Accounting Principles Board (APB) Opinion No. 25, Accounting for Stock Issued to Employees. Under APB No. 25, compensation expense for employee stock options is generally not recognized if the exercise price of the option equals or exceeds the fair value of the underlying stock on the date of grant.

The following table represents the pro forma effect on net loss and loss per share if we had applied the fair value-based method and recognition provisions of SFAS No. 123 Accounting for Stock-Based Compensation. The estimated fair value of the option is amortized to expense over the vesting period of the option award, in accordance with the provisions of SFAS No. 123.

| | Three months ended June 30, | | Six months ended June 30, | |
|---|--|-----------|--------------------------------------|-----------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 |
| <i>(Unaudited, in millions, except per-share amounts)</i> | | | | |
| Net loss as reported: | \$ (3.6) | \$ (1.3) | \$ (2.7) | \$ (33.8) |
| Add: Stock-based compensation expense included in net loss, net of related tax effects | | 0.1 | | 0.3 |
| Deduct: Stock-based compensation expense determined under fair value based methods, net of related tax effects | (1.4) | (1.8) | (2.9) | (3.6) |
| Pro forma net loss | \$ (5.0) | \$ (3.0) | \$ (5.6) | \$ (37.1) |
| Loss per share: | | | | |
| Basic, as reported | \$ (0.06) | \$ (0.02) | \$ (0.05) | \$ (0.59) |
| Basic, pro forma | (0.09) | (0.05) | (0.10) | (0.65) |
| Diluted, as reported | \$ (0.06) | \$ (0.02) | \$ (0.05) | \$ (0.59) |
| Diluted, pro forma | (0.09) | (0.05) | (0.10) | (0.65) |

BOWATER INCORPORATED**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Unaudited**

The fair value of each option granted in the three and six months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004, was estimated on the date of grant using the Black-Scholes option-pricing model with the weighted average assumptions below.

| | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|--|--------------------------------------|-------------|
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| Assumptions: | | |
| Dividend yield | 2.2% | 1.8% |
| Expected volatility | 29.0% | 30.6% |
| Risk-free interest rate | 4.0% | 3.4% |
| Expected option lives in years | 7.2 | 6.8 |
| Weighted average fair value of each option | \$11.16 | \$13.88 |

In January 2005 and 2004, respectively, Bowater granted 740,750 and 862,000 options pursuant to its 2002 stock option plan at an exercise price of \$37 and \$45 per share, respectively. In May 2005, Bowater granted an additional 15,000 options pursuant to its 2002 stock option plan at an exercise price of \$32 per share. The options generally become exercisable over a period of two years and expire 10 years from date of grant.

3. Asset Impairment

During the second quarter of 2005, Bowater management decided to permanently shut the original line at Benton Harbor. This was based on the significant capital spending that would be required for the original line to meet the quality standards of our two newer Nuway lines and because the facility's infrastructure would not support a restart given the recent record production of the new Benton Harbor line. This permanent shut resulted in a one time non-cash asset impairment charge of \$11.9 million. This permanent shut will not have a negative impact on our current operations as the original line had been idled since the third quarter of 2002. For segment reporting purposes, this impairment charge is included in our Coated and Specialty Papers Division.

4. Inventories

| <i>(Unaudited, in millions)</i> | June 30, 2005 | December 31, 2004 |
|--|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| At lower of cost or market: | | |
| Raw materials | \$ 85.4 | \$ 87.9 |
| Work in process | 24.6 | 23.1 |
| Finished goods | 120.3 | 112.7 |
| Mill stores and other supplies | 114.2 | 114.9 |
| | 344.5 | 338.6 |
| Excess of current cost over LIFO inventory value | (10.7) | (10.7) |
| | \$333.8 | \$ 327.9 |

5. Other (Income) Expense

Other, net in the Consolidated Statement of Operations includes the following:

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| <i>(Unaudited, in millions)</i> | Three Months Ended June 30, | | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|---------------------------------|--|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Foreign exchange (gain) loss | \$ 3.3 | \$(1.7) | \$ 1.8 | \$(1.3) |
| Income from joint venture | (1.1) | (1.4) | (1.8) | (1.5) |
| Miscellaneous income | (0.9) | (0.8) | (2.9) | (2.3) |
| | \$ 1.3 | \$(3.9) | \$(2.9) | \$(5.1) |

BOWATER INCORPORATED
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Unaudited

6. Accumulated Other Comprehensive Loss

The components of Accumulated other comprehensive loss in the Consolidated Balance Sheet are as follows:

| <i>(Unaudited, in millions)</i> | June 30, 2005 | December 31, 2004 |
|---|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| Pension plan additional minimum liabilities (1) | \$(112.6) | \$ (113.1) |
| Foreign currency translation (2) | 7.0 | 8.2 |
| Unrealized gain on hedging transactions (3) | 32.2 | 76.3 |
| | \$ (73.4) | \$ (28.6) |

(1) Net of deferred tax benefit of \$65.2 million and \$65.5 million, respectively.

(2) No tax effect is recorded for foreign currency translation since the foreign net assets translated are deemed permanently invested.

(3) Net of deferred tax expense of \$19.6 million and \$46.7 million, respectively.

7. Loss Per Share

Basic and diluted loss per share are based on net loss and do not include any impact from Other comprehensive loss.

| <i>(Unaudited, in millions, except per-share amounts)</i> | Three months ended June 30, | | Six months ended June 30, | |
|---|--|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Basic computation: | | | | |
| Basic loss available to common shareholders | \$ (3.6) | \$ (1.3) | \$ (2.7) | \$(33.8) |

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| | | | | |
|---|-----------------|----------|-----------------|----------|
| Basic weighted average shares outstanding | 57.4 | 57.2 | 57.3 | 57.1 |
| Basic loss per common share | \$(0.06) | \$(0.02) | \$(0.05) | \$(0.59) |
| Diluted computation: | | | | |
| Diluted loss available to common shareholders | \$ (3.6) | \$ (1.3) | \$ (2.7) | \$(33.8) |
| Basic weighted average shares outstanding | 57.4 | 57.2 | 57.3 | 57.1 |
| Effect of dilutive securities: | | | | |
| Options | | | | |
| Diluted weighted average shares outstanding | 57.4 | 57.2 | 57.3 | 57.1 |
| Diluted loss per common share | \$(0.06) | \$(0.02) | \$(0.05) | \$(0.59) |

The dilutive effect of options outstanding is calculated using the treasury stock method. Options for approximately 5.1 million shares outstanding at June 30, 2005, and 4.7 million shares outstanding at June 30, 2004 were excluded in the calculation of diluted earnings per share as the impact would have been antidilutive.

BOWATER INCORPORATED
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Unaudited

8. Pension and Postretirement Expense

The components of net periodic benefit costs relating to Bowater's pension and other postretirement plans are as follows for the three and six-months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004:

Pension Plans:

| <i>(Unaudited, in millions)</i> | Three months ended | | Six months ended | |
|--|---------------------------|---------|-------------------------|---------|
| | June 30, | | June 30, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Components of net periodic benefit cost: | | | | |
| Service cost | \$ 9.3 | \$ 9.6 | \$ 18.5 | \$ 19.1 |
| Interest cost | 28.5 | 27.3 | 57.2 | 54.6 |
| Expected return on plan assets | (28.0) | (27.1) | (56.3) | (54.2) |
| Amortization of prior service cost | 0.4 | 0.5 | 0.9 | 1.0 |
| Recognized net actuarial loss | 4.1 | 3.2 | 8.1 | 6.4 |
| Net periodic benefit cost | \$ 14.3 | \$ 13.5 | \$ 28.4 | \$ 26.9 |

Other Postretirement Plans:

| <i>(Unaudited, in millions)</i> | Three months ended | | Six months ended | |
|--|---------------------------|--------|-------------------------|---------|
| | June 30, | | June 30, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Components of net periodic benefit cost: | | | | |
| Service cost | \$ 1.1 | \$ 1.2 | \$ 2.3 | \$ 2.4 |
| Interest cost | 4.4 | 4.4 | 8.7 | 8.9 |
| Amortization of prior service cost | (1.3) | (1.6) | (2.7) | (3.1) |
| Recognized net actuarial loss | 2.1 | 2.7 | 4.3 | 5.3 |
| Net periodic benefit cost | \$ 6.3 | \$ 6.7 | \$ 12.6 | \$ 13.5 |

9. Commitments and Contingencies

Bowater is involved in various legal proceedings relating to contracts, commercial disputes, taxes, environmental issues, employment and workers' compensation claims and other matters. We periodically review the status of these proceedings with both inside and outside counsel. We believe that the ultimate disposition of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, but it could have a material adverse effect on the results of operations in a given quarter or the year.

There have been no material developments to the legal proceedings described in our annual report on Form 10-K filed on March 16, 2005.

BOWATER INCORPORATED
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Unaudited

10. Financial Instruments

Bowater utilizes certain derivative instruments to enhance its ability to manage risk relating to cash flow exposure. Derivative instruments are entered into for periods consistent with related underlying cash flow exposures and do not constitute positions independent of those positions. We do not enter into contracts for speculative purposes; however, we do, from time to time enter into commodity and certain forward contracts that are not accounted for as accounting hedges. On the date in which the derivative contract is entered, we designate the derivative as a cash flow hedge.

We pay a significant portion of the operating expenses of our Canadian mill sites in Canadian dollars. To reduce our exposure to United States and Canadian dollar exchange rate fluctuations, we enter into and designate Canadian dollar forward contracts to hedge certain of our forecasted Canadian dollar cash outflows at the Canadian mill operations.

The components of the cash flow hedges included in Accumulated other comprehensive loss for the three and six-months ended June 30, 2005 and 2004 are as follows:

| <i>(Unaudited, in millions)</i> | Three months ended | | Six months ended | |
|--|---------------------------|----------|-------------------------|----------|
| | June 30, | | June 30, | |
| | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Gains reclassified to earnings on matured cash flow hedges | \$(22.2) | \$(26.4) | \$(56.8) | \$(58.3) |
| Unrealized gain (loss) for change in value on unmatured cash flow hedges | (7.4) | (29.5) | (14.4) | (27.2) |
| | (29.6) | (55.9) | (71.2) | (85.5) |
| Income tax benefit | 11.3 | 21.2 | 27.1 | 32.5 |
| Net decrease in Accumulated other comprehensive loss | \$(18.3) | \$(34.7) | \$(44.1) | \$(53.0) |

We formally document all relationships between hedging instruments and hedged items, as well as our risk-management objectives and strategies for undertaking various hedge transactions. We link all hedges that are designated as cash flow hedges to forecasted transactions. The maximum time period we have hedged transactions is two years. We also assess, both at the inception of the hedge and on an on-going basis, whether the derivatives that are used in hedging transactions are highly effective in offsetting changes in cash flows of hedged items. When it is determined that a derivative is not highly effective as a hedge, we discontinue hedge accounting prospectively.

Information regarding our Canadian dollar contracts notional amount, carrying value, fair market value, and range of exchange rates of the contracts is summarized in the table below. The notional amount of these contracts represents the amount of foreign currencies to be purchased or sold at maturity and does not represent our exposure on these contracts.

| Notional | Net Asset Fair | Range Of U.S.\$/CDN\$ |
|----------|-------------------|--------------------------|
|----------|-------------------|--------------------------|

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| June 30, 2005 <i>(Unaudited, in millions of U.S. dollars)</i> | Amount of Derivatives | Carrying Amount | Market Value | Exchange Rates |
|---|-----------------------------|--------------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| Foreign Currency Exchange Agreements | | | | |
| Buy Currency: | | | | |
| Canadian dollar | | | | |
| Due in 2005 | \$238.0 | \$31.5 | \$31.5 | .7489-.6942 |
| Due in 2006 | 183.0 | 20.3 | 20.3 | .7609-.7124 |
| | \$421.0 | \$51.8 | \$51.8 | |

BOWATER INCORPORATED

Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Unaudited

In order to reduce our exposure to exchange rate fluctuations on our Canadian dollar denominated long-term debt, we periodically enter into Canadian dollar forward contracts. These economic hedge contracts are marked to market through earnings. The contracts are settled quarterly and gains or losses are included in Other, net in our Consolidated Statement of Operations. The Canadian dollar forward contracts in effect during the first quarter matured on March 30, 2005, and we did not enter into any new Canadian dollar forward contracts. We recognized a gain of \$0.9 million for the six-months ended June 30, 2005, as a result of these contracts.

The counterparties to our derivative financial instruments are substantial and creditworthy multi-national financial institutions and no one financial institution has more than 23% of our derivative financial instruments. Therefore, the risk of counterparty nonperformance is considered to be remote.

11. Off-Balance Sheet Debt Guarantees

Bowater has off-balance sheet debt guarantees of approximately \$33.7 million at June 30, 2005, with \$24.8 million related to Ponderay Newsprint Company and \$8.9 million related to Timber Note Holdings LLC, one of our QSPEs.

Bowater has a 40% interest in Ponderay Newsprint Company, an unconsolidated partnership. Ponderay has a credit facility which is comprised of a term loan and a revolving credit facility. The term loan balance at June 30, 2005 was \$62.0 million and is guaranteed by the partners of Ponderay. Bowater guarantees 40% or \$24.8 million of this term loan. The revolving credit facility has commitments from the lender for \$25 million. This revolving credit facility is not guaranteed by the partners. At June 30, 2005, there is a \$10 million letter of credit reducing this commitment. There are no other drawings on this facility. Ponderay's outstanding balance on the term loan is reduced annually by its excess cash flows as defined in the credit facility and, although the final balance is due at maturity on April 12, 2006, we believe that Ponderay intends to renew this facility. The term loan cannot be increased once paid down, therefore, Bowater's guarantee is reduced as the outstanding balance is reduced. Bowater would be required to perform on the guarantee if Ponderay were to default on its credit facility and Ponderay's assets, which collateralize the debt, were insufficient to pay off the credit facility. Ponderay was in compliance with all its debt covenants as of June 30, 2005. Ponderay's total assets and liabilities at June 30, 2005, were approximately \$158 million and \$80 million (which includes the above mentioned debt), respectively.

In connection with Bowater's 1999 land sale and note monetization, we guarantee 25% of the outstanding investor notes principal balance of Timber Note Holdings LLC, one of our QSPEs. Bowater currently guarantees approximately \$8.9 million of the investor notes principal balance. This guarantee is proportionately reduced by annual principal repayments on the investor notes (annual minimum repayments of \$2.0 million) through 2008. The remaining investor notes principal amount is to be repaid in 2009. Timber Note Holdings LLC has assets of approximately \$39 million and obligations of approximately \$36 million, which include the investor notes. Bowater would be required to perform on the guarantee if the QSPE were to default on the investor notes or if there were a default on the notes receivable.

12. Segment Information

Below is a description of the types of products and services from which each reportable segment derives its revenues:

Effective January 1, 2005, Bowater is organized into four divisions: the Newsprint Division, the Coated and Specialty Papers Division, the Canadian Forest Products Division, and the Pulp Division. The fifth division that

existed in 2004, the Forest Products Division, was merged into the Newsprint and Canadian Forest Products Divisions and the Thunder Bay mill was moved from the Newsprint Division to the Coated and Specialty Papers Division. Except for the Pulp Division, each division is responsible for the sales and marketing of distinct product lines and the operation of certain manufacturing sites. The Pulp Division is primarily a marketing and distribution division whose administrative expenses are included in Corporate & Other Eliminations. Therefore, the other three divisions are our reportable segments. Prior year results have been restated to facilitate comparisons to the 2005 presentation.

BOWATER INCORPORATED
Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Unaudited

newsprint division

The Newsprint Division operates six manufacturing sites (including Ponderay Newsprint Company, an unconsolidated partnership) in the United States, Canada and South Korea. The principal product at these manufacturing sites is newsprint, but several of the sites also produce market pulp and uncoated specialty papers. This division has primary responsibility for the domestic and international marketing and sales of newsprint. The division also manages 1.0 million acres of owned or leased timberland in the United States and the Canadian province of Nova Scotia on which we have cutting rights. Effective January 1, 2005 the Thunder Bay mill became part of the Coated and Specialty Papers Division.

coated and specialty papers division

The Coated and Specialty Papers Division operates a manufacturing site that produces coated and uncoated specialty papers and market pulp and two Nuway coating facilities, all three located in the United States. This division also operates a manufacturing site in Canada which produces newsprint, specialty papers and market pulp. Effective January 1, 2005, the Thunder Bay mill became part of the Coated and Specialty Papers Division. This division has primary responsibility for the marketing and sales of the full spectrum of coated and uncoated specialty papers manufactured by Bowater. The division also manages 8.4 million acres of Crown-owned land in the Canadian province of Ontario on which we have cutting rights.

canadian forest products division

The Canadian Forest Products Division operates four paper manufacturing sites in Canada. The division manages 0.4 million acres of owned or leased timberland and approximately 21.2 million acres of Crown-owned land in the Canadian provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick on which we have cutting rights. The division also operates twelve sawmills, supplies wood to four paper mills and seven sawmills, and is responsible for the marketing and sales of its timber and lumber production. Effective January 1, 2005, the sawmill operations of the Forest Products Division were merged into the Canadian Forest Products Division.

pulp division

The Pulp Division markets and distributes market pulp produced by other divisions. Financial results for the production and sale of market pulp are included in the Newsprint Division or the Coated and Specialty Papers Division, depending upon which site manufactures the product. The Pulp Division's selling and administrative expenses are included in Corporate and Other Eliminations. Accordingly, no separate results are reported for this division.

Factors management used to identify our segments:

Bowater's reportable segments are business units responsible for the marketing and sales of different products. They are managed separately because of the different products they are responsible for manufacturing and distributing.

The line entitled Segment income (loss) in the following tables is equal to Operating income (loss) as presented in our Consolidated Statement of Operations. In addition, none of the income or loss items following Operating income (loss) in our Consolidated Statement of Operations are allocated to our segments, since they are reviewed separately by Bowater's management.

BOWATER INCORPORATED**Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements Unaudited**

The following tables summarize information about segment profit and loss for the three and six-month periods ended June 30, 2005 and 2004 and segment assets as of June 30, 2005 and 2004:

| Three Months Ended | Coated and Specialty | Canadian Forest | Net Gain on Fixed Assets and Land Sales | Corporate/ | | Total |
|---|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|-----------------------|----------|----------|
| | | | | Other Eliminations | | |
| June 30, 2005 <i>(Unaudited, in millions)</i> | Newsprint Division | Papers Division | Products Division | | | |
| Sales- external customers | \$ 328.2 | \$ 289.5 | \$ 282.3 | \$ | \$ (2.5) | \$ 897.5 |
| Segment income (loss) | 19.0 | 8.0 | 4.9 | 9.8 | (0.9) | 40.8 |
| Total assets at 6/30/05 | 2,055.6 | 1,389.3 | 1,388.8 | | 504.4 | 5,338.1 |
| Three Months Ended | Coated and Specialty | Canadian Forest | Net Gain on Fixed Assets and Land Sales | Corporate/ | | Total |
| | | | | Other Eliminations | | |
| June 30, 2004 <i>(Unaudited, in millions)</i> | Newsprint Division | Papers Division | Products Division | | | |
| Sales- external customers | \$ 289.4 | \$ 259.9 | \$ 241.5 | \$ | \$ (2.8) | \$ 788.0 |
| Segment income (loss) | 1.9 | (1.6) | 3.6 | 5.1 | 10.7 | 19.7 |
| Total assets at 6/30/04 | 2,098.0 | 1,462.6 | 1,393.6 | | 498.5 | 5,452.7 |
| Six Months Ended | Coated and Specialty Papers | Canadian Forest Products | Net Gain on Fixed Assets and Land | Corporate/ | | Total |
| June 30, 2005 | | | | Newsprint | Other | |

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| <i>(Unaudited, in millions)</i> | Division | Division | Division | Sales | Eliminations | Total |
|---------------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-------------|-----------------|------------------|
| Sales- external customers | \$637.5 | \$565.0 | \$539.7 | \$ | \$ (7.7) | \$1,734.5 |
| Segment income | 29.5 | 9.6 | 6.7 | 20.8 | 11.0 | 77.6 |

| Six Months Ended | | Coated and Specialty | Canadian Forest Products Division | Net Gain on Fixed Assets and Land Sales | Corporate/ Other Eliminations | Total |
|--|-----------------------|----------------------------|--|--|-------------------------------------|-----------|
| June 30, 2004 <i>(Unaudited, in millions)</i> | Newsprint Division | Papers Division | | | | |
| Sales- external customers | \$573.1 | \$507.2 | \$459.1 | \$ | \$ (6.1) | \$1,533.3 |
| Segment income (loss) | (2.2) | (13.0) | (18.5) | 4.2 | 25.9 | (3.6) |

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Organization

Effective January 1, 2005, Bowater is organized into four divisions: the Newsprint Division, the Coated and Specialty Papers Division, the Canadian Forest Products Division, and the Pulp Division. The fifth division that existed in 2004, the Forest Products Division, was merged into the Newsprint and Canadian Forest Products Divisions and the Thunder Bay mill was moved from the Newsprint Division to the Coated and Specialty Papers Division. Except for the Pulp Division, each division is responsible for the sales and marketing of distinct product lines and the operation of certain manufacturing sites. The Pulp Division is primarily a marketing and distribution division whose administrative expenses are included in Corporate & Other Eliminations. Therefore, the other three divisions are our reportable segments. Prior year results have been restated to facilitate comparisons to the 2005 presentation. For further information regarding our segments, see Note 12 (Segment Information) of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements included in this quarterly report.

Cautionary Statements Regarding Forward-Looking Information and Use of Third Party Data

Statements that are not reported financial results or other historical information are forward-looking statements within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. Forward-looking statements include, for example, statements about our business outlook, assessment of market conditions, strategies, future plans, future sales, prices for our major products, inventory levels, capital spending and tax and exchange rates. These forward-looking statements are not guarantees of future performance. These statements are based on management's expectations that involve a number of business risks and uncertainties, any of which could cause actual results to differ materially from those expressed in or implied by the forward-looking statements. In addition to specific factors described in connection with any particular forward-looking statement, factors that could cause actual results to differ materially include, but are not limited to, those described under the caption Cautionary Statements Regarding Forward-Looking Information and Use of Third Party Data in Bowater's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004, and from time to time, in Bowater's other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, other risks could adversely affect us, as it is not possible for us to predict or assess all risks. We disclaim any obligation to publicly update or revise any forward-looking statements even if our situation changes in the future. Information about industry or general economic conditions contained in this report are derived from third party sources (e.g. trade publications) that Bowater believes are widely accepted and accurate; however, Bowater has not independently verified this information and cannot provide assurances of its accuracy.

Accounting Policies and Estimates

The following discussion and analysis provides information that we believe is useful in understanding our operating results, cash flows and financial condition on our unaudited Consolidated Financial Statements included in this quarterly report. Our significant accounting policies are described in Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Bowater's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004. Bowater's critical accounting policies and estimates are described under the caption Critical Accounting Policies and Estimates in Item 7 of Bowater's annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2004.

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with generally accepted accounting principles requires us to make estimates, assumptions and judgments and rely on projections of future results of operations and cash flows. We base our estimates and assumptions on historical data and other assumptions that we believe are reasonable under the circumstances. These estimates and assumptions affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities and the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities in our financial statements. In addition, they affect the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period.

Our judgments are based on our assessment as to the effect certain estimates, assumptions of future trends or events may have on the financial condition and results of operations reported in our Consolidated Financial Statements. It

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

is important that the reader of our financial statements understand that actual results could differ materially from these estimates, assumptions, projections and judgments.

Overview of Financial Performance

Our net loss for the second quarter of 2005 was \$3.6 million, as compared to a net loss of \$1.3 million for the same period in 2004. Our cash flow from operating activities was slightly lower than our capital spending and dividends, however, we sold \$11 million of land, resulting in debt, net of cash, reducing by \$9 million. Our total debt to capitalization ratio, calculated in accordance with our credit facilities, increased slightly to 60.3%.

During the second quarter of 2005, prices rose for all of our products and shipments also increased in newsprint, lumber and coated and specialty papers. Our sales in the second quarter of 2005 were \$109.5 million or 14% higher than the second quarter of 2004. However, our costs were also higher primarily due to the stronger Canadian dollar and higher energy and wood costs. Our unit manufacturing costs were up 7% in newsprint, 8% in market pulp, 4% in coated and specialty papers and 1% in lumber. Consolidated Results of Operations on page 17 provides specifics regarding manufacturing cost changes during the first quarter of 2005.

We improved our product mix significantly during the second quarter of 2005. Shipments of higher-margin coated and specialty papers increased by 6% as compared to the same period of 2004.

Newsprint demand in North America declined 6% in the second quarter of 2005 compared to the same period last year as a result of conservation measures taken by publishers, reduced North American newspaper circulation and substitution by other uncoated mechanical grades. Coated mechanical demand in North America declined 3% compared to the same period of 2004, partially due to reduced supply because of significant work stoppages at several competitors. Uncoated mechanical demand increased by 4% and supercalendered high gloss specialty paper demand increased by 10%. Global market pulp demand was flat.

In the second quarter of 2005, we spent approximately \$25 million on capital projects. We expect to spend approximately \$170 million in 2005, compared to projected depreciation expense of \$330 million. We believe that this level of spending is adequate to effectively maintain our manufacturing facilities and support the conversion project at our Calhoun mill, as noted below. This level of capital expenditures excludes capital requirements for the conversion opportunity at our Thunder Bay mill, as noted below. We intend to direct any excess cash flows to reduce debt.

Outlook

Markets and prices for our products have improved over the last several years. However, we believe that North American newsprint demand could decline over the next few years. Our newsprint capacity will also decline as we continue to shift production to coated and specialty grades. Specifically, our Board of Directors recently approved an \$80 million investment to convert approximately 200,000 metric tons of annual newsprint production at our Calhoun mill to higher-margin specialty grades. The project is expected to be completed by mid-2006. The specialty grades to be produced will focus on the growing direct mail and related advertising markets. After the project is completed, we anticipate that the Calhoun site, which once produced 730,000 tons of newsprint annually, will produce 465,000 tons of specialty grades and 300,000 tons of newsprint annually.

In addition to the conversion at Calhoun, we have an opportunity to convert newsprint production to high margin light-weight coated grades at our Thunder Bay mill. Any implementation of this initiative would take into account our financial flexibility and debt reduction goals as well as the long term competitive outlook of the site. Later this year, we expect to be in a position to announce whether or not we will proceed with this project.

We believe our operations are positioned to deliver quality products and that capital reinvestment in the business can be held to acceptable levels. We expect to generate positive cash flows in the remainder of 2005, reducing debt and enhancing our financial flexibility. However, if pricing or demand fall significantly below our projections, our ability to generate sufficient cash flows may be adversely impacted and we may be required to seek additional

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

external sources of capital. We believe access to our credit facilities and the capital markets will be sufficient to provide for our requirements.

Consolidated Results of Operations

| <i>(In millions)</i> | Three Months Ended June 30, | | | Six Months Ended June 30, | | |
|--|------------------------------------|---------|---------|----------------------------------|-----------|----------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | Change | 2005 | 2004 | Change |
| Sales | \$897.5 | \$788.0 | \$109.5 | \$1,734.5 | \$1,533.3 | \$201.2 |
| Operating income (loss) | 40.8 | 19.7 | 21.1 | 77.6 | (3.6) | 81.2 |
| Significant items that increased (decreased) operating income: | | | | | | |
| Product pricing | | | \$ 85.0 | | | \$ 189.3 |
| Distribution costs | | | (5.4) | | | (11.7) |
| Manufacturing costs | | | (42.0) | | | (89.9) |
| Asset impairment charge | | | (11.9) | | | (11.9) |
| Selling and administrative expenses | | | (9.3) | | | (11.2) |
| Net gain on fixed assets and land sales | | | 4.7 | | | \$ 16.6 |
| | | | \$ 21.1 | | | \$ 81.2 |

Three months ended June 30, 2005 versus June 30, 2004

Sales increased in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 due primarily to higher transaction prices for all products and increased shipments of coated and specialty papers, newsprint and lumber as further noted in the Product Line Information section.

Operating income increased in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004. The above table analyzes the major items that increased operating income. A brief explanation of these major items follows:

Product pricing for all of our major product groups was higher in the first quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004. Please refer to the discussion of Product Line Information for a more detailed analysis of product pricing and shipments.

Distribution costs were higher in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 as a result of increased shipments to export markets and increased fuel costs.

Manufacturing costs were higher in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 resulting primarily from higher recycled fiber (\$1.0 million) and wood costs (\$2.8 million), increased chemical costs (\$3.1 million), higher energy costs (\$6.3 million) and a stronger Canadian dollar (\$36.2 million). These cost increases were partially offset by improved volumes (\$8.6 million) and lower depreciation expense (\$2.1 million).

Asset impairment charge associated with the permanent shut of line No. 1 at our Benton Harbor facility was recognized during the second quarter of 2005. See Note 3 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a detailed discussion of the asset impairment charge.

Selling and administrative expenses were higher in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 due primarily to lower capital tax refunds (\$4.3 million), higher employee-related expenses (\$1.7 million) and higher professional fees and other expenses (\$3.3 million).

Net gain on fixed assets and land sales relates primarily to land sales and the disposition of fixed assets. The increase is due to higher land sales in the second quarter of 2005 compared to the second quarter of 2004.

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Six months ended June 30, 2005 versus June 30, 2004

Sales increased in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004 due primarily to higher transaction prices for all products and increased shipments of coated and specialty papers and lumber as further noted in the Product Line Information section.

Operating income increased in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004. The above table analyzes the major items that increased operating income. A brief explanation of these major items follows:

Product pricing for all of our major product groups was higher in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004. Please refer to the discussion of Product Line Information for a more detailed analysis of product pricing and shipments.

Distribution costs were higher in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004 as a result of increased shipments to export markets and increased fuel costs.

Manufacturing costs were higher in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004 resulting primarily from higher recycled fiber (\$3.3 million) and wood costs (\$10.6 million), increased chemical costs (\$7.8 million), higher energy costs (\$9.0 million), higher labor and repair materials costs (\$7.5 million) and a stronger Canadian dollar (\$60.1 million). These cost increases were partially offset by improved volumes (\$13.1 million) and lower depreciation expense (\$8.3 million).

Asset impairment charge associated with the permanent shut of line No. 1 at our Benton Harbor facility was recognized during the second quarter of 2005.

Selling and administrative expenses were higher in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004 due to lower capital tax refunds (\$4.3 million), higher employee-related expenses (\$3.3 million), and higher professional fees and other expenses (\$3.6 million).

Net gain on fixed assets and land sales relates primarily to land sales and the disposition of fixed assets. The increase is due to higher land sales in the first six months of 2005 compared to the first six months of 2004.

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations****Division/Segments and Product Line Information**

Bowater is organized by division. Bowater also provides product line disclosures for informational purposes to our analysts and investors. The divisions have operational responsibility over their group of operating assets. The divisions also have sales responsibilities that overlap several of the Company's operating divisions/segments. The matrix below depicts the various products that are manufactured by each of the Company's operating divisions/segments and corresponding sales dollars for the six months ended June 30, 2005 and depicts the division that is responsible for the sale of the product line for the entire company.

| <i>(In millions)</i> | | Coated & Specialty Papers Division | Canadian Forest Products Division | Pulp Division | Corporate and Other Eliminations | Total |
|----------------------|-----------------------|---|--|------------------|--|------------------|
| Product Line | Newsprint Division | | | | | |
| Newsprint | \$ 431.9* | \$ 79.8 | \$ 195.2 | \$ | \$ 0.3 | \$ 707.2 |
| Coated & Specialties | 88.4 | 308.8* | 134.5 | | (0.2) | 531.5 |
| Pulp | 107.7 | 176.2 | | * | (3.1) | 280.8 |
| Lumber | | | 202.1* | | | 202.1 |
| Other | 9.5 | 0.2 | 7.9 | | (4.7) | 12.9 |
| | \$ 637.5 | \$ 565.0 | \$ 539.7 | \$ | \$ (7.7) | \$1,734.5 |

* Indicates division responsible for the sale of product line for the entire company

Product Line Information

Presented below is a discussion of each significant product line followed by a discussion of the results of each of the reported divisions.

In general, our products are globally-traded commodities. Pricing and the level of shipments of these products will continue to be influenced by the balance between supply and demand as affected by global economic conditions, changes in consumption and capacity, the level of customer and producer inventories and fluctuations in exchange rates.

Newsprint Product Line

| | Three months ended June 30, | | Six months ended June 30, | |
|---|--------------------------------|---------|------------------------------|----------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Sales (in millions) | \$367.3 | \$323.8 | \$ 707.2 | \$ 650.3 |
| Average prices (per metric ton) | \$ 578 | \$ 524 | \$ 568 | \$ 514 |
| Shipments (thousands of metric tons) | 635.8 | 618.0 | 1,244.8 | 1,266.3 |
| Downtime (thousands of metric tons) | 41.7 | 53.4 | 83.1 | 92.1 |
| Inventory at end of period (thousands of metric tons) | 87.5 | 82.0 | 87.5 | 82.0 |

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations****Three months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004**

Our average newsprint transaction price for all markets was 10.3% higher in the second quarter of 2005 compared to the second quarter of 2004. The increase reflects the realization of price increases in the North American and International markets. Newsprint shipments were slightly higher in the second quarter of 2005. We plan to take approximately 59,000 metric tons of market downtime in the third quarter of 2005. Of this 59,000 metric tons, downtime of approximately 39,000 metric tons per quarter is attributable to an idled newsprint machine at our Thunder Bay mill (since late June 2003). We expect this market downtime to continue until market conditions improve. We will continue to match production to orders. The remaining 20,000 metric tons of downtime during the third quarter of 2005 relates to temporary curtailments on our No. 4 and No. 5 paper machines at our Thunder Bay mill during July.

Newsprint Third Party Data: In the three months ended June 30, 2005, total U.S. demand and consumption of newsprint decreased 6.1% and 3.8%, respectively as compared to the same period last year. North American net exports of newsprint increased 18.6% from 2004 levels. Total inventories (North American mills and users) at June 30, 2005 were 1.3 million metric tons, approximately 124,000 metric tons, or 8.9%, lower than June 30, 2004. At June 30, 2005 the days of supply at the U.S. daily newspapers was 43 days, down from 44 days at June 30, 2004. Excluding idled capacity, the North American operating rate was 95% for the three months ended June 30, 2005. Newspaper advertising linage declined 1.6% in the three months ended June 30, 2005 as compared to the same period last year.

Six months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Our average newsprint transaction price for all markets was 10.5% higher in the first six months of 2005 compared to the first six months of 2004. The increase reflects the realization of price increases in the North American and International markets. Our newsprint shipments decreased by 1.7% in the first six months of 2005 primarily due to increases in specialty production on our newsprint machines.

Newsprint Third Party Data: In the first six months of 2005, total U.S. demand and consumption of newsprint decreased 6.7% and 4.4%, respectively as compared to the same period last year. North American net exports of newsprint increased 9.0% from 2004 levels. Newspaper advertising linage declined 1.3% in the first six months of 2005 compared to the same period last year.

Coated and Specialty Papers Product Line

| | Three months ended June 30, | | Six months ended June 30, | |
|--|--|----------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Sales (in millions) | \$ 280.0 | \$ 224.3 | \$ 531.5 | \$ 420.2 |
| Average prices (per short ton) | \$ 700 | \$ 594 | \$ 688 | \$ 588 |
| Shipments (thousands of short tons) | 399.8 | 377.3 | 772.6 | 715.1 |
| Downtime (thousands of short tons) | 25.9 | 23.3 | 48.5 | 54.9 |
| Inventory at end of period (thousands of short tons) | 47.7 | 55.8 | 47.7 | 55.8 |

Three months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Our average transaction price for coated paper was 21.9% higher in the second quarter of 2005 compared to the second quarter of 2004 due to the realization of price increases in 2004 and 2005, as well as the addition of ultra-light weight coated grades to our mix. Our coated mechanical papers shipments increased 7.1% in the second

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 due to improved production efficiencies and strong market fundamentals which were influenced by industry lockouts and strikes. Our average transaction price for specialty papers was 12.9% higher in the second quarter of 2005 compared to the second quarter of 2004 due to the realization of price increases in 2004 and 2005. Our shipments of specialty papers increased 4.9% in the second quarter of 2005 compared to the second quarter of 2004 due in part to customers downgrading from traditional freesheet grades produced by our competitors to our new, high-bright uncoated papers and other customers upgrading from newsprint to specialties. Market downtime in the second quarter of 2005 was taken at our Nuway facilities as we ran these sites on a three-day-per-week schedule.

Coated and Specialty Papers Third Party Data: U.S. magazine advertising pages increased 1.9% in the three months ended June 30, 2005 compared to the three months ended June 30, 2004. North American demand for coated mechanical papers was down 3.4% in the three months ended June 30, 2005 compared to the same period in 2004. North American demand for supercalendered high gloss papers and other uncoated mechanical papers was up 9.5% and up 3.6%, respectively, in the three months ended June 30, 2005 compared to the same period in 2004.

Six months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Our average transaction price for coated paper was 20.0% higher in the first six months of 2005 compared to the first six months of 2004 due to the realization of price increases in 2004 and 2005, as well as the addition of ultra-light weight coated grades to our mix. Our coated mechanical papers shipments increased 7.5% in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004. Our average transaction price for specialty papers was 13.5% higher in the first six months of 2005 compared to the first six months of 2004 due to the realization of price increases in 2004 and 2005. Our shipments of specialty papers increased 8.6% in the first six months of 2005 compared to the first six months of 2004 due in part to customers downgrading from traditional freesheet grades produced by our competitors to our new high-bright uncoated papers and other customers upgrading from newsprint to specialties. Market downtime in the first six months of 2005 was taken at our Nuway facilities.

Coated and Specialty Papers Third Party Data: U.S. magazine advertising pages increased 1.8% in the first six months of 2005 compared to the first six months of 2004. North American demand for coated mechanical papers was down 1% in the first six months of 2005 compared to the first six months of 2004. North American demand for supercalendered high gloss papers and other uncoated mechanical papers was up 10.6% and up 7.3%, respectively, in the first six months of 2005 compared to the first six months of 2004.

Market Pulp Product Line

| | Three months ended June 30, | | Six months ended June 30, | |
|---|--|---------|--------------------------------------|---------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Sales (in millions) | \$140.5 | \$139.0 | \$280.8 | \$276.2 |
| Average prices (per metric ton) | \$ 546 | \$ 534 | \$ 544 | \$ 509 |
| Shipments (thousands of metric tons) | 257.5 | 260.2 | 515.9 | 542.7 |
| Downtime (thousands of metric tons) | 13.2 | 18.6 | 23.5 | 23.6 |
| Inventory at end of period (thousands of metric tons) | 66.9 | 46.7 | 66.9 | 46.7 |

Three months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Our average transaction price for market pulp was 2.2% higher in the second quarter of 2005 compared to the second quarter of 2004. Shipments were lower during the second quarter of 2005 as a result of increased internal consumption

at several of our paper mills. Our market pulp inventories ended the second quarter of 2005 at 20 days supply. Generally, our inventories are below the industry average because our mills are geographically closer to the markets they serve. In the fourth quarter of 2005, our Coosa Pines facility will be down for scheduled maintenance,

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removing approximately 20,000 metric tons of production. We will increase our market pulp inventory prior to the shut.

Market Pulp Third Party Data: World demand for market pulp was flat in the three months ended June 30, 2005 compared to the same period last year. World shipments were flat in the three months ended June 30, 2005 compared to the same period in 2004. World producers shipped at 91% of capacity during the three months ended June 30, 2005 compared to 94% during the same period in 2004.

Six months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Our average transaction price for market pulp was 6.9% higher in the first six months of 2005 compared to the first six months of 2004. The increase reflects the realization of price increases brought about by improved world supply and demand during 2004 and the first quarter of 2005 offset by a slowing demand in the second quarter of 2005.

Temporary and permanent supply reductions coupled with improved demand from paper makers combined to help improve market conditions in the first six months of 2005 compared to the first six months of 2004 despite the slowing market demand in the second quarter of 2005. Shipments were lower during the first six months of 2005 as a result of maintenance downtime and increased fiber consumption by several of our paper mills. Our Catawba, SC facility was down in the first quarter of 2005 for a scheduled maintenance, removing approximately 5,000 metric tons from production. In the second quarter of 2005 we took approximately 13,000 metric tons of scheduled maintenance downtime at our Thunder Bay and Calhoun facilities.

Market Pulp Third Party Data: World demand for market pulp was flat in the first six months of 2005 compared to the same period last year. World shipments were flat in the first six months of 2005 compared to the same period in 2004. World producers shipped at 92% of capacity during the first six months of 2005 compared to 95% for the same period in 2004. World producer inventories have increased to 33 days supply as of June 30, 2005, which is 1 day less than the corresponding period in 2004.

Lumber Product Line

| | Three months ended June 30, | | Six months ended June 30, | |
|---|--|---------|--------------------------------------|----------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | 2005 | 2004 |
| Sales (in millions) | \$ 105.9 | \$ 96.5 | \$ 202.1 | \$ 173.5 |
| Average prices (per metric ton) | \$ 372 | \$ 365 | \$ 372 | \$ 341 |
| Shipments (thousands of metric tons) | 285.1 | 264.3 | 543.5 | 509.2 |
| Downtime (thousands of metric tons) | 69.6 | 82.9 | 117.9 | 150.0 |
| Inventory at end of period (thousands of metric tons) | 53.2 | 60.7 | 53.2 | 60.7 |

Three months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Lumber prices increased in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 as a result of market volatility and continued high demand which was fueled by record housing starts. Our lumber shipments increased 7.9% in the second quarter of 2005 due primarily to the increased output at our Thunder Bay sawmill which had been closed during the second quarter of 2004 due to wood supply shortages.

The Province of Québec has mandated that annual harvests of softwood timber on Crown-owned land will be reduced 20% below 2004 levels. The 20% reduction will be achieved, on average, for the three year period beginning April 1, 2005 and ending March 31, 2008. We do not expect that these requirements will have any material impact on our results of operations or financial condition in 2005. We are assessing the impact of these reductions for future years.

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Third party data: The U.S. housing starts increased 9.7% in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the same period last year.

Six months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Lumber prices increased in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004 as a result of market volatility and continued high demand which was fueled by record housing starts. Our lumber shipments increased 6.7% in the first six months of 2005 due primarily to the increased output at our Maniwaki sawmill following completion of the modernization project in December 2003 and increased output at our Thunder Bay sawmill which experienced downtime in 2004 due to wood supply shortages.

Lumber duties imposed by the U.S. Department of Commerce (DOC) became effective for lumber shipments beginning May 22, 2002. The DOC imposed antidumping duties (ADD) of 8.43% on all of Bowater's Canadian softwood lumber imports and countervailing duties (CVD) of 18.79% on softwood lumber imported from all provinces except New Brunswick and Nova Scotia. Since May 22, 2002 Bowater has been posting cash deposits to cover the duties. On December 20, 2004 the CVD rate was adjusted to 17.18% and the ADD rate was adjusted to 4.03% for the period of May 22, 2002 to April 30, 2003 pursuant to a review by the DOC. The CVD rate was amended to 16.37% on February 24, 2005 and the ADD rate was amended to 3.78% on January 24, 2005. Bowater began to accrue on these new published rates and will continue to accrue and pay duties based on rates established by the DOC until new rates are published. Lumber duties are included as a component of distribution costs on our consolidated statement of operations.

The Canadian government has appealed the duties to the World Trade Organization (WTO) and under the terms of the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) and requested that the duties be refunded. The final amount of CVD and ADD that may be assessed on Canadian softwood lumber imports into the U.S. will depend upon negotiations among the governments involved in the dispute or upon determinations made by the NAFTA, WTO or other adjudicatory panels to which the duties may be appealed. Until the dispute about the duties is resolved, we will continue to pay the duties as required by the DOC. To date, we have paid CV and AD duties of approximately \$86.2 million. Should these duty rates be eliminated or decreased, a portion or all of the \$86.2 million could be reversed into operating income in future periods.

Third party data: The U.S. housing starts increased 5.1% in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the same period last year.

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations****Divisional Performance****Newsprint Division**

| <i>(In millions)</i> | Three Months Ended June 30, | | | Six Months Ended June 30, | | |
|--|------------------------------------|----------|---------|----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | Change | 2005 | 2004 | Change |
| Sales | \$ 328.2 | \$ 289.4 | \$ 38.8 | \$ 637.5 | \$ 573.1 | \$ 64.4 |
| Segment income (loss) | 19.0 | 1.9 | 17.1 | 29.5 | (2.2) | 31.7 |
| Significant items that increased (decreased) segment income: | | | | | | |
| Product pricing | | | \$ 28.2 | | | \$ 59.1 |
| Distribution costs | | | (3.5) | | | (5.8) |
| Manufacturing costs | | | (8.3) | | | (22.3) |
| Selling and administrative expenses | | | 0.7 | | | 0.7 |
| | | | \$ 17.1 | | | \$ 31.7 |

Three months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Sales increased in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 primarily as a result of higher product pricing for newsprint (\$20.1 million), market pulp (\$2.7 million) and specialty papers (\$4.6 million), and higher shipments of newsprint (\$2.0 million), specialty papers (\$7.3 million), and market pulp (\$2.7 million). See the previous discussion of product line results.

Segment income increased in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 primarily as a result of higher product pricing and shipments noted above. These product pricing improvements were partially offset by higher manufacturing costs. Manufacturing costs were higher as a result of higher prices for energy, labor, and chemicals (\$3.6 million) and a stronger Canadian dollar (\$7.1 million), partially offset by lower wood costs (\$0.7 million), and improved volumes (\$3.4 million).

Six months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Sales increased in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004 primarily as a result of higher product pricing for newsprint (\$41.5 million), market pulp (\$8.3 million) and specialty papers (\$7.5 million), and higher shipments of specialty papers (\$17.4 million) and market pulp (\$3.9 million). These product price and shipment increases were offset by lower shipments of newsprint (\$13.6 million). See the previous discussion of product line results.

Segment income increased in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004 primarily as a result of higher product pricing and shipments noted above. These product pricing improvements were partially offset by higher manufacturing costs. Manufacturing costs were higher as a result of higher prices for recycled fiber, energy, labor, and chemicals (\$11.2 million) and a stronger Canadian dollar (\$13.1 million), partially offset by improved wood costs (\$1.1 million) and improved volumes (\$2.4 million).

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations****Coated and Specialty Papers Division**

| <i>(In millions)</i> | Three Months Ended June 30, | | | Six Months Ended June 30, | | |
|--|------------------------------------|----------|---------|----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | Change | 2005 | 2004 | Change |
| Sales | \$ 289.5 | \$ 259.9 | \$ 29.6 | \$ 565.0 | \$ 507.2 | \$ 57.8 |
| Segment income (loss) | 8.0 | (1.6) | 9.6 | 9.6 | (13.0) | 22.6 |
| Significant items that increased (decreased) segment income: | | | | | | |
| Product pricing | | | \$ 35.8 | | | \$ 72.9 |
| Distribution costs | | | (1.3) | | | (2.5) |
| Manufacturing costs | | | (12.4) | | | (35.3) |
| Asset impairment | | | (11.9) | | | (11.9) |
| Selling and administrative expenses | | | (0.6) | | | (0.6) |
| | | | \$ 9.6 | | | \$ 22.6 |

Three months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Sales increased in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 primarily as a result of increased product pricing in coated and specialty papers (\$29.7 million), newsprint (\$3.9 million) and market pulp (\$2.2 million) and higher shipments of coated and specialty papers (\$3.0 million). These product price and shipment increases were partially offset by lower shipments of pulp (\$6.3 million) and newsprint (\$3.1 million). See the previous discussion of product line results.

Segment income increased in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 primarily as a result of higher product pricing and shipments noted above, offset in part by higher manufacturing costs including higher costs (\$7.7 million) for wood, fuel, chemicals and electricity, a stronger Canadian dollar (\$9.1 million) and an asset impairment charge noted below. These increased manufacturing costs were offset by lower depreciation expense (\$2.8 million).

During the second quarter of 2005, Bowater management decided to permanently shut the original line at Benton Harbor that had been purchased in 1999. This permanent shut resulted in a one time non-cash asset impairment charge of \$11.9 million. This permanent shut will not have a negative impact on our current operations as Line No. 1 had been idled since the third quarter of 2002. See Note 3 of the Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements for a detailed discussion of the asset impairment.

Six months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Sales increased in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004 primarily as a result of increased product pricing in coated and specialty papers (\$53.7 million), newsprint (\$7.2 million) and market pulp (\$12.0 million) and higher shipments of coated and specialty papers (\$8.1 million). These product price and shipment increases were partially offset by lower shipments of pulp (\$17.7 million) and newsprint (\$5.7 million). See the previous discussion of product line results.

Segment income increased in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004 primarily as a result of higher product pricing and shipments noted above, offset in part by higher manufacturing costs including higher costs (\$18.6 million) for wood, fuel, chemicals, electricity and labor costs, a stronger Canadian dollar (\$16.4 million), repair materials associated with the first quarter maintenance outage at our Catawba facility and an asset impairment charge as noted above. These increased manufacturing costs were partially offset by higher volumes (\$1.2 million) and lower depreciation expense (\$6.3 million).

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations
Canadian Forest Products Division**

| <i>(In millions)</i> | Three Months Ended June 30, | | | Six Months Ended June 30, | | |
|--|------------------------------------|----------|---------|----------------------------------|----------|---------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | Change | 2005 | 2004 | Change |
| Sales | \$ 282.3 | \$ 241.5 | \$ 40.8 | \$ 539.7 | \$ 459.1 | \$ 80.6 |
| Segment income (loss) | 4.9 | 3.6 | 1.3 | 6.7 | (18.5) | 25.2 |
| Significant items that increased (decreased) segment income: | | | | | | |
| Product pricing | | | \$ 21.0 | | | \$ 56.2 |
| Distribution costs | | | (0.6) | | | (3.4) |
| Manufacturing costs | | | (18.4) | | | (26.6) |
| Selling and administrative expenses | | | (0.7) | | | (1.0) |
| | | | \$ 1.3 | | | \$ 25.2 |

Three months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Sales increased in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 as a result of higher product pricing for newsprint (\$9.8 million), coated and specialty papers (\$8.3 million), lumber (\$2.7 million), and timber (\$0.2 million) and higher shipments for all products. See the previous discussion of product line results.

Segment income increased in the second quarter of 2005 as compared to the second quarter of 2004 primarily as a result of higher product pricing and higher shipments as noted above. These improvements were offset by higher manufacturing costs. The higher manufacturing costs were due to a stronger Canadian dollar (\$15.8 million), higher costs for wood, energy and repair materials (\$3.1 million), partially offset by improved volumes (\$1.7 million).

Six months ended June 30, 2005, versus June 30, 2004

Sales increased in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004 as a result of higher product pricing for newsprint (\$20.0 million), coated and specialty papers (\$17.1 million), lumber (\$18.3 million), and timber (\$0.8 million) and higher shipments for all products. See the previous discussion of product line results.

Segment income increased in the first six months of 2005 as compared to the first six months of 2004 primarily as a result of higher product pricing and higher shipments as noted above. These improvements were offset by higher manufacturing costs and higher distribution costs. The higher manufacturing costs were due to a stronger Canadian dollar (\$29.1 million) and higher wood costs (\$7.7 million), partially offset by lower costs for energy, repair materials, labor and chemicals (\$3.5 million), and improved volumes (\$9.5 million).

Net Gain on Fixed Assets and Land Sales and Corporate & Other Eliminations

Net gain on fixed assets and land sales and corporate and other eliminations are included in order to reconcile division sales and segment income (loss) to our total sales and operating income (loss) on our Consolidated Statement of Operations.

| <i>(In millions)</i> | Three Months Ended June 30, | | | Six Months Ended June 30, | | |
|---|------------------------------------|--------|--------|----------------------------------|--------|---------|
| | 2005 | 2004 | Change | 2005 | 2004 | Change |
| Net gain on fixed assets and land sales | \$ 9.8 | \$ 5.1 | \$ 4.7 | \$ 20.8 | \$ 4.2 | \$ 16.6 |

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Corporate & other eliminations:

| | | | | | | |
|-----------------------|--------------|-------|--------|--------------|-------|--------|
| Sales | (2.5) | (2.8) | 0.3 | (7.7) | (6.1) | (1.6) |
| Segment income (loss) | (0.9) | 10.7 | (11.6) | 11.0 | 25.9 | (14.9) |

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BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

Net gain on fixed assets and land sales: During the three and six months ended June 30, 2005, Bowater recorded a net pre-tax gain of \$9.8 million and \$20.8 million, respectively, related primarily to the sale of land and gains or losses on fixed assets. During the three and six months ended June 30, 2004, Bowater recorded a net pre-tax gain of \$5.1 million, and \$4.2 million, respectively, related to land sales and gains or losses on fixed assets. The increase is primarily due to higher land sales in 2005 compared to 2004.

Corporate & other eliminations: The elimination of intersegment sales decreased \$0.3 million in the second quarter of 2005 versus the same period in 2004. Corporate income decreased \$11.6 million in the second quarter of 2005 over the same period in 2004. Corporate income decreased \$14.9 million in the first six months of 2005 over the same period in 2004. Decreases in both periods were due primarily to decreased gains on foreign currency hedges, lower capital tax refunds and increased general and administrative expenses.

Interest and Other Income and Expenses

Interest expense decreased \$0.6 million from \$49.9 million for the second quarter of 2004 to \$49.3 million for the second quarter of 2005. Interest expense increased \$1.4 million from \$98.1 million for the six months ended June 30, 2004 to \$99.5 million for the six months ended June 30, 2005. This increase is primarily attributable to higher interest rates.

Other income decreased \$5.2 million from income of \$3.9 million during the second quarter of 2004 to expense of \$1.3 million during the second quarter of 2005. Other income decreased \$2.2 million from income of \$5.1 million during the first six months of 2004 to \$2.9 million during the first six months of 2005. The decrease in both periods is primarily the result of a decrease in foreign currency exchange gains during the period.

The majority of our exchange gain/loss amounts are attributable to the revaluation of unhedged foreign denominated assets and liabilities into United States dollars. For a further discussion of the effect of fluctuations in the Canadian U.S. Dollar exchange rates, see Canadian U.S. Dollar Exchange Rate Fluctuation Effect on Earnings.

Income Taxes

Bowater's effective tax rate for the second quarter of 2005 was 64.7% versus 90.8% for the second quarter of 2004. Bowater's effective tax rate for the first six months of 2005 was 79.8% versus 60.0% for the first six months of 2004. Our effective tax rate varies frequently and substantially from the weighted-average effect of both domestic and foreign statutory tax rates primarily as a result of the tax treatment on foreign currency gains and losses. We have a number of foreign subsidiaries whose unconsolidated foreign currency gains and losses are taxed locally. On consolidation, a portion of such gains and losses are eliminated but we are still impacted by the foreign taxes on such items.

The rates in both 2005 and 2004 were impacted by certain foreign currency exchange gains on which Bowater provides no tax expense and by permanent tax differences that are not dependent on pre-tax income (loss). Due to recent operating losses we are required to consider tax planning strategies in certain jurisdictions to evaluate whether certain of our deferred tax assets can be utilized or recovered. In the absence of tax planning strategies, we would be required to record a charge to income tax expense to establish a valuation allowance for certain of our deferred tax assets.

Due to the variability and volatility of foreign exchange rates we are unable to estimate the impact of future changes in exchange rates on our effective tax rate.

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations****Liquidity and Capital Resources**

The primary components of our cash flows are as follows:

| <i>(In millions)</i> | Six Months Ended June 30, | |
|---|--------------------------------------|----------------|
| | 2005 | 2004 |
| Increase in cash and cash equivalents | \$ 21.3 | \$ 14.8 |
| Cash from (used for) operations | 51.4 | 21.7 |
| Net loss | (2.7) | (33.8) |
| Adjustments to net loss: | | |
| Depreciation | 163.4 | 171.1 |
| Deferred taxes | (18.8) | (61.8) |
| Net gain on land sales | (20.8) | (4.2) |
| Asset impairment | 11.9 | |
| Working capital: | | |
| Accounts receivable, net | (69.4) | (36.1) |
| Inventories | (5.9) | 6.2 |
| Income taxes receivable | 3.1 | |
| Accounts payable and accrued liabilities | (6.9) | 12.3 |
| Income taxes payable | | (27.2) |
| | (79.1) | (44.8) |
| Cash used for investing activities | (27.1) | (31.6) |
| Cash invested in fixed assets, timber and timberlands | (50.1) | (38.9) |
| Disposition of fixed assets, timberlands and note monetizations | 23.0 | 7.3 |
| Cash from (used for) financing activities | (3.0) | 24.7 |
| Short-term financing, net | 32.0 | (89.4) |
| Long-term financing, net | (14.0) | 132.1 |
| Dividends | (22.9) | (23.2) |

Cash From Operations

During the first six months of 2005 and 2004, Bowater had net loss of \$2.7 million and \$33.8 million, respectively. Cash provided by operating activities totaled \$51.4 million in the first six months of 2005 compared to \$21.7 million during the same period of 2004. Cash generated from operations increased \$29.7 million from the second quarter of 2004 to the second quarter of 2005, due primarily to lower cash losses from operations. The lower cash losses in the first six months of 2005 were primarily the result of higher product pricing and increased production volumes, partially offset by higher manufacturing costs and lower shipments. See discussion of manufacturing costs, distribution costs and product pricing in the [Product Line Information](#) and [Divisional Performance](#) sections of our [Management's Discussion and Analysis](#).

Working capital in the first six months of 2005 was impacted by an increase in accounts receivable primarily from higher pricing and timing of collection of our receivables, higher inventory levels to support export markets, and a decrease in accounts payable and accrued liabilities primarily due to the timing of payments. Working capital in 2004 was negatively impacted by an increase in accounts receivable primarily from higher pricing and timing of

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

collection of our receivables, higher inventory levels in our specialty paper and lumber product lines, and reductions in our income taxes payable. These working capital changes were partially offset by an increase in accounts payable and accrued liabilities primarily due to the timing of payments.

Cash Used for Investing Activities

Cash used for investing activities totaled \$27.1 million and \$31.6 million for the first six months of 2005 and 2004, respectively. The decrease in cash used for investing activities during the first six months of 2005 is due primarily to increased proceeds from land sales, offset partially by increased capital expenditures. For the first six months of 2005, capital expenditures have been primarily for compliance and maintenance requirements and return-based projects. We expect capital expenditures to be approximately \$170 million in 2005. This level of capital expenditures excludes capital requirements for the conversion opportunity at our Thunder Bay mill as noted in the Outlook section on page 16 of this report.

Cash From (Used for) Financing Activities

Cash generated from (used for) financing activities totaled \$(3.0) million and \$24.7 million for the first six months of 2005 and 2004, respectively. Bowater paid cash dividends of \$22.9 million, increased its net short term borrowings by \$32.0 million and reduced long term debt by \$14.0 million in the first six months of 2005.

Cash generated from (used for) financing activities in the first six months of 2004 includes the sale of \$250.0 million of registered notes that are due March 15, 2010. We received net proceeds from the notes of \$246.2 million which were used to pay amounts outstanding under the short-term bank debt credit facilities (\$146.2 million) and the three-year term loan (\$100.0 million). Bowater paid cash dividends of \$23.2 million in the first six months of 2004. We intend to continue the payment of a quarterly dividend in 2005 at a quarterly dividend rate of \$0.20 per share. This dividend equates to a use of cash of approximately \$46 million annually.

Credit Arrangements:

As of June 30, 2005, Bowater had available borrowings on our short-term bank debt credit facilities as follows:

| | Amount | Commitment | Termination | Weighted |
|---|--|------------|-------------|----------|
| | Outstanding | Available | Date | Average |
| Short-Term Bank Debt | Commitment | (1) | | Interest |
| | | | | Rate |
| | <i>(in millions except for dates and interest rates)</i> | | | |
| Revolving credit facility (2) | \$ 435.0 | \$ 341.0 | 04/07 | % |
| 364-day Accounts Receivable Securitization Arrangement (3) | 200.0 | 82.1 | 12/05 | 3.20% |
| | \$ 635.0 | \$ 423.1 | | |

(1) The commitment available under the Revolving credit facility is subject to covenant restrictions described on

pages 30 31 of
this Form 10-Q
and is reduced
by outstanding
letters of credit
of
\$94.0 million.

- (2) Borrowings under the revolving credit facility incur interest based, at our option, on specified market interest rates plus a margin tied to the credit rating of our long-term debt.

- (3) The amount that can be borrowed at any time under our 364-day accounts receivables securitization arrangement depends on the amount and nature of the accounts receivable. The interest rate is based on commercial paper issued by the lenders plus a margin.

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At the end of the first quarter of 2005, we had ample room under the various financial covenant tests in our revolving credit facility. However, in April, to be conservative, we adjusted the financial covenant tests in our revolving credit facility. These various covenants, as amended, including requirements to maintain a minimum consolidated net worth (generally defined as common shareholders' equity, excluding hedging gains in place as of December 31, 2003, plus any outstanding preferred stock plus minimum pension liability amounts) of \$1.4 billion, a maximum 65.0% ratio of total debt to total capital (defined as total debt less revaluation of debt assumed through acquisitions, plus net worth including minority interest, plus minimum pension liability amounts), and to maintain an annual minimum EBITDA (generally defined as net income, excluding extraordinary, non-recurring or non-cash items, plus income taxes plus depreciation plus net interest expense) of \$250.0 million measured quarterly beginning March 31, 2005, through December 31, 2005 and \$400.0 million at the end of each quarter thereafter. If we generate net income, the minimum net worth requirement increases by half of our consolidated net income for each fiscal quarter, excluding gains from cash flow hedges in place as of December 31, 2003. At June 30, 2005, our consolidated net worth was approximately \$1,551.4 million, and, calculated according to our credit facility's guidelines, our ratio of total debt to total capital was 60.3% and our trailing-twelve-months EBITDA was \$465.2 million.

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES**Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations**

The following tables reconcile EBITDA and debt as a percentage of total capitalization, as calculated according to our credit facility's guidelines, to our financial statements. We use these measures and believe they are useful to investors because of their relevance to our credit facility. The following table reconciles EBITDA as calculated according to our credit facility's guidelines to the line on our Consolidated Statement of Operations entitled "Net income (loss) :

| <i>(Unaudited, in millions)</i> | Quarters Ended | | | | Rolling 4 Qtrs |
|--|------------------|-------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|
| | 9/30/2004 | 12/31/2004 | 3/31/2005 | 6/30/2005 | |
| Net income (loss) | \$ (18.1) | \$ (35.2) | \$ 0.9 | \$ (3.6) | \$ (56.0) |
| Provision for income tax expense (benefit) | 12.0 | (10.1) | (7.8) | (5.6) | (11.5) |
| Depreciation, amortization and cost of timber harvested | 83.0 | 81.1 | 81.8 | 81.6 | 327.5 |
| Interest expense, net of capitalized interest | 48.4 | 48.8 | 50.2 | 49.3 | 196.7 |
| Interest income | (1.1) | (1.0) | (1.1) | (1.1) | (4.3) |
| EBITDA | \$ 124.2 | \$ 83.6 | \$ 124.0 | \$ 120.6 | \$ 452.4 |
| Adjustments: | | | | | |
| Severance | | 8.7 | | | 8.7 |
| Minority interest in net income (loss) of subsidiaries | 0.8 | (3.3) | (1.2) | 0.5 | (3.2) |
| Foreign exchange (gain) loss | 1.2 | (2.9) | (1.5) | 3.3 | 0.1 |
| Asset impairment | | | | 11.9 | 11.9 |
| Income from joint venture | (1.7) | (1.2) | (0.7) | (1.1) | (4.7) |
| | 0.3 | 1.3 | (3.4) | 14.6 | 12.8 |
| EBITDA, as calculated according to our credit facility's guidelines | \$ 124.5 | \$ 84.9 | \$ 120.6 | \$ 135.2 | \$ 465.2 |

A reconciliation of the GAAP items to the calculation of total debt as a percentage of total capitalization, in accordance with our credit facility, is as follows:

| <i>(in millions, except ratios)</i> | June 30, 2005 |
|--|----------------------|
| Total debt | \$ 2,526.1 |
| Less: Revaluation of debt | (72.2) |
| Total debt, per credit facilities | \$ 2,453.9 |

| | |
|---|----------------|
| Capitalization: | |
| Total shareholders equity | \$ 1,438.8 |
| Total debt | 2,526.1 |
| Minority interest | 67.5 |
| Less: Revaluation of debt | (72.2) |
| Plus: Additional minimum pension liability | 112.6 |
| Total capitalization, per credit facilities | \$ 4,072.8 |
| Total debt as a percentage of total capitalization in accordance with credit facilities | 60.3% |
| Total debt as a percentage of total capitalization, in accordance with GAAP | 62.6% |

We believe we are in compliance with all of our covenants and other requirements set forth in our credit facilities.

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We believe that cash generated from operations and access to our credit facilities will be sufficient to provide for our anticipated requirements for working capital, contractual obligations and capital expenditures for the next 12 months. In addition, we periodically review timberland holdings and sell timberlands.

In April 2005, Moody's and S&P affirmed Bowater's credit ratings of Ba3 with a negative outlook and BB with a stable outlook, respectively. There is no way to predict with certainty any future rating actions by these two agencies. The interest rates associated with the bank lines of credit described above are based on Bowater's lowest credit rating. Any reduction in the lowest rating will increase our cost of borrowing. In addition to higher interest rates, although further downgrades would have no material impact on availability under our present debt and credit agreements, it could impact our access to and cost of capital and financial flexibility in the future.

Employees

As of June 30, 2005, Bowater employed 8,100 people, of whom 5,700 were represented by bargaining units. Labor agreements covering approximately 2,200 employees at five of our six Canadian paper mills were ratified July 8, 2005. These employees are represented predominantly by the Communications, Energy and Paper Union (CEP). The agreements have effective dates of May 1, 2004, and will expire on April 30, 2009. The agreements provide for annual wage increases averaging 2.5% for each of the first two years and averaging 2% annually thereafter as well as improvements and changes to pension and employee benefits.

During the first six months of 2005, labor agreements covering approximately 260 employees at three sawmills and one woodlands operation expired. In April 2005, a labor agreement covering approximately 200 employees at our Donnacona facility expired. The wage portion of the labor agreement covering approximately 150 employees at our Mokpo, Korea facility expired in July 2005. Additionally, in August 2005, a labor agreement covering approximately 270 employees at our Thunder Bay woodlands operation expires.

While we consider relations with our employees to be good and we do not expect a work stoppage to occur prior to the finalization of new labor agreements, we can provide no assurance regarding these outcomes or the timing of these negotiations or their effect on our operations.

Canadian-U.S. Dollar Exchange Rate Fluctuation Effect on Earnings

Nearly half of our manufacturing costs and certain financial liabilities are denominated in Canadian dollars. Sales are denominated in the currency of the country in which they occur. Accordingly, changes in the Canadian-U.S. dollar exchange rate may significantly impact our revenues and costs. The magnitude and direction of this impact primarily depends on our production and sales volume, the proportion of our production and sales that occur in Canada, the proportion of our tax and other financial liabilities denominated in Canadian dollars, our hedging levels, and the magnitude, direction and duration of changes in the Canadian-U.S. dollar exchange rate. Increases in the value of the Canadian dollar versus the U.S. dollar reduce our earnings, which are reported in U.S. dollar terms.

We attempt to partially limit our exposure to Canadian-U.S. dollar exchange rate fluctuations through hedging transactions. At June 30, 2005, we had \$421 million of Canadian dollar contracts outstanding; however, we are not currently entering into new hedging agreements. Under the exchange rates, hedging levels and operating conditions that existed during the three months ended June 30, 2005, for every one-cent change in the Canadian-U.S. dollar exchange rate, our operating income, net of hedging, for the three months ended June 30, 2005 would have been impacted by approximately \$1.6 million, or approximately \$7.0 million for the full year 2005. For a description of our hedging activities, see Note 10 of the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in this quarterly report.

Canadian Dollar Hedging Program

At June 30, 2005, we had approximately \$51.8 million of unrealized gains recorded on our Canadian dollar hedging program compared to approximately \$123.0 million of unrealized gains at December 31, 2004. This decrease resulted primarily from our decision not to enter into new hedging agreements, as noted above. These unrealized

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES

Management's Discussion and Analysis of Financial Condition and Results of Operations

gains are classified in Unrealized gain on hedged transactions or Other assets in our Consolidated Balance Sheet depending on the maturity date of the hedging contract.

Recent Accounting Pronouncements

In March 2005, the FASB issued FASB Interpretation No. 47, Accounting for Conditional Asset Retirement Obligations, (FIN 47). FIN 47 clarifies the term conditional as used in SFAS No. 143, Accounting for Asset Retirement Obligations. This Interpretation refers to a legal obligation to perform an asset retirement activity even if the timing and/or settlement is conditional on a future event that may or may not be within the control of an entity. Accordingly, the entity must record a liability for the conditional asset retirement obligation if the fair value of the obligation can be reasonably estimated. FIN 47 is effective for fiscal years ending after December 15, 2005. We are required to adopt FIN 47 in the fourth quarter of 2005 and are currently evaluating the effect that the adoption of FIN 47 will have on our financial position and results of operation.

In December 2004, the FASB issued SFAS 123(R), Share-Based Payment, which requires the measurement of all employee share-based payments to employees, including grants of employee stock options, using a fair-value-based method and the recording of such expense in our consolidated statements of income. In April 2005, the S.E.C. announced a delay in the effective date of SFAS 123R. Therefore, the accounting provisions of SFAS 123R are effective for annual reporting periods beginning after June 15, 2005. The pro forma disclosures previously permitted under SFAS 123 no longer will be an alternative to financial statement recognition. We are required to adopt SFAS 123R in the first quarter of 2006 and are currently evaluating the effect that the adoption of FASB 123R will have on our financial position and results of operation.

In December 2004, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position No. FAS 109-1 (FAS 109-1), Application of FASB Statement No. 109, Accounting for Income Taxes, to the Tax Deduction on Qualified Production Activities provided by the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004. The American Jobs Creation Act (AJCA) introduces a special 9% tax deduction (when fully phased in) on qualified production activities. FAS 109-1 clarifies that this tax deduction should be accounted for as a special tax deduction in accordance with Statement 109. Bowater's evaluation of the AJCA with respect to the additional deduction is still in process. We expect to complete the evaluation process by the end of the third quarter of 2005. The range of reasonably possible amounts of the additional deduction that are still being considered as a result of this provision cannot be reasonably determined as yet.

In December 2004, the FASB issued FASB Staff Position No. FAS 109-2 (FAS 109-2), Accounting and Disclosure Guidance for the Foreign Earnings Repatriation Provision within the American Jobs Creations Act of 2004. The AJCA introduces a limited time 85% dividends received deduction on the repatriation of certain foreign earnings to a U.S. taxpayer (repatriation provision), provided certain criteria are met. FAS109-2 provides accounting and disclosure guidance for the repatriation provision. Although FAS 109-2 became effective immediately, we do not expect to be able to complete our evaluation of the repatriation provision until after Congress or the Treasury Department provides additional clarifying language on key elements of the provision. In January 2005, the Treasury Department began to issue the first of a series of clarifying guidance documents related to this provision. Provided that such guidance is timely issued, we expect to complete our evaluation of the effects of the repatriation provision in the third quarter of 2005.

In November 2004, the FASB issued SFAS 151, Inventory Costs, an amendment of ARB No. 43, Chapter 4, which clarifies the types of costs that should be expensed rather than capitalized as inventory. This statement also clarifies the circumstances under which fixed overhead costs associated with operating facilities involved in inventory processing should be capitalized. The provisions of SFAS No. 151 are effective for fiscal years beginning after June 15, 2005, and we will adopt this standard in 2006. We have not yet evaluated the effect that the adoption of SFAS 151 will have on our financial position or results of operations.

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES

Item 3. Quantitative and Qualitative Disclosures About Market Risk

Foreign Exchange Risk

We have updated the disclosure concerning our Canadian dollar forward contracts, which is included in Note 10 to the Notes to Consolidated Financial Statements included in this quarterly report. For information about the effect of Canadian-U.S. dollar exchange rate fluctuations on our manufacturing costs and Canadian dollar denominated liabilities, see the section entitled Canadian-U.S. Dollar Exchange Rate Fluctuation Effect on Earnings.

Interest Rate Risk

We are exposed to interest rate risk on our fixed-rate long-term debt and our short-term variable rate bank and long-term debt. Our objective is to manage the impact of interest rate changes on earnings and cash flows and on the market value of our borrowings. We maintain a mix of fixed rate and variable rate borrowings. At June 30, 2005, we had \$2,137.6 million of fixed rate long-term debt and \$388.5 million of short and long-term variable rate debt. The fixed rate long-term debt is exposed to fluctuations in fair value resulting from changes in market interest rates, but not earnings or cash flows. Our variable rate debt approximates fair value as it bears interest rates that approximate market, but changes in interest rates do affect future earnings and cash flows. Based on our short and long-term variable rate debt at June 30, 2005, of \$388.5 million, a 100 basis point increase in interest rates would increase our quarterly interest expense by approximately \$1.0 million.

Commodity Price Risk

We purchase significant amounts of energy, chemicals, wood fiber and recovered paper to supply our manufacturing facilities. These raw materials are market-priced commodities and, as such, are subject to fluctuations in market prices. Increases in the prices of these commodities will tend to reduce our reported earnings and decreases will tend to increase our reported earnings. From time to time, we may enter into contracts aimed at securing a stable source of supply for commodities such as timber, wood fiber, energy, chemicals and recovered paper. These contracts typically require us to pay the market price at the time of purchase. Thus under these contracts we generally remain subject to market fluctuations in commodity prices.

Item 4. Controls and Procedures.

(a) Evaluation of Disclosure Controls and Procedures:

We have evaluated the effectiveness of the design and operation of our disclosure controls and procedures as of June 30, 2005. Based on that evaluation, the Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer and the Chief Financial Officer concluded that our disclosure controls and procedures are effective in recording, processing, summarizing, and timely reporting information required to be disclosed in our reports to the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(b) Changes in Internal Control over Financial Reporting:

In connection with the evaluation of internal control over financial reporting, there were no changes during the period covered by this report that have materially affected, or are reasonably likely to materially affect, our internal control over financial reporting.

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES

PART II

OTHER INFORMATION

Item 1. Legal Proceedings.

- a. Bowater is involved in various legal proceedings relating to contracts, commercial disputes, taxes, environmental issues, employment and workers' compensation claims and other matters. We periodically review the status of these proceedings with both inside and outside counsel. We believe that the ultimate disposition of these matters will not have a material adverse effect on our financial condition, but it could have a material adverse effect on the results of operations in a given quarter or the year.
- b. There have been no material developments to the legal proceedings described in our annual report on Form 10-K filed on March 16, 2005.

Item 6. Exhibits

Exhibits (numbered in accordance with Item 601 of Regulation S-K):

| Exhibit No. | Description |
|-------------|---|
| 10.1 | Modification of Employment Agreement, dated as of April 5, 2005, by and between Bowater Incorporated and Arthur D. Fuller and Bowater (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 99.1 to Bowater Incorporated Form 8-K dated April 7, 2005). |
| 10.2 | First Amendment to the Bowater Incorporated Mid-Term Incentive Plan, effective January 25, 2005. |
| 12.1 | Statement regarding Computation of Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges. |
| 31.1 | Certification of CEO Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 31.2 | Certification of CFO Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.1 | Certification of CEO Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |
| 32.2 | Certification of CFO Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. |

BOWATER INCORPORATED AND SUBSIDIARIES
SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this Report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

BOWATER INCORPORATED

By /s/ William G. Harvey

William G. Harvey
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

By /s/ Michael F. Nocito

Michael F. Nocito
Vice President and Controller

Dated: August 5, 2005

Dated: August 5, 2005

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