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

**FORM S-3
REGISTRATION STATEMENT
UNDER
THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**



U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc.
(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in its Charter)

Delaware
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

26-3718801
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

**24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 600
Katy, Texas 77494
Telephone: (281) 258-2170**
(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number, Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

W. Andrew Macan
General Counsel and Corporate Secretary
U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc.
24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 600
Katy, Texas 77494
Telephone: (281) 258-2170

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent
for service)

Copies to:
Scott Lesmes, Esq.
Emily Beers, Esq.
Morrison & Foerster LLP
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 6000
Washington, D.C. 20006
Telephone: (202) 887-1500

Approximate date of commencement of proposed sale to the public: From time to time after the effective date of this registration statement.

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If the only securities being registered on this form are being offered pursuant to dividend or interest reinvestment plans, please check the following box.

If any of the securities being registered on this form are to be offered on a delayed or continuous basis pursuant to Rule 415 under the Securities Act of 1933, other than securities offered only in connection with dividend or interest reinvestment plans, check the following box.

If this form is filed to register additional securities for an offering pursuant to Rule 462(b) under the Securities Act, please check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a post-effective amendment filed pursuant to Rule 462(c) under the Securities Act, check the following box and list the Securities Act registration statement number of the earlier effective registration statement for the same offering.

If this form is a registration statement pursuant to General Instruction I.D. or a post-effective amendment thereto that shall become effective upon filing with the Commission pursuant to Rule 462(e) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

If this form is a post-effective amendment to a registration statement filed pursuant to General Instruction I.D. filed to register additional securities or additional classes of securities pursuant to Rule 413(b) under the Securities Act, check the following box.

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

Large accelerated filer	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>
Non-accelerated filer	<input type="checkbox"/>	Smaller reporting company	<input type="checkbox"/>
		Emerging growth company	<input type="checkbox"/>

If an emerging growth company, indicate by check mark if the registrant has elected not to use the extended transition period for complying with any new or revised financial accounting standards provided pursuant to Section 7(a)(2)(B) of Securities Act.

CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE

Title of Each Class of Securities to be Registered(5)	Amount to be Registered(1)(2)	Proposed Maximum Offering Price Per Unit(1)(2)	Proposed Maximum Aggregate Offering Price(1)(2)(3)	Amount of Registration Fee(4)
Common stock, par value \$0.01 per share	—	—	—	—
Preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share	—	—	—	—
Debt securities	—	—	—	—
Warrants	—	—	—	—
Stock purchase contracts	—	—	—	—
Stock purchase units	—	—	—	—
Total	—	—	—	—

- (1) Omitted pursuant to General Instructions II.E of Form S-3. An indeterminate amount of securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices.
- (2) An indeterminate aggregate initial offering price or number of the securities of each identified class is being registered as may from time to time be offered at indeterminate prices. Separate consideration may or may not be received for securities that are issuable on exercise, conversion or exchange of other securities.
- (3) Exclusive of accrued interest, distributions and dividends, if any.
- (4) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant is deferring payment of all of the registration fee.
- (5) The securities registered hereunder may be sold separately or in a combination with other securities registered hereby.

PROSPECTUS



**COMMON STOCK
PREFERRED STOCK
DEBT SECURITIES
WARRANTS
STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS
STOCK PURCHASE UNITS**

We may offer and sell from time to time:

- common stock;
- preferred stock;
- debt securities;
- warrants;
- stock purchase contracts;
- stock purchase units; or
- hybrid securities combining elements of the foregoing.

We may offer and sell these securities to or through one or more underwriters, dealers and agents, or directly to purchasers, on a continuous or delayed basis. This prospectus describes some of the general terms that may apply to these securities and the general manner in which they may be offered. The specific terms of any securities to be offered, and the specific manner in which they may be offered, will be described in a supplement to this prospectus. You should read this prospectus and each applicable prospectus supplement carefully before you invest. This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol "SLCA." On October 31, 2019, the closing price of our common stock on the New York Stock Exchange was \$4.46. We have not yet determined whether any of the other securities that may be offered by this prospectus and a prospectus supplement will be listed on any exchange or quoted on any inter-dealer quotation system or over-the-counter market.

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully read and consider the risk factors included in our periodic reports and other information that we file with the Securities and Exchange Commission and that are incorporated by reference into this prospectus or any prospectus supplement before you invest in our securities. See "[Risk Factors](#)" on page 4 of this prospectus and any risk factors contained in any applicable prospectus supplement.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission has approved or disapproved of these securities or passed upon the adequacy or accuracy of this prospectus. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The date of this prospectus is November 1, 2019.

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ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a “shelf” registration statement that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”). By using a shelf registration statement, we may sell, from time to time, in one or more offerings, any combination of the securities described in this prospectus.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms and manner of that offering. The accompanying prospectus supplement or information incorporated by reference into this prospectus after the date of this prospectus may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Any such information that is inconsistent with this prospectus will supersede the information in this prospectus. You should read both this prospectus and the accompanying prospectus supplement together with the additional information described under the heading “Where You Can Find More Information.”

You should rely only on the information we have provided or incorporated by reference into this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information. No dealer, salesperson or other person is authorized to give any information or to represent anything not contained in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus.

This prospectus includes or incorporates by reference our trademarks, service marks and trade names such as “U.S. Silica,” which are protected under applicable intellectual property laws and are the property of U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc. or its subsidiaries. Solely for convenience, trademarks, service marks and trade names referred to or incorporated by reference in this prospectus may not appear with the ® or ™ symbols, but such references are not intended to indicate, in any way, that we will not assert, to the fullest extent under applicable law, our rights to our trademarks, service marks and trade names. In addition, this prospectus contains or incorporates by reference trademarks, service marks, and trade names of other companies, which are the property of their respective owners.

Unless the context otherwise indicates, the terms “U.S. Silica,” “Company,” “we,” “us,” and “our” as used in this prospectus refer to U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc. and its subsidiaries. Unless the context otherwise indicates, the phrase “this prospectus” refers to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

Neither the delivery of this prospectus nor any sale made under it implies that the information in this prospectus is correct as of any date after the date of this prospectus. You should assume that the information in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of the date thereof and that any information incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus is accurate only as of the date of the document incorporated by reference, regardless of the time of delivery of this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus, or any sale of a security.

This prospectus contains summaries of certain provisions contained in some of the documents described herein, but reference is made to the actual documents for complete information. All of the summaries are qualified in their entirety by the actual documents. Copies of some of the documents referred to herein have been filed, will be filed or will be incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and you may obtain copies of those documents as described below under “Incorporation by Reference.”

ABOUT OUR COMPANY

We are a performance materials company and one of the largest domestic producers of commercial silica, a specialized mineral that is a critical input into a variety of end markets. Through our acquisition of EP Minerals,

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LLC and its affiliated companies (“EPM”), we are an industry leader in the production of industrial minerals, including diatomaceous earth, clay (calcium bentonite and calcium montmorillonite) and perlite used as filter aids, absorbents and functional additives for a variety of industries.

During our 119-year history, we have developed core competencies in mining, processing, logistics and materials science that enable us to produce and cost-effectively deliver over 400 diversified product types to customers across our end markets. As of September 30, 2019, we operate 26 production facilities across the United States. We control 554 million tons of reserves of commercial silica, which can be processed to make 234 million tons of finished products that meet American Petroleum Institute (“API”) frac sand specifications, and 59 million tons of reserves of diatomaceous earth, perlite, and clays.

We were incorporated under the laws of the State of Delaware on November 14, 2008. Our principal executive offices are located at 24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 600, Katy, Texas 77494 and our telephone number is (281) 258-2170. We maintain an Internet website at <http://www.ussilica.com>. Information contained on or accessible through our website is not included or incorporated by reference herein.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We file annual, quarterly and current reports, proxy statements, and other information with the SEC. You may obtain copies of any document that we file with the SEC free of charge on the SEC’s website at www.sec.gov.

In addition, our SEC filings are available on our website at www.ussilica.com at no cost as soon as reasonably practicable after its electronic filing or furnishing thereof with the SEC. Please note that any internet addresses provided in this prospectus are for informational purposes only and are not intended to be hyperlinks. Accordingly, no information found or provided at such internet addresses is intended or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein.

This prospectus is part of a registration statement we have filed with the SEC relating to the securities we may offer. As permitted by the Securities Act of 1933 (the “Securities Act”), this prospectus does not contain all of the information we have included in the registration statement and the accompanying exhibits and schedules we file with the SEC. You may refer to the registration statement, exhibits and schedules for more information about us and the securities. The registration statement, exhibits and schedules are available on the SEC’s website.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to “incorporate by reference” into this prospectus the information that we file with the SEC. This permits us to disclose important information to you by referring to these filed documents. Any information referred to in this way is considered part of this prospectus, and any information filed with the SEC by us after the date of this prospectus will automatically be deemed to update and supersede this information. We incorporate by reference the following documents that have been filed with the SEC (other than, in each case, documents or information deemed furnished and not filed in accordance with SEC rules, including pursuant to Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 or any related exhibit furnished under Item 9.01(d) of Form 8-K, and no such information shall be deemed specifically incorporated by reference hereby):

- our Annual Report on [Form 10-K](#) for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2018, as filed with the SEC on February 20, 2019 (“Annual Report”);
- the information specifically incorporated by reference into our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2019 from our [Definitive Proxy Statement](#) on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC on March 26, 2019;
- our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarterly periods ended March 31, 2019, June 30, 2019 and September 30, 2019, as filed with the SEC on [May 1, 2019](#), [July 30, 2019](#) and [October 30, 2019](#);
- our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed with the SEC on [March 29, 2019](#), [May 10, 2019](#), [July 10, 2019](#) and [July 31, 2019](#); and
- the description of our common stock contained in our Registration Statement on [Form 8-A](#) filed on January 31, 2012.

We also incorporate by reference the information contained in all other documents we file with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (other than portions of these documents that are furnished under Item 2.02 or Item 7.01 of a Current Report on Form 8-K, including any exhibits included with such Items, unless otherwise indicated therein) after the date of this prospectus and prior to the termination of this offering. The information contained in any such document will be considered part of this prospectus from the date the document is filed with the SEC.

Any statement contained in this prospectus or in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus will be deemed to be modified or superseded to the extent that a statement contained herein or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference in this prospectus modifies or supersedes that statement. Any statement so modified or superseded will not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this prospectus.

You may request a copy of any document that we incorporate by reference at no cost, excluding all exhibits to such incorporated documents unless we have specifically incorporated by reference such exhibits either in this prospectus or in the incorporated document, by making such a request in writing or by telephone to the following address:

U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc.
24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 600
Katy, Texas 77494
Telephone: (281) 258-2170
Attention: Investor Relations

Except as provided above, no other information (including information on our website) is incorporated by reference into this prospectus.

CAUTIONARY NOTE REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

This prospectus and the documents incorporated by reference herein contain forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 27A of the Securities Act and Section 21E of the Exchange Act. Some of these statements can be identified by use of forward-looking words such as “believes,” “expects,” “anticipates,” “may,” “will,” “should,” “seeks,” “approximately,” “intends,” “plans” or “estimates,” or the negative of these words, or other comparable terminology. The discussion of financial trends, strategy, plans or intentions may also include forward-looking statements. Forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those projected, anticipated, or implied. Although it is not possible to predict or identify all such risks and uncertainties, they may include, but are not limited to, the factors discussed under “Risk Factors” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, in any prospectus supplement related hereto, and in other information contained in our publicly available SEC filings and press releases.

You should not consider this list to be a complete statement of all risks and uncertainties. You are cautioned not to place undue reliance on any such forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date such statements were first made. Except to the extent required by federal securities laws, we undertake no obligation to publicly release the result of any revisions to these forward-looking statements to reflect events or circumstances after the date hereof or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves a high degree of risk. Before making a decision to invest in our securities, in addition to the other information contained in this prospectus, any accompanying prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus, or incorporated by reference herein or therein, you should carefully consider the risks discussed under “Risk Factors” in our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, in our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, in any prospectus supplement related hereto, and in other information contained in our publicly available SEC filings and press releases. See “Where You Can Find Additional Information.”

USE OF PROCEEDS

Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement with respect to the proceeds from the sale of the particular securities to which such prospectus supplement relates, we intend to use the net proceeds from the sale of the offered securities for general corporate purposes, including repayment or redemption of outstanding debt or preferred stock, the possible acquisition of related businesses or assets thereof, and working capital needs. The net proceeds may be temporarily invested or applied to repay short-term or revolving debt prior to use.

DESCRIPTION OF CAPITAL STOCK

General

The following descriptions of our capital stock and of certain provisions of Delaware law do not purport to be complete and are subject to and qualified in their entirety by reference to our third amended and restated certificate of incorporation, our third amended and restated bylaws and the Delaware General Corporation Law (“DGCL”). Copies of our third amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our third amended and restated bylaws have been filed with the SEC and are filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part.

As of the date hereof, our authorized capital stock consists of 510,000,000 shares, of which 500,000,000 shares are common stock, par value \$0.01 per share, and 10,000,000 shares are preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share. As of October 24, 2019, there were 73,568,310 shares of common stock issued and outstanding, and no shares of preferred stock issued and outstanding.

Our common stock is listed on the New York Stock Exchange under the symbol “SLCA.”

Common Stock

The holders of our common stock are entitled to one vote for each share on all matters submitted to a vote of shareowners. Each share of our common stock outstanding is entitled to participate equally in any distribution of net assets made to the shareowners in the liquidation, dissolution or winding up of our Company and is entitled to participate equally in dividends as and when declared by our board of directors. There are no redemption, sinking fund, conversion or preemptive rights with respect to the shares of our common stock. All shares of our common stock have equal rights and preferences. The rights, preferences and privileges of the holders of our common stock are subject to and may be adversely affected by the rights of holders of shares of any series of our preferred stock that we may designate and issue in the future.

You should read the applicable prospectus supplement relating to an offering of shares of our common stock, or of securities convertible, exchangeable or exercisable for shares of our common stock, for the terms of such offering, including the number of shares of common stock offered, the initial offering price and market prices and dividend information relating to our common stock

Preferred Stock

Our restated certificate of incorporation, as amended, authorizes our board of directors to issue, from time to time, up to 10,000,000 shares of preferred stock, par value \$1.00 per share, in one or more series, subject to certain limitations prescribed by law. There are no preferred shares issued and outstanding as of the date of this prospectus. Our board of directors is authorized to establish from time to time the number of shares to be included in any series of preferred stock, and to fix the designation, powers, preferences, and rights of the shares of such series and any qualifications, limitations or restrictions thereof.

The specific terms of any preferred stock to be sold under this prospectus will be described in the applicable prospectus supplement. If so indicated in such prospectus supplement, the terms of the preferred stock offered may differ from the general terms set forth below. Unless otherwise specified in the prospectus supplement relating to the preferred stock offered thereby, each series of preferred stock offered will rank equal in right of payment to all other series of our preferred stock, and holders thereof will have no preemptive rights. The preferred stock offered will, when issued, be fully paid and nonassessable.

You should read the applicable prospectus supplement for the terms of the preferred stock offered. The terms of the preferred stock set forth in such prospectus supplement may include the following, as applicable to the preferred stock offered thereby:

- the title and stated value of the preferred stock;

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- the number of shares of the preferred stock offered;
- the liquidation preference and the offering price of the preferred stock;
- the dividend rates of the preferred stock and/or methods of calculation of such dividends;
- periods and/or payment dates for the preferred stock dividends;
- whether dividends on the preferred stock are cumulative;
- the liquidation rights of the preferred stock;
- the procedures for any auction and remarketing, if any, of the preferred stock;
- the sinking fund provisions, if applicable, for the preferred stock;
- the redemption provisions, if applicable, for the preferred stock;
- whether the preferred stock will be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities and, if so, the terms and conditions of conversion or exchange, including the conversion price or exchange ratio and the conversion or exchange period or the method of determining the same;
- whether the preferred stock will have voting rights and, if so, the terms of such voting rights;
- whether the preferred stock will be listed on any securities exchange;
- whether the preferred stock will be issued with any other securities and, if so, the amount and terms of such other securities; and
- any other specific terms, preferences or rights of, or limitations or restrictions on, the preferred stock.

Our authorized shares of common stock and preferred stock are available for issuance without further action by our shareowners, unless such action is required by applicable law or the rules of the stock exchange or automated quotation system on which our securities may be listed or trade. If the approval of our shareowners is not required for the issuance of shares of our common stock or preferred stock, our board of directors may determine to issue shares without seeking shareowners' approval.

Our board of directors could issue a series of preferred stock that could, depending on the terms of such series, delay, defer or prevent a change in control of our Company. Our board of directors would make any determination to issue such shares based on its judgment as to the best interests of our Company and our shareowners. Our board of directors, in so acting, could issue preferred stock having terms that could discourage an attempt to acquire our Company, including tender offers or other transactions that some, or a majority, of our shareowners might believe to be in their best interests, or in which our shareowners might receive a premium for their stock over the then current market price of such stock.

Anti-Takeover Effects of Provisions of Our Third Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation and Our Third Amended and Restated Bylaws

Our third amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our third amended and restated bylaws contain certain provisions that may be deemed to have an anti-takeover effect and may delay, deter or prevent a tender offer or takeover attempt that a stockholder might consider in its best interest, including those attempts that might result in a premium over the market price for the shares held by stockholders.

Our third amended and restated certificate of incorporation also provides that any action required or permitted to be taken by the holders of common stock may be effected only at an annual or special meeting of such holders, and that stockholders may not by written consent. Our third amended and restated bylaws provide that special meetings of holders of common stock may be called only by our Chairman or President or board of directors. Holders of common stock are not permitted to call a special meeting or to require that our board of directors call a special meeting of stockholders.

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Our third amended and restated bylaws establish an advance notice procedure for the nomination, other than by or at the direction of our board of directors, of candidates for election as directors as well as for other stockholder proposals to be considered at annual meetings of stockholders. In general, notice of intent to nominate a director or raise business at such meetings must be received by us not less than 90 nor more than 120 days prior to the date of the annual meeting and must contain certain specified information concerning the person to be nominated or the matters to be brought before the meeting and concerning the stockholder submitting the proposal.

Our third amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides that certain provisions of our third amended and restated bylaws may only be amended by the affirmative vote of the holders of 66-2/3% of our outstanding shares entitled to vote. Our third amended and restated certificate of incorporation also provides that, in addition to any affirmative vote required by law, the affirmative vote of holders of 85% of our outstanding voting stock and two-thirds of the voting stock other than voting stock held by an interested stockholder shall be necessary to approve certain business combinations proposed by an interested stockholder.

The foregoing summary is qualified in its entirety by the provisions of our third amended and restated certificate of incorporation and our third amended and restated bylaws, copies of which have been filed with the SEC.

Section 203 of Delaware General Corporation Law

We are subject to the “business combination” statute of the DGCL. In general, such statute prohibits a publicly held Delaware corporation from engaging in a “business combination” with any “interested stockholder” for a period of three years after the date of the transaction in which the person became an “interested stockholder,” unless:

- (1) such transaction is approved by our board of directors prior to the date the interested stockholder obtains such status,
- (2) upon consummation of such transaction, the “interested stockholder” beneficially owned at least 85% of the voting stock of the corporation outstanding at the time the transaction commenced, excluding for purposes of determining the number of shares outstanding those shares owned by (a) persons who are directors and also officers and (b) employee stock plans in which employee participants do not have the right to determine confidentially whether shares held subject to the plan will be tendered in a tender or exchange offer, or
- (3) the “business combination” is approved by our board of directors and authorized at an annual or special meeting of stockholders by the affirmative vote of at least 66-2/3% of the outstanding voting stock which is not owned by the “interested stockholder.”

A “business combination” includes mergers, asset sales and other transactions resulting in financial benefit to the “interested stockholder.” An “interested stockholder” is a person who, together with affiliates and associates, owns (or within three years, did own) beneficially 15% or more of a corporation’s voting stock. The statute could prohibit or delay mergers or other takeover or change in control attempts with respect to us and, accordingly, may discourage attempts to acquire us.

Certain Effects of Authorized But Unissued Stock

Our authorized but unissued shares of common stock and preferred stock may be issued without additional stockholder approval and may be utilized for a variety of corporate purposes, including future offerings to raise additional capital or to facilitate corporate acquisitions.

The issuance of preferred stock could have the effect of delaying or preventing a change in control of us. The issuance of preferred stock could decrease the amount available for distribution to holders of our common stock or could adversely affect the rights and powers, including voting rights, of such holders. In certain circumstances, such issuance could have the effect of decreasing the market price of our common stock.

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One of the effects of the existence of unissued and unreserved common stock or preferred stock may be to enable our board of directors to issue shares to persons friendly to current management, which could render more difficult or discourage an attempt to obtain control of us by means of a merger, tender offer, proxy contest or otherwise, and thereby protect the continuity of management. Such additional shares also could be used to dilute the stock ownership of persons seeking to obtain control of us.

We plan to issue additional shares of common stock in connection with our employee benefit plans. We do not currently have any plans to issue shares of preferred stock.

Limitation of Liability of Directors

Our third amended and restated bylaws contains a provision that limits the liability of our directors for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director to the fullest extent permitted by the Delaware General Corporation Law. Such limitation does not, however, affect the liability of a director (1) for any breach of the director's duty of loyalty to us or our stockholders, (2) for acts or omissions not in good faith or that involve intentional misconduct or a knowing violation of law, (3) in respect of certain unlawful dividend payments or stock redemptions or purchases and (4) for any transaction from which the director derives an improper personal benefit. The effect of this provision is to eliminate our rights and the rights of our stockholders (through stockholders' derivative suits) to recover monetary damages against a director for breach of the fiduciary duty of care as a director (including breaches resulting from negligent or grossly negligent behavior) except in the situations described in clauses (1) through (4) above. This provision does not limit or eliminate our rights or the rights of our stockholders to seek non-monetary relief such as an injunction or rescission in the event of a breach of a director's duty of care. In addition, our directors and officers have indemnification protection.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

Broadridge Corporate Issuer Solutions, Inc. acts as transfer agent and registrar of our common stock.

Listing

Our common stock is listed on the NYSE under the symbol "SLCA".

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

This section describes the general terms and provisions of our debt securities that we may issue from time to time. We may issue debt securities, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible debt. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any future debt securities we may offer under this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus will describe the specific terms of any debt securities offered through that prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. The terms of any debt securities we offer under a prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus may differ from the terms we describe below. Unless the context requires otherwise, whenever we refer to the “indentures,” we also are referring to any supplemental indentures that specify the terms of a particular series of debt securities.

We will issue any debt securities under one or more indentures that we will enter into with Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee. We have filed a form of indenture, including a form of debt security, as an exhibit to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part and any supplemental indentures and debt securities containing the terms of the debt securities we may issue from time to time will be incorporated by reference into the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part from reports that we file with the SEC.

The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, or the Trust Indenture Act, and the terms of any debt securities will include those specified in the applicable indenture and those made part of such indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act.

The following summaries of material provisions of the debt securities and the indentures are subject to, and qualified in their entirety by reference to, all of the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. We urge you to read the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus and any related free writing prospectuses related to the debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus, as well as the complete applicable indenture that contains the terms of the debt securities.

General

We will describe in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus the terms of the series of debt securities being offered, including:

- the title;
- the principal amount being offered, and if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;
- any limit on the amount that may be issued;
- whether or not we will issue the series of debt securities in global form, and, if so, the terms and who the depository will be;
- the maturity date;
- whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a United States person for tax purposes, and whether we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay such additional amounts;
- the annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate and the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;
- whether or not the debt securities will be guaranteed, and the terms of any guarantees;
- whether or not the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

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- whether the debt securities will be senior or subordinated debt and the terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;
- the place where payments will be payable;
- restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;
- our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;
- any trustees, depositaries, calculation agents, exchange rate calculation agents or other agents;
- the date, if any, after which, the conditions upon which, and the price at which, we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional or provisional redemption provisions and the terms of those redemption provisions;
- the date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option, to purchase, the series of debt securities and the currency or currency unit in which the debt securities are payable;
- whether the indenture will restrict our ability or the ability of our subsidiaries to:
 - incur additional indebtedness;
 - issue additional securities;
 - create liens;
 - pay dividends or make distributions in respect of our capital stock or the capital stock of our subsidiaries;
 - redeem capital stock;
 - place restrictions on our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, make distributions or transfer assets;
 - make investments or other restricted payments;
 - sell or otherwise dispose of assets;
 - enter into sale-leaseback transactions;
 - engage in transactions with stockholders or affiliates;
 - issue or sell stock of our subsidiaries; or
 - effect a consolidation or merger;
- whether the indenture will require us to maintain any interest coverage, fixed charge, cash flow-based, asset-based or other financial ratios;
- whether the debt securities are convertible into any other securities and the terms of any such conversion;
- a discussion of certain material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;
- whether the debt securities will be issued in certificated or book-entry form;
- provisions for a sinking fund purchase or other analogous fund, if any;
- the applicability of the provisions in the indenture on discharge;
- whether the debt securities are to be offered at a price such that they will be deemed to be offered at an "original issue discount" as defined in paragraph (a) of Section 1273 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended;

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- the denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;
- the currency of payment of debt securities if other than U.S. dollars and the manner of determining the equivalent amount in U.S. dollars; and
- any additions or modifications to events of default;
- any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities, including any additional events of default or covenants provided with respect to the debt securities, and any terms that may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations or advisable in connection with the marketing of the debt securities.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for our common stock, our preferred stock or other securities (including securities of a third-party). We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of shares of our common stock, our preferred stock or other securities (including securities of a third-party) that the holders of the series of debt securities receive would be subject to adjustment.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the indentures will provide that we cannot consolidate or merge with or into, or transfer or lease all or substantially all of our assets to, any person unless (a) we will be the continuing corporation or (b) the successor person formed by such consolidation or into which we are merged or to which our assets substantially as an entirety are transferred or leased is a corporation, limited liability company or limited partnership organized or existing under the laws of the United States, any state of the United States or the District of Columbia, and such successor person expressly assumes our obligations on the debt securities and under the indenture. In addition, we cannot effect such a transaction unless immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no default or event of default under the indenture shall have occurred and be continuing. If the debt securities are convertible into or exchangeable for other securities of ours or securities of other entities, the indentures will provide that the successor person must make provisions for the conversion of the debt securities into securities that the holders of the debt securities would have received if they had converted the debt securities before the consolidation, merger or sale.

Events of Default Under the Indenture

Unless we provide otherwise in the prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus applicable to a particular series of debt securities, the following are events of default under the indentures with respect to any series of debt securities that we may issue:

- if we fail to pay interest when due and payable and our failure continues for 90 days and the time for payment has not been extended;
- if we fail to pay the principal or premium, if any, when due and payable at maturity, upon redemption or repurchase or otherwise, and the time for payment has not been extended;
- if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for 90 days after we receive notice from the trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series; and
- if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.

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We will describe in each applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus any additional events of default relating to the relevant series of debt securities.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, other than an event of default specified in the last bullet point above, the trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, due and payable immediately. If an event of default specified in the last bullet point above occurs with respect to us, the unpaid principal, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, of each issue of debt securities then outstanding shall be due and payable without any notice or other action on the part of the trustee or any holder.

At any time after such declaration of acceleration with respect to any series has been made and before a judgement or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the trustee as provided in the Indenture, the holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series, by written notice to the Company and the trustee, may waive any default or event of default with respect to the series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest which have become due solely by such declaration or acceleration, unless we have cured the default or event of default in accordance with the indenture. No such rescission shall affect any subsequent default or impair any right consequent thereon.

Subject to the terms of the indentures, if an event of default under an indenture shall occur and be continuing, the trustee will be under no obligation to exercise any of its rights or powers under such indenture at the request or direction of any of the holders of the applicable series of debt securities, unless such holders have offered the trustee indemnity or security satisfactory to the trustee against any loss, liability, cost or expense. The holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of any series will have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the trustee, or exercising any trust or power conferred on the trustee, with respect to the debt securities of that series, provided that:

- the direction so given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and
- subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act, the trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

A holder of the debt securities of any series will have the right to institute a proceeding under the indentures or to appoint a receiver or trustee, or to seek other remedies if:

- the holder has given written notice to the trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to that series;
- the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request, and such holders have offered to the trustee indemnity or security satisfactory to the trustee against any loss, liability, cost or expense or to be incurred in compliance with instituting the proceeding as trustee; and
- the trustee does not institute the proceeding and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions within 90 days after the notice, request and offer.

These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities, or other defaults that may be specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus.

We will periodically file statements with the trustee regarding our compliance with specified covenants in the indentures.

Modification of Indenture; Waiver

Subject to the terms of the indenture for any series of debt securities that we may issue, we and the trustee may change an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to the following specific matters:

- to cure any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indenture, as evidenced by an Officer's Certificate delivered to the trustee;
- to comply with the provisions described above under "Description of Our Debt Securities-Consolidation, Merger or Sale;"
- to add one or more guarantees for the benefit of holders of debt securities of any series or to release one or more guarantees in accordance with the indenture;
- to add collateral security with respect to the debt securities of any series;
- to comply with any requirements of the SEC in connection with the qualification of any indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;
- to provide for the issuance of any series of debt securities or additional debt securities of any series;
- to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment hereunder by a successor trustee;
- to comply with the rules of any applicable securities depository;
- to provide for uncertificated debt securities and to make all appropriate changes for such purpose;
- to add to our covenants such new covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions for the benefit of the holders, to make the occurrence, or the occurrence and the continuance, of a default in any such additional covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions an event of default or to surrender any right or power conferred to us in the indenture; or
- to conform the provisions of the indenture to this "Description of Our Debt Securities" any similar sections of any prospectus supplement, as evidenced by an Officer's Certificate delivered to the trustee.
- to makes changes applicable only to another series of debt securities; and
- to change anything that does not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series, as evidenced by an Officer's Certificate delivered to the trustee.

In addition, under the indentures, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, subject to the terms of the indenture for any series of debt securities that we may issue, we and the trustee may make the following changes only with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

- change the stated maturity of the series of debt securities;
- reducing the principal amount, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest, or reducing any premium payable upon the redemption or repurchase of any debt securities;
- change the coin or currency in which the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any debt security is payable;
- impair the right of any holder of debt securities to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the stated maturity of the series of debt securities;
- waiving a redemption payment with respect to any series.
- reducing the percentage of debt securities, the holders of which are required to consent to any amendment, supplement, modification or waiver;

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- waiving a redemption payment with respect to any series of debt securities; or
- modifying any of the above provisions.

Discharge

Each indenture will provide that, subject to the terms of the indenture and any limitation otherwise provided in the prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus applicable to a particular series of debt securities, we can elect to be discharged from our obligations with respect to one or more series of debt securities, except for specified obligations, including obligations to:

- register the transfer or exchange of debt securities of the series;
- replace stolen, lost or mutilated debt securities of the series;
- maintain paying agencies;
- hold monies for payment in trust;
- recover excess money held by the trustee;
- compensate and indemnify the trustee; and
- appoint any successor trustee.

In order to exercise our rights to be discharged, we must irrevocably deposit with the trustee money or government obligations sufficient to pay all the principal of, any premium and interest on, the debt securities of the series on the dates payments are due.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

We will issue the debt securities of each series only in fully registered form without coupons and, unless we otherwise specify in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus, in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof. The indentures provide that we may issue debt securities of a series in temporary or permanent global form and as book-entry securities that will be deposited with, or on behalf of, The Depository Trust Company or another depository named by us and identified in a prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus with respect to that series.

At the option of the holder, subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities described in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus, the holder of the debt securities of any series can exchange the debt securities for other debt securities of the same series, in any authorized denomination and of like tenor and aggregate principal amount.

Subject to the terms of the indentures and the limitations applicable to global securities set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus, holders of the debt securities may present the debt securities for exchange or for registration of transfer, duly endorsed or with the form of transfer endorsed thereon duly executed if so required by us or the security registrar, at the office of the security registrar or at the office of any transfer agent designated by us for this purpose. Unless otherwise provided in the debt securities that the holder presents for transfer or exchange, we will make no service charge for any registration of transfer or exchange, but we may require payment of any taxes or other governmental charges.

We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus the security registrar, and any transfer agent in addition to the security registrar, that we initially designate for any debt securities. We may at any time designate additional transfer agents or rescind the designation of any transfer agent or approve a change in the office through which any transfer agent acts, except that we will be required to maintain a transfer

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agent in each place of payment for the debt securities of each series. If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

- issue, register the transfer of, or exchange any debt securities of that series during a period beginning at the opening of business 15 days before the day of mailing of a notice of redemption of any debt securities that may be selected for redemption and ending at the close of business on the day of the mailing; or
- register the transfer of or exchange any debt securities so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any debt securities we are redeeming in part.

Governing Law

The indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the State of New York, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act is applicable.

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

This section describes the general terms and provisions of the warrants. The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the specific terms of the warrants offered by that prospectus supplement and any general terms outlined in this section that will not apply to those warrants.

We may issue warrants to purchase debt or equity securities. Each warrant will entitle the holder of warrants to purchase for cash the amount of debt or equity securities at the exercise price stated or determinable in the prospectus supplement for the warrants. We may issue warrants independently or together with any offered securities. The warrants may be attached to or separate from those offered securities. We will issue the warrants under warrant agreements to be entered into between us and a bank or trust company, as warrant agent, all as described in the applicable prospectus supplement. The warrant agent will act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants and will not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of warrants.

The prospectus supplement relating to any warrants that we may offer will contain the specific terms of the warrants. These terms may include the following:

- the title of the warrants;
- the price or prices at which the warrants will be issued and the currency or composite currency you may use to purchase the warrants;
- the designation, amount and terms of the securities for which the warrants are exercisable;
- the designation and terms of the other securities, if any, with which the warrants are to be issued and the number of warrants issued with each other security;
- if applicable, the principal amount of debt securities you may purchase upon exercise of each debt warrant and the price and currency or composite currency or other consideration (which may include debt securities) you may use to purchase such principal amount of debt securities upon such exercise;
- the aggregate number of warrants;
- any provisions for adjustment of the number or amount of securities receivable upon exercise of the warrants or the exercise price of the warrants;
- the price or prices at which the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants may be purchased;
- the date on and after which the warrants and the securities purchasable upon exercise of the warrants will be separately transferable, if applicable;
- a discussion of any material U.S. federal income tax considerations applicable to the exercise of the warrants;
- the date on which the right to exercise the warrants will commence, and the date on which the right will expire;
- the maximum or minimum number of warrants that may be exercised at any time;
- the terms of any mandatory or option redemption by us;
- the identity of the warrant agent;
- information with respect to book-entry procedures, if any; and
- any other terms of the warrants, including terms, procedures and limitations relating to the exchange and exercise of the warrants.

DESCRIPTION OF STOCK PURCHASE CONTRACTS AND STOCK PURCHASE UNITS

We may issue stock purchase contracts, representing contracts obligating holders to purchase from us, and requiring us to sell to the holders, a specified number of shares of common stock at a future date or dates. The price per share of common stock may be fixed at the time the stock purchase contracts are issued or may be determined by reference to a specific formula set forth in the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may be issued separately or as a part of units, or stock purchase units, consisting of a stock purchase contract and either (x) senior debt securities, senior subordinated debt securities, subordinated debt securities or junior subordinated debt securities, or (y) debt obligations of third parties, including U.S. Treasury securities, in each case, securing the holder's obligations to purchase the common stock under the stock purchase contracts. The stock purchase contracts may require us to make periodic payments to the holders of the stock purchase contracts or vice versa, and such payments may be unsecured or prefunded on some basis. The stock purchase contracts may require holders to secure their obligations thereunder in a specified manner and in certain circumstances we may deliver newly issued prepaid stock purchase contracts, or prepaid securities, upon release to a holder of any collateral securing such holder's obligations under the original stock purchase contract.

The applicable prospectus supplement will describe the terms of any stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units and, if applicable, prepaid securities. The description in the prospectus supplement will not purport to be complete and will be qualified in its entirety by reference to the stock purchase contracts, the collateral arrangements and depositary arrangements, if applicable, relating to such stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units and, if applicable, the prepaid securities and the document pursuant to which such prepaid securities will be issued.

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell common stock, preferred stock, debt securities, warrants, stock purchase contracts or stock purchase units in one or more of the following ways from time to time:

- to or through underwriters or dealers;
- directly to one or more purchasers;
- through agents;
- through a combination of any of these methods of sale; or
- any other method permitted pursuant to applicable law.

We may also sell our securities, including shares of its common stock, in one or more of the following transactions: (i) block transactions (which may involve crosses) in which a broker-dealer may sell all or a portion of such shares as agent, but may position and resell all or a portion of the block as principal to facilitate the transaction; (ii) purchases by any such broker-dealer as principal, and resale by such broker-dealer for its own account pursuant to an accompanying prospectus supplement; (iii) a special offering, an exchange distribution or a secondary distribution in accordance with applicable New York Stock Exchange or other stock exchange, quotation system or over-the-counter market rules; (iv) ordinary brokerage transactions and transactions in which any such broker-dealer solicits purchasers; (v) sales “at the market” to or through a market maker or into an existing trading market, on an exchange or otherwise, for such shares; and (vi) sales in other ways not involving market makers or established trading markets.

For each offering of securities, the applicable prospectus supplement or other offering materials relating to the offering will set forth the terms of such offering, including:

- the name or names of any underwriters, dealers or agents;
- the purchase price of the offered securities and the net proceeds to the Company from the sale;
- any underwriting discounts and commissions or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters’ or agents’ compensation; and
- any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers; and
- any securities exchanges on which such offered securities may be listed.

Any initial public offering prices, discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

If underwriters are used in the sale, the underwriters will acquire the offered securities for their own account and may resell them from time to time in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. The offered securities may be offered either to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by one or more managing underwriters or by one or more underwriters without a syndicate. Unless otherwise set forth in a prospectus supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any series of securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent, and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such series of securities, if any are purchased.

In connection with underwritten offerings of the offered securities and in accordance with applicable law and industry practice, underwriters may over-allot or effect transactions that stabilize, maintain or otherwise affect the market price of the offered securities at levels above those that might otherwise prevail in the open

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market, including by entering stabilizing bids, effecting syndicate covering transactions or imposing penalty bids, each of which is described below:

- a stabilizing bid means the placing of any bid, or the effecting of any purchase, for the purpose of pegging, fixing or maintaining the price of a security;
- a syndicate covering transaction means the placing of any bid on behalf of the underwriting syndicate or the effecting of any purchase to reduce a short position created in connection with the offering; and
- a penalty bid means an arrangement that permits the managing underwriter to reclaim a selling concession from a syndicate member in connection with the offering when offered securities originally sold by the syndicate member are purchased in syndicate covering transactions.

These transactions may be effected on the New York Stock Exchange, in the over-the-counter market, or otherwise. Underwriters are not required to engage in any of these activities, or to continue such activities if commenced.

If a dealer is used in the sale, we will sell such offered securities to the dealer, as principal. The dealer may then resell the offered securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by that dealer at the time for resale. The names of the dealers and the terms of the transaction will be set forth in the prospectus supplement relating to that transaction.

Offered securities may be sold directly by us to one or more institutional purchasers, or through agents designated by us from time to time, at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed, or at varying prices determined at the time of sale. Any agent involved in the offer or sale of the offered securities in respect of which this prospectus is delivered will be named, and any commissions payable by the Company to such agent will be set forth, in the prospectus supplement relating to that offering. Unless otherwise indicated in such prospectus supplement, any such agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with us to indemnification by us against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or to contribution with respect to payments that the underwriters, dealers or agents may be required to make in respect thereof. Underwriters, dealers and agents may be customers of, engage in transactions with, or perform services for us and our affiliates in the ordinary course of business.

Other than our common stock, which is listed on the New York Stock Exchange, each of the securities issued hereunder will be a new issue of securities, will have no prior trading market, and may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange. Any common stock sold pursuant to a prospectus supplement will be listed on the New York Stock Exchange, subject to official notice of issuance. Any underwriters to whom we sell securities for public offering and sale may make a market in the securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. We cannot assure you that there will be a market for the offered securities.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise stated in an accompanying prospectus supplement, Morrison & Foerster LLP, Washington, District of Columbia, will provide us with an opinion as to the legality of the securities offered under this prospectus. Counsel representing any underwriters, dealers or agents will be named in the applicable prospectus supplement.

EXPERTS

The audited financial statements and management's assessment of the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting of U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc. incorporated by reference in this prospectus and elsewhere in the registration statement have been so incorporated by reference in reliance upon the reports of Grant Thornton LLP, independent registered public accountants, upon the authority of said firm as experts in accounting and auditing.

Common Stock

Preferred Stock

Debt Securities

Warrants

Stock Purchase Contracts

Stock Purchase Units

PROSPECTUS

The date of this prospectus is November 1, 2019.

PART II**INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution**

The following is a statement of the estimated expenses (other than underwriting discounts and commissions) to be paid by us in connection with the offering of the securities registered hereby. The assumed amount has been used to demonstrate the expenses of an offering and does not represent an estimate of the amount of securities that may be registered or distributed because such amount is unknown at this time.

SEC registration fee	\$	*
Legal fees and expenses (other than Blue Sky)		+
Blue Sky fees and expenses (including counsel fees)		+
Listing fee		+
Accounting fees and expenses		+
Printing fees		+
Trustee and registrar's fees and expenses		+
Rating Agency fees		+
Miscellaneous		+
Total	\$	+

* In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r) of the Securities Act, we are deferring payment of the registration fee for the securities offered.

+ The amount of securities and number of offerings are indeterminable and the expenses cannot be estimated at this time. An estimate of the aggregate expenses in connection with the sale and distribution of securities being offered will be included in any applicable prospectus supplement.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers

Section 102(b)(7) of the General Corporation Law of the State of Delaware (the "DGCL") allows a corporation to provide in its certificate of incorporation that a director of the corporation will not be personally liable to the corporation or its stockholders for monetary damages for breach of fiduciary duty as a director, except where the director breached the duty of loyalty, failed to act in good faith, engaged in intentional misconduct or knowingly violated a law, authorized the payment of a dividend or approved a stock repurchase in violation of Delaware corporate law or obtained an improper personal benefit. Our third amended and restated certificate of incorporation provides for this limitation of liability.

Section 145 of the DGCL ("Section 145") provides that a Delaware corporation shall have power to indemnify any person who was, or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of such corporation), by reason of the fact that such person is or was an officer, director, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise. The indemnity may include expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding, provided such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interests and, with respect to any criminal action or proceeding, had no reasonable cause to believe that such person's conduct was illegal. A Delaware corporation may indemnify any persons who are, or were a party or are threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise. The indemnity may

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include expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit, provided such person acted in good faith and in a manner such person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the corporation's best interests, provided that no indemnification is permitted without judicial approval if the officer, director, employee or agent is adjudged to be liable to the corporation. Where an officer or director is successful on the merits or otherwise in the defense of any action referred to above, the corporation must indemnify him against the expenses which such officer or director has actually and reasonably incurred.

Section 145 further authorizes a corporation to purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against any liability asserted against him and incurred by him in any such capacity, or arising out of his status as such, whether or not the corporation would otherwise have the power to indemnify him under Section 145. Our third amended and restated bylaws provide that we will indemnify our directors and officers to the fullest extent authorized by the DGCL and must also pay expenses incurred in defending any such proceeding in advance of its final disposition upon delivery of an undertaking, by or on behalf of an indemnified person, to repay all amounts so advanced if it should be determined ultimately that such person is not entitled to be indemnified under this section or otherwise.

We have entered into indemnification agreements with each of our executive officers and directors. The indemnification agreements provide the executive officers and directors with contractual rights to indemnification, expense advancement and reimbursement, to the fullest extent permitted under the DGCL.

The indemnification rights set forth above shall not be exclusive of any other right which an indemnified person may have or hereafter acquire under any statute, provision of our third amended and restated certificate of incorporation or third amended and restated bylaws, agreement, vote of stockholders or disinterested directors or otherwise.

We maintain standard policies of insurance that provide coverage (1) to our directors and officers against loss arising from claims made by reason of breach of duty or other wrongful act and (2) to us with respect to indemnification payments that we may make to such directors and officers.

Item 16. Exhibits

See the Exhibit Index attached to this Registration Statement and incorporated by reference.

In reviewing any agreements included as exhibits to this registration statement, please remember they are included to provide you with information regarding their terms and are not intended to provide any other factual or disclosure information about U.S. Silica or the other parties to the agreements. The agreements may contain representations and warranties by each of the parties to the applicable agreement. These representations and warranties have been made solely for the benefit of the other parties to the applicable agreement and:

- should not in all instances be treated as categorical statements of fact, but rather as a way of allocating the risk to one of the parties if those statements prove to be inaccurate;
- may have been qualified by disclosures that were made to the other party in connection with the negotiation of the applicable agreement, which disclosures would not necessarily be reflected in the agreement;
- may apply standards of materiality in a way that is different from what may be viewed as material to you or other investors; and
- were made only as of the date of the applicable agreement or such other date or dates as may be specified in the agreement and are subject to more recent developments.

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Accordingly, these representations and warranties may not describe the actual state of affairs as of the date they were made or at any other time. Additional information about our company may be found elsewhere in the registration statement of which this prospectus forms a part and our other public filings, which are available without charge through the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

Item 17. Undertakings

(a) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than a 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the "Calculation of Registration Fee" table in the effective registration statement;

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

provided, however, that paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(1)(iii) shall not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

(2) That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each such post-effective amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act to any purchaser:

(i) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(ii) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the

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registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof. Provided, however, that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

(5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the registrant under the Securities Act to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities, the undersigned registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

- (i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrant relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;
- (ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant or used or referred to by the undersigned registrant;
- (iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrant or its securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrant; and
- (iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrant to the purchaser.

(b) The undersigned registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act, each filing of the registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Exchange Act) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

(c) Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer or controlling person of the registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(d) To file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the SEC under Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act.

(e) To supplement the prospectus, after the expiration of the subscription period, to set forth the results of the subscription offer, the transactions by the underwriters during the subscription period, the amount of unsubscribed securities to be purchased by the underwriters, and the terms of any subsequent reoffering thereof. If any public offering by the underwriters is to be made on terms differing from those set forth on the cover page of the prospectus, a post-effective amendment will be filed to set forth the terms of such offering.

EXHIBIT INDEX

<u>Exhibit</u>	<u>Description</u>
1.1*	Form of Underwriting Agreement
3.1	Third Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation of U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc., effective May 4, 2017. (Exhibit 3.1 to U.S. Silica's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on May 10, 2017, is incorporated herein by reference)
3.2	Third Amended and Restated Bylaws of U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc., effective May 4, 2017. (Exhibit 3.1 to U.S. Silica's Current Report on Form 8-K, filed with the SEC on May 10, 2017, is incorporated herein by reference)
4.1**	Form of Indenture
4.2**	Form of Debt Security (included in Exhibit 4.1)
4.3*	Form of Warrant Agreement (Stock) (including form of Warrant Certificate)
4.4*	Form of Warrant Agreement (Debt) (including form of Warrant Certificate)
4.5*	Form of Certificate of Designation of Preferred Stock
5.1**	Opinion of Morrison & Foerster LLP as to legality of securities offered under this prospectus
23.1**	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm, Grant Thornton LLP
23.2**	Consent of Morrison & Foerster LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1**	Power of Attorney
25.1**	Form T-1 Statement of Eligibility of Trustee under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939

* To be filed as an amendment or as an exhibit to a document filed under the Exchange Act and incorporated by reference into this registration statement.

** Filed herewith.

*** To be filed pursuant to Section 305(b)(2) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended.

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this Registration Statement on Form S-3 to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Katy, State of Texas, on the 1st day of November, 2019.

U.S. SILICA HOLDINGS, INC.

By: /s/ W. Andrew Macan
W. Andrew Macan
General Counsel
and Corporate Secretary

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act, this Registration Statement has been signed below by the following persons in the capacities and on the 1st day of November, 2019.

<u>Signature</u>	<u>Title</u>	<u>Date</u>
<u>*</u> (Bryan A. Shinn)	President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	November 1, 2019
<u>*</u> (Donald A. Merrill)	Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer (Principal Financial Officer and Accounting Officer)	November 1, 2019
<u>*</u> (Charles Shaver)	Chairman of the Board	November 1, 2019
<u>*</u> (Peter C. Bernard)	Director	November 1, 2019
<u>*</u> (Diane K. Duren)	Director	November 1, 2019
<u>*</u> (William J. Kacal)	Director	November 1, 2019
<u>*</u> (Bonnie C. Lind)	Director	November 1, 2019
<u>*</u> (J. Michael Stice)	Director	November 1, 2019

*By: /s/ W. Andrew Macan
W. Andrew Macan
Attorney-in-fact

U.S. SILICA HOLDINGS, INC.,

as issuer of the Notes (hereinafter referred to as the Company)

and

WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,

as Trustee

INDENTURE

Dated as of [], 20[]

DEBT SECURITIES

CROSS-REFERENCE TABLE

Certain Sections of this Indenture relating to Sections 310 through 318, inclusive, of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended:

<u>Trust Indenture Act Section</u>	<u>Indenture Section</u>
310(a)(1)	7.09; 7.10
(a)(2)	7.10
(a)(3)	Not Applicable
(a)(4)	Not Applicable
(a)(5)	7.10
(b)	7.08; 7.10
311(a)	7.11
(b)	7.11
312(a)	2.05
(b)	10.02
(c)	10.02
313(a)	7.06
(b)(1)	Not Applicable
(b)(2)	7.06
(c)	7.06
(d)	7.06
314(a)	4.05; 4.08
(b)	Not Applicable
(c)(1)	10.03
(c)(2)	10.03
(c)(3)	Not Applicable
(d)	Not Applicable
(e)	10.04
(f)	4.05
315(a)	7.01
(b)	7.05
(c)	7.01
(d)	7.01
(e)	6.11
316(a)(last sentence)	10.05
(a)(1)(A)	6.05
(a)(1)(B)	6.04
(a)(2)	Not Applicable
(b)	6.07
(c)	9.03
317(a)(1)	6.08
(a)(2)	6.09
(b)	2.04
318(a)	10.16

Note: This Cross-Reference Table shall not, for any purpose, be deemed to be part of this Indenture.

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AMENDED AND RESTATED INDENTURE, dated as of [], 20[], between U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation, as issuer of the Notes (the “**Company**”), and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, a national banking association organized under the laws of the United States, as Trustee (the “**Trustee**”).

RECITALS OF THE COMPANY

WHEREAS, the Company has duly authorized the execution and delivery of this Indenture to provide for the issuance from time to time of the Company’s unsecured senior debt securities in one or more series (the “**Notes**”) of substantially the tenor hereinafter provided, and to provide the terms and conditions upon which the Notes are to be authenticated, issued and delivered; and

WHEREAS, all things necessary to make the Notes, when executed by the Company and authenticated and delivered hereunder and duly issued by the Company, the valid obligations of the Company, and to make this Indenture a valid agreement of the Company, in accordance with its terms, have been done.

NOW, THEREFORE, THIS INDENTURE WITNESSETH:

For and in consideration of the premises and the purchase of the Notes by the Holders thereof, it is mutually agreed, for the equal and proportionate benefit of all Holders of the Notes or of a series thereof, as follows:

ARTICLE 1 DEFINITIONS AND INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

Section 1.01. *Definitions.*

“**Additional Notes**” means Notes of a series issued from time to time after the initial Issue Date for such series under the terms of this Indenture (other than pursuant to Sections 2.06, 2.08, 2.10, 3.06 and 9.04 of this Indenture, in the case of Notes of any series that are not already Additional Notes of such series).

“**Board of Directors**” or “**Board**” means, with respect to any Person, the Board of Directors of such Person, any management committee of such Person or any committee thereof duly authorized to act on behalf of such Board of Directors or such management committee.

“**Board Resolution**” means a copy of a resolution certified by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Company to have been duly adopted by the Board of Directors, and to be in full force and effect on the date of such certification, and delivered to the Trustee.

“**Business Day**” means any day other than a Saturday, a Sunday or a day on which banking institutions or trust companies in New York City are authorized or required by law, regulation or executive order to close.

“**Capital Stock**” means, with respect to any Person, any and all shares, interests, rights to purchase, warrants, options, participations or other equivalents of or interests in (however designated) equity of such Person, including any preferred stock, partnership interests and limited liability company membership interests, but excluding any debt securities convertible into such equity.

“**Code**” means the U.S. Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended.

“**Company**” means the Person named as the “Company” in the preamble to this Indenture until a successor corporation shall have succeeded to such Person pursuant to the applicable provisions of this Indenture, and thereafter, the “Company” shall mean such successor corporation.

“**Corporate Trust Office**” means the office of the Trustee at which, at any particular time, this Indenture shall be principally administered; which office at the date of the execution of this Indenture is located at 333 S. Grand Avenue, 5th Floor, Suite 5A, MAC: E2064-05A, Los Angeles, CA 90071, Attention: Corporate Trust Services—U.S. Silica Holdings

Administrator; with respect to registration for transfer or exchange, presentation at maturity or for redemptions, such office shall also mean the office or agency of the Trustee located at the date hereof at Corporate Trust Operations, MAC N9300-070, 600 South Fourth Street, Minneapolis, MN 55415, or at any other time at such other address as the Trustee may designate from time to time by written notice to the Holders.

“**Default**” means any event that is, or after notice or passage of time or both would be, an Event of Default.

“**DTC**” means The Depository Trust Company, its nominees and their respective successors and assigns.

“**Exchange Act**” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC thereunder.

“**GAAP**” means generally accepted accounting principles in the United States of America in effect on the date hereof, unless provided otherwise in a supplemental indenture.

“**guarantee**” means any obligation, contingent or otherwise, of any Person directly or indirectly guaranteeing any Indebtedness of any other Person and any obligation, direct or indirect, contingent or otherwise, of such Person (1) to purchase or pay (or advance or supply funds for the purchase or payment of) such Indebtedness of such other Person (whether arising by virtue of partnership arrangements, or by agreements to keep well, to purchase assets, goods, securities or services, to take or pay or to maintain financial statement conditions or otherwise) or (2) entered into for purposes of assuring in any other manner the obligee of such Indebtedness of the payment thereof or to protect such obligee against loss in respect thereof (in whole or in part); *provided, however*, that the term “guarantee” will not include endorsements for collection or deposit in the ordinary course of business. The term “guarantee”, when used as a verb, has a correlative meaning.

“**Holder**” or “**Noteholder**” means the Person in whose name a Note is registered on the security register books of the Registrar.

“**incur**” means issue, assume, guarantee or otherwise become liable for.

“**Indebtedness**” means, with respect to any Person, obligations of such Person for borrowed money (including, without limitation, Indebtedness for borrowed money evidenced by notes, bonds, debentures or similar instruments).

“**Indenture**” means this Indenture, as further amended or supplemented from time to time.

“**Interest Payment Date**” means as to each series of Notes the Stated Maturity of an installment of interest on such Notes.

“**Issue Date**” means, with respect to a series of Notes, the date on which Notes of such series are issued.

“**Officer**” means, with respect to the Company, the Chief Executive Officer, President, the Controller, the Chief Operating Officer, any Vice President, the Treasurer, the Assistant Treasurer, the Chief Financial Officer, the Chief Accounting Officer, the General Counsel, the Secretary or the Assistant Secretary, as applicable.

“**Officer’s Certificate**” means a certificate signed by any Officer of the Company.

“**Opinion of Counsel**” means a written opinion from legal counsel to the Company. The counsel may be an employee of the Company. Opinions of Counsel required to be delivered under this Indenture may have qualifications customary for opinions of the type required and counsel delivering such Opinions of Counsel may rely on certificates of the Company or governmental or other officials customary for opinions of the type required, including certificates certifying as to matters of fact.

“**Person**” means any individual, corporation, partnership (general, limited or limited liability), limited liability company, joint venture, association, joint-stock company, trust, unincorporated organization or government or political subdivision thereof.

“**principal**” means the principal of the Notes of each series plus the premium, if any, payable on the Notes of each series that is due or overdue or is to become due at the relevant time; *provided, however*, that for purposes of calculating any such premium, the term “principal” shall not include the premium with respect to which such calculation is being made.

“Redemption Date” shall mean the date specified for redemption of the Notes of any series in accordance with the terms of the Notes of such series and Section 3.01.

“SEC” means the Securities and Exchange Commission or any successor agency.

“Securities Act” means the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and the rules and regulations promulgated by the SEC thereunder.

“Securities Custodian” means the custodian with respect to a Global Note (as appointed by DTC) or any successor person thereto and shall initially be the Trustee.

“Stated Maturity” means, with respect to any Note, the date specified in such security as the fixed date on which the payment of principal of such Note is due and payable, including pursuant to any mandatory redemption provision (but excluding any provision providing for the repurchase of such security at the option of the holder thereof until the exercise of such option by such holder).

“Subsidiary” means, with respect to any Person (the **“parent”**) at any date, any corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association or other entity the accounts of which would be consolidated with those of the parent in the parent’s consolidated financial statements if such financial statements were prepared in accordance with GAAP as of that date, as well as any other corporation, limited liability company, partnership, association or other entity of which securities or other ownership interests representing more than 50% of the equity or more than 50% of the ordinary voting power or, in the case of a partnership, more than 50% of the general partnership interests are, as of that date, owned, controlled or held by the parent or one or more Subsidiaries of the parent or by the parent and one or more Subsidiaries of the parent.

“Trust Indenture Act” means the U.S. Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (15 U.S.C. §§ 77aaa-77bbb), as in effect on the date of this Indenture; *provided, however*, that in the event the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 is amended after such date, “Trust Indenture Act” means, to the extent required by any such amendments, the U.S. Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as so amended.

“Trustee” means the party named as such in the preamble to this Indenture until a successor replaces it in accordance with the applicable provisions of this Indenture and, thereafter, means such successor.

“Trust Officer” shall mean, when used with respect to the Trustee, any officer within the corporate trust department of the Trustee, including any vice president, assistant vice president, assistant secretary, assistant treasurer, trust officer or any other officer of the Trustee who customarily performs functions similar to those performed by the persons who at the time shall be such officers, respectively, or to whom any corporate trust matter is referred because of such person’s knowledge of and familiarity with the particular subject and, in each case, who shall have direct responsibility for the administration of this Indenture.

“Uniform Commercial Code” means the New York Uniform Commercial Code as in effect from time to time.

“U.S. Government Obligations” means direct obligations (or certificates representing an ownership interest in such obligations) of the United States of America (including any agency or instrumentality thereof) for the payment of which the full faith and credit of the United States of America is pledged and that are not callable or redeemable at the Company’s option.

“Voting Stock” of any specified “person” (as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) as of any date means the Capital Stock of such person that is at the time entitled to vote generally in the election of the Board of Directors of such person.

Section 1.02. *Other Definitions.*

<u>Term</u>	<u>Defined in Section</u>
"Affiliate"	10.05
"Agent Members"	2.01(d)
"Authenticating Agent"	2.02
"Authentication Order"	2.02
"Bankruptcy Law"	6.01
"covenant defeasance option"	8.01(b)
"Custodian"	6.01
"Definitive Notes"	2.01(e)
"Event of Default"	6.01
"Global Notes"	2.01(a)
"legal defeasance option"	8.01(b)
"Notes"	Recitals
"Notice of Default"	6.01
"Paying Agent"	2.03
"Registrar"	2.03
"Successor"	5.01

Section 1.03. *Incorporation by Reference of Trust Indenture Act.* This Indenture is subject to the mandatory provisions of the Trust Indenture Act which are incorporated by reference in and made a part of this Indenture. The following terms in the Trust Indenture Act have the following meanings:

"Commission" means the SEC.

"indenture securities" means the Notes.

"indenture security holder" means a Holder or Noteholder.

"indenture to be qualified" means this Indenture.

"indenture trustee" or "institutional trustee" means the Trustee.

"obligor" on the indenture securities means the Company and any other obligor on the indenture securities, including any guarantor.

All other terms used in this Indenture that are defined by the Trust Indenture Act, defined by reference to another statute or defined by SEC rule have the meanings assigned to them by such definitions.

Section 1.04. *Rules of Construction.* For purposes of this Indenture, except as otherwise expressly provided herein or unless the context otherwise requires:

- (i) all terms used in this Indenture that are not defined herein and that are used as defined by the Trust Indenture Act, defined by reference to another statute or defined by SEC rule have the meanings assigned to them by such definitions;
- (ii) a term has the meaning assigned to it;
- (iii) an accounting term not otherwise defined has the meaning assigned to it in accordance with GAAP;

(iv) “including” means including without limitation;

(v) words in the singular include the plural and words in the plural include the singular;

(vi) all references to Notes of any series shall refer also to any Additional Notes of such series issued in the form of Notes of such series pursuant to Section 2.14;

(vii) all references to the date the Notes of any series were originally issued shall refer to the Issue Date or the date any Additional Notes of any series were originally issued, as the case may be; and

(viii) all references herein to particular Sections or Articles shall refer to this Indenture unless otherwise so indicated.

ARTICLE 2 THE NOTES

Section 2.01. *Form, Dating, Title and Terms.* (a) The Notes of each series shall be substantially in the form attached as Exhibit A, or in such other form or forms as shall be established by or pursuant to a Board Resolution or in one or more indentures supplemental hereto, in each case with such appropriate provisions as are required or permitted by this Indenture, and may have such letters, numbers or other marks of identification and such legends or endorsements placed thereon as may be required to comply with applicable laws or the rules of any securities exchange or DTC or as may, consistently herewith, be determined by the Officers executing such Notes, as evidenced by their execution thereof. If the form of Notes of any series is established by action taken pursuant to a Board Resolution, a copy of an appropriate record of such action shall be certified by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Company and delivered to the Trustee at or prior to the delivery of the Authentication Order contemplated by Section 2.02 with respect to the authentication and delivery of such Notes.

The Trustee’s certificate of authentication shall be substantially in the form set forth in this Article.

The Definitive Notes shall be printed, lithographed or engraved on a steel engraved border or on steel engraved borders or produced by any combination of these methods, if required by any securities exchange on which the Notes may be listed, or may be produced in any other manner permitted by the rules of any securities exchange on which the Notes may be listed, all as determined by the Officers executing such Notes, as evidenced by their execution of such Notes.

The Notes of each series shall be issued on the Issue Date therefor in the form of a permanent global Note (each, a “**Global Note**” and, collectively, the “**Global Notes**”), deposited with the Trustee, as custodian for DTC, duly executed by the Company, authenticated by the Trustee as hereinafter provided and dated the date of their authentication. Each Global Note may be represented by more than one certificate, if so required by DTC’s rules regarding the maximum principal amount to be represented by a single certificate. The aggregate principal amount of the Global Notes may from time to time be increased or decreased by adjustments made on the records of the Trustee, as custodian for DTC or its nominee, as hereinafter provided.

The principal of and interest on the Notes shall be payable at the office or agency of the Company maintained for such purpose in Minneapolis, MN, or at such other office or agency of the Company as may be maintained for such purpose pursuant to Section 2.03; *provided, however*, that at the option of the Company, each installment of interest may be paid by (i) check mailed to addresses of the Persons entitled thereto as such addresses shall appear on the Note Register or (ii) upon request of any Holder of at least \$1,000,000 principal amount of Notes, wire transfer to an account located in the United States maintained by the payee. Payments in respect of Notes represented by a Global Note (including principal, premium, if any, and interest) shall be made by wire transfer of immediately available funds to the accounts specified by DTC.

(b) Denominations. The Notes shall be issuable only in fully registered form, without coupons, and only in denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

(c) Legend for Global Notes. The Global Notes shall bear the following legend on the face thereof:

“UNLESS THIS CERTIFICATE IS PRESENTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEPOSITORY TRUST COMPANY, A NEW YORK CORPORATION (“DTC”), TO THE COMPANY OR ITS AGENT FOR REGISTRATION OF TRANSFER, EXCHANGE OR PAYMENT, AND ANY CERTIFICATE ISSUED IS REGISTERED IN THE NAME OF CEDE & CO. OR IN SUCH OTHER NAME AS IS REQUESTED

BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC (AND ANY PAYMENT IS MADE TO CEDE & CO. OR TO SUCH OTHER ENTITY AS IS REQUESTED BY AN AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE OF DTC), ANY TRANSFER, PLEDGE OR OTHER USE HEREOF FOR VALUE OR OTHERWISE BY OR TO ANY PERSON IS WRONGFUL INASMUCH AS THE REGISTERED OWNER HEREOF, CEDE & CO., HAS AN INTEREST HEREIN. TRANSFERS OF THIS GLOBAL SECURITY SHALL BE LIMITED TO TRANSFERS IN WHOLE, BUT NOT IN PART, TO NOMINEES OF DTC OR TO A SUCCESSOR THEREOF OR SUCH SUCCESSOR'S NOMINEE AND TRANSFERS OF PORTIONS OF THIS GLOBAL SECURITY SHALL BE LIMITED TO TRANSFERS MADE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE RESTRICTIONS SET FORTH IN THE INDENTURE REFERRED TO ON THE REVERSE HEREOF."

(d) Book-Entry Provisions.

(i) This Section 2.01(d) shall apply only to Global Notes deposited with the Trustee, as custodian for DTC.

(ii) Each Global Note initially shall (x) be registered in the name of DTC or the nominee of DTC, (y) be delivered to the Trustee as custodian for DTC and (z) bear the legend set forth in Section 2.01(c).

(iii) Members of, or participants in, DTC ("**Agent Members**") shall have no rights under this Indenture with respect to any Global Note held on their behalf by DTC or by the Trustee as the custodian of DTC or under such Global Note, and DTC shall be treated by the Company, the Trustee and any agent of the Company or the Trustee as the absolute owner of such Global Note for all purposes whatsoever. Notwithstanding the foregoing, nothing herein shall prevent the Company, the Trustee or any agent of the Company or the Trustee from giving effect to any written certification, proxy or other authorization furnished by DTC or impair, as between DTC and its Agent Members, the operation of customary practices of DTC governing the exercise of the rights of a holder of a beneficial interest in any Global Note.

(iv) In connection with any transfer of a portion of the beneficial interest in a Global Note pursuant to subsection (e) of this Section 2.01 to beneficial owners who are required to hold Definitive Notes, the Securities Custodian shall reflect on its books and records the date and a decrease in the principal amount of such Global Note in an amount equal to the principal amount of the beneficial interest in the Global Note to be transferred, and the Company shall execute, and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver, one or more Definitive Notes of the relevant series of like tenor and amount.

(v) In connection with the transfer of an entire Global Note to beneficial owners pursuant to subsection (e) of this Section 2.01, such Global Note shall be deemed to be surrendered to the Trustee for cancellation, and the Company shall execute, and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver, to each beneficial owner identified by DTC in exchange for its beneficial interest in such Global Note, an equal aggregate principal amount of Definitive Notes of the relevant series of authorized denominations.

(vi) The registered holder of a Global Note may grant proxies and otherwise authorize any person, including Agent Members and persons that may hold interests through Agent Members, to take any action that a Holder is entitled to take under this Indenture or the Notes.

(e) Definitive Notes.

(i) Except as provided below, owners of beneficial interests in a Global Note shall not be entitled to have Notes represented by the Global Note registered in their name or to receive certificated Notes ("**Definitive Notes**"). If required to do so pursuant to any applicable law or regulation, beneficial owners may obtain Definitive Notes in exchange for their beneficial interests in a Global Note upon written request in accordance with DTC's and the Registrar's procedures. In addition, Definitive Notes shall be transferred to all beneficial owners in exchange for their beneficial interests in a Global Note if (a) DTC notifies the Company that it is unwilling or unable to continue as depository for such Global Note or DTC ceases to be a clearing agency registered under the Exchange Act, at a time when DTC is required to be so registered in order to act as depository, and in each case a successor depository is not appointed by the Company within 90 days of such notice, (b) the Company executes and delivers to the Trustee and Registrar an Officer's Certificate stating that such Global Note shall be so exchangeable or (c) an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing with respect to the Notes of a series and the Registrar has received a request from DTC to exchange the Global Note for such series for Definitive Notes of such series.

(ii) Any Definitive Note delivered in exchange for an interest in a Global Note pursuant to Section 2.01(d)(iv) or 2.01(d)(v) shall bear the legend regarding transfer restrictions applicable to the Definitive Note set forth in Section 2.01(c).

(f) Certificate of Authentication. The Trustee's certificates of authentication shall be in substantially the following form:

TRUSTEE'S CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHENTICATION

This is one of the Notes referred
to in the within-mentioned Indenture.

WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
as Trustee

By

Authorized Signatory

Dated: _____,

(g) Title and Terms. The aggregate principal amount of Notes which may be authenticated and delivered under this Indenture is unlimited.

The Notes may be issued in one or more series. There shall be established in or pursuant to a Board Resolution, and set forth in an Officer's Certificate, or established in one or more indentures supplemental hereto, prior to the issuance of Notes of a series:

(i) the title of the Notes of such series, which shall distinguish the Notes of the series from all other Notes;

(ii) the limit, if any, upon the aggregate principal amount of the Notes of such series that may be authenticated and delivered under this Indenture (except for Notes authenticated and delivered upon registration or transfer of, or in exchange for, or in lieu of, other Notes of the same series pursuant to Sections 2.06, 2.08, 2.10 or 3.06 except for any Notes that, pursuant to Section 2.02, are deemed never to have been authenticated and delivered hereunder); *provided, however*, except as otherwise specified as contemplated by this Section 2.01 with respect to the Notes of any series, that the authorized aggregate principal amount of such series may be increased above such amount by a Board Resolution to such effect;

(iii) the Stated Maturity or Maturities on which the principal of the Notes of such series is payable or the method of determination thereof;

(iv) the rate or rates, if any, at which the Notes of such series shall bear interest or the method of determining such rate or rates, the Interest Payment Dates on which such interest shall be payable, the right, if any, of the Company to defer or extend an Interest Payment Date, the regular record date (if other than as defined in this Indenture) for the interest payable on any Interest Payment Date and the dates from which interest shall accrue and the method of determining these dates;

(v) the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on the Notes of such series shall be payable, the place or places where the Notes of such series may be presented for registration of transfer or exchange, and the place or places where notices and demands to or upon the Company in respect of the Notes of such series may be made;

(vi) the period or periods within or the date or dates on which, if any, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions upon which the Notes of such series may be redeemed or prepaid, in whole or in part, at the option of the Company;

(vii) the obligation or the right, if any, of the Company to redeem, repay or purchase the Notes of such series, including pursuant to any sinking fund, purchase fund, amortization or analogous provisions, or at the option

of a Holder thereof and the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which, the currency or currencies (including currency unit or units) in which and the other terms and conditions upon which Notes of the series shall be redeemed, repaid or purchased, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation or right;

(viii) the denominations in which any Notes of such series shall be issuable, if other than denominations set forth in Section 2.01(b);

(ix) the additions, modifications or deletions, if any, in the Events of Default or covenants of the Company set forth herein or to Section 9.01 or Section 9.02, in each case with respect to the Notes of such series;

(x) if other than the principal amount thereof, the portion of the principal amount of Notes of such series that shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the Stated Maturity thereof;

(xi) the additions or changes, if any, to this Indenture with respect to the Notes of such series as shall be necessary to permit or facilitate the issuance of the Notes of such series in bearer form, registrable or not registrable as to principal, and with or without interest coupons;

(xii) any index or indices used to determine the amount of payments of principal of and premium, if any, on the Notes of such series or the manner in which such amounts will be determined;

(xiii) the issuance of a temporary Note (which may include a Global Note) representing all of the Notes of such series and the terms upon which such temporary Global Note may be exchanged for Definitive Notes of such series;

(xiv) whether the Notes of the series shall be issued in whole or in part in the form of one or more Global Notes and, in such case, the identity of the depository for such Global Notes if not DTC and the legends to be placed on such Global Notes;

(xv) the appointment of any Paying Agent or Agents for the Notes of such series;

(xvi) the obligations of the Company in addition to those set forth in Article 8 (if any) that shall not be extinguished upon the discharge or defeasance of Notes of a series pursuant to Article 8 and any different rights or obligations attendant a discharge or defeasance of Notes of a series;

(xvii) the terms and conditions of any right or obligation on the part of the Company, or any option on the part of the Holders, to convert or exchange Notes of such series into cash or any other securities or property of the Company or any other Person, and the additions or changes, if any, to this Indenture with respect to the Notes of such series to permit or facilitate such conversion or exchange; and

(xviii) any other terms of the Notes of such series (which terms shall not be inconsistent with the provisions of this Indenture, except to the extent otherwise permitted by Section 9.01).

All Notes of any one series shall be substantially identical except as to denomination and except as may otherwise be provided herein or in or pursuant to such Board Resolution and set forth in such Officer's Certificate or in any such indenture supplemental hereto.

If any of the terms of Notes of any series are established by action taken pursuant to a Board Resolution, a copy of an appropriate record of such action shall be certified by the Secretary or an Assistant Secretary of the Company and delivered to the Trustee at or prior to the delivery of the Authentication Order contemplated by Section 2.02 with respect to the authentication and delivery of such Notes.

Section 2.02. *Execution and Authentication.* An Officer of the Company shall sign the Notes for the Company by manual signature.

If an Officer whose signature is on a Note no longer holds that office at the time the Trustee authenticates the Note, the Note shall be valid nevertheless.

A Note shall not be valid until an authorized signatory of the Trustee manually authenticates the Note. The signature of the Trustee on a Note shall be conclusive evidence that such Note has been duly and validly authenticated and issued under this Indenture.

At any time and from time to time after the execution and delivery of this Indenture, the Trustee shall authenticate and make available for delivery: (1) Notes of a series for original issue on the Issue Date therefor in an aggregate principal amount specified in the applicable Authentication Order and (2) any Additional Notes of such series for original issue from time to time after the initial Issue Date for such series in such principal amounts as set forth in Section 2.14, in each case upon a written order of the Company signed by two Officers of the Company (an “**Authentication Order**”). Such Authentication Order shall specify the principal amount of the Notes to be authenticated and the date on which the issue of Notes is to be authenticated. Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained herein, the Company may from time to time, without notice to or consent of the Holders, issue such additional principal amounts of Additional Notes as may be issued and authenticated pursuant to clause (2) of this paragraph, and Notes authenticated and delivered upon registration or transfer of, or in exchange for, or in lieu of, other Notes of the same series pursuant to Section 2.06, Section 2.08, Section 2.09, Section 3.06 or Section 9.04.

The Trustee may appoint an agent (the “**Authenticating Agent**”) reasonably acceptable to the Company to authenticate the Notes. Unless limited by the terms of such appointment, any such Authenticating Agent may authenticate Notes whenever the Trustee may do so. Each reference in this Indenture to authentication by the Trustee includes authentication by such Authenticating Agent.

In case the Company, pursuant to Article 5, shall be consolidated or merged with or into any other Person or shall convey, transfer, lease or otherwise dispose of its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any Person, and the successor Person resulting from such consolidation, or surviving such merger, or into which the Company shall have been merged, or the Person that shall have received a conveyance, transfer, lease or other disposition as aforesaid, shall have executed an indenture supplemental hereto (if not otherwise a party to the Indenture) with the Trustee pursuant to Article 5, any of the Notes authenticated or delivered prior to such consolidation, merger, conveyance, transfer, lease or other disposition may, from time to time, at the request of the successor Person, be exchanged for other Notes executed in the name of the successor Person with such changes in phraseology and form as may be appropriate, but otherwise in substance of like tenor as the Notes surrendered for such exchange and of like principal amount; and the Trustee, upon receiving an Authentication Order of the successor Person, shall authenticate and deliver Notes as specified in such order for the purpose of such exchange. If Notes shall at any time be authenticated and delivered in any new name of a successor Person (if other than the Company) pursuant to this Section 2.02 in exchange or substitution for or upon registration of transfer of any Notes, such successor Person (if other than the Company), at the option of the Holders but without expense to them, shall provide for the exchange of all Notes at the time outstanding for Notes authenticated and delivered in such new name.

In connection with the transfer, authentication or cancellation of any Notes by the Trustee, in addition to the other requirements of this Article 2, the Company shall deliver to the Trustee (x) an Officer’s Certificate as provided in Section 10.03(a) and (y) an Opinion of Counsel as provided in Section 10.03(b) which shall also state (1) that the form and terms of the Notes have been established in accordance with the provisions of this Indenture and (2) that the Notes, when duly executed by the Company and authenticated by the Trustee in the manner provided for in the Indenture, and duly paid for by the purchasers thereof, and subject to any conditions specified in such Opinion of Counsel, will constitute the valid and legally binding obligations of the Company, enforceable in accordance with their terms, subject to customary exceptions.

Section 2.03. *Registrar and Paying Agent.* The Company shall maintain an office or agency where Notes may be presented for registration of transfer or for exchange (the “**Registrar**”) and an office or agency where Notes may be presented for payment (the “**Paying Agent**”). The Registrar shall keep a register of the Notes and of their transfer and exchange. The Company may have one or more additional paying agents. The term “Paying Agent” includes any such additional paying agent. The Company may change the Registrar or appoint one or more co-Registrars without notice.

In the event the Company shall retain any Person not a party to this Indenture as an agent hereunder, the Company shall enter into an appropriate agency agreement with any Registrar or Paying Agent not a party to this Indenture, which shall incorporate the terms of the Trust Indenture Act. The agreement shall implement the provisions of this Indenture that relate to such agent. The Company shall notify the Trustee in writing of the name and address of each such agent. If the Company fails to maintain a Registrar or Paying Agent, the Trustee shall act as such and shall be entitled to appropriate compensation therefor pursuant to Section 7.07. The Company shall be responsible for the fees and compensation of all agents appointed or approved by it. Either the Company or any of its domestically incorporated wholly-owned Subsidiaries may act as Paying Agent.

The Company initially appoints the Trustee as Registrar and Paying Agent for the Notes.

Section 2.04. *Paying Agent to Hold Money in Trust.* By no later than 11:00 a.m. (New York City time) on the date on which any principal or interest on any Note is due and payable, the Company shall deposit with the Paying Agent a sum sufficient to pay such principal or interest when due. The Company shall require each Paying Agent (other than the Trustee) to agree in writing that such Paying Agent shall hold in trust for the benefit of Noteholders or the Trustee all money held by such Paying Agent for the payment of principal of or interest on the Notes and shall notify the Trustee in writing of any Default by the Company in making any such payment. If either of the Company or any of its Subsidiaries acts as Paying Agent, it shall segregate the money held by it as Paying Agent and hold it as a separate trust fund. The Company at any time may require a Paying Agent (other than the Trustee) to pay all money held by it to the Trustee and to account for any funds disbursed by such Paying Agent. Upon complying with this Section 2.04, the Paying Agent (if other than the Company or a Subsidiary) shall have no further liability for the money delivered to the Trustee. Upon any bankruptcy, reorganization or similar proceeding with respect to the Company, the Trustee shall serve as Paying Agent for the Notes.

Section 2.05. *Noteholder Lists.* The Registrar shall preserve in as current a form as is reasonably practicable the most recent list available to it of the names and addresses of Noteholders of each series. If the Trustee is not the Registrar, the Company shall cause the Registrar to furnish to the Trustee, in writing at least five Business Days before each Interest Payment Date and at such other times as the Trustee may request in writing, a list in such form and as of such date as the Trustee may reasonably require of the names and addresses of Noteholders.

Section 2.06. *Transfer and Exchange.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this Indenture or the Notes (other than Section 2.01(e) hereof), transfers and exchanges of Notes of any series and beneficial interests in a Global Note of the kinds specified in this Section 2.06 shall be made only in accordance with this Section 2.06.

(a) *Non-Global Note to Non-Global Note.* A Note that is not a Global Note may be transferred, in whole or in part, to a person who takes delivery in the form of another Note of such series that is not a Global Note in accordance with Section 2.03.

The Registrar shall retain copies of all letters, notices and other written communications received pursuant to Section 2.01 or this Section 2.06. The Company shall have the right to inspect and make copies of all such letters, notices or other written communications at any reasonable time upon the giving of reasonable written notice to the Registrar.

(b) *Exchange between Global Note and Non-Global Note.* A beneficial interest in a Global Note may be exchanged for a Note of such series that is not a Global Note as provided in Section 2.01(e).

(c) *Obligations with Respect to Transfers and Exchanges of Notes.*

(i) To permit registrations of transfers and exchanges, the Company shall, subject to the other terms and conditions of this Article 2, execute and the Trustee shall authenticate Definitive Notes and Global Notes at the Registrar's or co-registrar's written request.

(ii) No service charge shall be made to a Holder for any registration of transfer or exchange, but the Company may require payment of a sum sufficient to cover any transfer tax, assessments, or similar governmental charge payable in connection therewith (other than any such transfer taxes, assessments or similar governmental charges payable upon exchange or transfer pursuant to Section 3.06 or Section 9.04).

(iii) The Registrar or co-registrar shall not be required to register the transfer of or exchange of any Note for a period beginning (A) 15 days before the mailing of a notice of an offer to repurchase or redeem Notes of any series and ending at the close of business on the day of such mailing or (B) 15 days before an Interest Payment Date and ending on such Interest Payment Date.

(iv) Prior to the due presentation for payments, registration of transfer of any Note, the Company, the Trustee, the Paying Agent, the Registrar or any co-registrar may deem and treat the person in whose name a Note is registered as the absolute owner of such Note for the purpose of receiving payment of principal of and interest on such Note and for all other purposes whatsoever, whether or not such Note is overdue, and none of the Company, the Trustee, the Paying Agent, the Registrar or any co-registrar shall be affected by notice to the contrary.

(v) All Notes of any series issued upon any transfer or exchange pursuant to the terms of this Indenture shall be the valid and legally binding obligation of the Company, shall evidence the same debt and shall be entitled to the same benefits under this Indenture as the Notes of such series surrendered upon such transfer or exchange.

(vi) Any Definitive Note delivered in exchange for an interest in a Global Note pursuant to Section 2.01(d) shall bear the legend set forth in Section 2.01(c).

(d) No Obligation of the Trustee.

(i) The Trustee shall have no responsibility or obligation to any beneficial owner of a Global Note, a member of, or a participant in, DTC or other Person in respect of any aspect of the records, or for maintaining, supervising or reviewing any records, relating to beneficial ownership interests of a Global Note, with respect to the accuracy of the records of DTC or its nominee or of any participant or member thereof, with respect to any ownership interest in the Notes or with respect to the delivery to any participant, member, beneficial owner or other Person (other than DTC) of any notice (including any notice of redemption) or the payment of any amount or delivery of any Notes (or other security or property) under or with respect to such Notes. All notices and communications to be given to the Holders and all payments to be made to Holders in respect of the Notes shall be given or made only to or upon the order of the registered Holders (which shall be DTC or its nominee in the case of a Global Note). The rights of beneficial owners in any Global Note shall be exercised only through DTC subject to the applicable rules and procedures of DTC. The Trustee and the Company may conclusively rely and shall be fully protected in relying upon information furnished by DTC with respect to its members, participants and any beneficial owners.

(ii) The Trustee shall have no obligation or duty to monitor, determine or inquire as to compliance with any restrictions on transfer imposed under this Indenture or under applicable law with respect to any transfer of any interest in any Note of any series (including any transfers between or among Agent Members or beneficial owners of interests in any Global Note) other than to require delivery of such certificates and other documentation or evidence as are expressly required by, and to do so if and when expressly required by, the terms of this Indenture, and to examine the same to determine substantial compliance as to form with the express requirements hereof.

(e) Transfer and Exchange of Global Notes. A Global Note may not be transferred as a whole except by DTC to a nominee of DTC, by a nominee of DTC to DTC or to another nominee of DTC or by DTC or any such nominee to a successor depository or to a nominee of such successor depository.

Neither the Trustee nor any agent thereof shall have any responsibility for any actions taken or not taken by DTC or any successor depository.

Section 2.07. *Business Days.* If a payment date is on a date that is not a Business Day, payment shall be made on the next succeeding day that is a Business Day, and no interest shall accrue on such payment for the intervening period. If a regular record date is on a day that is not a Business Day, the record date shall not be affected.

Section 2.08. *Replacement Notes.* If a mutilated Note is surrendered to the Registrar or if the Holder of a Note shall provide the Company and the Trustee with evidence to their satisfaction that the Note has been lost, destroyed or wrongfully taken, the Company shall issue and the Trustee shall authenticate a replacement Note of the same series if the requirements of Section 8-405 of the Uniform Commercial Code are met and the Holder satisfies any other reasonable requirements of the Trustee. In addition, such Holder shall furnish an indemnity or surety bond sufficient in the judgment of the Company and the Trustee to protect the Company, the Trustee, the Paying Agent and the Registrar from any loss that any of them may suffer if a Note is replaced. The Company and the Trustee may charge the Holder for their expenses in replacing a Note, including reasonable fees and expenses of counsel. Every replacement Note is an additional obligation of the Company.

Section 2.09. *Outstanding Notes.* Notes of any series outstanding at any time are all Notes authenticated by the Trustee except for those cancelled, those delivered for cancellation and those described in this Section 2.09 as not outstanding. A Note does not cease to be outstanding because the Company or an Affiliate of the Company holds the Note.

If a Note is replaced pursuant to Section 2.08, it ceases to be outstanding unless the Trustee and the Company receive proof satisfactory to them that the replaced Note is held by a bona fide purchaser.

If, by 11:00 a.m. New York City time, the Paying Agent segregates and holds in trust, in accordance with this Indenture, on a Redemption Date or maturity date money that has been irrevocably deposited with it and that is sufficient to pay all principal and interest payable on that date with respect to the Notes of any series (or portions thereof) to be redeemed or maturing, as the case may be, then on and after that date such Notes (or portions thereof) cease to be outstanding and interest on them ceases to accrue.

Section 2.10. *Temporary Notes.* Until Definitive Notes are ready for delivery, the Company may prepare and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver temporary Notes. Temporary Notes shall be substantially in the form of Definitive Notes but may have variations that the Company considers appropriate for temporary Notes. Without unreasonable delay, the Company shall prepare and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver Definitive Notes. After the preparation of Definitive Notes, the temporary Notes shall be exchangeable for Definitive Notes upon surrender of the temporary Notes at any office or agency maintained by the Company for that purpose and such exchange shall be without charge to the Holder. Upon surrender for cancellation of any one or more temporary Notes, the Company shall execute, and the Trustee shall authenticate and deliver in exchange therefor, one or more Definitive Notes representing an equal principal amount of Notes. Until so exchanged, the Holder of temporary Notes shall in all respects be entitled to the same benefits under this Indenture as a Holder of Definitive Notes.

Section 2.11. *Cancellation.* The Company at any time may deliver Notes to the Trustee for cancellation and such delivery shall be accompanied by an Officer's Certificate in which the Company directs the Trustee to cancel such Notes. The Registrar and the Paying Agent shall forward to the Trustee for cancellation any Notes surrendered to them for registration of transfer or exchange or payment. The Trustee and no one else shall cancel (subject to the record retention requirements of the Exchange Act) all Notes surrendered for registration of transfer or exchange, payment or cancellation and, upon the written request of the Company, deliver evidence of such cancellation to the Company. The Company may not issue new Notes to replace Notes it has redeemed, paid or delivered to the Trustee for cancellation, but this shall not prohibit the Company from issuing any Additional Notes. All cancelled Notes held by the Trustee may be disposed of by the Trustee in accordance with its then customary practices and procedures.

Section 2.12. *Defaulted Interest.* If the Company defaults in a payment of interest on the Notes of any series, the Company shall pay defaulted interest plus interest on such defaulted interest to the extent lawful at the rate specified therefor in the Notes of such series in any lawful manner. The Company may pay the defaulted interest to the Persons who are Noteholders on a subsequent special record date. The Company shall fix or cause to be fixed any such special record date and payment date to the reasonable satisfaction of the Trustee, which specified record date shall not be less than 10 days prior to the payment date for such defaulted interest and shall promptly send or cause to be sent to each Noteholder a notice that states the special record date, the payment date and the amount of defaulted interest to be paid. The Company shall notify the Trustee pursuant to an Officer's Certificate of the amount of defaulted interest proposed to be paid on each Note of the affected series and the date of the proposed payment, and at the same time the Company shall, at least one Business Day prior to such payment date, deposit with the Trustee an amount of money equal to the aggregate amount proposed to be paid in respect of such defaulted interest, such money when so deposited to be held in trust for the benefit of the Person entitled to such defaulted interest as provided in this Section 2.12.

Section 2.13. *CUSIP Numbers, etc.* The Company in issuing the Notes may use "CUSIP" or "ISIN" numbers and/or other similar numbers (if then generally in use), and, if so, the Trustee shall use "CUSIP" and/or "ISIN" numbers in notices of redemption or exchange as a convenience to Holders; *provided, however,* that any such notice may state that no representation is made by the Trustee as to the correctness of such numbers either as printed on the Notes or as contained in any notice of a redemption or exchange and that reliance may be placed only on the other identification numbers printed on the Notes, and any such redemption or exchange shall not be affected by any defect in or omission of such numbers. The Company shall promptly notify the Trustee in writing of any change in the CUSIP numbers and/or other similar numbers.

Section 2.14. *Issuance of Additional Notes.* The Company shall be entitled to issue, from time to time, without the consent of holders, Additional Notes of any series under this Indenture, which shall have identical terms as the Notes of such series issued on the initial Issue Date for such series (in each case, other than with respect to the date of issuance, issue price and amount of interest payable on the first payment date applicable thereto), as the case may be; *provided* that if the Additional Notes are not fungible with the Notes of such series for U.S. federal income tax purposes, the Additional Notes will have a separate CUSIP number.

With respect to any Additional Notes, the Company shall set forth in a Board Resolution and an Officer's Certificate, copies of which shall be delivered to the Trustee, the following information:

- (i) the aggregate principal amount of such Additional Notes to be authenticated and delivered pursuant to this Indenture; and
- (ii) the issue price, the Issue Date and the "CUSIP" and "ISIN" number of any such Additional Notes and the amount of interest payable on the first payment date applicable thereto.

Section 2.15. *One Class of Notes.* The Notes of any series and any Additional Notes of such series of Notes shall vote and consent together on all matters as one class; and none of the Notes of any series or any Additional Notes of such series shall have the right to vote or consent as a separate class on any matter.

ARTICLE 3 REDEMPTION

Section 3.01. *Applicability of this Article.* Redemption of Notes of a series, as permitted or required by any form of Note of such series issued pursuant to this Indenture or the documentation providing therefor, shall be made in accordance with such form of Note or documentation and this Article 3; *provided, however,* that if any provision of any such form of Note or documentation shall conflict with any provision of this Article, the provision of such form of Note or documentation shall govern.

Section 3.02. *Notices to Trustee; Selection of Notes to Be Redeemed.* If the Company elects to redeem Notes of any series pursuant to the terms thereof, it shall notify the Trustee in writing of the Redemption Date and the principal amount of Notes to be redeemed.

The Company shall give each notice to the Trustee provided for in this Section 3.02 at least 15 days before the Redemption Date unless the Trustee consents to a shorter period. Such notice shall be accompanied by an Officer's Certificate from the Company to the effect that such redemption shall comply with the conditions herein. The record date relating to such redemption shall be selected by the Company and set forth in the related notice given to the Trustee, which record date shall be not less than 15 days prior to the date selected for redemption by the Company.

Any redemption may, at the Company's discretion, be subject to one or more conditions precedent.

If fewer than all the Notes of a series then outstanding are to be redeemed, the Trustee shall select the Notes of such series to be redeemed pro rata or by lot or by such method as the Trustee may deem fair and appropriate and in the case of Notes held in book entry form, in accordance with DTC's applicable procedures.

The Trustee shall make the selection from outstanding Notes not previously called for redemption. Notes and portions thereof that the Trustee selects shall be in amounts of \$1,000 or integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. Provisions of this Indenture that apply to Notes called for redemption also apply to portions of Notes called for redemption. The Trustee shall promptly notify the Company of the Notes or portions of Notes to be redeemed.

Section 3.03. *Notice of Redemption.* At least 10 days but not more than 60 days before a date for redemption of Notes, the Company shall mail (or, at the Company's option in the case of Notes held in book-entry form, send by electronic transmission) a notice of redemption by first-class mail (or electronic transmission as applicable) to each Holder of Notes to be redeemed at its registered address.

The notice shall identify the Notes to be redeemed and shall state:

- (a) the aggregate amount of Notes to be redeemed;
- (b) the Redemption Date;
- (c) the redemption price (or the method of calculating such price) and the amount of accrued interest to be paid, if any;
- (d) the name and address of the Paying Agent;
- (e) that Notes called for redemption must be surrendered to the Paying Agent to collect the redemption price plus accrued and unpaid interest, if any;
- (f) if fewer than all the outstanding Notes of the affected series are to be redeemed, the certificate number (if certificated) and principal amounts of the particular Notes to be redeemed;
- (g) that, unless the Company defaults in making such redemption payment, interest on Notes (or portion thereof) called for redemption ceases to accrue on and after the Redemption Date;

(h) the CUSIP number, or any similar number, if any, printed on the Notes being redeemed;

(i) that no representation is made as to the correctness or accuracy of the CUSIP number, or any similar number, if any, listed in such notice or printed on the Notes; and

(j) if applicable, any condition or conditions precedent to such redemption.

At the Company's written request (which may be rescinded or revoked at any time prior to the time at which the Trustee shall have given such notice to the Holders), the Trustee shall give the notice of redemption in the name of the Company and at the Company's expense (which notice shall be sent by electronic transmission in the case of Notes held in book-entry form). In such event, the Company shall provide the Trustee with the information required by this Section 3.03 at least five Business Days prior to the date chosen for giving such notice to the Holders (unless the Trustee shall agree to a shorter period). The notice, if sent in the manner herein provided, shall be conclusively presumed to have been given, whether or not the Holder receives such notice. In any case, failure to give such notice by mail, electronically or any defect in the notice to the Holder of any Note designated for redemption as a whole or in part shall not affect the validity of the proceedings for the redemption of any other Notes.

Section 3.04. *Effect of Notice of Redemption.* Once notice of redemption is sent in accordance with Section 3.03, Notes called for redemption shall become due and payable on the Redemption Date and at the redemption price as stated in the notice. Upon surrender to the Paying Agent on the Redemption Date, such Notes shall be paid at the redemption price stated in the notice, plus accrued and unpaid interest to, but not including, the Redemption Date; *provided* that the Company shall have deposited the redemption price with the Paying Agent or the Trustee on or before 11:00 a.m. (New York City time) on the Redemption Date; *provided, further*, that if the Redemption Date is after a regular record date and on or prior to the Interest Payment Date, the accrued and unpaid interest shall be payable to the Noteholder of the redeemed Notes registered on the relevant record date. Failure to give notice or any defect in the notice to any Holder shall not affect the validity of the notice to any other Holder.

Section 3.05. *Deposit of Redemption Price.* By no later than 11:00 a.m. (New York City time) on the Redemption Date, the Company shall deposit with the Paying Agent (or, if the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is the Paying Agent, shall segregate and hold in trust) an amount of money sufficient to pay the redemption price of and accrued and unpaid interest on all Notes to be redeemed on that date.] All money, if any, earned on funds held by the Paying Agent shall be remitted to the Company. In addition, the Paying Agent shall promptly return to the Company any money deposited with the Paying Agent by the Company in excess of the amounts necessary to pay the redemption price of, and accrued interest, if any, on, all Notes to be redeemed.

Unless the Company defaults in the payment of such redemption price, interest on the Notes or portions of Notes to be redeemed shall cease to accrue on and after the applicable Redemption Date, whether or not such Notes are presented for payment.

Section 3.06. *Notes Redeemed in Part.* Upon surrender of a Note that is redeemed in part, the Company shall execute and the Trustee shall authenticate for the Holder thereof (at the Company's expense) a new Note of the same series, equal in principal amount to the unredeemed portion of the Note surrendered; *provided* that each new Note shall be in a principal amount of \$1,000 or an integral multiple of \$1,000 in excess thereof.

ARTICLE 4 COVENANTS

Section 4.01. *Payment of Notes.* The Company covenants and agrees that it shall promptly pay the principal of and interest on the Notes on the dates and in the manner provided in the Notes and in this Indenture. Principal and interest shall be considered paid on the date due if, on or before 11:00 a.m. (New York City time) on such date, the Trustee or the Paying Agent (or, if the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is the Paying Agent, the segregated account or separate trust fund maintained by the Company or such Subsidiary pursuant to Section 2.04) holds in accordance with this Indenture money sufficient to pay all principal and interest then due.

The Company shall pay interest on overdue principal at the rate specified therefor in the Notes of each series, and it shall pay interest on overdue installments of interest at the same rate to the extent lawful as provided in Section 2.12.

Notwithstanding anything to the contrary contained in this Indenture, the Company or the Paying Agent may, to the extent it is required to do so by law, deduct or withhold income or other similar taxes imposed by the United States of America or other domestic or foreign taxing authorities from principal or interest payments hereunder.

Section 4.02. *Compliance Certificate.* The Company will deliver to the Trustee, within 120 days after the end of each fiscal year of the Company ending after the date hereof, an Officer's Certificate signed by its principal executive officer, principal financial officer or principal accounting officer which shall comply with Section 314 of the Trust Indenture Act, stating whether or not to the knowledge of the signers thereof any Default in the performance and observance of any of the terms, provisions and conditions of this Indenture (without regard to any period of grace or requirement of notice provided hereunder) occurred during the previous fiscal year, specifying all such Defaults and the nature and status thereof of which they may have knowledge.

Section 4.03. *SEC Reports.* The Company shall, so long as any Notes are outstanding, deliver to the Trustee within 15 days after it files them with the SEC copies of the information, documents, annual reports and other reports (or copies of such portions of any of the foregoing as the SEC may by rules and regulations prescribe) which the Company is required to file with the SEC pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act. The Company also shall comply with the other provisions of TIA § 314(a). Reports, information and documents filed with the SEC via the EDGAR system will be deemed to be delivered to the Trustee as of the time of such filing via EDGAR for purposes of this Section 4.03. Delivery of reports, information and documents to the Trustee is for informational purposes only and its receipt of such reports shall not constitute constructive notice of any information contained therein or determinable from information contained therein, including compliance with any of the Company's covenants under this Indenture or the Notes (as to which the Trustee is entitled to rely exclusively on the Officer's Certificates provided for in Section 4.02 of this Indenture). The Trustee shall not be obligated to monitor or confirm, on a continuing basis or otherwise, the Company's compliance with the covenants or with respect to any reports or other documents filed with the SEC or EDGAR or any website under this Indenture or participate in any conference calls.

Section 4.04. *Maintenance of Office or Agency.* The Company shall maintain the office or agency required under Section 2.03. The Company shall give prior written notice to the Trustee of the location, and any change in the location, of such office or agency. If at any time the Company shall fail to maintain any such required office or agency or shall fail to furnish the Trustee with the address thereof, such presentations, surrenders, notices and demands may be made or served at the address of the Trustee set forth in Section 10.01.

Section 4.05. *Existence.* Except as otherwise permitted by Article 5, the Company shall do or cause to be done all things necessary to preserve and keep in full force and effect its existence as a corporation or other Person.

ARTICLE 5 CONSOLIDATION, MERGER AND SALE OF ASSETS

Section 5.01. *When the Company May Merge or Transfer Assets.* The Company shall not consolidate with or sell, lease or convey all or substantially all of its properties or assets to, or merge with or into, in one transaction or a series of related transactions, any other Person, unless:

(a) the Company shall be the continuing Person or, alternatively, the successor Person formed by or resulting from such consolidation or merger, or the Person that receives the transfer of such properties or assets (the "Successor") shall be a corporation, limited liability company or limited partnership organized under the laws of the United States of America, any State thereof or the District of Columbia and the Successor (if not the Company) shall expressly assume, by supplemental indenture, executed and delivered to the Trustee, in form satisfactory to the Trustee, all the obligations of the Company under the Notes and this Indenture by executing a supplemental indenture to this Indenture;

(b) immediately after giving effect to such transaction, no Default or Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing; and

(c) the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an Officer's Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel, each stating that such consolidation, merger, conveyance or transfer and such supplemental indenture (if any) comply with clauses (a) and (b) above and that such supplemental indenture constitutes the legal, valid and binding obligation of the Successor, enforceable by the Successor, subject to customary exceptions.

Section 5.02. *Successor Person Substituted.* The Successor will succeed to, and be substituted for, and may exercise every right and power of, the Company under the Indenture. The Company shall be relieved of all obligations and covenants

under the Notes of each series and the Indenture; *provided* that in the case of a lease of all or substantially all of the Company's property or assets, the Company will not be released from the obligation to pay the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on the Notes.

ARTICLE 6 DEFAULTS AND REMEDIES

Section 6.01. *Events of Default*. An “**Event of Default**” occurs with respect to a series of Notes if:

(a) a Default in any payment of interest on any Note of such series when the same becomes due and payable occurs, and such Default continues for a period of 30 days;

(b) a Default in the payment of the principal of or premium, if any, on any Note of such series when the same becomes due and payable at its Stated Maturity occurs, upon optional redemption or otherwise, and the time for such payment has not been extended;

(c) the Company fails to comply with any of its agreements in the relevant series of Notes or this Indenture (other than those referred to in (a) or (b) above) and such failure continues for 90 days after the notice specified below;

(d) the Company pursuant to or within the meaning of any Bankruptcy Law:

(i) commences a voluntary case;

(ii) consents to the entry of an order for relief against it in an involuntary case in which it is the debtor;

(iii) consents to the appointment of a Custodian of it or for any substantial part of its property;

(iv) makes a general assignment for the benefit of its creditors; or

(v) takes any comparable action under any foreign laws relating to insolvency; or

(e) a court of competent jurisdiction enters an order or decree under any Bankruptcy Law that:

(i) is for relief against the Company in an involuntary case;

(ii) appoints a Custodian of the Company or for any substantial part of the property of the Company; or

(iii) orders the winding up or liquidation of the Company;

(or any similar relief is granted under any foreign laws) and the order, decree or relief remains unstayed and in effect for 60 consecutive days.

An Event of Default under one series of Notes does not necessarily constitute an Event of Default under any other series of Notes. The foregoing will constitute Events of Default whatever the reason for any such Event of Default and whether it is voluntary or involuntary or is effected by operation of law or pursuant to any judgment, decree or order of any court or any order, rule or regulation of any administrative or governmental body.

The term “**Bankruptcy Law**” means Title 11, United States Code, or any similar Federal or state law for the relief of debtors. The term “**Custodian**” means any receiver, trustee, assignee, liquidator, custodian or similar official under any Bankruptcy Law.

A Default with respect to Notes of a series under clause (c), of this Section 6.01 is not an Event of Default until the Trustee (by written notice to the Company) or the Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes of such series (by written notice to the Company and the Trustee) gives notice of the Default and the Company does not cure such Default within the time specified in said clause (c) after receipt of such notice. Such notice must specify the Default, demand that it be remedied and state that such notice is a “**Notice of Default**”.

The Company shall deliver to the Trustee, within 30 days after the occurrence thereof, written notice in the form of an Officer's Certificate of any event that with the giving of notice or the lapse of time would become an Event of Default under clause (c) of this Section 6.01, its status and what action the Company is taking or proposes to take with respect thereto.

Section 6.02. *Acceleration.* If an Event of Default with respect to Notes of a series (other than an Event of Default specified in Sections 6.01(d) or 6.01(e) with respect to the Company) occurs and is continuing, the Trustee by written notice to the Company, or the Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes by written notice to the Company and the Trustee, may, and the Trustee at the request of such Holders, shall, declare the principal of and accrued but unpaid interest on all the Notes of such series to be due and payable. Upon such a declaration, such principal and accrued and unpaid interest shall be due and payable immediately. If an Event of Default specified in Section 6.01(d) or 6.01(e) with respect to the Company occurs and is continuing, the principal of and accrued and unpaid interest on all Notes shall *ipso facto* become and be immediately due and payable without any declaration or other act on the part of the Trustee or any Holders. The Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes of a series by written notice to the Trustee may rescind an acceleration and its consequences if all existing Events of Default with respect to Notes of such series have been cured or waived except nonpayment of principal or interest that has become due solely because of such acceleration. No such rescission shall affect any subsequent Default or impair any right consequent thereto.

Section 6.03. *Other Remedies.* If an Event of Default with respect to a series of Notes occurs and is continuing, the Trustee, in conformity with its duties under this Indenture, will exercise all rights or powers under this Indenture at the request or direction of any Holders, *provided*, that the Holders provide the Trustee with an indemnity or security reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee against any loss, liability, cost or expense.

The Trustee may maintain a proceeding even if it does not possess any of the Notes or does not produce any of them in the proceeding. A delay or omission by the Trustee or any Noteholder in exercising any right or remedy accruing upon an Event of Default shall not impair the right or remedy or constitute a waiver of or acquiescence in the Event of Default. No remedy is exclusive of any other remedy. All available remedies are, to the extent permitted by law, cumulative.

Section 6.04. *Waiver of Past Defaults.* At any time after a declaration of acceleration specified in Section 6.02 with respect to Notes of any series and before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained by the Trustee as provided in this Indenture, the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Notes of a series then outstanding by written notice to the Company and the Trustee may, on behalf of the Holders of the Notes of such series, waive any past or existing Default and its consequences except (a) a Default in the payment of the principal of or interest on a Note which have become due solely by such declaration of acceleration or (b) a Default in respect of a provision that under Section 9.02 cannot be amended without the consent of each Noteholder affected. No such waiver shall extend to any subsequent or other Default or impair any consequent right.

Section 6.05. *Control by Majority.* Upon provision of security or indemnity satisfactory to the Trustee, the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the Notes of each series then outstanding may direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Trustee with respect to the Notes of such series or of exercising any trust or power conferred on the Trustee. However, the Trustee, which may conclusively rely on opinions of counsel, may refuse to follow any direction that conflicts with law or this Indenture or that the Trustee determines is unduly prejudicial to the rights of other Noteholders or would involve the Trustee in personal liability; *provided, however*, that the Trustee may take any other action deemed proper by the Trustee that is not inconsistent with such direction.

Section 6.06. *Limitation on Suits.* Except to enforce the right to receive payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest when due, a Holder of Notes may not pursue any remedy with respect to this Indenture or the Notes unless:

(a) An Event of Default shall have occurred and be continuing with respect to the relevant series of Notes and the Holder gives to the Trustee prior written notice stating that an Event of Default is continuing;

(b) the Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the relevant series of Notes then outstanding (including any Additional Notes of the relevant series) make a written request to the Trustee to pursue the remedy;

(c) such Holder or Holders offer to the Trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to the Trustee against any loss, liabilities, costs or expenses in compliance with such request;

(d) the Trustee does not comply with the request within 60 days after receipt of the request and the offer of security or indemnity; and

(e) the Holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the relevant series of Notes then outstanding do not give the Trustee a direction inconsistent with the request during such 60-day period.

A Noteholder may not use this Indenture to prejudice the rights of another Noteholder or to obtain a preference or priority over another Noteholder of the relevant series (it being understood that the Trustee shall not have an affirmative duty to ascertain whether or not such actions or forbearances are unduly prejudicial to such Noteholders).

Section 6.07. *Rights of Holders to Receive Payment.* Notwithstanding any other provision of this Indenture, the right of any Holder to receive payment of principal of and interest on the relevant series of the Notes held by such Holder, on or after the respective due dates expressed in such Notes, or to bring suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after such respective dates, shall not be impaired or affected without the consent of such Holder.

Section 6.08. *Collection Suit by Trustee.* If an Event of Default specified in Section 6.01(a) occurs and is continuing, the Trustee may recover judgment in its own name and as trustee of an express trust against the Company for the whole amount then due and owing (together with interest on any unpaid interest to the extent lawful) and the amounts provided for in Section 7.07.

Section 6.09. *Trustee May File Proofs of Claim.* The Trustee may file such proofs of claim and other papers or documents as may be necessary or advisable in order to have the claims of the Trustee (including any claim for the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and counsel) and the Noteholders allowed in any judicial proceedings relative to the Company, its creditors or any other obligor upon the Notes, or any of their creditors or the property of the Company or such other obligor or their creditors and, unless prohibited by law or applicable regulations, may vote on behalf of the Holders in any election of a trustee in bankruptcy or other Person performing similar functions, and any Custodian in any such judicial proceeding is hereby authorized by each Holder to make payments to the Trustee and, in the event that the Trustee shall consent to the making of such payments directly to the Holders, to pay to the Trustee any amount due it for the reasonable compensation, expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee, its agents and its counsel, and any other amounts due the Trustee under Section 7.07.

Section 6.10. *Priorities.* Any money or other property collected by the Trustee pursuant to Article 6 hereof, or any money or other property otherwise distributable in respect of the Company's obligations under this Indenture, shall be applied in the following order:

FIRST: to the Trustee (including any predecessor Trustee) for amounts due under this Indenture;

SECOND: to Noteholders for amounts due and unpaid on the Notes for principal and interest, ratably, without preference or priority of any kind, according to the amounts due and payable on the relevant series of the Notes for principal and interest, respectively; and

THIRD: to the Company.

The Trustee may, upon prior written notice to the Company, fix a record date and payment date for any payment to Noteholders pursuant to this Section 6.10. At least 15 days before such record date, the Company shall mail to each Noteholder and the Trustee a notice that states the record date, the payment date and amount to be paid.

Section 6.11. *Undertaking for Costs.* In any suit for the enforcement of any right or remedy under this Indenture or in any suit against the Trustee for any action taken or omitted by it as Trustee, a court in its discretion may require the filing by any party litigant in the suit of an undertaking to pay the costs of the suit, and the court in its discretion may assess reasonable costs, including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses, against any party litigant in the suit, having due regard to the merits and good faith of the claims or defenses made by the party litigant. This Section 6.11 does not apply to a suit by the Trustee, a suit by a Holder pursuant to Section 6.07 or a suit by Holders of more than 10% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes of a series.

Section 6.12. *Waiver of Stay or Extension Laws.* The Company (to the extent it may lawfully do so) shall not at any time insist upon, or plead, or in any manner whatsoever claim or take the benefit or advantage of, any stay or extension law wherever enacted, now or at any time hereafter in force, which may affect the covenants or the performance of this Indenture; and the Company (to the extent that it may lawfully do so) hereby expressly waives all benefit or advantage of any such law, and shall not hinder, delay or impede the execution of any power herein granted to the Trustee, but shall suffer and permit the execution of every such power as though no such law had been enacted.

ARTICLE 7
TRUSTEE

Section 7.01. *Duties of Trustee.* (a) If an Event of Default has occurred and is continuing, the Trustee shall exercise the rights and powers vested in it by this Indenture and use the same degree of care and skill in its exercise as a prudent Person would exercise or use under the circumstances in the conduct of such Person's own affairs.

(b) Except during the continuance of an Event of Default:

(i) the Trustee undertakes to perform such duties and only such duties as are specifically set forth in this Indenture and no implied covenants or obligations shall be read into this Indenture against the Trustee; and

(ii) in the absence of bad faith on its part, the Trustee may conclusively rely, as to the truth of the statements and the correctness of the opinions expressed therein, upon Officer's Certificates and Opinions of Counsel furnished to the Trustee and conforming to the requirements of this Indenture. However, in the case of any such Officer's Certificates and Opinions of Counsel which by any provision hereof are specifically required to be furnished to the Trustee, the Trustee shall examine such Officer's Certificates and Opinions of Counsel to determine whether or not they conform to the requirements of this Indenture (but need not confirm or investigate the accuracy of mathematical calculations or other facts stated therein).

(c) The Trustee may not be relieved from liability for its own negligent action, its own negligent failure to act or its own willful misconduct, except that:

(i) this subsection does not limit the effect of subsections (b) or (f) of this Section 7.01;

(ii) the Trustee shall not be liable for any error of judgment made in good faith by a Trust Officer unless it is proved that the Trustee was negligent in ascertaining the pertinent facts; and

(iii) the Trustee shall not be liable with respect to any action it takes or omits to take in good faith in accordance with a direction received by it pursuant to Section 6.05.

(d) Every provision of this Indenture that in any way relates to the Trustee is subject to subsections (a), (b), (c) and (f) of this Section 7.01.

(e) The Trustee shall not be liable for interest on any money or other property received by it or for holding moneys or other property uninvested, in either case, except as otherwise agreed to in writing between the Company and the Trustee. Money and other property held in trust by the Trustee shall, until used or applied as herein provided, be held in trust for the purposes for which they were received, but need not be segregated from other money or property except to the extent required by law.

(f) No provision of this Indenture shall require the Trustee to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any liability, financial or otherwise, in the performance of any of its duties hereunder or in the exercise of any of its rights or powers.

(g) Every provision of this Indenture relating to the conduct or affecting the liability of or affording protection to the Trustee shall be subject to the provisions of this Section 7.01 and to the provisions of the Trust Indenture Act, where applicable.

Section 7.02. *Rights of Trustee.* (a) The Trustee may conclusively rely on, and shall be protected in acting or refraining from acting in reliance on, any document believed by it to be genuine and to have been signed or presented by the proper person. The Trustee need not investigate any fact or matter stated in the document.

(b) Before the Trustee acts or refrains from acting, it may require an Officer's Certificate or an Opinion of Counsel, or both. The Trustee shall not be liable for any action it takes or omits to take in good faith in reliance on the Officer's Certificate or Opinion of Counsel.

(c) The Trustee may execute any of the trusts or powers or perform any duties hereunder either directly or through attorneys and agents, respectively, and shall not be responsible for the misconduct or negligence of any attorney or agent appointed with due care by it hereunder.

(d) The Trustee shall not be liable for any action it takes, suffers to exist or omits to take in good faith which it believes to be authorized or within its rights or powers conferred upon it by this Indenture.

(e) The Trustee may consult with counsel of its selection, and the written or verbal advice or opinion of counsel with respect to legal matters relating to this Indenture and the Notes shall be full and complete authorization and protection from liability in respect to any action taken, omitted or suffered by it hereunder in good faith and in reliance thereon.

(f) The Trustee shall be under no obligation to exercise any of the rights or powers vested in it by this Indenture at the request or direction of any of the Holders pursuant to this Indenture, unless such Holders shall have offered to the Trustee security or indemnity satisfactory to it against the costs, losses, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by it in compliance with such request or direction.

(g) The Trustee shall not be charged with knowledge of any Default or Event of Default with respect to the Notes unless either (i) a Trust Officer shall have actual knowledge of such Default or Event of Default or (ii) written notice of such Default or Event of Default shall have been given to a Trust Officer of the Trustee at the Corporate Trust Office by the Company or any other obligor on the Notes or by any Holder of the Notes. Any such notice shall reference this Indenture and the Notes.

(h) The rights, privileges, protections, immunities and benefits given to the Trustee pursuant to this Indenture, including its rights to be indemnified, are extended to, and shall be enforceable by, the Trustee in each of its capacities as Registrar and Paying Agent, as the case may be, hereunder.

(i) The Trustee shall not be bound to make any investigation into the facts or matters stated in any resolution, certificate, statement, instrument, opinion, report, notice, request, direction, consent, order, bond, debenture, note, other evidence of Indebtedness or other paper or document, but the Trustee, in its discretion, may make such further reasonable inquiry or reasonable investigation into such facts or matters as it may see fit, and, if the Trustee shall determine to make such further inquiry or investigation, it shall be entitled, upon reasonable notice and at reasonable times, to examine the books, records and premises of the Company, personally or by agent or attorney at the sole cost of the Company and shall incur no liability or additional liability of any kind by reason of such inquiry or investigation.

(j) The Trustee shall not be required to give any bond or surety in respect of the performance of its powers and duties hereunder.

(k) The Trustee may request that the Company deliver a certificate setting forth the names of individuals and/or titles of Officers authorized at such time to take specified actions pursuant to this Indenture.

(l) In no event shall the Trustee be responsible or liable for special, indirect, punitive or consequential loss or damage of any kind whatsoever (including, but not limited to, loss of profit) irrespective of whether the Trustee has been advised of the likelihood of such loss or damage and regardless of the form of action.

(m) The permissive rights or powers of the Trustee to do things enumerated in this Indenture shall not be construed as a duty of the Trustee.

(n) The Trustee shall not have any obligation to pursue any action that is not in accordance with applicable law.

Section 7.03. *Individual Rights of Trustee.* The Trustee in its individual or any other capacity may become the owner or pledgee of Notes and may otherwise deal with the Company with the same rights it would have if it were not Trustee. Any Paying Agent, Registrar or co-paying agent may do the same with like rights. However, the Trustee must comply with Sections 1.01 and 7.10. Under no circumstances shall the Trustee be liable in its individual capacity for the obligations evidenced by the Notes.

Section 7.04. *Trustee's Disclaimer.* The Trustee shall not be responsible for and makes no representation as to the validity or adequacy of this Indenture or the Notes, it shall not be accountable for the Company's use of the proceeds from the Notes, and it shall not be responsible for any statement of the Company in this Indenture or in any document issued in connection with the sale of the Notes or in the Notes other than the Trustee's certificate of authentication.

Section 7.05. *Notice of Defaults.* If a Default or an Event of Default occurs with respect to the Notes and is continuing and if it is actually known to a Trust Officer of the Trustee, the Trustee shall mail to each Noteholder notice of the Default within 90 days after it is known to a Trust Officer or written notice of it is received by a Trust Officer of the Trustee. Except in the case of a Default in payment of principal of or interest on any Note, the Trustee may withhold the notice if and so long as it in good faith determines that withholding the notice is not opposed to the interests of Noteholders.

Section 7.06. *Reports by Trustee to Holders.* As promptly as practicable after each May 15 beginning with the May 15 following the date of this Indenture, and in any event prior to July 15 in each year, the Trustee shall mail to each Noteholder a brief report dated as of such May 15 that complies with Section 313(a) of the Trust Indenture Act. The Trustee also shall comply with Section 313(b) of the Trust Indenture Act. The Trustee shall promptly deliver to the Company a copy of any report it delivers to Holders pursuant to this Section 7.06.

A copy of each report at the time of its mailing to Noteholders shall be filed by the Trustee with the SEC and each stock exchange (if any) on which the Notes are listed. The Company agrees to notify promptly the Trustee in writing whenever the Notes become listed on any stock exchange and of any delisting thereof.

Section 7.07. *Compensation and Indemnity.* The Company covenants and agrees to pay to the Trustee (and any predecessor Trustee) from time to time such compensation for its services as the Company and the Trustee shall from time to time mutually agree in writing. The Trustee's compensation shall not be limited by any law on compensation of a trustee of an express trust. The Company shall reimburse the Trustee upon request for all reasonable out-of-pocket expenses (including attorneys' fees and expenses), disbursements and advances incurred or made by it in accordance with the provisions of this Indenture, including costs of collection, in addition to such compensation for its services, except any such expense, disbursement or advance as shall be determined to have been caused by its own negligence or willful misconduct as finally adjudicated by a non-appealable decisions of a court of competent jurisdiction. Such expenses shall include the reasonable compensation and expenses, disbursements and advances of the Trustee's agents and counsel and without limitation, expenses and costs (including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses and court costs) incurred in connection with (a) any action, claim or suit brought to enforce the Trustee's right to indemnification or (b) the Trustee's defending itself against claims of its own negligence or willful misconduct. The Trustee shall provide the Company reasonable notice of any expenditure not in the ordinary course of business. The Company shall indemnify each of the Trustee, its officers, directors, employees and any predecessor Trustees against any and all fees, loss, damage, claim (whether asserted by the Company, a Holder or any other Person) liability or expense (including reasonable attorneys' fees and expenses) (other than taxes applicable to the Trustee's compensation hereunder) incurred by it in connection with the acceptance or administration of this trust and the performance of its duties hereunder. The Trustee shall notify the Company promptly of any claim of which a Trust Officer has received written notice and for which it may seek indemnity. Failure by the Trustee so to notify the Company shall not relieve the Company of its obligations hereunder. The Company shall defend the claim and the Trustee shall cooperate, to the extent reasonable, in the defense of any such claim, and, if (in the opinion of counsel to the Trustee) the facts and/or issues surrounding the claim are reasonably likely to create a conflict with the Company, the Company shall pay the reasonable fees and expenses of separate counsel to the Trustee. The Company need not reimburse any expense or indemnify against any loss, liability, cost or expense incurred by the Trustee through the Trustee's own willful misconduct, negligence or bad faith. The Company need not pay for any settlement made without its consent, which consent shall not be unreasonably withheld or delayed.

To secure the Company's payment obligations in this Section 7.07, the Trustee (including any predecessor trustee) shall have a Lien prior to the Notes on all money or property held or collected by the Trustee other than money or property held in trust to pay principal of and interest on particular Notes.

The Company's payment obligations pursuant to this Section 7.07 shall survive the satisfaction, discharge and termination of this Indenture, the resignation or removal of the Trustee and any discharge of this Indenture including any discharge under any bankruptcy law. In addition to and without prejudice to the rights provided to the Trustee under any of the provisions of this Indenture, when the Trustee incurs expenses or renders services after the occurrence of a Default specified in Section 6.01(d) or 6.01(e), the expenses and the compensation for the services are intended to constitute expenses of administration under the Bankruptcy Law.

Section 7.08. *Replacement of Trustee.* The Trustee may resign at any time upon 30 days' written notice to the Company. The Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Notes then outstanding, may remove the Trustee upon 30 days' written notice to the Trustee and may appoint a successor Trustee, which successor Trustee shall be reasonably acceptable to the Company. The Company shall remove the Trustee if:

- (a) the Trustee fails to comply with Section 7.10;
- (b) the Trustee is adjudged bankrupt or insolvent;

(c) a receiver or other public officer takes charge of the Trustee or its property; or

(d) the Trustee otherwise becomes incapable of acting.

If the Trustee resigns, is removed by the Company or by the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Notes and such Holders do not reasonably promptly appoint a successor Trustee, or if a vacancy exists in the office of Trustee for any reason (the Trustee in such event being referred to herein as the retiring Trustee), the Company shall promptly appoint a successor Trustee.

A successor Trustee shall deliver a written acceptance of its appointment to the retiring Trustee and to the Company and the Company shall pay all amounts due and owing to the Trustee under Section 7.07 of the Indenture. Thereupon the resignation or removal of the retiring Trustee shall become effective, and the successor Trustee shall have all the rights, powers and duties of the Trustee under this Indenture. The successor Trustee shall mail a notice of its succession to Noteholders affected by such resignation or removal. The retiring Trustee shall promptly transfer all property held by it as Trustee to the successor Trustee, subject to the Lien provided for in Section 7.07.

If a successor Trustee does not take office with respect to the Notes within 30 days after the retiring Trustee resigns or is removed, the retiring Trustee or the Holders of 10% in principal amount of the Notes may petition at the expense of the Company any court of competent jurisdiction for the appointment of a successor Trustee.

If the Trustee fails to comply with Section 1.01, any Noteholder may petition any court of competent jurisdiction for the removal of the Trustee and the appointment of a successor Trustee.

Notwithstanding the replacement of the Trustee pursuant to this Section 7.08, the Company's obligations under Section 7.07 shall continue for the benefit of the retiring Trustee.

Section 7.09. *Successor Trustee by Merger.* If the Trustee consolidates with, merges or converts into, or transfers all or substantially all its corporate trust business or assets to, another corporation or banking association, the resulting, surviving or transferee corporation without any further act shall be the successor Trustee; *provided* that such corporation shall be otherwise qualified and eligible under this Article 7 and Section 310(a) of the Trust Indenture Act, without the execution or filing of any paper or any further act on the part of the parties hereto.

In case at the time such successor or successors by merger, conversion or consolidation to the Trustee shall succeed to the trusts created by this Indenture any of the Notes shall have been authenticated but not delivered, any such successor to the Trustee may adopt the certificate of authentication of any predecessor trustee, and deliver such Notes so authenticated; and in case at that time any of the Notes shall not have been authenticated, any successor to the Trustee may authenticate such Notes either in the name of any predecessor hereunder or in the name of the successor to the Trustee; and in all such cases such certificates shall have the full force which it is anywhere in the Notes or in this Indenture.

Section 7.10. *Eligibility; Disqualification.* The Trustee shall at all times satisfy the requirements of Section 310(a) of the Trust Indenture Act. The Trustee shall have a combined capital and surplus of at least \$50,000,000 as set forth in its most recent published annual report of condition. The Trustee shall comply with Section 310(b) of the Trust Indenture Act; *provided, however*, that there shall be excluded from the operation of Section 310(b)(1) of the Trust Indenture Act and any indenture or indentures under which other securities or certificates of interest or participation in other securities of the Company are outstanding if the requirements for such exclusion set forth in Section 310(b)(1) of the Trust Indenture Act are met.

Nothing herein shall prevent the Trustee from filing with the Commission the application referred to in the second to last paragraph of Section 310(b) of the Trust Indenture Act.

Section 7.11. *Preferential Collection of Claims Against the Company.* The Trustee shall comply with Section 311(a) of the Trust Indenture Act, excluding any creditor relationship listed in Section 311(b) of the Trust Indenture Act. A Trustee who has resigned or been removed shall be subject to Section 311(a) of the Trust Indenture Act to the extent indicated.

ARTICLE 8 DISCHARGE OF INDENTURE; DEFEASANCE

Section 8.01. *Discharge of Liability on Notes; Defeasance.* (a) With respect to a series of Notes, when (i) the Company delivers to the Trustee all outstanding Notes of such series that have not already been delivered to the Trustee for

cancellation or (ii) (A) all outstanding Notes of such series have become due and payable, whether at maturity, as a result of repayment at the option of the Holders or as a result of the mailing of a notice of redemption pursuant to Article 3 hereof or (B) the Notes of such series shall become due and payable at their Stated Maturity within one year, or the Notes of such series are to be called for redemption within one year under arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee for the giving of notice of redemption by the Trustee in the name, and at the expense, of the Company, and, in each case of this clause (ii), the Company irrevocably deposits or causes to be deposited with the Trustee funds sufficient to pay at maturity or upon redemption all outstanding Notes of such series, including interest thereon to maturity or such Redemption Date, and if in the case of either clause (i) or (ii) the Company pays all other sums payable hereunder by the Company then this Indenture shall, subject to Section 8.01(c), cease to be of further effect. The Trustee shall acknowledge satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture on demand of the Company, accompanied by an Officer's Certificate from the Company and an Opinion of Counsel from the Company that all conditions precedent provided herein for satisfaction and discharge of this Indenture have been complied with, at the cost and expense of the Company.

(b) Subject to Section 8.01(c) and Section 8.02, the Company at any time may terminate (i) all of its obligations under the Notes of a series and this Indenture as it relates to such Notes ("**legal defeasance option**") or (ii) its obligations under Sections 4.02, 4.03 and 4.04 and the operation of Section 6.01(c) as it relates to a series of Notes ("**covenant defeasance option**"). The Company may exercise its legal defeasance option as it relates to a series of Notes notwithstanding its prior exercise of its covenant defeasance option as it relates to such Notes.

If the Company exercises its legal defeasance option with respect to the Notes of a series, payment of the Notes of such series may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default. If the Company exercises its covenant defeasance option, payment of the Notes of such series may not be accelerated because of an Event of Default specified in Sections 6.01(c), 6.01(d) or 6.01(e).

Upon satisfaction of the conditions set forth herein and upon request of the Company the Trustee shall acknowledge in writing the discharge of those obligations that the Company terminates.

(c) Notwithstanding clauses (a) and (b) above, the Company's obligations in Sections 2.03, 2.04, 2.05, 2.08, 4.01, 7.07, 7.08, 8.04, 8.05 and 8.06 shall survive until the Notes of each series have been paid in full. Thereafter, the Company's and the Trustee's obligations in Sections 7.07, 8.04 and 8.05 shall survive such satisfaction and discharge.

Section 8.02. *Conditions to Defeasance.* The Company may exercise its legal defeasance option or its covenant defeasance option with respect to a series of the Notes only if:

(a) the Company irrevocably deposits or causes to be deposited in trust with the Trustee money or U.S. Government Obligations that through the scheduled payment of principal and interest in respect thereof in accordance with their terms shall provide cash at such times and in such amounts as shall be sufficient to pay principal and interest when due on all outstanding Notes of such series (except Notes replaced pursuant to Section 2.08) to maturity or redemption, as the case may be;

(b) the Company delivers to the Trustee a certificate from a nationally recognized firm of independent accountants or valuation consultants expressing their opinion that the payments of principal and interest when due and without reinvestment on the deposited U.S. Government Obligations plus any deposited money without investment shall provide cash at such times and in such amounts as shall be sufficient to pay principal and interest when due on all outstanding Notes of such series to maturity or redemption, as the case may be;

(c) 91 days pass after the deposit is made and during the 91-day period no Default specified in Sections 6.01(d) or 6.01(e) occurs that is continuing at the end of the period;

(d) the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an Officer's Certificate stating that the deposit was not made by the Company with the intent of defeating, hindering, delaying or defrauding any creditors of the Company;

(e) in the case of the legal defeasance option, the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel stating that (i) the Company has received from, or there has been published by, the Internal Revenue Service a ruling, or (ii) since the date of this Indenture there has been a change in the applicable federal income tax law, in either case to the effect that, and based thereon such Opinion of Counsel shall confirm that, the Holders of Notes of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit and defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit and defeasance had not occurred;

(f) in the case of the covenant defeasance option, the Company shall have delivered to the Trustee an Opinion of Counsel to the effect that the Holders of Notes of such series will not recognize income, gain or loss for U.S. federal income tax purposes as a result of such deposit and defeasance and will be subject to U.S. federal income tax on the same amounts, in the same manner and at the same times as would have been the case if such deposit and defeasance had not occurred; and

(g) the Company delivers to the Trustee an Officer's Certificate and an Opinion of Counsel, each stating that all conditions precedent to the defeasance and discharge of the Notes as contemplated by this Article 8 have been complied with.

Before or after a deposit, the Company may make arrangements satisfactory to the Trustee for the redemption of any of the Notes at a future date in accordance with Article 3.

Section 8.03. *Application of Trust Money.* The Trustee shall hold in trust money or U.S. Government Obligations deposited with it pursuant to this Article 8. It shall apply the deposited money and the money from U.S. Government Obligations either directly or through the Paying Agent as the Trustee may determine and in accordance with this Indenture to the payment of principal of and interest on the series of the Notes that was defeased.

Section 8.04. *Repayment to the Company.* The Trustee and the Paying Agent shall promptly turn over to the Company upon request any excess money or securities held by them at any time.

Subject to any applicable abandoned property law, the Trustee and the Paying Agent shall pay to the Company upon written request any money held by them for the payment of principal or interest that remains unclaimed for two years after the date of payment of such principal and interest, and, thereafter, Noteholders entitled to the money must look to the Company for payment as general creditors and the Trustee shall be relieved of any liability.

Any unclaimed funds held by the Trustee pursuant to this Section 8.04 shall be held uninvested and without any liability for interest.

Section 8.05. *Indemnity for Government Obligations.* The Company shall pay and shall indemnify the Trustee against any tax, fee or other charge imposed on or assessed against deposited U.S. Government Obligations or the principal and interest received on such U.S. Government Obligations other than any such tax, fee or other charge which by law is for the account of the Holders of the defeased Notes; *provided* that the Trustee shall be entitled to charge any such tax, fee or other charge to such Holder's account.

Section 8.06. *Reinstatement.* If the Trustee or Paying Agent is unable to apply any money or U.S. Government Obligations in accordance with this Article 8 by reason of any legal proceeding or by reason of any order or judgment of any court or governmental authority enjoining, restraining or otherwise prohibiting such application, the Company's obligations under this Indenture as it relates to the defeased Notes and such Notes shall be revived and reinstated as though no deposit had occurred pursuant to this Article 8 until such time as the Trustee or Paying Agent is permitted to apply all such money or U.S. Government Obligations in accordance with this Article 8; *provided, however,* that (a) if the Company has made any payment of interest on or principal of any series of the Notes following the reinstatement of its obligations, the Company shall be subrogated to the rights of the Holders of the particular Notes to receive such payment from the money or U.S. Government Obligations held by the Trustee or Paying Agent and (b) unless otherwise required by any legal proceeding or any order or judgment of any court or governmental authority, the Trustee or Paying Agent shall return all such money and U.S. Government Obligations to the Company promptly after receiving a written request therefor at any time, if such reinstatement of the Company's obligations has occurred and continues to be in effect.

ARTICLE 9 AMENDMENTS

Section 9.01. *Without Consent of Holders.* The Company and the Trustee may amend this Indenture or the Notes of a series without notice to or consent of any Noteholder of such series:

(a) to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency, as evidenced by an Officer's Certificate delivered to the Trustee;

(b) to evidence the succession of another Person to the Company and the assumption by any such successor of the obligations of the Company in accordance with the provisions of Article 5;

(c) to add any additional Events of Default;

(d) to add to the covenants, restrictions or conditions of the Company or other provisions of this Indenture for the benefit of the Holders of all the Notes of such series, to make the occurrence, or the occurrence and the continuance, of a Default in any such additional covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions an Event of Default or to surrender any right or power herein conferred upon the Company;

(e) to add one or more guarantees for the benefit of Holders of the Notes or to release one or more guarantees in accordance with this Indenture or any Supplemental Indenture hereto;

(f) add collateral security with respect to the Notes of such series;

(g) to add or appoint a successor or separate Trustee or other agent;

(h) to provide for the issuance of any Notes or Additional Notes of such series;

(i) to comply with any requirements in connection with qualifying this Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act;

(j) to comply with the rules of any applicable securities depository;

(k) to provide for uncertificated Notes in addition to or in place of certificated Notes; provided, however, that the uncertificated Notes are issued in registered form for purposes of Section 163(f) of the Code;

(l) to conform the provisions of this Indenture to the "Description of Our Debt Securities" and any similar sections of any prospectus prepared in connection with the issuance of the Notes (with the basis for any such annulment pursuant to this clause (l) to be set forth in an Officer's Certificate delivered to the Trustee);

(m) to make changes to this Indenture applicable only to other series of Notes issuable hereunder; and

(n) to change any other provision if the change does not materially adversely affect the interests of any Noteholder of such series, as evidenced by an Officer's Certificate delivered to the Trustee.

After an amendment under this Section 9.01 becomes effective, the Company shall mail to Noteholders a notice briefly describing such amendment. The failure to give such notice to all Noteholders, or any defect therein, shall not impair or affect the validity of an amendment under this Section 9.01.

Section 9.02. *With Consent of Holders.* The Company and the Trustee may amend this Indenture or the Notes of a series without notice to any Noteholder but with the written consent of the Holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the Notes then outstanding of such series (including consents obtained in connection with a tender offer or exchange for Notes). However, without the consent of each Noteholder affected, an amendment may not:

(i) change the Stated Maturity of the principal of, or installment of interest on, any Note;

(ii) reduce the principal amount of, or the rate of interest on, any Notes;

(iii) reduce any premium payable on the redemption or required repurchase of any Note or change the date on which any Note may or must be redeemed, repaid or required to be repurchased;

(iv) change the coin or currency in which the principal of, premium, if any, or interest on any Note is payable;

(v) impair the right of any Holder to institute suit for the enforcement of any payment on or after the Stated Maturity of any Note;

(vi) reduce the percentage in principal amount of the outstanding Notes, the consent of whose Holders is required in order to take certain actions;

(vii) modify any of the provisions of this Indenture regarding the waiver of past defaults and the waiver of certain covenants by Holders except to increase any percentage vote required or to provide that certain other provisions of the Indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each Note affected thereby;

(vii) waive a redemption payment with respect to any Notes;

(vii) modify any of the above provisions of this Section 9.02.

It shall not be necessary for the consent of the Holders under this Section 9.02 to approve the particular form of any proposed amendment, but it shall be sufficient if such consent approves the substance thereof.

After an amendment under this Section 9.02 becomes effective, the Company shall mail to Noteholders a notice briefly describing such amendment. The failure to give such notice to all Noteholders, or any defect therein, shall not impair or affect the validity of an amendment under this Section 9.02.

Section 9.03. *Effect of Consents and Waivers.* A consent to an amendment, supplement or a waiver by a Holder of a Note shall bind the Holder and every subsequent Holder of that Note or portion of the Note that evidences the same debt as the consenting Holder's Note, even if notation of the consent or waiver is not made on the Note. After an amendment or waiver becomes effective with respect to the Notes, it shall bind every Noteholder.

The Company may, but shall not be obligated to, fix a record date for the purpose of determining the Noteholders entitled to give their consent or take any other action described above or required or permitted to be taken pursuant to this Indenture. If a record date is fixed, then notwithstanding the immediately preceding paragraph, those Persons who were Noteholders at such record date (or their duly designated proxies), and only those Persons, shall be entitled to give such consent or to take any such action, whether or not such Persons continue to be Holders after such record date.

Section 9.04. *Notation on or Exchange of Notes.* If an amendment changes the terms of a Note, the Trustee may require the Holder of the Note to deliver it to the Trustee. The Company shall provide in writing to the Trustee an appropriate notation to be placed on the Note regarding the changed terms and return it to the Holder. Alternatively, if the Company or the Trustee so determine, the Company in exchange for the Note shall issue and the Trustee shall authenticate a new Note that reflects the changed terms. Failure to make the appropriate notation or to issue a new Note shall not affect the validity of such amendment.

Section 9.05. *Trustee to Sign Amendments.* The Trustee shall sign any amendment authorized pursuant to this Article 9 if the amendment does not adversely affect the rights, duties, liabilities or immunities of the Trustee. If it does, the Trustee may but need not sign it. In signing such amendment the Trustee shall receive indemnity reasonably satisfactory to it and to receive, and (subject to Section 7.01) shall be fully protected in conclusively relying upon, in addition to the documents required by Section 10.03, an Officer's Certificate of the Company and an Opinion of Counsel stating that such amendment complies with the provisions of this Article 9 and that such supplemental indenture constitutes the legal valid and binding obligation of the Company, enforceable in accordance with its terms subject to customary exceptions.

Upon the execution of any supplemental indenture under this Article 9, this Indenture shall be modified in accordance therewith, and such supplemental Indenture shall form a part of this Indenture for all purposes; and every Noteholder theretofore or thereafter authenticated and delivered hereunder shall be bound thereby.

SECTION 9.06. *Compliance with Trust Indenture Act.* Every amendment to this Indenture or the Notes of any series shall comply with the Trust Indenture Act as then in effect.

ARTICLE 10 MISCELLANEOUS

Section 10.01. *Notices.* Any notice or communication shall be in writing (including facsimile and electronic communications in PDF format) and delivered in person or mailed by first-class mail addressed as follows:

if to the Company:

U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc.
24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 600
Katy, Texas 77494

Attention: Matthew C. Rinegar, Senior Counsel, Securities and Corporate Governance

Facsimile: (281) 394-9016

Email: rinegar@ussilica.com

with a copy to:

Morrison & Foerster LLP
2000 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Suite 6000
Washington, DC 20006
Attention: Scott Lesmes and Emily Beers
Facsimile: (202) 887-0763
Email: slesmes@mofo.com; ebeers@mofo.com

if to the Trustee:

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association
333 S. Grand Avenue, 5th Floor, Suite 5AMAC: E2064-05A
Los Angeles, CA 90071
Attention: Corporate Trust Services—U.S. Silica Holdings Administrator

Any notices between the Company and the Trustee may be by facsimile or electronically in PDF format or certified first class mail, receipt confirmed and the original to follow by guaranteed overnight courier. The Company or the Trustee by written notice to the others may designate additional or different addresses for subsequent notices or communications. The Trustee agrees to accept and act upon facsimile transmission of written instructions and/or directions pursuant to this Indenture given by the Company; *provided, however*, that: (1) the Company, subsequent to such facsimile transmission of written instructions and/or directions, shall provide the originally executed instructions and/or directions to the Trustee in a timely manner and (2) such originally executed instructions and/or directions shall be signed by an authorized Officer of the Company.

Any notice or communication mailed to a Noteholder shall be mailed to the Noteholder at the Noteholder's address as it appears on the registration books of the Registrar and shall be sufficiently given if so mailed within the time prescribed.

Failure to mail a notice or communication to a Noteholder or any defect in it shall not affect its sufficiency with respect to other Noteholders. If a notice or communication is mailed in the manner provided above, it is duly given, whether or not the addressee receives it.

Section 10.02. *Communication by Holders with Other Holders.* Noteholders may communicate pursuant to Section 312(b) of the Trust Indenture Act with other Noteholders with respect to their rights under this Indenture or the Notes. The Company, the Trustee, the Registrar and anyone else shall have the protection of Section 312(c) of the Trust Indenture Act.

Section 10.03. *Certificate and Opinion as to Conditions Precedent.* Upon any request or application by the Company to the Trustee to take or refrain from taking any action under this Indenture, the Company shall furnish to the Trustee:

(a) an Officer's Certificate of the Company in form reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee stating that, in the opinion of the signers, all conditions precedent, if any, provided for in this Indenture relating to the proposed action have been complied with; and

(b) an Opinion of Counsel of the Company in form reasonably satisfactory to the Trustee stating that, in the opinion of such counsel, all such conditions precedent have been complied with.

Section 10.04. *Statements Required in Certificate or Opinion.* Any Officer's Certificate or Opinion of Counsel with respect to compliance with a covenant or condition provided for in this Indenture (other than a certificate provided pursuant to Section 4.02) shall include:

(a) a statement that the individual making such certificate or opinion has read such covenant or condition;

(b) a brief statement as to the nature and scope of the examination or investigation upon which the statements or opinions contained in such certificate or opinion are based;

(c) a statement that, in the opinion of such individual, he has made such examination or investigation as is necessary to enable him to express an informed opinion as to whether or not such covenant or condition has been complied with; and

(d) a statement as to whether or not, in the opinion of such individual, such covenant or condition has been complied with.

Section 10.05. *When Notes Disregarded.* In determining whether the Holders of the required principal amount of Notes of a series have concurred in any direction, waiver or consent, Notes of such series owned by the Company or by any Person directly or indirectly controlling or controlled by or under direct or indirect common control with the Company (an “**Affiliate**”) shall be disregarded and deemed not to be outstanding, except that, for the purpose of determining whether the Trustee shall be protected in conclusively relying on any such direction, waiver or consent, only Notes of such series which a Trust Officer of the Trustee actually knows are so owned shall be so disregarded. Also, subject to the foregoing, only Notes of such series outstanding at the time shall be considered in any such determination.

Section 10.06. *Rules by Trustee, Paying Agent and Registrar.* The Trustee may make reasonable rules for action by or a meeting of Noteholders. The Registrar and the Paying Agent may make reasonable rules for their functions.

Section 10.07. *Governing Law.* This Indenture and the Notes shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

Section 10.08. *No Recourse Against Others.* A director, Officer, employee or stockholder (other than the Company), as such, of the Company shall not have any liability for any obligations of the Company under the Notes of any series or this Indenture or for any claim based on, in respect of or by reason of such obligations or their creation. By accepting a Note, each Noteholder shall waive and release all such liability. The waiver and release shall be part of the consideration for the issue of the Notes.

Section 10.09. *Successors.* All agreements of the Company in this Indenture and the Notes shall bind its successors and assigns. All agreements of the Trustee in this Indenture shall bind its successors.

Section 10.10. *Multiple Originals.* The parties may sign any number of copies of this Indenture. Each signed copy shall be an original, but all of them together represent the same agreement. One signed copy is enough to prove this Indenture. The exchange of copies of this Indenture and of signature pages by facsimile or PDF transmission shall constitute effective execution and delivery of this Indenture as to the parties hereto and may be used in lieu of the original Indenture and signature pages for all purposes.

Section 10.11. *Variable Provisions.* The Company initially appoints the Trustee as Paying Agent and Registrar and custodian with respect to any Global Notes.

Section 10.12. *Table of Contents; Headings.* The table of contents, cross-reference sheet and headings of the Articles and Sections of this Indenture have been inserted for convenience of reference only, are not intended to be considered a part hereof and shall not modify or restrict any of the terms or provisions hereof.

Section 10.13. *Waiver of Jury Trial.* EACH OF THE COMPANY AND THE TRUSTEE HEREBY IRREVOCABLY WAIVES, TO THE FULLEST EXTENT PERMITTED BY APPLICABLE LAW, ANY AND ALL RIGHT TO TRIAL BY JURY IN ANY LEGAL PROCEEDING ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS INDENTURE, THE NOTES OR THE TRANSACTION CONTEMPLATED HEREBY.

Section 10.14. *Force Majeure.* In no event shall the Trustee be responsible or liable for any failure or delay in the performance of its obligations hereunder arising out of or caused by, directly or indirectly, forces beyond its control, including, without limitation, strikes, work stoppages, accidents, acts of war or terrorism, civil or military disturbances, nuclear or natural catastrophes or acts of God, and interruptions, loss or malfunctions of utilities, communications or computer (software and hardware) services; it being understood that the Trustee shall use reasonable efforts which are consistent with accepted practices in the banking industry to resume performance as soon as practicable under the circumstances.

Section 10.15. *U.S.A. Patriot Act.* The parties hereto acknowledge that in accordance with Section 326 of the U.S.A. Patriot Act, the Trustee, like all financial institutions and in order to help fight the funding of terrorism and money laundering, is required to obtain, verify, and record information that identifies each person or legal entity that establishes a relationship or opens an account with the Trustee. The parties to this Indenture agree that they will provide the Trustee with such information as it may request in order for the Trustee to satisfy the requirements of the U.S.A. Patriot Act.

Section 10.16. *Trust Indenture Act Controls*. If any provision of this Indenture limits, qualifies or conflicts with the duties imposed by, or with another provision included or that is required to be included in this Indenture by the Trust Indenture Act, the duty or provision required by the Trust Indenture Act shall control.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties have caused this Indenture to be duly executed as of the date first written above.

U.S. SILICA HOLDINGS, INC.

By: _____
Name:
Title:

WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
as Trustee

By: _____
Name:
Title:

EXHIBIT A

[FORM OF FACE OF NOTE]

U.S. SILICA HOLDINGS, INC.

[]% **NOTES DUE 20[]**

No. []

Principal Amount \$[]

[(subject to adjustment as reflected in the Schedule of Increases and Decreases in Global Note attached hereto)](1)

CUSIP NO []
ISIN NO []

U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation, for value received, promises to pay to , or registered assigns, the principal sum of Dollars [(subject to adjustment as reflected in the Schedule of Increases and Decreases in Global Note attached hereto)] on [], 20[].

Interest Payment Dates: and of each year, commencing on [] [first interest payment date relating to any Additional Notes].

Record Dates: [] and [] of each year.

Additional provisions of this Note are set forth on the other side of this Note.

(1) To be inserted if a Global Note.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, U.S. SILICA HOLDINGS, INC. has caused this Note to be duly executed.

Dated: [], 20[]

U.S. SILICA HOLDINGS, INC.

By: _____
Name:
Title:

TRUSTEE'S CERTIFICATE OF
AUTHENTICATION

This is one of the Notes referred to in the within-mentioned Indenture.

WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION,
as Trustee

By: _____
Authorized Signatory

Dated: [], 20[]

[Reverse of Note]

[]% Notes due 20[]

1. Interest

U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation (together with its successors and assigns under the Indenture hereinafter referred to, being herein called the “**Company**”), promises to pay interest on the principal amount of this Note at the rate of % per annum.

The Company shall pay interest semiannually on and of each year (each such date, an “**Interest Payment Date**”), commencing on [], 20[]. Interest on the Notes shall accrue from [], 20[] [date of issuance of any Additional Notes], or from the most recent date to which interest has been paid on the Notes. Interest shall be computed on the basis of a 360-day year comprised of twelve 30-day months.

2. Method of Payment

By no later than 11:00 a.m. (New York City time) on the date on which any principal of or interest on any Note is due and payable, the Company shall irrevocably deposit with the Trustee or the Paying Agent money sufficient to pay such principal and/or interest. The Company shall pay interest (except defaulted interest) to the Persons who are registered Holders of Notes at the close of business on the [] or [] immediately preceding the Interest Payment Date even if Notes are cancelled, repurchased or redeemed after the record date and on or before the Interest Payment Date. Holders must surrender Notes to a Paying Agent to collect principal payments. The Company shall pay principal and interest in money of the United States that at the time of payment is legal tender for payment of public and private debts. Payments in respect of Notes represented by a Global Note (including principal, premium, if any, and interest) shall be made by the transfer of immediately available funds to the accounts specified by The Depository Trust Company. The Company may make all payments in respect of a Definitive Note (including principal, premium, if any, and interest) by mailing a check to the registered address of each Holder thereof or by wire transfer to an account located in the United States maintained by the payee.

3. Paying Agent and Registrar

Wells Fargo Bank, National Association (the “**Trustee**”), shall initially act as Paying Agent and Registrar. The Company may appoint and change any Paying Agent or Registrar without notice to any Noteholder. The Company or any of its domestically organized wholly-owned Subsidiaries may act as Paying Agent.

4. Indenture

The Company issued the Notes under an Indenture dated as of [], 20[] (as it may be amended or supplemented from time to time in accordance with the terms thereof, the “**Indenture**”), between the Company and the Trustee. The terms of the Notes include those stated in the Indenture and those made part of the Indenture by reference to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 (15 U.S.C. §§ 77aaa-77bbb) as in effect on the date of the Indenture (the “**Trust Indenture Act**”). Terms used herein and not defined herein have the meanings ascribed thereto in the Indenture. The Notes are subject to all such terms, and Noteholders are referred to the Indenture and the Trust Indenture Act for a statement of those terms. To the extent any provision of this Note conflicts with the express provisions of the Indenture, the provisions of the Indenture shall govern and be controlling.

The Notes are senior unsecured obligations of the Company. The Note is one of the Notes referred to in the Indenture. The Notes of this series include the Notes of this series issued on the Issue Date and any Additional Notes of this series issued in accordance with Section 2.14 of the Indenture. The Notes of this series and any Additional Notes of this series are treated as a single class of securities under the Indenture. The Indenture imposes certain limitations on the ability of the Company and its Subsidiaries to create liens, enter into sale and leaseback transactions and enter into mergers and consolidations.

5. Redemption

The Notes shall be redeemable, in whole or in part, at any time and from time to time, at the option of the Company,

at a redemption price equal to the greater of (1) 100% of the aggregate principal amount of such Notes to be redeemed and (2) the sum of the present values of the Remaining Scheduled Payments, plus, in each case, accrued and unpaid interest thereon to, but not including, the Redemption Date; *provided* that if the Company redeems any Notes on or after [], 20[] ([] months prior to the stated maturity date of the Notes), the redemption price for those Notes will equal 100% of the principal amount of the Notes to be redeemed, plus accrued and unpaid interest thereon to, but not including, the Redemption Date.

In determining the present values of the Remaining Scheduled Payments, the Company will discount such payments to the redemption date on a semiannual basis (assuming a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months) using a discount rate equal to the Treasury Rate plus [] basis points.

“Comparable Treasury Issue” means the U.S. Treasury security selected by an Independent Investment Banker as having an actual or interpolated maturity comparable to the remaining term of the Notes to be redeemed that would be utilized, at the time of selection and in accordance with customary financial practice, in pricing new issues of corporate debt securities of comparable maturity to the remaining term of such Notes.

“Comparable Treasury Price” means, with respect to any Redemption Date, (1) the arithmetic average of the Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such Redemption Date after excluding the highest and lowest Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, or (2) if the Company obtains fewer than four Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations, the arithmetic average of all Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations for such Redemption Date.

“Independent Investment Banker” means [] or their respective successors as may be appointed from time to time by the Company; *provided, however*, that if any of the foregoing ceases to be a Primary Treasury Dealer, the Company will substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer.

“Primary Treasury Dealer” means a primary U.S. Government securities dealer in New York City.

“Reference Treasury Dealer” means [] and [] or their respective successors as may be appointed from time to time by the Company; *provided, however*, that if any of the foregoing ceases to be a Primary Treasury Dealer, the Company will substitute another Primary Treasury Dealer.

“Reference Treasury Dealer Quotations” means, with respect to each Reference Treasury Dealer and any Redemption Date, the arithmetic average, as determined by the Company, of the bid and asked prices for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed in each case as a percentage of its principal amount) quoted in writing to the Company by such Reference Treasury Dealer as of 3:30 p.m., New York City time, on the third Business Day preceding such Redemption Date.

“Remaining Scheduled Payments” means, with respect to any Note to be redeemed, the remaining scheduled payments of the principal of and premium, if any, and interest on such Note that would be due after the related Redemption Date but for such redemption; *provided, however*, that, if such Redemption Date is not an Interest Payment Date with respect to such Note, the amount of the next scheduled interest payment thereon will be reduced by the amount of interest accrued thereon to such Redemption Date.

“Treasury Rate” means, with respect to any Redemption Date, the rate per annum equal to the semiannual equivalent yield to maturity (computed as of the third Business Day immediately preceding that Redemption Date) of the Comparable Treasury Issue. In determining this rate, the Company will assume a price for the Comparable Treasury Issue (expressed as a percentage of its principal amount) equal to the Comparable Treasury Price for such Redemption Date.

Except as set forth above and in Section 5 of the Notes, the Notes shall not be redeemable by the Company prior to maturity.

The Notes shall not be entitled to the benefit of any sinking fund.

6. Notice of Redemption

At least 10 days but not more than 60 days before a date for redemption of Notes of this series, the Company shall mail (or, at the Company's option in the case of Notes held in book-entry form, send by electronic transmission) a notice of redemption by first-class mail to each Holder of Notes to be redeemed at its registered address. Notes in denominations of principal amount larger than \$1,000 may be redeemed in part but only in integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. If money sufficient to pay the redemption price of and accrued and unpaid interest on all Notes (or portions thereof) to be

redeemed on the Redemption Date is deposited with the Paying Agent on or before 11:00 a.m. (New York City time) on the Redemption Date (or, if the Company or any of its Subsidiaries is the Paying Agent, such money is segregated and held in trust) and certain other conditions are satisfied, on and after such date interest shall cease to accrue on such Notes (or such portions thereof) called for redemption.

7. Denominations; Transfer; Exchange

The Notes are in fully registered form without coupons in denominations of principal amount of \$1,000 and integral multiples of \$1,000 in excess thereof. A Holder may register, transfer or exchange Notes in accordance with the Indenture. The Registrar may require a Holder, among other things, to furnish appropriate endorsements or transfer documents and to pay any taxes and fees required by law or permitted by the Indenture. The Registrar need not register the transfer of or exchange any Notes selected for redemption (except, in the case of a Note to be redeemed in part, the portion of the Note not to be redeemed) for a period beginning 15 days before the mailing of a notice of redemption of Notes to be redeemed and ending on the date of such mailing.

8. Persons Deemed Owners

The registered holder of this Note shall be treated as the owner of it for all purposes.

9. Unclaimed Money

If money for the payment of principal or interest remains unclaimed for two years after the date of payment of principal and interest, the Trustee or Paying Agent shall pay the money back to the Company at its request. After any such payment, Holders entitled to the money must look only to the Company and not to the Trustee for payment.

10. Defeasance

Subject to certain conditions set forth in the Indenture, the Company at any time may terminate some or all of its obligations under the Notes of this series and the Indenture as it relates to the Notes of this series if the Company deposits with the Trustee money or U.S. Government Obligations for the payment of principal of and interest on the Notes to redemption or maturity, as the case may be.

11. Amendment, Waiver

Subject to certain exceptions set forth in the Indenture, (i) the Indenture or the Notes may be amended with the written consent of the Holders of at least a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes and (ii) any default or noncompliance with any provision of the Indenture or the Notes may be waived with the written consent of the Holders of a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Notes (including consents obtained in connection with a tender offer or exchange for Notes). However, the Indenture requires the consent of each Noteholder that would be affected for certain specified amendments or modifications of the Indenture and the Notes. Subject to certain exceptions set forth in the Indenture, without the consent of any Noteholder, the Company and the Trustee may amend the Indenture or the Notes, among other things, to cure any ambiguity, omission, defect or inconsistency, or to evidence the succession of another Person to the Company and the assumption by any such Person of the obligations of the Company in accordance with Article 5 of the Indenture, or to add any additional Events of Default, or to add to the covenants of the Company for the benefit of the Holders of the Notes or surrender rights and powers conferred on the Company, or to add one or more guarantees for the benefit of the Holders of the Notes or to release one or more guarantees in accordance with the Indenture, or to add collateral security with respect to the Notes, or to add or appoint a successor or separate trustee or other agent, or to provide for the issuance of Additional Notes, or to comply with any requirements in connection with qualifying the Indenture under the Trust Indenture Act, or to provide for uncertificated Notes in addition to or in place of certificated Notes, or to comply with the rules of any applicable securities depository or to conform the provisions of the Indenture to the "Description of Notes" or "Description of Debt Securities" sections of any offering memorandum or prospectus prepared in connection with the issuance of the Notes (with the basis for any such annulment to be set forth in an Officer's Certificate), or to make changes to the Indenture applicable only to other series of Notes issuance thereunder, or to change any other provision if the change does not adversely affect the interests of any Noteholder.

12. Defaults and Remedies

Under the Indenture, Events of Default include (a) a Default in any payment of interest on any Note of such series when the same becomes due and payable occurs, and such default continues for a period of 30 days; (b) a Default in the

payment of the principal of or premium, if any, on any Note of such series when the same becomes due and payable at its Stated Maturity occurs, upon optional redemption or otherwise; (c) the Company fails to comply with any of its agreements in the Notes or the Indenture (other than those referred to in (a) or (b) above) and such failure continues for 90 days after the notice specified below; and (d) certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency involving the Company.

A Default with respect to Notes of a series under clause (c) above is not an Event of Default until the Trustee (by written notice to the Company) or the Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding Notes of such series (by written notice to the Company and the Trustee) gives notice of the Default and the Company does not cure such Default within the time specified in said clause (c) after receipt of such notice. Such notice must specify the Default, demand that it be remedied and state that such notice is a "Notice of Default".

If an Event of Default occurs and is continuing with respect to Notes of this series, the Trustee or the Holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the Notes of this series may declare all the Notes of this series to be due and payable immediately. Certain events of bankruptcy or insolvency involving the Company are Events of Default which will result in the Notes of this series being due and payable immediately upon the occurrence of such Events of Default.

Noteholders may not enforce the Indenture or the Notes except as provided in the Indenture. The Trustee may refuse to enforce the Indenture or the Notes unless it receives indemnity or security satisfactory to the Trustee. Subject to certain limitations, Holders of a majority in principal amount of the Notes of this series may direct the Trustee in its exercise of any trust or power. The Trustee may withhold from Noteholders notice of any continuing Default or Event of Default (except a Default or Event of Default in payment of principal or interest) if in good faith determines that withholding notice is not opposed to their interest.

13. Trustee Dealings with the Company

Subject to certain limitations set forth in the Indenture, the Trustee under the Indenture, in its individual or any other capacity, may become the owner or pledgee of Notes and may otherwise deal with and collect obligations owed to it by the Company and may otherwise deal with the Company with the same rights it would have if it were not Trustee.

14. No Recourse Against Others

A director, officer, employee or stockholder (other than the Company), as such, of the Company shall not have any liability for any obligations of the Company under the Notes or the Indenture or for any claim based on, in respect of or by reason of such obligations or their creation. By accepting a Note, each Noteholder waives and releases all such liability. The waiver and release are part of the consideration for the issue of the Notes.

15. Authentication

This Note shall not be valid until an authorized signatory of the Trustee (or an authenticating agent acting on its behalf) manually signs the certificate of authentication on the other side of this Note.

16. Abbreviations

Customary abbreviations may be used in the name of a Noteholder or an assignee, such as TEN COM (tenants in common), TEN ENT (tenants by the entirety), JT TEN (joint tenants with rights of survivorship and not as tenants in common), CUST (custodian) and U/G/M/A (Uniform Gift to Minors Act).

17. CUSIP and ISIN Numbers

The Company has caused CUSIP and ISIN numbers and/or other similar numbers to be printed on the Notes and has directed the Trustee to use CUSIP and ISIN numbers and/or other similar numbers in notices of redemption as a convenience to Noteholders. No representation is made by the Trustee as to the accuracy of such numbers either as printed on the Notes or as contained in any notice of redemption and reliance may be placed only on the other identification numbers placed thereon.

18. Governing Law

This Note shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the State of New York.

ASSIGNMENT FORM

To assign this Note, fill in the form below:

I or we assign and transfer this Note to

(Print or type assignee's name, address and zip code)

(Insert assignee's Social Security or Tax I.D. No.)

and irrevocably appoint as agent to transfer this Note on the books of the Company. The agent may substitute another to act for him.

Date: _____

Your Signature: _____

Signature Guarantee: _____

(Signature must be guaranteed by a participant in a recognized Signature Guarantee Medallion Program or other signature guarantor program reasonably acceptable to the Trustee)

Sign exactly as your name appears on the other side of this Note.

SCHEDULE OF INCREASES AND DECREASES IN GLOBAL NOTE

The following increases and decreases in this Global Note have been made:

<u>Date of Decrease or Increase</u>	<u>Amount of decrease in Principal Amount of this Global Note</u>	<u>Amount of increase in Principal Amount of this Global Note</u>	<u>Principal Amount of this Global Note following such decrease or increase</u>	<u>Signature of authorized signatory of Trustee or Securities Custodian</u>

[Letterhead of Morrison & Foerster LLP]

November 1, 2019

Board of Directors
U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc.
24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 600
Katy, Texas 77494

Re: Registration Statement on Form S-3

Ladies and Gentlemen:

We have acted as counsel to U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the “**Company**”), in connection with the preparation and filing of its registration statement on Form S-3 (the “**Registration Statement**”), filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “**Commission**”) under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the “**Securities Act**”), relating to the proposed issuance and sale of one or more series of the following securities of the Company: (i) shares of common stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “**Common Stock**”); (ii) shares of preferred stock, par value \$0.01 per share (the “**Preferred Stock**”); (iii) debt securities (the “**Debt Securities**”); (iv) warrants to purchase Common Stock, Preferred Stock or Debt Securities (the “**Warrants**”); (v) contracts to purchase Common Stock (the “**Stock Purchase Contracts**”); and (vi) units composed of Stock Purchase Contracts and either Debt Securities or certain debt obligations of third parties (the “**Stock Purchase Units**” and, together with the Common Stock, the Preferred Stock, the Debt Securities, the Warrants and the Stock Purchase Contracts, the “**Securities**”), all of which may be offered and sold by the Company from time to time on a delayed or continuous basis in accordance with Rule 415 promulgated under the Securities Act, as set forth in the prospectus which forms a part of the Registration Statement, and as to be set forth in one or more supplements to the prospectus.

As counsel for the Company, we have examined the Registration Statement and originals or copies, certified or otherwise identified to our satisfaction, of such agreements, instruments, documents, certificates and records as we have deemed relevant and necessary for the basis of our opinions hereinafter expressed. In such examination, we have assumed: (i) the authenticity of original documents and the genuineness of all signatures; (ii) the conformity to the originals of all documents submitted to us as copies; (iii) the truth, accuracy and completeness of the information, representations and warranties contained in the agreements, instruments, documents, certificates and records that we have reviewed; and (iv) the legal capacity of all natural persons. As to all matters of fact, we have relied on the representations and statements of fact made in the documents so reviewed, and we have not independently established or verified the facts so relied on. This opinion letter is given, and all statements herein are made, in the context of the foregoing.

For purposes of this opinion letter, we have assumed that: (i) the issuance, sale, amount and terms of any Securities to be offered from time to time under the Registration Statement will have been duly authorized and established by proper action of the Board of Directors of the Company or a duly authorized committee of the Board of Directors (“**Board Action**”) in accordance with the Company’s Third Amended and Restated Certificate of Incorporation (as amended, the “**Charter**”) and bylaws and applicable provisions of Delaware corporate law, in a manner that does not violate any law, government or court-imposed order or restriction or agreement or instrument then binding on the Company or otherwise impair the valid or binding nature of the obligations represented by the applicable Securities; (ii) at the time of offer, issuance and sale of any Securities, the Registration Statement, and any amendments thereto (including post-effective amendments), will have been declared effective under the Securities Act, and no stop order suspending its effectiveness will have been issued and remain in effect; (iii) a prospectus supplement will have been filed with the Commission describing the

Securities offered thereby; (iv) all Securities will be issued and sold in compliance with applicable U.S. federal and state securities laws and in the manner stated in the Registration Statement and the applicable prospectus supplement; (v) prior to the issuance of any Securities, a definitive purchase, underwriting or similar agreement with respect to any Securities offered will have been duly authorized and validly executed and delivered by the Company and the other parties thereto; (vi) any Debt Securities will be issued under an indenture between the Company and Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, as trustee (the “**Trustee**”), in the form filed as Exhibit 4.1 to the Registration Statement and as amended or supplemented from time to time in accordance with its terms (the “**Indenture**”); (vii) any Warrants will be issued under one or more warrant agreements, each to be between the Company and a bank, trust company, or other financial institution identified therein as warrant agent (a) in the form filed as Exhibit 4.3 to the Registration Statement and as amended or supplemented from time to time in accordance with its terms, with respect to Warrants to purchase Common Stock or Preferred Stock, or (b) in the form filed as Exhibit 4.4 to the Registration Statement and as amended or supplemented from time to time in accordance with its terms, with respect to Warrants to purchase Debt Securities (collectively, the “**Warrant Agreements**”); (viii) any Stock Purchase Contracts will be issued under one or more stock purchase agreements, each to be between the Company and the holders identified therein (the “**Stock Purchase Agreements**”); (ix) any Stock Purchase Units will be issued under one or more unit agreements, each to be among the Company, one or more institutions identified therein as unit agent, and the holders thereof (the “**Unit Agreements**”) (x) if being sold by the issuer thereof, the Securities will be delivered against payment of valid consideration therefor and in accordance with the terms of the applicable Board Action authorizing such sale and any applicable underwriting agreement or purchase agreement and as contemplated by the Registration Statement and/or the applicable prospectus supplement; (xi) the Company will remain a Delaware corporation; (xii) upon the issuance of any shares of Common Stock, including Common Stock which may be issued upon conversion or exercise of any other Securities convertible into or exercisable for Common Stock (“**Common Securities**”), the total number of shares of Common Stock issued and outstanding will not exceed the total number of shares of Common Stock that the Company is then authorized to issue under the Charter; (xiii) upon the issuance of any Preferred Stock, including any Preferred Stock which may be issued upon conversion or exercise of any other Securities convertible into or exercisable for Preferred Stock (“**Preferred Securities**”), the total number of shares of Preferred Stock issued and outstanding, and the total number of issued and outstanding shares of the applicable class or series of Preferred Stock designated pursuant to the Charter, will not exceed the total number of shares of Preferred Stock or the number of shares of such class or series of Preferred Stock that the Company is then authorized to issue under the Charter; (xiv) with respect to any Preferred Securities, Articles Supplementary setting forth the number of shares and the terms of any class or series of Preferred Stock to be issued by the Company will be filed with and accepted for record by the Delaware Secretary of State prior to their issuance (the “**Preferred Filings**”); (xv) the terms of the Securities will conform in all material respects to the respective descriptions thereof in the prospectus which is part of the Registration Statement; (xvi) certificates, if required, representing the Securities will be duly executed and delivered and, to the extent required by any applicable agreement, duly authenticated and countersigned; (xvii) the laws of the State of New York will be the governing law with respect to any Indenture, Warrant Agreement, Stock Purchase Agreement and Unit Agreement; and (xviii) any Securities convertible into or exercisable, exchangeable or redeemable for any other Securities will be duly converted, exercised, exchanged or redeemed in accordance with their terms.

To the extent that the obligations of the Company with respect to the Securities may be dependent upon such matters, we assume for purposes of this opinion that the other party under the Indenture for any Debt Securities, under the Warrant Agreement for any Warrants, under the Stock Purchase Agreement for any Stock Purchase Contracts and under the Unit Agreement for any Stock Purchase Units, namely, the Trustee, the warrant agent, the holder or the unit agent, respectively, is duly organized, validly existing and in good standing under the laws of its jurisdiction of organization; that such other party will be duly qualified to engage in the activities contemplated by such Indenture, Warrant Agreement, Stock Purchase Agreement or Unit Agreement, as applicable; that such Indenture, Warrant Agreement, Stock Purchase Agreement or Unit Agreement, as applicable, will have been duly authorized, executed and delivered by the other party and will constitute the legal,

valid and binding obligation of the other party enforceable against the other party in accordance with its terms; that such other party will be in compliance with respect to performance of its obligations under such Indenture, Warrant Agreement, Stock Purchase Agreement or Unit Agreement, as applicable, with all applicable laws and regulations; that such other party will have the requisite organizational and legal power and authority to perform its obligations under such Indenture, Warrant Agreement, Stock Purchase Agreement or Unit Agreement, as applicable; and that a Statement of Eligibility of the Trustee on Form T-1 has been properly filed with the Commission.

Based upon, subject to and limited by the foregoing, we are of the opinion that:

1. Upon completion of the Board Action, the Common Stock will be duly authorized and, when and if issued and delivered against payment therefor in accordance with the Registration Statement and the Board Action, will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.
2. Upon the completion of the Board Action and the Preferred Filings relating to the Preferred Securities, the Preferred Securities will be duly authorized and, when and if issued and delivered against payment therefor in accordance with the Registration Statement and the Board Action and Preferred Filings, will be validly issued, fully paid and nonassessable.
3. Upon completion of the Board Action and the due execution and delivery of an Indenture on behalf of the Company and the Trustee, the Debt Securities will be duly authorized and, upon the due authentication by the Trustee and due execution and delivery on behalf of the Company in accordance with such Indenture, will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company.
4. Upon completion of the Board Action and the due execution and delivery of a Stock Purchase Agreement relating to the Stock Purchase Contracts on behalf of the Company and the other parties thereto, the Stock Purchase Contracts will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.
5. Upon completion of the Board Action and the due execution and delivery of a Unit Agreement relating to the Stock Purchase Units on behalf of the Company and the other parties thereto, the Units will constitute valid and binding obligations of the Company, enforceable against the Company in accordance with their terms.

Our opinion that any document is legal, valid and binding is qualified as to:

- (a) limitations imposed by bankruptcy, insolvency, reorganization, arrangement, fraudulent conveyance, moratorium or other laws relating to or affecting the rights of creditors generally;
- (b) rights to indemnification and contribution, which may be limited by applicable law or equitable principles; and
- (c) general principles of equity, including without limitation concepts of materiality, reasonableness, good faith and fair dealing, and the possible unavailability of specific performance or injunctive relief and limitation of rights of acceleration, regardless of whether such enforceability is considered in a proceeding in equity or at law.

This opinion letter is based as to matters of law solely on (i) the Delaware General Corporation Law, as amended, and (ii) applicable provisions of the laws of the State of New York (but not including any laws, statutes, ordinances, administrative decisions, rules or regulations of any political subdivision of the State of New York). We express no opinion herein as to any other laws, statutes, ordinances, rules or regulations. As used herein, the term "Delaware General Corporation Law, as amended" includes the statutory provisions contained therein, all applicable provisions of the Delaware Constitution and reported judicial decisions interpreting these laws.

This opinion letter has been prepared for your use in connection with the Registration Statement. We assume no obligation to advise you of any changes in the foregoing subsequent to the effective date of the Registration Statement.

We hereby consent to the filing of this opinion letter as Exhibit 5.1 to the Registration Statement with the Commission and to reference to us under the caption "Legal Matters" in the prospectus forming a part of the Registration Statement. In giving such consent, we do not hereby admit that we are acting within the category of persons whose consent is required under Section 7 of the Securities Act or the rules or regulations of the Commission thereunder.

Sincerely,

/s/ Morrison & Foerster LLP
Morrison & Foerster LLP

CONSENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM

We have issued our reports dated February 19, 2019 with respect to the consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting of U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc. included in the Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2018, which are incorporated by reference in this Registration Statement. We consent to the incorporation by reference of the aforementioned reports in this Registration Statement, and to the use of our name as it appears under the caption “Experts.”

/s/ GRANT THORNTON LLP

Houston, Texas

November 1, 2019

Power of Attorney

Each of the undersigned, being a director or officer, or both, of U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation (the "Company"), hereby constitutes and appoints W. Andrew Macan or Matthew C. Rinegar, and each of them, his or her true and lawful attorney-in-fact and agent, with full and several power of substitution, resubstitution and revocation and to act with or without the others, for him or her and in his or her name, place and stead in any and all capacities: (i) to sign this Registration Statement under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the "Securities Act"), on Form S-3, any amendments thereto, and all post-effective amendments and supplements to this Registration Statement, and (ii) to file this Registration Statement and any and all amendments and supplements thereto, with any exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, in each case, in such forms as they or any one of them may approve, granting unto said attorneys-in-fact and agents, and each of them, full power and authority to do and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done to the end that such Registration Statement or Registration Statements will comply with the Securities Act, and the applicable rules and regulations adopted or issued pursuant thereto, as fully and to all intents and purposes as he or she might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorneys-in-fact and agents, or any of them or their substitute or resubstitute, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

This Power of Attorney may be signed in any number of counterparts, each of which will constitute an original and all of which, taken together, will constitute one Power of Attorney.

/s/ Bryan A. Shinn

Bryan A. Shinn
President, Chief Executive Officer and Director

/s/ Donald A. Merrill

Donald A. Merrill
Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

/s/ Charles Shaver

Charles Shaver
Chairman of the Board

/s/ William J. Kacal

William J. Kacal
Director

/s/ Peter C. Bernard

Peter C. Bernard
Director

/s/ Bonnie C. Lind

Bonnie C. Lind
Director

/s/ Diane K. Duren

Diane K. Duren
Director

/s/ J. Michael Stice

J. Michael Stice
Director

Date: October 16, 2019

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM T-1

**STATEMENT OF ELIGIBILITY
UNDER THE TRUST INDENTURE ACT OF 1939
OF A CORPORATION DESIGNATED TO ACT AS TRUSTEE**

- CHECK IF AN APPLICATION TO DETERMINE ELIGIBILITY OF A TRUSTEE PURSUANT TO SECTION 305(b)(2)**

WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

(Exact name of trustee as specified in its charter)

A National Banking Association
(Jurisdiction of incorporation
of organization if not a U.S. national bank)

101 North Phillips Avenue
Sioux Falls, South Dakota
(Address of principal executive offices)

94-1347393
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

57104
(Zip code)

Wells Fargo & Company
Law Department, Trust Section
MAC N9305-175
Sixth Street and Marquette Avenue, 17th Floor
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55479
(612) 667-4608
(Name, address and telephone number of agent for service)

U.S. Silica Holdings, Inc.
(Exact name of obligor as specified in its charter)

Delaware
(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

24275 Katy Freeway, Suite 600
Katy, Texas
(Address of principal executive offices)

26-3718801
(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

77494
(Zip code)

Debt Securities
(Title of indenture securities)

Item 1. General Information. Furnish the following information as to the trustee:

- (a) Name and address of each examining or supervising authority to which it is subject.

Comptroller of the Currency
Treasury Department
Washington, D.C.

Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation
Washington, D.C.

Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco
San Francisco, California 94120

- (b) Whether it is authorized to exercise corporate trust powers.

The trustee is authorized to exercise corporate trust powers.

Item 2. Affiliations with Obligor. If the obligor is an affiliate of the trustee, describe each such affiliation.

None with respect to the trustee.

No responses are included for Items 3-14 of this Form T-1 because the obligor is not in default as provided under Item 13.

Item 15. Foreign Trustee. Not applicable.

Item 16. List of Exhibits. List below all exhibits filed as a part of this Statement of Eligibility.

- Exhibit 1. A copy of the Articles of Association of the trustee as now in effect.*
- Exhibit 2. A copy of the Comptroller of the Currency Certificate of Corporate Existence for Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, dated January 14, 2015.*
- Exhibit 3. A copy of the Comptroller of the Currency Certification of Fiduciary Powers for Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, dated January 6, 2014.*
- Exhibit 4. Copy of By-laws of the trustee as now in effect.*
- Exhibit 5. Not applicable.
- Exhibit 6. The consent of the trustee required by Section 321(b) of the Act.
- Exhibit 7. A copy of the latest report of condition of the trustee published pursuant to law or the requirements of its supervising or examining authority.
- Exhibit 8. Not applicable.
- Exhibit 9. Not applicable.

* Incorporated by reference to the exhibit of the same number to the trustee's Form T-1 filed as exhibit to the Filing 305B2 dated March 13, 2015 of Navient Funding, LLC and Navient Credit Funding, LLC, file number 333-190926.

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, the trustee, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association, a national banking association organized and existing under the laws of the United States of America, has duly caused this statement of eligibility to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, all in the City of Los Angeles and State of California on the 16th day of October, 2019.

WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

/s/ Maddy Hughes

Maddy Hughes

Vice President

October 16, 2019

Securities and Exchange Commission
Washington, D.C. 20549

Gentlemen:

In accordance with Section 321(b) of the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, the undersigned hereby consents that reports of examination of the undersigned made by Federal, State, Territorial, or District authorities authorized to make such examination may be furnished by such authorities to the Securities and Exchange Commission upon its request therefor.

Very truly yours,

WELLS FARGO BANK, NATIONAL ASSOCIATION

/s/ Maddy Hughes

Maddy Hughes

Vice President

Exhibit 7

Consolidated Report of Condition of

Wells Fargo Bank National Association
of 101 North Phillips Avenue, Sioux Falls, SD 57104
And Foreign and Domestic Subsidiaries,

at the close of business June 30, 2019, filed in accordance with 12 U.S.C. §161 for National Banks.

	Dollar Amounts In Millions
ASSETS	
Cash and balances due from depository institutions:	
Noninterest-bearing balances and currency and coin	\$ 20,317
Interest-bearing balances	142,689
Securities:	
Held-to-maturity securities	145,787
Available-for-sale securities	251,429
Equity Securities with readily determinable fair value not held for trading	69
Federal funds sold and securities purchased under agreements to resell:	
Federal funds sold in domestic offices	68
Securities purchased under agreements to resell	55,111
Loans and lease financing receivables:	
Loans and leases held for sale	16,171
Loans and leases, net of unearned income	913,117
LESS: Allowance for loan and lease losses	9,418
Loans and leases, net of unearned income and allowance	903,699
Trading Assets	48,804
Premises and fixed assets (including capitalized leases)	11,940
Other real estate owned	372
Investments in unconsolidated subsidiaries and associated companies	13,025
Direct and indirect investments in real estate ventures	110
Intangible assets	36,665
Other assets	53,586
Total assets	<u>\$ 1,699,842</u>
LIABILITIES	
Deposits:	
In domestic offices	\$ 1,291,135
Noninterest-bearing	394,107
Interest-bearing	897,028
In foreign offices, Edge and Agreement subsidiaries, and IBFs	55,048
Noninterest-bearing	1,124
Interest-bearing	53,924
Federal funds purchased and securities sold under agreements to repurchase:	
Federal funds purchased in domestic offices	2,901
Securities sold under agreements to repurchase	4,810

	Dollar Amounts In Millions
Trading liabilities	9,936
Other borrowed money	
(Includes mortgage indebtedness and obligations under capitalized leases)	125,064
Subordinated notes and debentures	11,952
Other liabilities	29,918
Total liabilities	\$ 1,530,764
EQUITY CAPITAL	
Perpetual preferred stock and related surplus	0
Common stock	519
Surplus (exclude all surplus related to preferred stock)	114,628
Retained earnings	53,466
Accumulated other comprehensive income	146
Other equity capital components	0
Total bank equity capital	168,759
Noncontrolling (minority) interests in consolidated subsidiaries	319
Total equity capital	169,078
Total liabilities, and equity capital	\$ 1,699,842

I, John R. Shrewsberry, Sr. EVP & CFO of the above-named bank do hereby declare that this Report of Condition has been prepared in conformance with the instructions issued by the appropriate Federal regulatory authority and is true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

John R. Shrewsberry
Sr. EVP & CFO

We, the undersigned directors, attest to the correctness of this Report of Condition and declare that it has been examined by us and to the best of our knowledge and belief has been prepared in conformance with the instructions issued by the appropriate Federal regulatory authority and is true and correct.

Directors
James H. Quigley
Theodore F. Craver, Jr.
Juan A. Pujadas