

CF Industries Holdings, Inc.
Form DEF 14A
March 30, 2012

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

SCHEDULE 14A

Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of
the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (Amendment No.)

Filed by the Registrant

Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))**
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material under §240.14a-12

CF INDUSTRIES HOLDINGS, INC.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement, if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required.
- Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
 - (5) Total fee paid:

Edgar Filing: CF Industries Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

- o Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
 - o Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
 - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
 - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - (3) Filing Party:
 - (4) Date Filed:
-

Table of Contents

March 30, 2012

Dear Stockholder:

We cordially invite you to attend the 2012 annual meeting of stockholders of CF Industries Holdings, Inc. (the "Annual Meeting"). The Annual Meeting will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2012, commencing at 10:00 a.m., local time, at The Westin Chicago North Shore, 601 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, Illinois 60090.

At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will vote on the matters set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement and any other business matters properly brought before the Annual Meeting. Please take the time to read the Notice of Annual Meeting and Proxy Statement carefully.

We look forward to seeing you at the Annual Meeting.

Sincerely,

Stephen R. Wilson
Chairman of the Board
President and Chief Executive Officer

Table of Contents

Notice of Annual Meeting

CF Industries Holdings, Inc.
Four Parkway North, Suite 400
Deerfield, Illinois 60015-2590

Dear Stockholder:

The 2012 annual meeting of stockholders of CF Industries Holdings, Inc. will be held on Thursday, May 10, 2012, commencing at 10:00 a.m., local time, at The Westin Chicago North Shore, 601 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, Illinois 60090 (the "Annual Meeting"). The close of business on March 26, 2012 is the record date for determining stockholders entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting. A list of these stockholders will be available in our corporate headquarters at the above address before the Annual Meeting.

At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will be asked to:

elect two members of the board of directors to serve until the 2015 annual meeting of stockholders;

consider and approve an advisory resolution regarding the compensation of our named executive officers;

ratify the selection of KPMG LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2012;

act upon two stockholder proposals, if properly presented at the Annual Meeting; and

consider any other business properly brought before the Annual Meeting.

Your vote is important. Please vote your shares promptly so that your shares will be represented whether or not you attend the Annual Meeting. To vote your shares, you may use the Internet or call the toll-free telephone number as described on your notice of Internet availability of proxy materials or complete, sign, date, and return your proxy card.

By order of the board of directors,

Douglas C. Barnard
Senior Vice President, General Counsel, and Secretary

March 30, 2012

**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for
the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to Be Held on May 10, 2012.**

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

<u>About the Annual Meeting</u>	<u>1</u>
<u>Proposal 1: Election of Directors</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Directors and Director Nominees</u>	<u>4</u>
<u>Executive Officers</u>	<u>7</u>
<u>Corporate Governance</u>	<u>9</u>
<u>Common Stock Ownership</u>	<u>13</u>
<u>Proposal 2: Advisory Vote on Compensation of Named Executive Officers ("Say on Pay")</u>	<u>16</u>
<u>Compensation Discussion and Analysis</u>	<u>17</u>
<u>Compensation and Benefits Risk Analysis</u>	<u>30</u>
<u>Compensation Committee Report</u>	<u>31</u>
<u>Executive Compensation</u>	<u>32</u>
<u>Director Compensation</u>	<u>43</u>
<u>Certain Relationships and Related Transactions</u>	<u>44</u>
<u>Proposal 3: Ratification of Selection of Independent Auditor</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>Audit and Non-audit Fees</u>	<u>48</u>
<u>Pre-approval of Audit and Non-audit Services</u>	<u>49</u>
<u>Auditor Independence</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Audit Committee Report</u>	<u>50</u>
<u>Proposal 4: Stockholder Proposal Regarding Declassification of the Board of Directors</u>	<u>51</u>
<u>Proposal 5: Stockholder Proposal Regarding Majority Voting Standard for Director Elections</u>	<u>54</u>
<u>Additional Information</u>	<u>56</u>

Table of Contents

Proxy Statement

CF Industries Holdings, Inc.
Four Parkway North, Suite 400
Deerfield, Illinois 60015-2590

ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Why did I receive these proxy materials?

We are providing these proxy materials in connection with the solicitation by the board of directors (the "Board") of CF Industries Holdings, Inc., a Delaware corporation ("CF Industries," and variously the "company," "we," "us," or "our"), of proxies to be voted at our 2012 annual meeting of stockholders and at any adjournment or postponement of such meeting (the "Annual Meeting").

You are invited to attend the Annual Meeting on Thursday, May 10, 2012, commencing at 10:00 a.m., local time. The Annual Meeting will be held at The Westin Chicago North Shore, 601 N. Milwaukee Avenue, Wheeling, Illinois 60090.

These proxy materials were first sent or made available to stockholders on or about March 30, 2012.

Why did I receive a one-page notice in the mail regarding the Internet availability of proxy materials instead of a full set of proxy materials?

Pursuant to rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission (the "SEC"), the company has elected to provide access to its proxy materials via the Internet. Accordingly, the company is sending a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the "Notice") to the company's stockholders. All stockholders will have the ability to access the proxy materials on the website referred to in the Notice or request to receive a printed set of the proxy materials. Instructions on how to access the proxy materials over the Internet or to request a printed copy may be found in the Notice. In addition, stockholders may request to receive proxy materials in printed form by mail or electronically by email on an ongoing basis. The company encourages stockholders to take advantage of the availability of the proxy materials on the Internet to help reduce the expenses incurred by the company with respect to its annual meetings.

How can I get electronic access to the proxy materials?

The Notice will provide you with instructions regarding how to:

View on the Internet the company's proxy materials for the Annual Meeting; and

Instruct the company to send future proxy materials to you by email.

Choosing to receive future proxy materials by email will save the company the cost of printing and mailing documents to you. If you choose to receive future proxy materials by email, you will receive an email message next year with instructions containing a link to those materials and a link to the proxy voting website. Your election to receive proxy materials by email will remain in effect until you terminate it.

What will be voted on at the Annual Meeting?

At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will be asked to:

elect two directors to serve until the 2015 annual meeting;

consider and approve an advisory resolution regarding the compensation of our named executive officers;

Edgar Filing: CF Industries Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

ratify the selection of KPMG LLP ("KPMG") as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2012;

Table of Contents

act upon two stockholder proposal, if properly presented at the Annual Meeting; and

consider any other business properly brought before the Annual Meeting.

How many votes do I have?

You will have one vote for every share of CF Industries common stock you owned on March 26, 2012 (the record date). If you were a stockholder of record as of the record date, you will retain your right to vote, even if you sell your shares after the record date.

How many votes can be cast by all stockholders?

The total number of votes that can be cast by all stockholders is 65,585,483, consisting of one vote for each share of common stock that was outstanding on the record date. There is no cumulative voting.

How many votes must be present to hold the Annual Meeting?

A majority of the votes that can be cast must be present for us to hold the Annual Meeting. We urge you to vote by proxy even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, so that we will know as soon as possible that enough votes will be present.

How do I vote?

You can vote either in person at the Annual Meeting or by proxy, whether or not you attend the Annual Meeting.

To vote by proxy, you must either:

if you request printed copies of the proxy materials, fill out the proxy card, date and sign it, and return it in the postage-paid envelope included with the printed materials;

call the toll-free telephone number on the Internet site listed on the Notice and proxy card; or

use the Internet site listed on the Notice and proxy card.

The telephone and Internet voting procedures set forth on the Notice and proxy card are designed to authenticate stockholders' identities, to allow stockholders to provide their voting instructions, and to confirm that their instructions have been properly recorded. If you vote by telephone or through the Internet, you should not return your proxy card.

To ensure that your vote is counted, please remember to submit your vote so that we receive it at least one business day prior to the Thursday, May 10, 2012 Annual Meeting.

If you hold your CF Industries common stock in "street name" with a bank, brokerage firm, dealer, trust company, or other nominee, only they can exercise your right to vote with respect to your shares. Please follow the instructions provided to you by your bank, brokerage firm, dealer, trust company, or other nominee to authorize a proxy to vote your shares. If you want to vote in person at the Annual Meeting and you hold your stock in street name, you must obtain a "legal" proxy from your broker and bring that proxy to the Annual Meeting.

Can I change my vote?

Yes. You may revoke your proxy at any time before it is voted at the annual meeting by either:

Edgar Filing: CF Industries Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

sending a new proxy card with a later date;

sending a written notice of revocation to our corporate secretary at the address on the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement;

voting by telephone or through the Internet at a later date; or

Table of Contents

attending the Annual Meeting, requesting that your previously submitted proxy not be used, and voting in person.

What if I don't specify how my shares are to be voted?

Whether you vote by mail, telephone, or the Internet, your shares will be voted in accordance with your instructions. If you return a signed proxy card without indicating your vote or when voting on the Internet or by telephone you indicate that you wish to vote as recommended by the Board, your shares will be voted:

FOR the election of the two director nominees named in this Proxy Statement,

FOR the advisory vote on the compensation of our named executive officers,

FOR ratification of the selection of KPMG as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2012, and

AGAINST each of the two stockholder proposals.

How many votes are required to elect directors and to adopt the other proposals?

For Proposal 1, directors are elected by a plurality of votes cast.

For each of Proposals 2, 3, 4, 5, and any other matter properly brought before the meeting, an affirmative vote of a majority of shares present in person or represented by proxy at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote thereon is required in order to approve such proposal.

Can my shares be voted if I don't vote by proxy and don't attend the Annual Meeting?

If you are a stockholder of record, you can vote by proxy or by attending the Annual Meeting and voting in person. If you don't vote your shares held in street name, your broker can vote your shares on the ratification of the selection of KPMG as our independent registered public accounting firm. Other than the ratification of the selection of KPMG as our independent registered accounting firm, your broker is not permitted to vote your shares on the election of the director nominees or any other matter on the agenda without receiving instructions from you. This is referred to as a "broker non-vote." If you hold your shares in your own name, you must vote such shares in person or by proxy or they will not be voted.

How are my votes counted?

You may either vote for or withhold authority to vote for each nominee for the Board. If you withhold authority to vote with respect to any nominee, your shares will be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum, but will have no effect on the election of that nominee. Similarly, a broker non-vote on the election of any director nominee will be counted for purposes of establishing a quorum, but will have no effect on the election of that nominee. You may vote for or against or you may abstain on the approval of any other matter on the agenda. If you abstain from voting on any of these other matters on the agenda, your shares will be counted as present for purposes of establishing a quorum and the abstention will have the same effect as a vote against that proposal.

Could other matters be decided at the Annual Meeting?

We don't know of any other matters that will be considered at the Annual Meeting. If any other matters arise at the Annual Meeting, the proxies will be voted at the discretion of the proxy holders.

What happens if the Annual Meeting is postponed, adjourned, or delayed?

Your proxy will still be good and may be voted at the postponed, adjourned, or delayed meeting. You will still be able to change or revoke your proxy until it is voted.

Table of Contents**What procedures must I follow to attend the Annual Meeting?**

You will need proof of ownership of CF Industries stock to enter the Annual Meeting. When you arrive at the Annual Meeting, you may be asked to present photo identification, such as a driver's license. This will suffice if you hold your shares in your own name. If you hold your stock through a securities broker (that is, in street name), a recent brokerage statement or letter from your broker is an example of proof that you are the beneficial owner of such shares. No cameras, recording equipment, electronic devices, large bags, briefcases, or packages will be permitted in the Annual Meeting.

PROPOSAL 1: ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

Our Board currently consists of ten directors and is divided into three classes with terms for three years. There are currently three directors in class I, three directors in class II, and four directors in class III. The current terms of the class I, class II, and class III directors will expire at our annual meetings of stockholders in 2012, 2013, and 2014, respectively.

At the Annual Meeting, class I directors will be elected. The Board has unanimously proposed Stephen A. Furbacher and John D. Johnson as nominees for re-election as class I directors at the Annual Meeting. David R. Harvey, who is currently a class I director, will not stand for re-election at the Annual Meeting. Wallace W. Creek, who is currently a class III director, has also informed the company of his intention to retire effective as of the date of the Annual Meeting. If elected, each of Messrs. Furbacher and Johnson will hold office until the 2015 annual meeting or until his successor is duly elected and qualified, subject to earlier retirement, resignation, or removal. Following the Annual Meeting, the board will be composed of eight directors.

Each nominee has consented to being named in this Proxy Statement and to serve if elected. If any nominee becomes unavailable to serve, an event that the Board does not presently expect, we will vote the shares represented by proxies for the election of directors for the election of such other person as the Board may recommend. Unless otherwise instructed, we will vote all proxies we receive FOR Messrs. Furbacher and Johnson.

The Board unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the election of each of Messrs. Furbacher and Johnson to serve as a director until our 2015 annual meeting or until his successor is duly elected and qualified.

DIRECTORS AND DIRECTOR NOMINEES

Set forth below is certain biographical information for the nominees to become class I directors and for those members of the Board whose terms expire after the Annual Meeting.

Name	Age	Position	Class
Stephen R. Wilson	63	Chairman of the Board, President and CEO	III
		Director	II
Robert C. Arzbaecher	52	Director	III
William Davisson	64	Director and Nominee	I
Stephen A. Furbacher	64	Director	II
Stephen J. Hagge	60	Director and Nominee	I
John D. Johnson	63	Director	III
Robert G. Kuhbach	64	Director	II
Edward A. Schmitt	65		

Stephen R. Wilson has been a member of our Board since April 2005 and chairman of the board since July 2005. Mr. Wilson has served as our president and chief executive officer since October 2003 and

Edgar Filing: CF Industries Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Table of Contents

president and chief executive officer of Terra Nitrogen GP, Inc. ("TNGP"), our indirect, wholly-owned subsidiary and the sole general partner of Terra Nitrogen Company, L.P., a publicly-traded producer of nitrogen fertilizer products, since April 2010. Mr. Wilson joined us in 1991 as senior vice president and chief financial officer, following a lengthy career with Inland Steel Industries, Inc. Mr. Wilson is also a director of Ameren Corporation and TNGP.

Robert C. Arzbaeher has been a member of our Board since August 2005 and serves as the chairman of our compensation committee and as a member of our audit committee. Mr. Arzbaeher has served as chairman of the board of Actuant Corporation, a manufacturer and marketer of industrial products and systems, since 2001 and president and chief executive officer of Actuant since 2000. From 1992 until 2000, he held various financial positions with Applied Power, Inc., Actuant's predecessor, the most recent of which was chief financial officer. Prior to 1992, Mr. Arzbaeher held various financial positions with Grabill Aerospace, Farley Industries, and Grant Thornton, a public accounting firm. Mr. Arzbaeher is a certified public accountant, and he is also a director of FMI Common Stock Fund, Inc., FMI Funds, Inc., and FMI Mutual Funds, Inc.

William Davisson has been a member of our Board since August 2005. Mr. Davisson served as the chief executive officer of GROWMARK, Inc., an agricultural cooperative system, from 1998 through 2010. GROWMARK was an owner of our predecessor company, CF Industries, Inc., before our initial public offering ("IPO") in August 2005, and GROWMARK remains one of our largest customers. From 1998 to 2005, Mr. Davisson served as a member of the board of directors of CF Industries, Inc., and he was chairman of the board of directors of CF Industries, Inc. from 2002 to 2004. Mr. Davisson worked in the GROWMARK system his entire career, from 1970 through 2010, and he is a certified public accountant.

Stephen A. Furbacher has been a member of our Board since July 2007 and serves as the chairman of our corporate governance and nominating committee and as a member of our compensation committee. Mr. Furbacher is also our lead independent director. Mr. Furbacher served as president and chief operating officer of Dynegy Inc., a provider of wholesale power, capacity, and ancillary services to utilities, cooperatives, municipalities, and other energy companies, from August 2005 until December 2007 and as executive vice president of Dynegy's previously owned natural gas liquids business segment from September 1996 to August 2005. He joined Dynegy in May 1996, just prior to Dynegy's acquisition of Chevron's midstream business. Before joining Dynegy, Mr. Furbacher served as President of Warren Petroleum Company, the natural gas liquids division of Chevron U.S.A. He began his career with Chevron in August 1973 and served in positions of increasing responsibility before being named President of Warren Petroleum Company in July 1994. Mr. Furbacher serves as a member of the board of directors for Valparaiso University.

Stephen J. Hagge has been a member of our Board since June 2010 and is a member of our audit and compensation committees. Mr. Hagge is the president and chief executive officer of AptarGroup, Inc., a leading global supplier of innovative dispensing systems for the fragrance/cosmetic, personal care, pharmaceutical, household, and food/beverage markets. Mr. Hagge was appointed president and chief executive officer of AptarGroup in 2012. He served as chief operating officer of AptarGroup from 2008 to 2011, as chief financial officer of AptarGroup from 1993 to 2011 and as an executive vice president and secretary of AptarGroup from 1993 to 2011. Mr. Hagge has served as a director of AptarGroup since 2001.

John D. Johnson has been a member of our Board since August 2005. Mr. Johnson served as the president and chief executive officer of CHS Inc. (formerly Cenex Harvest States), a diversified energy, grains, and foods company, from 2000 through 2010. CHS was an owner of our predecessor company, CF Industries, Inc., before our IPO in August 2005, and CHS remains one of our largest customers. From 2000 to 2005, Mr. Johnson served as a member of the board of directors of CF Industries, Inc., and he was chairman of the board of directors of CF Industries, Inc. from 2004 to 2005. Mr. Johnson

Edgar Filing: CF Industries Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Table of Contents

joined Harvest States, a predecessor to CHS, in 1976, and served as president and chief executive officer of Harvest States from 1995 to 1998. From 1998 to 2000, Mr. Johnson served as general manager and president of CHS. Mr. Johnson served as a director of Gold Kist Holdings Inc. from 2004 to 2007.

Robert G. Kuhbach has been a member of our Board since February 2011 and is a member of our audit and corporate governance and nominating committees. Mr. Kuhbach has been the senior vice president, general counsel and corporate secretary of Pall Corporation, a global manufacturer of filtration, separation and purification products, since January 2011. Mr. Kuhbach held various positions with Dover Corporation, a world-wide, diversified manufacturer of industrial products, from 1993 through 2009, including vice president finance and chief financial officer from November 2002 through July 2009 and vice president, general counsel, and secretary from February 1993 through December 2002.

Edward A. Schmitt has been a member of our Board since August 2005 and is a member of our compensation and corporate governance and nominating committees. Mr. Schmitt served as chairman of the board, chief executive officer, and president of Georgia Gulf Corporation, a major manufacturer of chemical products, from 2001 until 2008. From 1985 until 2001, he held various manufacturing and executive positions with Georgia Gulf, including executive vice president, president, and chief executive officer. Prior to 1985, Mr. Schmitt held manufacturing and engineering positions with Georgia-Pacific Corporation (Georgia Gulf was created in 1985 from Georgia-Pacific's commodity chemicals division), Allied Chemical Corporation, and the Aluminum Company of America. Mr. Schmitt served as a director of Georgia Gulf from 1998 to 2008.

Set forth below is a table with certain additional information regarding specific experiences, qualifications, attributes, and skills of our directors and director nominees that highlight their qualification to serve as directors of CF Industries. A description of the general experiences, qualifications, attributes, and skills our corporate governance and nominating committee considers in recommending director nominees to our Board, and has in the past determined each of our Board members to possess, are set forth below under the heading "Nominations of Director Candidates."

Name	CEO Experience	Other Public Boards	Related Industry	International Experience	Functional Background
Stephen R. Wilson	Current	Outside	Fertilizer		Financial
Robert C. Arzbaecher	Current	Own/Outside		Indirect	Financial
Wallace W. Creek ⁽¹⁾		Outside		Direct	Financial
William Davisson	Former		Agriculture		Financial
Stephen A. Furbacher			Energy		Operations
Stephen J. Hagge	Current	Own		Indirect	Ops/Fin
David R. Harvey ⁽²⁾	Former	Own	Chemicals	Direct	Operations
John D. Johnson	Former	Outside	Agriculture	Indirect	Operations
Robert G. Kuhbach				Indirect	Fin/Legal
Edward A. Schmitt	Former	Own	Chemicals		Operations

(1) Mr. Creek has informed the company of his intention to retire effective as of the date of the Annual Meeting.

(2) Mr. Harvey's term as a director expires at the Annual Meeting and he is not standing for election at the Annual Meeting.

Table of Contents

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

Set forth below is certain biographical information for our executive officers other than Mr. Wilson (whose biographical information as a director appears above).

Douglas C. Barnard (age 53) has served as our senior vice president, general counsel, and secretary since January 1, 2012 and was previously our vice president, general counsel, and secretary from January 2004 to December 2011. Mr. Barnard has also served as the senior vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of TNGP since January 2012 and was previously the vice president, general counsel, and corporate secretary of TNGP from April 2010 to January 2012. He has served as a director of TNGP since June 2010. From January 2001 to July 2003, Mr. Barnard served as an executive vice president and general counsel of Bcom3 Group, Inc., an advertising and marketing communication services group (including service from January 2003 to July 2003 in a successor corporation formed to market and sell securities received in the sale of Bcom3 Group). From July 2003 until January 2004, Mr. Barnard was not employed. Previously, from August 2000 to January 2001, he was a partner in the law firm of Kirkland and Ellis. From August 1996 to July 2000, Mr. Barnard was vice president, general counsel, and secretary of LifeStyle Furnishings International Ltd., a manufacturer and distributor of residential furniture and decorative fabrics. He holds a B.S. degree from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, a J.D. degree from the University of Minnesota, and an M.B.A. degree from the University of Chicago.

Bert A. Frost (age 47) has served as our senior vice president, sales and market development, since January 1, 2012 and was previously our vice president, sales and market development, from January 2009 to December 2011. Mr. Frost has also served as the senior vice president, sales and market development, of TNGP since January 2012 and was previously vice president, sales and market development, of TNGP from April 2010 to January 2012. Before joining us in November 2008, Mr. Frost spent over 13 years with Archer Daniels Midland Company, where he served most recently as Managing Director International Fertilizer/Inputs from June 2008 to November 2008 and Director Fertilizer, Logistics and Ports Divisions, ADM Brazil from April 2000 to June 2008. Earlier in his career, Mr. Frost held positions of increasing responsibility at Archer Daniels Midland and Koch Industries, Inc. He holds a B.S. degree from Kansas State University and he is a graduate of the Harvard Business School's Advanced Management Program.

Richard A. Hoker (age 47) has served as our vice president and corporate controller since November 2007. Mr. Hoker has also served as the vice president and corporate controller of TNGP since April 2010 and served as a director of TNGP from September 2010 until August 2011. Before joining us, Mr. Hoker spent over 11 years with Sara Lee Corporation, where he served most recently as vice president and controller from January 2007 to November 2007 and principal accounting officer from July 2007 to November 2007. Prior to being named controller, Mr. Hoker held other financial management positions of increasing responsibility at Sara Lee. Prior to joining Sara Lee, Mr. Hoker was a member of the financial advisory services consulting group at Coopers & Lybrand LLP in Chicago (now PricewaterhouseCoopers) and previously led teams in the firm's audit practice. Mr. Hoker holds a B.S. degree in accounting from DePaul University and an M.B.A. degree in finance and accounting from the University of Chicago. He is also a certified public accountant.

Wendy S. Jablow Spertus (age 49) has served as our senior vice president, human resources, since January 1, 2012 and was previously our vice president, human resources, from August 2007 to December 2011. Ms. Jablow Spertus has also served as the senior vice president, human resources, of TNGP since January 2012 and was previously vice president, human resources, of TNGP from April 2010 to January 2012. Prior to joining us, Ms. Jablow Spertus served as the chief human resources officer of Fenwal, Inc., a medical device manufacturer, from December 2006 to July 2007. From April 2006 to July 2006, she served as vice president, human resources, of The Boler Company, a manufacturer of truck suspension systems. Ms. Jablow Spertus spent the previous eight years with Ideal Industries, Inc., an electrical equipment manufacturer and technology design company, where she

Edgar Filing: CF Industries Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Table of Contents

served as vice president, human resources and administration, from February 1998 to February 2006 and for six concurrent years as vice president and general manager of Ideal Industries' DataComm business unit. During March 2006 and from August 2006 to December 2006, Ms. Jablow Spertus was not employed. Ms. Jablow Spertus holds a B.S. in economics from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania and an M.B.A. degree from the University of Michigan. She is also a certified public accountant.

Dennis P. Kelleher (age 48) has served as our senior vice president and chief financial officer since August 2011. Mr. Kelleher has also served as a director and as the senior vice president and chief financial officer of TNGP since August 2011. Before joining us, Mr. Kelleher served as vice president, portfolio and strategy for BP plc's upstream business. From 2007 to 2010, Mr. Kelleher served as chief financial officer for Pan American Energy LLC. From 2005 to 2007, Mr. Kelleher served as vice president, planning and performance management for BP plc's upstream business. Mr. Kelleher was employed as a senior accountant at Arthur Andersen & Co. early in his career. He holds a B.S. degree in accountancy from the University of Illinois and an M.M. degree (M.B.A.) from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University. He is a certified public accountant.

Philipp P. Koch (age 60) has served as our senior vice president, supply chain, since January 1, 2012. He was previously our vice president, supply chain, from January 2008 to December 2011 and our vice president, raw materials procurement, from July 2003 to January 2008. Mr. Koch has also served as the senior vice president, supply chain, of TNGP since January 2012 and was previously the vice president, supply chain, of TNGP from April 2010 to January 2012. Before joining us, Mr. Koch spent nearly 25 years in the energy industry with Amoco Corporation and BP plc from January 1980 to July 2003. Mr. Koch has a B.A. degree from Greenville College and an M.B.A. degree from DePaul University.

Lynn F. White (age 59) has served as our vice president, corporate development, since June 2009. Mr. White has also served as the vice president, corporate development of TNGP since April 2010. Before joining us, Mr. White was the founder and managing director of Twemlow Group LLC, a consulting firm he established in January 2008. Prior to that time, he held a number of executive positions with Deere & Company from May 2000 through December 2007, where he served most recently as president, John Deere Agri Services from May 2005 through October 2007, and vice president, Global AgServices from May 2000 through May 2005. Earlier in his career, he was senior vice president, corporate development for IMC Global Inc. and held several executive positions at FMC Corporation. He holds a BA from California Polytechnic State University, San Luis Obispo and an MBA in Finance and Multinational Enterprise from the Wharton Graduate School of Business at the University of Pennsylvania.

W. Anthony Will (age 46) has served as our senior vice president, manufacturing and distribution, since January 1, 2012. He was previously our vice president, manufacturing and distribution, from March 2009 to December 2011 and our vice president, corporate development, from April 2007 to March 2009. Mr. Will has also served as the senior vice president, manufacturing and distribution, of TNGP since January 2012 and was previously the vice president, manufacturing and distribution, of TNGP from April 2010 to January 2012. He has served as a director of TNGP since June 2010. Before joining us, Mr. Will was a partner with Accenture Ltd., a position he held from April 2005 to December 2006. From January 2002 to August 2004, he was vice president business development of Sears, Roebuck and Company. From January 2007 to March 2007 and from September 2004 to March 2005, Mr. Will was not employed. From January 2001 to January 2002, Mr. Will was a consultant with Egon Zehnder International, a global consulting firm. Previously, from October 1998 to January 2001, he served as vice president, strategy and corporate development, of Fort James Corporation, a global paper and consumer products company. Prior to joining Fort James, Mr. Will was a manager with the Boston Consulting Group, a global strategy consulting firm. Mr. Will holds a B.S. degree in electrical engineering from Iowa State University and an M.M. degree (M.B.A.) from the Kellogg Graduate School of Management at Northwestern University.

Table of Contents

CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Our Board has adopted corporate governance guidelines. According to these guidelines, the business and affairs of CF Industries shall be managed by or under the direction of our Board. The Board's goal is to build long-term value for our stockholders and assure the vitality of the company for our customers and employees and the other individuals and organizations who depend on us. A copy of our corporate governance guidelines is available to stockholders at our corporate website, www.cfindustries.com, or by writing to our corporate secretary at the address on the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement.

Director Independence

Our Board has made an affirmative determination that the following seven directors have no material relationship with CF Industries or any of its subsidiaries (other than being a director and stockholder of CF Industries) and, accordingly, meet the applicable requirements for "independence" set forth in the corporate governance standards of the New York Stock Exchange (the "NYSE"): Robert C. Arzbaeher, Wallace W. Creek, Stephen A. Furbacher, Stephen J. Hagge, David R. Harvey, Robert G. Kuhbach, and Edward A. Schmitt. In addition, we expect John D. Johnson, who is the former president and chief executive officer of CHS, and William Davisson, who is the former chief executive officer of GROWMARK, will meet the applicable independence requirements when they receive their final post-retirement incentive compensation from their former employers in August 2012.

Leadership of the Board

Stephen R. Wilson has served as our Board chairman and also as our chief executive officer since our initial public offering in August 2005. As provided in our corporate governance guidelines, the Board does not require the separation of the offices of Board chairman and chief executive officer and is free to choose its chairman in any way that it deems best for CF Industries at any given point in time. Our non-management directors have combined the Board chairman and chief executive officer roles in order to utilize effectively Mr. Wilson's extensive experience and knowledge regarding CF Industries and to provide focus at the Board level on corporate strategy as well as the leadership and activities of the business. According to our corporate governance guidelines, if the chairman of the Board is not an independent director, our independent directors will designate one of their number to serve as a lead independent director. Otherwise, if the chairman of the Board is an independent director, he or she will serve as the lead independent director. Because our chairman is not an independent director, the independent directors have designated Stephen A. Furbacher to serve as our lead independent director. The lead independent director's duties include coordinating the activities of the independent directors, coordinating the agenda for and moderating sessions of the independent directors and other non-management directors, and facilitating communications among the other members of the Board. Unless otherwise provided in a short-term succession plan approved by the Board, in the event that our chairman of the Board or our chief executive officer should unexpectedly become unable to perform his or her duties, the lead independent director shall assume the duties of the chairman of the Board and shall allocate the duties of the chief executive officer among our other senior officers, in each case, until the Board has the opportunity to consider the situation and take action.

Table of Contents

Meetings of Non-management Directors

At each regularly scheduled meeting, the Board conducts executive sessions, which are discussions that involve only the non-management directors. Our corporate governance guidelines state that the executive sessions of the Board will be chaired by either the chairman of the Board (if he or she is an independent director) or by the lead independent director (if the chairman is not an independent director). Because our chairman is not an independent director, our lead independent director, Stephen A. Furbacher, chairs the executive sessions of the Board. In addition, since not all of the non-management directors are independent directors within the meaning of the applicable corporate governance standards of the NYSE, the independent directors meet separately in executive session at least once a year.

Code of Corporate Conduct

Our Board has adopted a code of corporate conduct that is applicable to all of our directors, officers, and employees. A copy of the code is available to stockholders at our corporate website, www.cfindustries.com, or by writing to our corporate secretary at the address on the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement. We will disclose amendments to, or waivers from, the code on our corporate website.

Committees of the Board

Our Board has established three separate standing committees: the audit committee, the compensation committee, and the corporate governance and nominating committee. Our Board has adopted written charters for each of these committees and copies of these charters are available to stockholders at our corporate website, www.cfindustries.com, or by writing to our corporate secretary at the address on the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement.

Audit Committee. Our audit committee is a separately designated standing committee established in accordance with Section 3(a)(58)(A) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the "Exchange Act"). The committee currently consists of Wallace W. Creek (chairman), Robert C. Arzbaeher, Stephen J. Hagge, David R. Harvey, and Robert G. Kuhbach, all of whom our Board has affirmatively determined to be independent within the meaning of the corporate governance standards of the NYSE applicable to audit committee members. Our Board has also determined that Messrs. Arzbaeher, Creek, Hagge, Harvey, and Kuhbach are "audit committee financial experts," as defined by the SEC. The audit committee assists the Board in fulfilling its oversight responsibility for (1) the integrity of our financial statements and financial reporting process and our systems of internal accounting and financial controls, (2) the performance of our internal audit function, (3) the annual independent integrated audit of our consolidated financial statements and internal control over financial reporting, and (4) our compliance with legal and regulatory requirements, including our disclosure controls and procedures. The duties and responsibilities of the audit committee include the engagement of our independent registered public accounting firm and the evaluation of our accounting firm's qualifications, independence, and performance. The audit committee's report to stockholders appears elsewhere in this Proxy Statement.

Compensation Committee. Our compensation committee currently consists of Robert C. Arzbaeher (chairman), Stephen A. Furbacher, Stephen J. Hagge, and Edward A. Schmitt, all of whom our Board has affirmatively determined to be independent under the corporate governance standards of the NYSE. Our Board has also determined that all of the members of the committee qualify as "non-employee directors," within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, and "outside directors," within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the "Internal Revenue Code"). The compensation committee oversees our compensation and employee benefit plans and practices, including our executive compensation plans, director compensation plans, and incentive-compensation and equity-based plans. The compensation committee's report to stockholders appears elsewhere in this Proxy Statement. Additional information

Table of Contents

regarding the processes and procedures of the compensation committee in recommending and determining compensation for our directors and executive officers is set forth below under the heading "Compensation Discussion and Analysis Role of the Compensation Committee."

Corporate Governance and Nominating Committee. Our corporate governance and nominating committee currently consists of Stephen A. Furbacher (chairman), David R. Harvey, Robert G. Kuhbach, and Edward A. Schmitt, all of whom our Board has affirmatively determined to be independent under the corporate governance standards of the NYSE. The corporate governance and nominating committee's responsibilities include identifying and recommending to the Board individuals qualified to serve as directors and on committees of the Board; advising the directors with respect to the Board's composition, procedures, and committees; developing and recommending to the Board a set of corporate governance principles; and overseeing the evaluation of the Board and members of senior management.

Role of the Board in Risk Oversight

In fulfilling its risk oversight role, our Board focuses on the adequacy of our risk management process and the effectiveness of our overall risk management system. The goal of this oversight by the Board is to ensure that our employees who are responsible for risk management (i) adequately identify the material risks that the company faces in a timely manner; (ii) implement appropriate risk management strategies that are responsive to the company's risk profile, business strategies, and specific material risk exposures; (iii) integrate consideration of risk and risk management into business decision-making throughout the company; and (iv) include policies and procedures that adequately transmit necessary information with respect to material risks to senior executives and, as appropriate, to the Board or relevant committees. During 2011, our Board reviewed with key members of management responsible for management of risk the process by which management had identified the material risks to the company's strategic, operating, financial reporting, and compliance objectives, as well as the likelihood of occurrence, the potential impact, and the mitigating measures in each instance.

Attendance of Directors at Meetings

Directors are expected to attend meetings of our Board and the committees on which they serve, as well as our annual meeting of stockholders. A director who is unable to attend a meeting (which it is understood will occur on occasion) is expected to notify the chairman of the Board or the chairman of the appropriate committee in advance of such meeting.

During 2011, our Board held six meetings, our audit committee held nine meetings, our compensation committee held six meetings, and our corporate governance and nominating committee held five meetings. All of our directors attended 75% or more of the meetings of our Board and those committees of which they were members. All of our directors attended the 2011 annual meeting of our stockholders, which was held on May 11, 2011.

Communications with Directors

The Board has established a process to receive communications from stockholders and other interested parties. Stockholders and other interested parties may contact any member (or all members) of the Board, any Board committee, or any chair of any such committee by mail. To communicate with the Board, any individual director, or any group or committee of directors, correspondence should be addressed to the Board or any such individual director or group or committee of directors by either name or title. All such correspondence should be sent c/o the corporate secretary at the address on the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement.

All communications received as set forth in the preceding paragraph will be opened by the office of our general counsel for the sole purpose of determining whether the contents represent a message to one or more of our directors. Any contents that are not in the nature of advertising, promotions of a

Table of Contents

product or service, or patently offensive material will be forwarded promptly to each addressee. In the case of communications to the Board or any group or committee of directors, the office of the general counsel will distribute copies of the contents to each director who is a member of the Board or of the group or committee to which the envelope or correspondence is addressed.

Stockholder Recommendations of Director Candidates

The corporate governance and nominating committee will consider director candidates recommended by stockholders. In considering candidates submitted by stockholders, the committee will take into consideration the needs of the Board and the qualifications of the candidate. The committee may also take into consideration the number of shares of our common stock that the recommending stockholder holds and the length of time that such shares have been held. To have a candidate considered by the committee, a stockholder must submit the recommendation in writing and include the following information:

the name of the stockholder and evidence of the person's ownership of our stock, including the number of shares owned and the length of time of ownership; and

the name of the candidate, the candidate's resume or a listing of his or her qualifications to be a director of CF Industries, and the person's consent to be named as a director if selected by the committee and nominated by the Board.

The stockholder recommendation and information described above must be sent c/o the corporate secretary at the address on the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement and must be received by the corporate secretary not less than 120 days prior to the anniversary date of our most recent annual meeting of stockholders.

Nominations of Director Candidates

The corporate governance and nominating committee believes that the minimum qualifications for serving as a director of CF Industries are that a nominee demonstrate, by significant accomplishment in his or her field, an ability to make a meaningful contribution to the Board's oversight of our business and affairs and have an impeccable record and reputation for honest and ethical conduct in both his or her professional and personal activities. In addition, the committee will examine a candidate's specific experiences and skills, relevant industry background and knowledge, time availability in light of other commitments, age, potential conflicts of interest, material relationships with CF Industries, and independence from management and the company. The committee will also seek to have the Board represent a diversity of backgrounds, experience, gender, and race.

The corporate governance and nominating committee generally identifies potential nominees by engaging firms that specialize in identifying director candidates. Current directors and executive officers may also notify the committee if they become aware of persons meeting the criteria described above who have had a change in circumstances that might make them available to serve on the Board. As described above, the committee will also consider candidates recommended by stockholders.

Once a person has been identified by the corporate governance and nominating committee as a potential candidate, the committee may collect and review publicly available information regarding the person to assess whether the person should be considered further. If the corporate governance and nominating committee determines that the candidate warrants further consideration, the chairman or another member of the committee will contact the person. Generally, if the person expresses a willingness to be considered and to serve on the Board, the corporate governance and nominating committee will request information from the candidate, review the person's accomplishments and qualifications, including in light of any other candidates that the committee might be considering, and conduct one or more interviews with the candidate. In certain instances, committee members may contact one or more references provided by the candidate or may contact other members of the

Table of Contents

business community or other persons who may have greater first-hand knowledge of the candidate's accomplishments. The committee's evaluation process will not vary based on whether or not a candidate is recommended by a stockholder, although, as stated above, the Board may take into consideration the number of shares held by the recommending stockholder and the length of time that such shares have been held.

In connection with the Annual Meeting and in accordance with the above guidelines, the corporate governance and nominating committee recommended that the Board nominate Messrs. Furbacher and Johnson for re-election to the Board. Additional biographical information regarding Messrs. Furbacher and Johnson and the particular experiences, qualifications, attributes, and skills that qualify them to serve as public company directors are set forth above under the heading "Directors and Director Nominees."

COMMON STOCK OWNERSHIP**Common Stock Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners**

The following table sets forth information, as of March 26, 2012, concerning the beneficial ownership of each person known to us to beneficially own 5% or more of our common stock. The information in the table and the related notes is based on statements filed by the respective beneficial owners with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(d) and 13(g) under the Exchange Act.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership ⁽¹⁾	Percent of Class ⁽²⁾
FMR LLC 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109	3,666,442 ⁽³⁾	5.6%
BlackRock, Inc. 40 East 52 nd Street New York, New York 10022	5,332,108 ⁽⁴⁾	8.1%
The Vanguard Group, Inc. 100 Vanguard Blvd. Malvern, Pennsylvania 19355	4,077,648 ⁽⁵⁾	6.2%

(1) Unless otherwise indicated, beneficial ownership consists of sole power to vote or direct the vote and sole power to dispose or direct the disposition of the shares listed.

(2) Unless otherwise indicated, percentages calculated based upon common stock outstanding as of March 26, 2012 and beneficial ownership of common stock as set forth in the statements on Schedule 13G filed by the respective beneficial owners with the SEC.

(3) Based on a Schedule 13G (Amendment No. 4), dated February 13, 2012 and filed with the SEC on February 14, 2012, by FMR LLC ("FMR") and Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FMR. FMR reports beneficial ownership of shares by its direct and indirect subsidiaries, including Fidelity Management & Research Company ("Fidelity"), Fidelity Management Trust Company, Strategic Advisers, Inc., Pyramis Global Advisors, LLC, Pyramis Global Advisors Trust Company, and FIL Limited. These FMR entities have sole dispositive power over all 3,666,442 shares and sole voting power with respect to 379,042 shares. Fidelity is the beneficial owner of 3,208,774 of the shares shown above as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies (the "Funds"). Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR, through its control of Fidelity, and the Funds each have sole dispositive power over the 3,208,774 shares owned by the Funds.

Table of Contents

- (4) Based on a Schedule 13G (Amendment No. 4), dated January 20, 2012 and filed with the SEC on February 10, 2012, by BlackRock, Inc. ("BlackRock"). BlackRock reports beneficial ownership of shares by its direct and indirect subsidiaries, including BlackRock Japan Co. Ltd, BlackRock Advisors (UK) Limited, BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A., BlackRock Fund Advisors, BlackRock Asset Management Canada Limited, BlackRock Asset Management Australia Limited, BlackRock Advisors, LLC, BlackRock Capital Management, Inc., BlackRock Financial Management, Inc., BlackRock Investment Management, LLC, BlackRock Investment Management (Australia), BlackRock (Luxembourg) S.A., BlackRock (Netherlands) B.V., BlackRock Fund Managers Limited, BlackRock Pensions Limited, BlackRock Asset Management Ireland Limited, BlackRock International Limited, and BlackRock Investment Management (UK) Limited. These BlackRock entities have sole power to vote and dispose of or to direct the disposition of all 5,332,108 shares of common stock.
- (5) Based on a Schedule 13G (Amendment No. 1), dated February 6, 2012 and filed with the SEC on February 10, 2012, by The Vanguard Group, Inc. ("Vanguard"). Vanguard reports beneficial ownership of shares of itself and Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, its wholly-owned subsidiary. These Vanguard entities have sole power to vote 94,619, sole power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of 3,983,029, and shared power to dispose of or to direct the disposition of 94,619 shares of common stock.

Table of Contents**Common Stock Ownership of Directors and Management**

The following table sets forth information, as of March 26, 2012, concerning the beneficial ownership of our common stock by:

each director and each of the executive officers named in the summary compensation table of this Proxy Statement, and

all directors and executive officers as a group.

Name of Beneficial Owner	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership ⁽¹⁾		Total Shares of Common Stock	Percent of Class
	Shares of Common Stock Owned Directly or Indirectly ⁽²⁾	Shares of Common Stock that can be Acquired within 60 Days ⁽³⁾		
Robert C. Arzbaecher	17,281		17,281	*
Wallace W. Creek	13,906		13,906	*
William Davisson	3,777		3,777	*
Stephen A. Furbacher	6,280		6,280	*
Stephen J. Hagge	2,773		2,773	*
David R. Harvey	3,706		3,706	*
John D. Johnson	11,449		11,449	*
Robert G. Kuhbach	2,202		2,202	*
Edward A. Schmitt	12,906		12,906	*
Stephen R. Wilson	139,886	534,336	674,222	1.0%
Dennis P. Kelleher	5,180		5,180	*
Richard A. Hoker ⁽⁴⁾	8,983	8,150	17,133	*
Bert A. Frost	8,862	13,643	22,505	*
Philipp P. Koch	11,526	11,490	23,016	*
W. Anthony Will ⁽⁴⁾	19,640	20,603	40,243	*
All directors and executive officers as a group (18 persons)	300,652	615,494	916,146	1.4%

*
Less than 1%

(1) Unless otherwise indicated, beneficial ownership consists of sole power to vote or direct the vote and sole power to dispose or direct the disposition of the shares listed, either individually or jointly or in common with the individual's spouse, subject to community property laws where applicable.

(2) The shares indicated for each of Messrs. Arzbaecher, Creek, Davisson, Furbacher, Hagge, Harvey, Johnson, Kuhbach, and Schmitt include 729 shares of restricted stock granted under our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan that have not yet vested. The shares indicated for Messrs. Wilson, Kelleher, Hoker, Frost, Koch, and Will include, respectively, 40,490, 5,180, 6,360, 7,560, 6,650, and 10,460 shares of restricted stock granted under our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan that have not yet vested. These shares of restricted stock can be voted during the vesting period.

(3) The shares indicated for Messrs. Wilson, Hoker, Frost, Koch, and Will represent shares underlying stock options granted under our 2005 Equity and Incentive Plan and 2009 Equity and Incentive

Table of Contents

Plan (collectively, our "Equity and Incentive Plans") that have already vested or that will vest within 60 days. The shares underlying these stock options cannot be voted.

(4)

Messrs. Hoker and Will also hold, respectively, 215 and 363 additional "phantom" shares as a deemed investment under our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan (a non-qualified benefits restoration and deferred compensation plan). These phantom shares cannot be voted.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act requires our directors and officers and persons who own more than 10% of our common stock to file reports of ownership and changes in ownership with the SEC and the NYSE, and to furnish us with copies of the reports. Specific due dates for these reports have been established and we are required to report in this Proxy Statement any failure by directors, officers, and ten percent holders to file such reports on a timely basis. Based on our review of such reports and written representations from our directors and officers, we believe that all such filing requirements were timely met during 2010.

PROPOSAL 2: ADVISORY VOTE ON COMPENSATION OF NAMED EXECUTIVE OFFICERS ("SAY ON PAY")

Pursuant to Section 14A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, our stockholders are entitled to an advisory (non-binding) vote to approve the compensation of our executive officers named in this Proxy Statement (the "named executive officers"), as disclosed on pages 17 to 30 and 31 to 44 of this Proxy Statement. This proposal is commonly referred to as a "Say on Pay" proposal.

The Board and the compensation committee believe that the compensation of the executive officers named in this Proxy Statement is appropriate and in the best interests of our stockholders. As discussed in more detail in the Compensation Discussion and Analysis on pages 17 to 30, our compensation programs are intended to (i) align the interests of our officers with those of our stockholders, (ii) permit the company to remain competitive in the market for highly qualified management personnel, and (iii) provide appropriate incentives for attainment of both our short-term and long-term goals. We have instituted stock ownership guidelines and an incentive compensation "clawback" policy to encourage appropriate levels of risk taking by our management. We continue to provide for significant levels of "at risk" performance-based compensation, which further aligns executive and stockholder interests. We regularly review (along with outside compensation consultants) our incentive compensation programs to ensure compatibility with our compensation philosophy. Accordingly, we are asking you to vote FOR the adoption of the following resolution:

"Resolved, that the stockholders of CF Industries Holdings, Inc. approve the compensation of the executive officers named in this Proxy Statement, as disclosed pursuant to the compensation disclosure rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the Compensation Discussion and Analysis and the compensation tables and any related material."

As an advisory vote, this proposal is not binding on the company. Although the vote is non-binding, the Board and the compensation committee value the opinions of our stockholders and will consider the outcome of the vote when making future compensation decisions for our named executive officers.

At our annual meeting of stockholders held in May 2011, our stockholders voted in favor of an annual frequency of future advisory votes on executive compensation. Following the 2011 annual meeting, the Board adopted a resolution providing that an advisory vote on executive compensation would be held annually until the next advisory vote on the frequency of advisory votes regarding the compensation of our executive officers, which will occur no later than the company's annual meeting of stockholders in 2017. Thus, the next advisory "Say on Pay" proposal will be held at our 2013 annual meeting.

The Board unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the Say on Pay proposal.

Table of Contents

COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

Development of Compensation Approach and Objectives

The compensation committee oversees our compensation and employee benefit plans and practices. The committee is composed of four independent non-employee directors and operates under a written charter adopted by our Board. On an ongoing basis, the committee reviews our compensation policies relative to market competitiveness and the needs of our business and then determines what changes in the compensation program, if any, are appropriate.

Compensation Philosophy

Our compensation committee has adopted a compensation philosophy that seeks to align the interests of our employees and our stockholders through focusing on the total compensation (base salary, short-term incentives, long-term incentives, and benefits) of our employees, including our executive officers. We seek to benefit from this strategy by attracting key talent, retaining best performers, increasing productivity, and improving business results.

Our goal is to provide direct compensation that is market competitive with other comparable companies. To gauge the competitiveness of our total compensation offering, we compare ourselves against a reference group of similar companies in related industries described below under the heading "Industry Reference Group."

Incentive opportunities are structured in light of our cyclical nature and emphasis on a team-based culture.

Components of Compensation

The following compensation elements support the needs of the business, our stockholders, and our employees:

We seek to pay *salaries* in line with individual performance and contribution to company goals. In the aggregate, base salaries are targeted around the median market rate. Individual performance, relative criticality of the job, and business affordability are also considered in determining base salaries. To maintain our desired market position, we conduct annual salary reviews.

Short-term incentives provide executive officers and other key employees with the opportunity to earn additional annual compensation beyond base salary. The role of short-term incentives is to reward and encourage the achievement of annual financial results and other specified corporate performance goals. Short-term incentives are also targeted around the market median, and achievement of these awards depends on attaining corporate performance goals.

Long-term incentives focus on enterprise value creation and employee retention. Long-term incentives are provided through annual awards. Our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan allows the use of stock options, full-value share-based awards, and cash-based awards. Participation is extended to executive officers and other key employees. Distribution guidelines with award ranges related to position responsibility levels are updated annually. The guidelines allow for individual variation in long-term incentives based on performance level, potential contribution, and value to the business. In general, long-term incentives for our executive officers are targeted between the market median and the 75th percentile.

Benefit plans are offered at market-competitive levels consistent with local market practices. We seek to keep benefit plans simple in scope and range, focusing on key employee needs.

Allocation of Compensation Elements

We provide a mixture of cash compensation and non-cash compensation to our executive officers. The cash portion consists primarily of base salaries and short-term incentive awards. The non-cash portion consists primarily of stock-based long-term incentive awards.

Table of Contents

We have not established any target allocation between cash and non-cash compensation or between short-term and long-term incentives for our executive officers in the aggregate. Instead, our allocation is based primarily on competitive market practices and the respective median levels by position for base salaries, annual incentive awards, and long-term incentive awards. We also consider any internal factors that may cause us to adjust particular elements of an individual executive officer's compensation. These factors may include an individual's operating responsibilities, management level, and tenure and performance in the position.

As a general matter, we do not directly consider amounts realized or realizable from prior compensation in setting future compensation levels or in establishing the particular elements of compensation. As discussed below, however, our compensation committee does review the existing base salaries and target annual incentive levels for our executive officers in connection with its approval of their new base salaries and target annual incentive levels for the following year.

We also generally do not consider accounting and tax issues in setting compensation levels or in establishing the particular elements of compensation. As discussed below, however, when our compensation committee grants awards under our long-term incentive program, the committee does consider the accounting for various stock-based incentives under FASB ASC Topic 718 and the tax treatment of such incentive awards under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. In addition, as discussed below, we will generally seek to preserve the deductibility of performance-based compensation by meeting the requirements of Section 162(m) to the extent practicable and in the best interests of CF Industries and its stockholders.

Our allocation among base salary, short-term incentives, and long-term incentives varies significantly by management level, reflecting individual responsibility levels and competitive market practices. In general, our more senior executive officers receive a greater percentage of their total expected compensation in the form of incentives (particularly long-term incentives) and a correspondingly lower percentage in the form of salary.

Role of the Compensation Committee

Our Board has adopted a written charter for our compensation committee, which is available to stockholders at our corporate website, www.cfindustries.com, or by writing to our corporate secretary at the address on the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement.

The Board makes compensation decisions for our non-management directors, acting on the recommendation of the compensation committee, and the committee makes compensation decisions for our executive officers, giving consideration to the recommendations of our chief executive officer with respect to the executive officers other than himself.

The chairman of the compensation committee sets the agenda for committee meetings, with the assistance of our chief executive officer, our senior vice president of human resources, and our corporate secretary. These executive officers also attend meetings of the committee. At each meeting that is held in person, the compensation committee members also meet in executive session without any members of management present.

The compensation committee has authority under its charter to retain, approve fees for, and terminate advisors, consultants, and agents as it deems necessary to assist in the fulfillment of its responsibilities. Pursuant to this authority, the committee has engaged Towers Watson, an outside global human resources consulting firm, to assist the committee in making recommendations and decisions regarding compensation for our directors and executive officers. The committee also meets regularly with Towers Watson in executive sessions without management present. Periodically, the committee reviews the total fees paid to Towers Watson in order to ensure that the consultant maintains its objectivity and independence when rendering advice to the committee. See "Fees Paid to Towers Watson" below. Our senior vice president of human resources also supports the committee in its duties.

Table of Contents

From time to time, the compensation committee may delegate to our chief executive officer, our senior vice president of human resources, or our corporate secretary the authority to implement certain decisions of the committee or to fulfill certain administrative duties.

Compensation Committee Activities

Our compensation committee has taken a number of steps designed to enhance its ability to carry out its responsibilities effectively and also to ensure that we maintain strong links between executive pay and performance. Examples of these actions include:

adopting a statement of our compensation philosophy (see "Compensation Philosophy" above);

instituting a practice of holding executive sessions (without management present) at every committee meeting that is held in person;

retaining an outside compensation consultant (Towers Watson) to advise the committee on executive compensation issues and meeting regularly with the compensation consultant in executive sessions without management present (see "Fees Paid to Towers Watson" below);

adopting stock ownership guidelines for our officers and directors and modifying the guidelines from time to time as appropriate (see "Stock Ownership Guidelines" below);

adopting an industry reference group for use in establishing compensation and incentive levels and modifying the composition of the group from time to time as appropriate (see "Industry Reference Group" below);

reviewing on an annual basis the existing base salaries and target annual incentives for our executive officers and approving changes in cash compensation levels as appropriate (see "Cash Compensation" below);

reviewing on an annual basis our short-term incentive program, modifying the program as appropriate, and granting short-term incentive awards to our executive officers (see "Short-term Incentives" below);

reviewing on an annual basis our long-term incentive program, modifying the program as appropriate, and granting long-term incentive awards to our executive officers (see "Long-term Incentives" below);

reviewing on an annual basis our change in control, severance, and retirement benefits and modifying these benefits as appropriate (see "Change in Control, Severance, and Retirement Benefits" below);

reviewing on an annual basis "tally sheets" summarizing the total compensation and benefits for our chief executive officer and the other named executive officers included in the compensation tables of this Proxy Statement under various assumptions and scenarios (see "Compensation of the Chief Executive Officer" below as well as the other above-referenced items);

reviewing on an annual basis the potential effects of the various components of our compensation and benefits upon individual and collective behavior and ultimately our risk profile and approach to risk management (see "Compensation and Benefits Risk Analysis" below);

reviewing on an annual basis the results of our stockholders' last advisory vote to approve the compensation of our named executive officers (see "Stockholder Say on Pay Votes" below); and

reviewing on an annual basis the compensation of our non-management directors and recommending that our Board approve changes in such compensation from time to time as appropriate (see "Director Compensation" below).

Table of Contents

Cash Compensation

The compensation committee recently reviewed the existing base salaries and target annual incentives for our executive officers for 2011 and approved new levels for 2012.

Review of Existing Compensation Levels for 2011

In connection with its review of our existing base salaries and target annual incentives, which had been in effect for 2011, the committee reviewed a report from Towers Watson, our outside compensation consultant, to obtain a general understanding of current compensation practices.

In performing its market assessment, the compensation consultant used its standard 2011 executive compensation database, adjusting for variations in revenue among the included companies and also for the passage of one year's time from the point of data collection.

In addition, the committee reviewed information provided by the compensation consultant regarding the publicly reported cash compensation of named executive officers at 14 similar companies in related industries. Additional information regarding this group of companies is set forth below under the heading "Industry Reference Group."

The committee also reviewed cash compensation recommendations from our chief executive officer for each of the other executive officers. These recommendations took into account the chief executive officer's assessment of each individual's operating responsibilities, management level, and tenure and performance in the position.

In addition, the committee reviewed our Board's annual evaluation of our chief executive officer's overall performance. See "Compensation of the Chief Executive Officer" below.

The committee considered all of this information in the context of the goals and objectives of our executive compensation plans. As noted above, we seek to pay salaries in line with individual performance and contribution to company goals. In the aggregate, base salaries are targeted around the median market rate. Individual performance, relative criticality of the job, and business affordability are also considered in determining base salaries. To maintain our desired market position, we conduct annual salary reviews. Additional information regarding these goals and objectives is set forth above under the headings "Compensation Philosophy" and "Components of Compensation."

Table of Contents*Approval of New Compensation Levels for 2012*

Based on its review and the other factors discussed above, the committee approved new base salaries and target annual incentives for 2012 for our chief executive officer and each of the other executive officers. The following table shows the base salaries and target annual incentives for our named executive officers for 2012 as compared to 2011:

Name and Principal Position	2011	Base Salary 2012	Increase	Target Annual Incentive Level ⁽¹⁾	
				2011	2012
Stephen R. Wilson President and Chief Executive Officer	\$ 1,000,000	\$ 1,050,000	5.0%	120%	125%
Dennis P. Kelleher⁽²⁾ Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	\$ 500,000	\$ 515,000	3.0%	65%	65%
Richard A. Hoker Vice President and Corporate Controller	\$ 330,000	\$ 340,000	3.0%	40%	40%
Bert A. Frost Senior Vice President, Sales and Market Development	\$ 425,000	\$ 450,000	5.9%	65%	65%
Philipp P. Koch Senior Vice President, Supply Chain	\$ 400,000	\$ 420,000	5.0%	65%	65%
W. Anthony Will Senior Vice President, Manufacturing and Distribution	\$ 450,000	\$ 470,000	4.4%	65%	65%

(1) Target Annual Incentive for 2012 based on attainment of a 27% return on net assets (RONA). See the discussion below under the heading "Short-term Incentives."

(2) Mr. Kelleher joined the company effective as of August 22, 2011. As a result, Mr. Kelleher received \$180,822 in salary with respect to 2011. In addition, Mr. Kelleher's annual incentive payment for 2011 was pro-rated to account for the fact that he joined the company in late August.

Additional information with respect to the base salaries and annual incentive targets of these executive officers with respect to calendar years 2009, 2010 and 2011 is set forth below under the headings "Executive Compensation Summary Compensation Table" and "Executive Compensation Grants of Plan-based Awards."

Short-term Incentives

The compensation committee recently reviewed our short-term incentive program and then granted annual incentive awards to our executive officers for 2012 in accordance with the program design.

Review of the Short-term Incentive Program

During its review of our short-term incentive program, the committee considered the following general goals:

the use of properly structured short-term incentives in order to align the interests of management and stockholders, provide context for management decisions, reward management for decisions that drive short-term results and support long-term strategy, and focus all members of management on the same corporate goals (financial, operational, and strategic); and

Table of Contents

the need to create a framework for the program that can remain in effect for a significant period of time, while retaining the flexibility for the committee to make appropriate modifications that might prove necessary or desirable in order to reflect changing business conditions.

The committee also considered the following factors specific to our company:

the difficulty in establishing appropriate short-term performance measures for CF Industries, given the inherent cyclicality in our industry as well as the pronounced effects that highly volatile commodity prices for raw materials and fertilizer products have upon our operating results; and

the outlook for our short-term performance and the broad range of possible actual outcomes.

In addition, the committee reviewed a report from Towers Watson, our outside compensation consultant, regarding competitive market practices with respect to the use of short-term incentives.

The committee considered all of this information in the context of the goals and objectives of our executive compensation plans. As noted above, we use short-term incentives to provide executive officers and other key employees with the opportunity to earn additional annual compensation beyond base salary. The role of short-term incentives is to reward and encourage the achievement of annual financial results and other specified corporate performance goals. Our short-term incentive awards are targeted around the market median. Additional information regarding these goals and objectives is set forth above under the headings "Compensation Philosophy" and "Components of Compensation."

Selection of Performance Metric for 2012

Based on its review of these general, company-specific, and competitive considerations, the committee determined that the annual incentive awards to our executive officers for 2012 will be based on our return on net assets (RONA), defined as the ratio (expressed as a percentage) of adjusted EBITDA divided by average operational assets.

The "adjusted EBITDA" numerator of this metric is essentially *the sum of* (i) net earnings attributable to common stockholders *plus* (ii) interest expense (income) *neplus* (iii) income taxes *plus* (iv) depreciation, depletion, and amortization *plus* (v) unrealized mark to market losses (gains) on hedges *less* (vi) loan fee amortization *plus* (vii) acquisition related transaction costs or fees *plus* (viii) restructuring, exit, impairment, system implementation, or similar types of costs.

The "average operational assets" denominator of this metric is essentially the simple average of the beginning and year-end values for *the sum of* (i) total assets *less* (ii) cash and cash equivalents *less* (iii) short-term investments *less* (iv) investments in auction rate securities *less* (v) investments in marketable equity securities *less* (vi) total current liabilities *less* (vii) long-term deferred income taxes *less* (viii) other noncurrent liabilities *plus* (ix) short-term debt or notes payable included in current liabilities.

In selecting return on net assets (RONA) as the applicable metric, the committee noted that it will:

facilitate evaluation of the performance of our executive officers with a focus on the results of their operating decisions; and

facilitate comparisons of our operating results with the results of other companies that have different financing and capital structures and/or tax rates.

The committee also established threshold, target, and ceiling levels for the return on net assets (RONA) performance metric:

Edgar Filing: CF Industries Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

below the threshold level of 20% RONA, none of the short-term incentive award will be earned;

at the threshold level of 20% RONA, half of the short-term incentive award target will be earned;

at the target level of 27% RONA, all of the short-term incentive award target will be earned; and

Table of Contents

at and above the ceiling level of 45% RONA, twice the short-term incentive award target will be earned.

Linear interpolation will be applied for performance results between the threshold and target levels or between the target and ceiling levels.

Measured over an extended period, the objective of the committee is to select performance levels such that we have a roughly (i) 80% probability of exceeding the threshold level, (ii) 50% probability of exceeding the target level, and (iii) 20% probability of exceeding the ceiling level. Although the committee considers management's outlook as one of several factors in evaluating the threshold, target, and ceiling performance levels each year, the committee also recognizes that the outlook for any particular year represents only a single scenario from among a broad range of plausible alternatives, given the pronounced effects of highly volatile commodity prices upon our operating results. In general, the committee aims to achieve a larger payout under the program for years when our performance is superior by long-term industry standards, and a smaller payout (or none at all) for years when our performance is relatively weak, while creating incentives for improved performance under all conditions given the inherent cyclical nature in our industry.

In reviewing our short-term incentive program, the committee was also aware of alternative metrics for measuring company performance, such as achievement of operating efficiency goals, continued emphasis on the establishment of a behavioral-based safety culture, progress towards strategic objectives, performance relative to comparable companies, or performance relative to a variable budget, as well as alternative plan designs that emphasize the personal accomplishment of individual or shared goals. The objective in each case would have been to address the inherent cyclical nature in our industry as well as the pronounced effects of highly volatile commodity prices upon our operating results. However, the committee believes that absolute and objective measures of company performance align the interests of our executive officers with the interests of our stockholders, reflect our team-based culture, and are easier to design, administer, and communicate.

Approval of Annual Incentive Awards for 2012

As noted above, the compensation committee recently granted annual incentive awards to our executive officers for calendar year 2012 pursuant to our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan. We assigned each executive officer a target award opportunity for 2012 ranging from 40% to 125% of his or her base salary depending on his or her compensation and responsibility level. Additional information regarding the committee's approval of new target annual incentive levels for our executive officers for 2012 is set forth above under the heading "Cash Compensation Approval of New Compensation Levels for 2012." For each of the executive officers, the actual annual incentive payment for 2012 will be based upon our return on net assets (RONA) performance during 2012 as described above under the heading "Selection of Performance Metric for 2012."

Approval of Annual Incentive Payments for 2011

The compensation committee recently determined that each of our executive officers earned 200% of his or her target opportunity with respect to his or her annual incentive award for 2011, based on attainment of a 57% return on net assets (RONA). In addition, during July 2011, our compensation committee awarded Mr. Hoker a special cash bonus award in recognition of his contributions to the company during the period following the retirement of our former chief financial officer and the hiring of Mr. Kelleher.

Additional information with respect to the compensation committee's grants of annual incentive awards and our subsequent cash payments to the named executive officers for 2009, 2010 and 2011 is set forth below under the headings "Executive Compensation Summary Compensation Table" and "Executive Compensation Grants of Plan-based Awards."

Table of Contents

Long-term Incentives

The compensation committee reviewed our long-term incentive program during 2011 and granted long-term incentive awards to our executive officers.

General Considerations

During its review of our long-term incentive program, the committee considered the following general factors:

the use of properly structured long-term incentives in order to align the interests of senior management and stockholders;

the advantages and disadvantages of using stock options, restricted stock, and/or performance shares for such purposes;

the choice of vesting parameters for stock options and restricted stock and the treatment of death, disability, retirement, resignation, and termination, with or without cause; and

the accounting for various stock-based incentives under FASB ASC Topic 718 and the tax treatment of such incentive awards under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The committee also considered the difficulty in establishing appropriate long-term performance measures for CF Industries, other than stock price appreciation and total stockholder return (including dividends), given the inherent cyclicity in our industry as well as the pronounced effects of highly volatile commodity prices for raw materials and fertilizer products upon our operating results.

In addition, the committee reviewed a report from Towers Watson, our outside compensation consultant, regarding competitive market practices with respect to the use of long-term incentives.

The committee considered all of this information in the context of the goals and objectives of our executive compensation plans. As noted above, our long-term incentives focus on enterprise value creation and employee retention. Long-term incentives are provided through annual awards. Our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan allows the use of stock options, full-value shares, and cash-based awards. Eligibility is extended to executive officers and other key employees. Distribution guidelines with award ranges related to position responsibility levels are updated annually. In consideration of these guidelines, there is individual variation in long-term incentives based on performance level, potential contribution, and value to the business. Additional information regarding these goals and objectives is set forth above under the headings "Compensation Philosophy" and "Components of Compensation."

Design of Awards for 2011

Based on its review of these general, company-specific, and competitive considerations, the committee determined that the long-term incentive awards to our executive officers for 2011 should continue to be composed of 60% stock options and 40% restricted stock (each measured by fair value on the date of grant), as was the case for 2009 and 2010.

In selecting a mixture of stock options and restricted stock for our long-term incentive awards, the committee noted that:

the stock option award would provide potential value for executive officers that is tied solely to stock price appreciation after the date of grant;

the stock option and restricted stock awards would be subject to time vesting provisions and therefore create an additional retention mechanism for executive officers;

the restricted stock award would foster stock ownership by executive officers; and

the restricted stock award would provide value for executive officers that fluctuates with total stockholder return (including dividends).

Table of Contents

Approval of Awards for 2011

The compensation committee approved long-term incentive awards during 2011 pursuant to our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan consisting of 64,910 stock options and 32,234 shares of restricted stock for our executive officers in the aggregate.

All of our executive officers (other than Mr. Kelleher) were granted awards on August 10, 2011. The compensation committee chose August 10, 2011 for the grant date for these awards because it was the anniversary of our IPO. In selecting August 10, 2011 as the grant date, the compensation committee also noted that we had reported our financial results for the second quarter of 2011 on August 4, 2011. Mr. Kelleher was granted awards on August 22, 2011, the date he joined the company. In addition, at a meeting of the compensation committee held on July 21, 2011, Mr. Hoker was granted a special award of restricted stock in recognition of his contributions to the company during the period following the retirement of our former chief financial officer and the hiring of Mr. Kelleher.

On the grant date, the committee approved dollar-denominated stock option and restricted stock awards for the individual executive officers. In setting the dollar-denominated values of the individual awards, the committee considered the competitive general industry market median value for the position (adjusted to reflect the individual's current base salary) as determined by Towers Watson, our outside compensation consultant. The committee also considered the recommendations from our chief executive officer for the long-term incentive awards to each of the executive officers other than himself. These recommendations took into account the chief executive officer's assessment of each individual's operating responsibilities, management level, and tenure and performance in the position.

After the close of business on the grant date, the dollar-denominated awards were translated into an actual number of stock options and an actual number of shares of restricted stock using that day's closing price for our stock on the NYSE as the input to valuation formulas recommended by our outside compensation consultant and approved in advance by the committee. Similarly, the exercise price for the stock options was set to equal that day's closing price. The number of stock options represented 60% of the total value on the grant date, and the number of shares of restricted stock represented the remaining 40%.

The terms and conditions of these long-term incentive awards were as follows:

The shares of restricted stock granted to our executive officers (other than Mr. Kelleher) will vest on the third anniversary of the grant date, subject to earlier forfeiture or accelerated vesting (as described below). The shares of restricted stock granted to Mr. Kelleher will vest in increments of 31.25%, 31.25% and 37.5% on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date, subject to earlier forfeiture or accelerated vesting (as described below). Until vested, the shares of restricted stock may not be sold, assigned, transferred, donated, pledged, or otherwise disposed of (except by will or the laws of descent and distribution). We will pay dividends on the restricted stock to our executive officers during the vesting period.

Subject to earlier forfeiture or accelerated vesting (as described below), the options granted during 2011 will generally become exercisable in three equal annual installments following the date of grant and will expire ten years from the date of grant.

As discussed below, upon a change in control, the restrictions, limitations, and conditions applicable to the restricted stock and stock option awards will lapse and the awards will become fully vested and exercisable. The awards will also become fully vested and exercisable upon death or disability.

Additional information with respect to the compensation committee's grants of restricted stock and stock options to our named executive officers during 2011 is set forth below under the heading "Executive Compensation Grants of Plan-based Awards."

Table of Contents

Change in Control, Severance, and Retirement Benefits

The compensation committee reviewed our change in control, severance, and retirement benefits during 2011 as described below. Based on its review, and after considering the factors noted below, the committee determined that our change in control, severance, and retirement benefits continue to serve the best interests of the company and our stockholders and are consistent with competitive market practices.

Change in Control Benefits

With respect to our change in control benefits, the committee noted that we have change in control agreements with our executive officers, as well as certain change in control benefits for all of the participants (including the executive officers) under our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan. Additional information regarding these benefits is set forth below under the heading "Executive Compensation Change in Control Benefits."

In connection with its review, the committee noted that the change in control agreements with our executive officers are:

intended to provide some level of income continuity for an executive officer should his or her employment be terminated by us without cause or by him or her for good reason in connection with a change in control;

designed to avoid unwanted management turnover in the event of a potential change in control; and

designed to ensure that the executive officer's personal interests will remain aligned with the interests of our stockholders in the event of a potential change in control.

The committee also noted that our change in control agreements require both (i) a change in control and (ii) a qualifying termination of the executive officer's employment (sometimes referred to as a "double trigger"), before any benefits will be owing to the executive officer under the agreement.

In addition, the committee noted that our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan provides that all plan-based awards will be deemed fully achieved, fully vested, and fully exercisable upon a change in control (sometimes referred to as a "single trigger"), unless the committee determines otherwise with respect to a particular award at the time of grant and reflects this determination in the applicable award agreement. In this regard, the committee noted it would be difficult to preserve the original performance and vesting goals in our plan-based awards following a change in control, given the fundamental changes in our organization, capital structure, and operations that would typically result from such a transaction. Accordingly, all of our plan-based awards have included this change in control provision for the benefit of our executive officers and the other participants.

As part of its review, the committee reviewed "tally sheets," estimating these benefits for our chief executive officer and the other named executive officers under various assumptions and scenarios.

Based on its review, and the other factors noted above, the committee determined that our change in control benefits serve the best interests of the company and our stockholders and are consistent with competitive market practices.

Severance Benefits

With respect to our severance benefits, the committee noted that none of our executive officers has any employment or severance agreement, and none of our executive officers is entitled to receive any other severance benefits, except for (i) the change in control agreements and change in control benefits discussed above, (ii) such severance benefits as we may provide under our standard policies applicable to all employees, (iii) such severance benefits as we may be required to pay under applicable law in certain jurisdictions, and (iv) such additional severance benefits as our compensation committee may approve in certain instances. Based on its review, and the other factors noted above, the committee

Table of Contents

determined that our severance benefits serve the best interests of the company and our stockholders and are consistent with competitive market practices.

Retirement Benefits

With respect to our retirement benefits, the committee noted that we maintain tax-qualified and nonqualified defined benefit, defined contribution, and deferred compensation plans. Additional information regarding these benefits is set forth below under the headings "Executive Compensation Retirement Benefits" and "Executive Compensation Nonqualified Deferred Compensation."

In connection with its review, the committee noted that our Retirement Income Plan (a defined benefit pension plan) was closed to new participants on December 31, 2003. As a result, executive officers who joined the company after that date are ineligible to receive any pension benefits under this plan and are therefore also ineligible to receive any defined benefit pension benefits under our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan (a nonqualified benefits restoration and deferred compensation plan).

The committee also reviewed "tally sheets," estimating these benefits for our chief executive officer and the other named executive officers under various assumptions and scenarios.

Based on its review, and the other factors noted above, the committee determined that our retirement benefits serve the best interests of the company and our stockholders and are consistent with competitive market practices.

Compensation of the Chief Executive Officer

The compensation committee has taken a number of steps related to reviewing and establishing the compensation of our chief executive officer. Additional information regarding these activities is set forth above under the heading "Compensation Committee Activities."

Cash Compensation for 2012

The compensation committee recently approved a base salary of \$1,050,000 for Mr. Wilson for 2012 and an annual incentive target equal to 125% of his base salary, as compared with a base salary of \$1,000,000 and an annual incentive target equal to 120% of his base salary for 2011. In setting Mr. Wilson's base salary and annual incentive target for 2012, the committee considered (i) a competitive market assessment performed by Towers Watson, our outside compensation consultant, (ii) our Board's annual evaluation of Mr. Wilson's overall performance, and (iii) the goals and objectives of our executive compensation plans. The committee also considered the current conditions in the overall economy, and the announced decisions at other companies regarding cash compensation for chief executive officers. Additional information regarding the committee's approval of Mr. Wilson's base salary and his annual incentive target for 2012 is set forth above under the heading "Cash Compensation."

Short-term Incentive Award for 2012

The compensation committee recently granted Mr. Wilson an annual incentive award for 2012. Mr. Wilson's annual incentive payment for 2012 will be based on our return on net assets (RONA) for the year, ranging from (i) a threshold equal to 62.5% of his base salary at an RONA of 20% through (ii) a target equal to 125% of his base salary at an RONA of 27% to (iii) a ceiling equal to 250% of his base salary at an RONA of 45%. Additional information regarding the terms and conditions of Mr. Wilson's annual incentive award for 2012 is set forth above under the heading "Short-term Incentives."

Short-term Incentive Payment for 2011

The compensation committee recently determined that Mr. Wilson earned \$2,400,000 (representing 240% of his base salary and 200% of the relevant target) with respect to his annual incentive award for

Table of Contents

2011. Additional information with respect to Mr. Wilson's annual incentive award for 2011 and our subsequent cash payment to him on that award is set forth above under the heading "Approval of Short-term Incentive Payments for 2011" and below under the headings "Executive Compensation Summary Compensation Table," and "Executive Compensation Grants of Plan-based Awards."

Long-term Incentive Awards for 2011

The compensation committee also granted Mr. Wilson 27,470 stock options and 9,290 shares of restricted stock for 2011. In making this award, the committee considered a competitive market assessment performed by our outside compensation consultant as well as the other factors discussed above. Additional information regarding the committee's review of our long-term incentive program and the terms and conditions of our stock option and restricted stock awards for 2011 is set forth above under the heading "Long-term Incentives."

Change in Control, Severance, and Retirement Benefits

The compensation committee also reviewed our change in control, severance, and retirement benefits during 2011, with a particular focus on the benefits Mr. Wilson would receive upon such an event now or in the future. As part of its review, the committee reviewed "tally sheets," estimating the benefits that Mr. Wilson would receive under various assumptions and scenarios. Based on its review, and the other factors noted above, the committee determined that Mr. Wilson's change in control, severance, and retirement benefits serve the best interests of the company and our stockholders and are consistent with competitive market practices. Additional information regarding the committee's activities in this regard is set forth above under the heading "Change in Control, Severance, and Retirement Benefits."

Additional information with respect to Mr. Wilson's total compensation and benefits for 2009, 2010 and 2011 is set forth below under the heading "Executive Compensation."

Industry Reference Group

As noted above, the compensation committee has adopted an industry reference group for use in establishing compensation and incentive levels. During 2011, the committee revised the reference group so that it comprises the following 14 companies:

Global Industry Classification

Standard Subindustry Description

Fertilizers and Agricultural Chemicals

Specialty Chemicals

Commodity Chemicals

Diversified Chemicals

Agricultural Products

Industrial Gases

Coal and Consumable Fuels

Company Name

Agrium Inc.
 The Mosaic Company
 Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc.
 The Scotts Miracle-Gro Company
 Cytec Industries Inc.
 Nalco Holding Company
 Celanese Corporation
 Ashland Inc.
 Eastman Chemical Company
 FMC Corporation
 Huntsman International LLC
 Corn Products International, Inc.
 Airgas, Inc.
 Arch Coal, Inc.

Table of Contents

During 2010, our industry reference group also included The Lubrizol Corporation. Our compensation committee removed The Lubrizol Corporation from the reference group because it had recently been acquired. Nalco Holding Corporation was acquired in December 2011 and, therefore, will be removed from our industry reference group for 2012. We include a subset of this industry reference group in our "peer group" for purposes of the stock price performance graph included within our 2011 Annual Report. We have selected Agrium Inc., The Mosaic Company, and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc. for this purpose because they comprise the members of our reference group that are publicly traded manufacturers of fertilizers with headquarters in North America.

Stockholder Say on Pay Votes

We provide our stockholders with the opportunity to cast an annual advisory vote to approve the compensation of our named executive officers (a "Say on Pay" proposal). At our annual meeting of stockholders held in May 2011, greater than 90% of the votes cast on the Say on Pay proposal at that meeting were voted in favor of the proposal. The compensation committee believes this affirms stockholders' support of CF Industries' approach to executive compensation, and did not change its approach for 2012. The compensation committee will continue to consider the outcome of our stockholders' Say on Pay votes when making future compensation decisions for the named executive officers.

Financial Restatements

It is the policy of our Board that the compensation committee will, to the extent permitted by governing law, have the sole and absolute authority to make retroactive adjustments to any cash or equity-based incentive compensation paid to executive officers if the payment was predicated upon the achievement of certain financial results that were subsequently the subject of a restatement. Where applicable, we will seek to recover any amount determined to have been received inappropriately by an executive officer. The compensation committee includes "clawback" language in the forms of incentive award agreements that we use with executive officers in order to enhance the enforceability of these provisions.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

The Board believes that our directors and officers should be stockholders of CF Industries and, based on the recommendation of the compensation committee, has established guidelines for stock ownership.

Directors will have five years from the date of their appointment or election to achieve stock ownership with a market value equal to five times their annual retainer.

Officers will have five years from their date of hire or promotion to achieve stock ownership with a market value equal to (i) five times annual base salary in the case of the chief executive officer, (ii) two times annual base salary in the case of several other executive officers, and (iii) one times annual base salary in the case of the other officers.

For purposes of these guidelines, stock ownership includes (i) any purchased stock, (ii) any "phantom" stock held in our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan (a non-qualified benefits restoration and deferred compensation plan), (iii) any vested stock awards, and (iv) the after-tax portion (assuming a 35% tax rate) of the "spread" on any vested stock option awards (i.e., the amount by which the market value of the underlying stock exceeds the exercise price of the vested stock options).

Once an individual meets his or her ownership guideline requirements, it is expected that he or she will maintain ownership at the required levels as stock prices and salaries change over time. It is also expected that the individual will not sell any shares unless he or she has achieved compliance with the ownership guidelines before the sale and that he or she will retain enough shares following the sale in order to remain in compliance with the guidelines.

Table of Contents

We may facilitate stock ownership by directors and officers through grants of equity-based compensation under our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan. We have a Policy on Insider Trading, which prohibits our directors, officers, and employees from trading in derivatives on our stock, selling our stock "short," or holding our stock in margin accounts.

Tax Deductibility of Executive Compensation

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code limits our federal income tax deduction to \$1,000,000 per year for compensation paid to our chief executive officer or certain of the other named executive officers. Compensation that is performance-based is not, however, subject to the deduction limit, provided certain requirements of Section 162(m) are satisfied. We believe that our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan complies with the Section 162(m) regulations adopted by the Internal Revenue Service, permitting us to grant performance-based compensation which is not subject to the \$1,000,000 limit otherwise imposed by Section 162(m). We will generally seek to preserve the deductibility of performance-based compensation by meeting the requirements of Section 162(m) to the extent practicable and in the best interests of CF Industries and its stockholders.

Fees Paid to Towers Watson

As noted above, the compensation committee has engaged Towers Watson, an outside global human resources consulting firm, to assist the committee in making recommendations and decisions regarding compensation for our directors and executive officers. The fees paid to Towers Watson for its services to the committee were \$90,000 in 2011 and \$90,000 in 2010.

In addition, with the prior approval of the compensation committee chairman in each instance, our senior vice president, human resources has engaged Towers Watson to provide various compensation and benefits consulting services to management. The fees paid to Towers Watson for these services to management were \$50,000 in 2011 and \$95,000 in 2010.

In addition, with the prior approval of the compensation committee chairman, our senior vice president, human resources engaged Towers Watson in 2011 to provide non-executive compensation services involving an employee survey. The fees paid to Towers Watson for these services were \$72,000 in 2011.

The compensation committee has reviewed the total fees paid to Towers Watson over each of the past two years, including the fees paid to Towers Watson in 2010 and 2011 for services to management, and determined that the consultant has maintained its objectivity and independence in rendering advice to the committee.

COMPENSATION AND BENEFITS RISK ANALYSIS

As noted above, the compensation committee has reviewed the potential effects of the various components of our compensation and benefits program upon individual and collective behavior and, ultimately, upon our risk profile and our overall approach to risk management. After reviewing the relevant features of:

our annual incentive program, including (i) the selection of appropriate performance metrics, (ii) the focus on collective rather than individual behaviors, (iii) the process by which the compensation committee establishes target bonus opportunities as well as threshold, target, and ceiling performance levels, (iv) the consistency of our short-term incentive practices with the practices at comparable companies, (v) the control environment within which business decisions are made, (vi) the periodic reporting to the compensation committee regarding corporate performance, (vii) the discretion the compensation committee has retained to adjust annual incentive payments under appropriate circumstances, and (viii) the "clawback" provisions in our policy regarding financial restatements;

Table of Contents

our long-term incentive program, including (i) the levels of common stock ownership and equity-based awards held by our executive officers, (ii) the use of restricted stock as well as stock options in making stock-based awards to executive officers, (iii) the consistency of our long-term incentive practices with the practices at comparable companies, and (iv) the limitations on trading imposed by our stock ownership guidelines and our Policy on Insider Trading;

our change-in-control benefits, including the facts that the change-in-control agreements with our executive officers are (i) intended to provide some level of income continuity for an executive officer should his or her employment be terminated by us without cause or by him or her for good reason in connection with a change in control, (ii) designed to avoid unwanted management turnover in the event of a potential change in control, and (iii) designed to ensure that the executive officer's personal interests will remain aligned with the interests of our stockholders in the event of a potential change in control; and

our other awards, plans, programs, policies, and practices, including (i) the appropriateness of the incentives created thereby, (ii) the focus on collective rather than individual behaviors, (iii) the control environment, and (iv) the absence of personal objectives and direct financial incentives with respect to raw materials procurement and transactions involving natural gas derivatives;

the compensation committee believes that the company's compensation and benefits program balances risk and potential reward in a manner that is appropriate to the circumstances and in the best interests of the company's stockholders over the long term.

COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT

The compensation committee oversees our compensation and employee benefit plans and practices, including our executive compensation plans, director compensation plans, and other incentive compensation and equity-based plans. The compensation committee is composed of four non-employee directors and operates under a written charter adopted by our Board. Each member of the compensation committee is independent within the meaning of the rules of the corporate governance standards of the NYSE applicable to compensation committee members. Our Board has also determined that all of the members of the committee qualify as "non-employee directors," within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 promulgated under the Exchange Act, and "outside directors," within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

The compensation committee held six meetings during the year ended December 31, 2011 and met in executive session at each of the five meetings that were held in person. The compensation committee also reviewed and discussed with management the compensation discussion and analysis section of this Proxy Statement.

Based on its review and the foregoing meetings and discussions, the compensation committee recommended to the Board that the compensation discussion and analysis section be included in this Proxy Statement and in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for filing with the SEC.

Robert C. Arzbaeher (Chairman)
Stephen A. Furbacher
Stephen J. Hagge
Edward A. Schmitt

Table of Contents**EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION****Summary Compensation Table**

The following table sets forth the total compensation we provided with respect to the years ended December 31, 2009, 2010, and 2011 for (i) our principal executive officer, (ii) our principal financial officer, (iii) our vice president and corporate controller, who, from the resignation of our former principal financial officer in September 2010 until the hiring of our chief financial officer in August 2011, was the person who signed the certifications to the periodic reports that we have filed with the SEC as the person performing the functions of our principal financial officer and (iv) our three other most highly compensated executive officers (as determined on the basis of their total compensation for 2011 other than changes in pension value and nonqualified deferred compensation earnings). We refer to these six individuals in this Proxy Statement as our "named executive officers".

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Bonus (\$)	Stock Awards ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Option Awards ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Change in Pension Value and Non-equity Incentive Plan Compensation ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾		All Other Compensation ⁽⁶⁾ (\$)	Total (\$)
						Non-equity Incentive Plan Compensation ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾ (\$)	Nonqualified Deferred Compensation ⁽⁴⁾⁽⁵⁾ (\$)		
Principal Executive Officer									
Stephen R. Wilson	2011	1,000,000		1,389,691	1,684,642	2,400,000	508,102	135,662	7,118,097
President and Chief Executive Officer	2010	925,000		1,390,230	1,766,454	1,378,300	331,171	100,300	5,891,455
	2009	900,000		1,156,623	1,365,313	909,000	269,850	105,052	4,705,838
Principal Financial Officer									
Dennis P. Kelleher⁽⁷⁾	2011	180,822		883,553	748,925	236,700		7,308	2,057,308
Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer									
Richard A. Hoker⁽⁷⁾	2011	330,000	100,000	324,859	112,228	264,000		37,511	1,168,598
Vice President and Corporate Contoller	2010	300,000		247,474	251,776	178,800		29,910	1,007,960
Other Executive Officers									
Bert A. Frost	2011	425,000		278,237	336,683	552,500		52,019	1,644,439
Senior Vice President, Sales and Market Development	2010	325,000		276,420	352,579	266,300		33,038	1,253,337
	2009	312,500		188,669	217,125	157,800		43,106	919,200
Philipp P. Koch	2011	400,000		231,865	280,876	520,000	209,550	44,309	1,686,600
Senior Vice President, Supply Chain	2010	325,000		276,420	352,579	266,300	115,729	31,651	1,367,679
	2009	300,000		165,604	139,451	151,500	97,610	29,669	883,834
W. Anthony Will	2011	450,000		278,237	336,683	585,000		52,624	1,702,544
Senior Vice President, Manufacturing and Distribution	2010	325,000		446,020	480,532	266,300		38,017	1,555,869
	2009	325,000		205,075	246,566	164,100		36,997	977,738

(1) Amounts in these two columns represent base salary and non-equity incentive plan compensation earned in 2009, 2010, and 2011 regardless of when such amounts are paid in cash.

(2) Amounts in these two columns represent the grant date fair value computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (without taking into account any estimate of forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) of the restricted stock and stock option awards that we granted to the named executive officers pursuant to our Equity and Incentive Plans. Our assumptions with respect to the FASB ASC Topic 718 valuation of these equity awards are described in the footnotes to our audited financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011. Additional information with respect to the outstanding restricted stock and stock option awards for 2005, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010 and 2011 is set forth below under the headings "Grants of Plan-based Awards" and "Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End."

Table of Contents

- (3) Amounts in this column represent amounts that the named executive officers earned with respect to the years ended December 31, 2009, 2010, and 2011 as the result of annual incentive awards we granted to the named executive officers pursuant to our Equity and Incentive. Additional information with respect to these annual incentive awards for 2011 is set forth below under the heading "Grants of Plan-based Awards."
- (4) Amounts in this column represent only the change during the particular year in the actuarial present value of the named executive officer's accumulated pension benefits under our Retirement Income Plan (a tax-qualified defined benefit pension plan) and our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan (a nonqualified benefits restoration and deferred compensation plan). Our assumptions with respect to the determination of this value are described in the footnotes to our audited financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011. For this purpose, we have also assumed retirement at age 65. Additional information with respect to our defined benefit pension plans is set forth below under the heading "Retirement Benefits." Messrs. Kelleher, Hoker, Frost, and Will are ineligible for defined benefit pension benefits under these plans since their employment commenced after our Retirement Income Plan had been closed to new participants on December 31, 2003.
- (5) This column does not include any above-market or preferential earnings with respect to nonqualified deferred compensation, since all earnings were determined by a third-party plan administrator and set to equal the published total return on notional capital market investments selected in advance by the named executive officers. Additional information with respect to the named executive officers' nonqualified deferred compensation earnings is set forth below under the heading "Nonqualified Deferred Compensation."
- (6) Amounts in this column represent (i) employer contributions and credits to our Thrift Savings Plan (a tax-qualified defined contribution retirement plan) and to our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan, (ii) employer-paid term life insurance premiums, (iii) dividends on restricted stock, (iv) tax gross-up payments (relating to personal travel and relocation benefits in the case of Mr. Frost), and (v) other benefits (relocation benefits in the case of Mr. Frost and make-whole

Edgar Filing: CF Industries Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Table of Contents

payments related to a delay in the granting of a stock option in the case of Mr. Will), in each case as set forth in the following table.

Name	Year	Employer Contributions and Credits to Retirement Plans (\$)	Employer-paid Life Insurance Premiums (\$)	Dividends on Restricted Stock (\$)	Tax Gross-up Payments (\$)	Other Benefits (\$)	Total (\$)
Stephen R. Wilson	2011	93,188	2,208	40,266			135,662
	2010	83,063	1,869	15,368			100,300
	2009	81,000	1,864	22,188			105,052
Dennis P. Kelleher	2011	4,837	399	2,072			7,308
Richard A. Hoker	2011	30,713	728	6,070			37,511
	2010	26,925	1,321	1,664			29,910
Bert A. Frost	2011	39,094	938	9,088	2,899		52,019
	2010	29,246	1,432	2,360			33,038
	2009	28,114	1,377	1,220	4,642	7,753	43,106
Philipp P. Koch	2011	36,938	883	6,488			44,309
	2010	29,063	612	1,976			31,651
	2009	26,888	565	2,216			29,669
W. Anthony Will	2011	41,246	994	10,384			52,624
	2010	29,246	612	3,192		4,967	38,017
	2009	29,246	612	2,172		4,967	36,997

None of the named executive officers received any perquisites or personal benefits during 2009, 2010, or 2011 with an aggregate value of \$10,000 or more. Mr. Wilson receives no additional compensation for his service as a director or as the chairman of our Board. In addition, none of the named executive officers received additional compensation for their service as a director or executive officer of TNGP.

(7)

Messrs. Kelleher and Hoker became named executive officers with respect to the earliest years for which information is reported in each instance.

Table of Contents**Grants of Plan-based Awards**

The following table shows all plan-based awards that we granted for the year ended December 31, 2011 to each of the named executive officers. Additional information regarding these awards is set forth above under the heading "Summary Compensation Table."

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-equity Incentive Plan Awards ⁽¹⁾			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units ⁽²⁾ (#)	All Other Option Awards: Number of Underlying Securities Options ⁽²⁾ (#)	Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards ⁽²⁾ (\$/Sh)	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards ⁽³⁾ (\$)
		Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)				
Stephen R. Wilson	12/7/10	600,000	1,200,000	2,400,000	9,290	27,470	149.59	3,074,333
	8/10/11							
Dennis P. Kelleher	8/22/11	162,500	325,000	650,000	5,180	10,710	170.57	1,632,478
	8/22/11							
Richard A. Hoker	12/7/10	66,000	132,000	264,000	1,440	1,830	149.59	232,114
	7/21/11							
	8/10/11							
Bert A. Frost	12/7/10	138,125	276,250	552,500	1,860	5,490	149.59	614,920
	8/10/11							
Philipp P. Koch	12/7/10	130,000	260,000	520,000	1,550	4,580	149.59	512,741
	8/10/11							
W. Anthony Will	12/7/10	146,250	292,500	585,000	1,860	5,490	149.59	614,920
	8/10/11							

(1) Messrs. Wilson, Kelleher, Hoker, Frost, Koch, and Will were assigned target award opportunities equal to 120%, 65%, 40%, 65%, 65%, and 65% of their respective base salaries. The terms and conditions of these awards are described above under the heading "Compensation Discussion and Analysis Short-term Incentives." We recently determined the amounts that each of the named executive officers had earned with respect to these awards, based on our corporate performance for 2011, as set forth above under the heading "Summary Compensation Table." Mr. Kelleher's annual incentive payment for 2011 was pro-rated to account for the fact that he joined the company in late August.

(2) The shares shown in this column for all of our officers other than Mr. Kelleher are shares of restricted stock that will vest on the third anniversary of the grant date, subject to earlier forfeiture or accelerated vesting. The shares shown in this column for Mr. Kelleher are shares of restricted stock that will vest in increments of 31.25%, 31.25% and 37.5% on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date, subject to earlier forfeiture or accelerated vesting. Until vested, the shares of restricted stock may not be sold, assigned, transferred, donated, pledged, or otherwise disposed of (except by will or the laws of descent and distribution). We will pay dividends on the restricted stock to the named executive officers during the vesting period. Subject to earlier forfeiture or accelerated vesting, the options granted during 2011 will generally become exercisable in three equal annual installments following the date of grant and will expire ten years from the date of grant. The accelerated vesting provisions and the other terms and conditions of these restricted stock and stock option awards are described above under the heading "Compensation Discussion and Analysis Long-term Incentives."

(3) Amounts in this column represent the grant date fair value computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (without taking into account any estimate of forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) of the restricted stock and stock option awards that we granted to the named executive officers pursuant to our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan. Our assumptions with respect to the FASB ASC Topic 718 valuation of these equity awards are described in the footnotes to our audited financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011.

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year End**

The following table sets forth certain information concerning the outstanding equity awards held as of December 31, 2011 by each of the named executive officers. Additional information with respect to the equity awards granted during 2011 is set forth above under the heading "Grants of Plan-based Awards."

Name	Option Awards ⁽¹⁾⁽³⁾				Stock Awards ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾	
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)
Stephen R. Wilson	405,400		16.00	8/10/2015		
	155,900		14.83	8/10/2016		
	54,300		51.95	8/10/2017		
	27,470		125.33	8/11/2018		
	24,733	12,367	82.03	8/10/2019	14,100	2,044,218
	16,533	33,067	81.30	8/10/2020	17,100	2,479,158
		27,470	149.59	8/10/2021	9,290	1,346,864
Dennis P. Kelleher		10,710	170.57	8/22/2021	5,180	750,996
Richard A. Hoker	3,800		78.20	11/19/2017		
	2,050		125.33	8/11/2018		
	1,467	733	82.03	8/10/2019	800	115,984
		5,100	67.04	5/25/2020	2,600	376,948
	833	1,667	81.30	8/10/2020	900	130,482
				1,440 ⁽⁴⁾	208,771	
		1,830	149.59	8/10/2021	620	89,888
Bert A. Frost	6,410		48.64	12/11/2018		
	3,933	1,967	82.03	8/10/2019	2,300	333,454
	3,300	6,600	81.30	8/10/2020	3,400	492,932
		5,490	149.59	8/10/2021	1,860	269,663
Philipp P. Koch	5,700		51.95	8/10/2017		
	2,490		125.33	8/11/2018		
		1,500	82.03	8/10/2019	1,700	246,466
	3,300	6,600	81.30	8/10/2020	3,400	492,932
		4,580	149.59	8/10/2021	1,550	224,719
W. Anthony Will	4,900		44.15	4/24/2017		
	3,800		51.95	8/10/2017		
	4,970		125.33	8/11/2018		
	4,467	2,233	82.03	8/10/2019	2,500	362,450
		6,800	67.04	5/25/2020	3,500	507,430
	2,466	4,934	81.30	8/10/2020	2,600	376,948
		5,490	149.59	8/10/2021	1,860	269,663

(1) The stock options were granted on the dates that are ten years prior to the option expiration dates shown in the same row of the table in each instance.

(2)

Edgar Filing: CF Industries Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Except as otherwise noted, the shares of restricted stock were granted on the same dates as the stock options shown in the same row of the table in each instance.

Table of Contents

- (3) The shares of restricted stock listed for all of our officers other than Mr. Kelleher will vest on the third anniversary of the grant date, subject to earlier forfeiture or accelerated vesting. The shares of restricted stock listed for Mr. Kelleher will vest in increments of 31.25%, 31.25% and 37.5% on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date, subject to earlier forfeiture or accelerated vesting. Until vested, the shares of restricted stock may not be sold, assigned, transferred, donated, pledged, or otherwise disposed of (except by will or the laws of descent and distribution). We will pay dividends on the restricted stock to the named executive officers during the vesting period. Subject to earlier forfeiture or accelerated vesting, (i) the options granted on May 25, 2010 will generally become exercisable on the third anniversary following the date of grant and will expire ten years from the date of grant and (ii) the other options shown in the table will generally become exercisable in three equal annual installments following the date of grant and will expire ten years from the date of grant. The accelerated vesting provisions and the other terms and conditions of the restricted stock and stock option awards granted in 2011 are described above under the heading "Compensation Discussion and Analysis Long-term Incentives."
- (4) These restricted shares were granted to Mr. Hoker on July 21, 2011.

Option Exercises and Stock Vested

The following table sets forth certain information concerning stock option exercises by each of the named executive officers and the vesting of restricted stock held by each of the named executive officers during the year ended December 31, 2011.

Name	Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)	Value Realized on Exercise (\$)	Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)	Value Realized on Vesting (\$)
Stephen R. Wilson	480,000	61,702,898	8,170	1,341,432
Dennis P. Kelleher				
Richard A. Hoker			610	100,156
Bert A. Frost			1,900	268,964
Philipp P. Koch	15,400	2,154,394	740	121,501
W. Anthony Will			1,480	243,001
			37	

Table of Contents**Retirement Benefits**

The following table sets forth certain information concerning accumulated retirement benefits as of December 31, 2011 for each of the named executive officers.

Name	Plan Name ⁽¹⁾	Number of Years Credited Service ⁽²⁾ (#)	Present Value of Accumulated Benefit ⁽²⁾⁽³⁾ (\$)	Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$)
Stephen R. Wilson	Retirement Income Plan	20.0	824,547	
	Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan	20.0	3,708,013	
Dennis P. Kelleher ⁽⁴⁾				
Richard A. Hoker ⁽⁴⁾				
Bert A. Frost ⁽⁴⁾				
Philipp P. Koch	Retirement Income Plan	7.5	260,740	
	Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan	7.5	370,169	

W. Anthony Will⁽⁴⁾

(1) Our Retirement Income Plan is a tax-qualified defined benefit pension plan. Our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan is a nonqualified benefits restoration and deferred compensation plan.

(2) The combined annual pension benefit under our Retirement Income Plan and our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan assuming retirement at age 65 is equal to *the product of* (i) 1.75% *times* (ii) highest average earnings (base salary plus annual incentive earnings) over any consecutive 60 months *times* (iii) years of eligible service, reduced by a Social Security offset allowance; *provided, however*, that the combined annual pension benefit will be capped at \$400,000 per year. Benefits under our Retirement Income Plan are paid on a straight line annuity basis, but married participants are paid a reduced qualified joint and survivor annuity unless they elect a straight line annuity. Benefits under our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan are paid in a lump sum unless the participant has elected a form of annuity permitted under our Retirement Income Plan. A special spousal benefit is payable as either an annuity or a lump sum in the event of a participant's death while an active employee. Participants who retire early between the ages of 55 and 65 will be entitled to receive a reduced annual pension benefit as set forth in the following table. Messrs. Wilson and Koch are 63 and 60 years old, respectively. Except as discussed below under the heading "Change in Control Benefits," we have no policy for granting extra years of age or service credit.

Payments Begin at Age	Percent of Full Benefit
65	100.00%
64	93.33%
63	86.67%
62	80.00%
61	73.33%
60	66.67%
59	63.33%
58	60.00%
57	56.67%
56	53.33%
55	50.00%

Table of Contents

- (3) Amounts in this column represent the actuarial present value of the named executive officers' accumulated pension benefits under our Retirement Income Plan and our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan. Our assumptions with respect to the determination of this value are described in the footnotes to our audited financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011. For this purpose, we have also assumed retirement at age 65. Additional information with respect to the aggregate change over the past year in the actuarial present value of the named executive officers' accumulated pension benefits under these plans is set forth above under the heading "Summary Compensation Table."
- (4) Messrs. Kelleher, Hoker, Frost, and Will are ineligible to participate in our Retirement Income Plan, and are therefore ineligible to receive any defined benefit pension benefits under our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan, since their employment commenced after our Retirement Income Plan had been closed to new participants on December 31, 2003.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

The following table sets forth certain information concerning nonqualified deferred compensation arrangements under our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan for each of the named executive officers.

Name	Executive Contributions in Last FY ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Registrant Contributions in Last FY ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Aggregate Earnings in Last FY ⁽³⁾ (\$)	Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions (\$)	Aggregate Balance at Last FYE ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)
Stephen R. Wilson	47,425	71,138	7,202		2,807,088
Dennis P. Kelleher					
Richard A. Hoker	5,775	8,663	2,484		50,360
Bert A. Frost	11,363	17,044	219		66,469
Philipp P. Koch	9,925	14,888	2,978		78,176
W. Anthony Will	12,800	19,200	3,363		92,108

- (1) Under our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan, each of the named executive officers may elect to defer (i) up to 6% of his base salary in excess of the annual compensation limit under Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code and (ii) up to 100% of his annual incentive payment. Amounts in this column represent the amounts we credited to the accounts of the named executive officers during 2011. There is typically an administrative delay between the time when a participant defers income under the plan and the time when we subsequently credit the participant's account. As a result of this delay, the amounts that we credited to the named executive officers' accounts during 2011 differ slightly from the amounts that the named executive officers deferred during 2011.
- (2) We credit to the account of each named executive officer an amount equal to 3% of his base salary in excess of the annual compensation limit referred to above. In addition, for each named executive officer who elects to defer any of his base salary in excess of the annual compensation limit, we match (through further such credits to his deemed account) the portion (up to 6%) of his excess base salary that he elects to defer. Amounts in this column represent the amounts we credited to the accounts of the named executive officers during 2011. These credits are also reported above under the heading "Summary Compensation Table."
- (3) Under our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan, each of the named executive officers makes notional investments of his account balance from time to time in shares of (i) our common stock

Table of Contents

or (ii) the public mutual funds we offer to our employees as investment alternatives under our Thrift Savings Plan.

In order to make these notional investments, the named executive officer notifies the third-party plan administrator of his selections.

The plan administrator then tracks the published total return on the actual securities underlying the named executive officer's notional investments, and we credit or debit the named executive officer's deemed account balance accordingly.

Since all such credits and debits are determined by a third-party plan administrator and set to equal the published total return on notional capital market investments selected in advance by the named executive officers, none of the amounts shown in this column are reported as above-market or preferential earnings on nonqualified deferred compensation in the table set forth above under the heading "Summary Compensation Table."

(4) In general, deferred amounts are paid out in a lump sum upon the termination of the named executive officer's employment.

Change in Control Benefits

We have entered into change in control agreements with each of the named executive officers. Under the terms of these agreements, the named executive officer is entitled to receive certain payments and benefits from us upon a qualifying termination, specifically if we terminate his employment without cause (other than by reason of his death or disability) or if he resigns because of good reason, in either case within the period of 24 months following (or in certain cases prior to) a change in control (as such terms are defined in the agreements).

Under the change in control agreements, a named executive officer will be deemed to have good reason if we:

fail to pay his specified annual salary or provide certain benefits;

assign him duties inconsistent with his current position or substantially and adversely alter his responsibilities;

fail to continue any compensation plan that constitutes a material portion of his compensation; or

change his primary employment location by more than 35 miles.

Following a qualifying termination, the change in control agreements provide for (i) a lump sum payment to the named executive officer equal to two times (or, in the case of Mr. Wilson, three times) the sum of his base salary and target annual incentive payment; (ii) welfare benefit continuation for a period of two years (or, in the case of Mr. Wilson, three years) and outplacement services for a period of up to two years; and (iii) a pro-rata annual incentive payment for the year of termination, assuming target levels of performance or, if higher, actual year-to-date performance.

In addition, if the named executive officer is otherwise eligible to participate in our Retirement Income Plan, he will receive a cash payment equal to the actuarial value of two additional years (or, in the case of Mr. Wilson, three additional years) of age and service credit under the plan and will be credited with two additional years (or, in the case of Mr. Wilson, three additional years) of age and service credit under our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan. If the named executive officer is not fully vested in his benefits under these plans, he will also receive a cash payment equal to his unvested benefits.

The named executive officer will also receive a cash payment equal to the contributions that we would have made on his behalf for a period of two years (or, in the case of Mr. Wilson, three years) under our Thrift Savings Plan and the related amounts that we would have credited to his account balance

Edgar Filing: CF Industries Holdings, Inc. - Form DEF 14A

Table of Contents

under our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan. If the named executive officer is not fully vested in his benefits under these plans, he will also receive a cash payment equal to his unvested benefits.

The named executive officer will not be obligated to seek other employment in mitigation of the payments and benefits to be provided, and no such other employment will reduce our obligation to make such payments and to provide such benefits to him under the agreements.

The change in control agreements further provide that, if any of the payments to the named executive officer become subject to the "golden parachute" excise tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code, the named executive officer will be entitled to receive an additional gross-up payment such that, after payment by him of all taxes, including any excise tax imposed upon the gross-up payment, he will receive the net after-tax benefit that he would have received had the excise tax not been imposed.

Each of the named executive officers will be required to sign a release of claims at the time of the qualifying termination as a condition to receiving any such payments or benefits from us under his change in control agreement.

In addition, upon a change in control (as defined in our Equity and Incentive Plans) the restrictions, limitations, and conditions applicable to outstanding restricted stock, stock options, and other plan-based awards will lapse, any performance goals will be deemed to be fully achieved, and the awards will become fully vested and exercisable.

Assuming a change in control had occurred on December 31, 2011, with a transaction price equal to the closing price for our stock (\$144.98 per share) on the NYSE as of the last trading day prior to such date, each of the named executive officers would have been entitled to receive the following estimated severance benefits upon a qualifying termination of his employment on such date:

Name	Severance Amount ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Defined Benefit Pension Plan Enhancement ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Retirement Savings Plan Enhancement ⁽³⁾ (\$)	Early Vesting of Restricted Stock ⁽⁴⁾ (\$)	Early Vesting of Stock Options ⁽⁵⁾ (\$)	Other Change in Control Benefits ⁽⁶⁾ (\$)	Estimated Excise Tax Gross Up ⁽⁷⁾ (\$)	Total (\$)
Stephen R. Wilson	6,600,000		270,000	5,870,240	2,884,209	85,301		15,709,750
Dennis P. Kelleher	1,650,000		94,996	750,996		57,046		2,553,038
Richard A. Hoker	924,000		72,384	922,073	549,791	66,152		2,534,400
Bert A. Frost	1,402,500		96,713	1,096,049	544,111	66,304	739,781	3,945,458
Philipp P. Koch	1,320,000	170,131	72,000	964,117	514,713	39,414		3,080,375
W. Anthony Will	1,485,000		94,622	1,516,491	984,756	66,682	798,678	4,946,229

(1) This amount represents a cash payment to the named executive officer equal to two times (or, in the case of Mr. Wilson, three times) the sum of his base salary and target annual incentive payment.

(2) This amount represents the present value of two additional years (or, in the case of Mr. Wilson, three additional years) of age and service credit for the named executive officer under our Retirement Income Plan and our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan. As of December 31, 2011, Mr. Wilson had already qualified for the maximum combined annual pension benefit of \$400,000 per year under our defined benefit pension plans. Messrs. Kelleher, Hoker, Frost, and Will are ineligible for these enhanced defined benefit pension benefits since their employment commenced after our Retirement Income Plan had been closed to new participants on December 31, 2003.

(3) This amount represents a cash payment to the named executive officer equal to the contributions that we would have made on his behalf for a period of two years (or, in the case of Mr. Wilson, three years) under our Thrift Savings Plan and the related amounts we would have credited to his

Table of Contents

account balance under our Supplemental Benefit and Deferral Plan. For Messrs. Kelleher, Hoker, Frost, and Will, who were not fully vested in their benefits under these plans as of December 31, 2011, this amount also includes a cash payment equal to their unvested benefits.

- (4) This amount represents the value attributable to the accelerated vesting of outstanding restricted stock awards held by the named executive officer, which is deemed to equal the market value on December 31, 2011 of the restricted stock that would otherwise have been unvested as of such date.
- (5) This amount represents the value attributable to the accelerated vesting of outstanding stock option awards held by the named executive officer, which is deemed to equal, for each stock option that would otherwise have been unvested as of such date, the amount by which (x) the aggregate market value on December 31, 2011 of the underlying stock exceeded (y) the aggregate exercise price of the stock option.
- (6) This amount represents the present value of the continuation of certain welfare benefits for the named executive officer for a period of two years (or, in the case of Mr. Wilson, three years) and the value of outplacement services for the named executive officer for a period of up to two years.
- (7) This amount represents an excise tax gross-up payment for the named executive officer such that, after payment by him of all taxes, including any excise tax imposed upon the gross-up payment, he will receive the net after-tax benefit he would have received had the excise tax not been imposed under Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code.

Table of Contents**DIRECTOR COMPENSATION**

The following table sets forth cash and non-cash compensation with respect to the year ended December 31, 2011 for our non-employee directors. Mr. Wilson receives no additional compensation for his service as a director or as the chairman of our Board.

Name	Fees Earned or Paid in Cash ⁽¹⁾ (\$)	Dividends on Restricted Stock (\$)	Stock Awards ⁽²⁾ (\$)	Total (\$)
Robert C. Arzbaecher	90,125	791	100,092	191,008
Wallace W. Creek	87,200	791	100,092	188,083
William Davisson	63,000	791	100,092	163,883
Stephen A. Furbacher	98,425	791	100,092	199,308
Stephen J. Hagge	78,515	811	100,092	179,418
David R. Harvey	79,700	791	100,092	180,583
John D. Johnson	61,500	791	100,092	162,383
Robert G. Kuhbach	106,810	728	200,155	307,693
Edward A. Schmitt	78,425	791	100,092	179,308

(1) Amounts in this column represent fees that our non-employee directors earned during 2011 with respect to their annual cash retainers and meeting fees. Additional information with respect to these fees is set forth below under the headings "Annual Cash Retainer" and "Meeting Fees."

(2) Amounts in this column represent the grant date fair value computed in accordance with FASB ASC Topic 718 (without taking into account any estimate of forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) of the restricted stock awards that we granted to the non-employee directors during 2011 pursuant to our 2009 Equity and Incentive Plan. Our assumptions with respect to the FASB ASC Topic 718 valuation of these equity awards are described in the footnotes to our audited financial statements as of and for the year ended December 31, 2011. Additional information with respect to these restricted stock awards is set forth below under the heading "Annual Restricted Stock Grant."

Annual Cash Retainer

Each non-employee director will receive, upon joining the Board, a cash retainer of \$55,000, payable in advance. Thereafter, each continuing non-employee director will receive an annual cash retainer of \$55,000, payable in advance on the date of each annual meeting of the stockholders. The chairmen of the Board committees and the lead independent director will receive additional annual cash retainers in the following amounts which shall be paid in the same manner:

Audit committee chairman	\$ 15,000
Compensation committee chairman	\$ 10,000
Governance committee chairman	\$ 7,500
Lead independent director	\$ 20,000

If the lead independent director is also the chairman of the governance committee, he would receive only the lead independent director retainer.

Table of Contents**Annual Restricted Stock Grant**

Each non-employee director will receive, upon joining the Board, a restricted stock grant with a fair market value of \$100,000. Thereafter, each continuing non-employee director will receive an annual restricted stock grant with a fair market value of \$100,000 on the date of each annual meeting of the stockholders. Assuming continuing service as a non-employee director, all shares of restricted stock will vest on the earlier of (x) the date of the first annual meeting of the stockholders following the date of grant or (y) the first anniversary of the date of grant.

Meeting Fees

Each director will receive \$1,500 for each Board meeting attended in person (or \$500 per meeting for participation via conference call). During a typical calendar year, there would be six regularly scheduled Board meetings (five in person and one telephonic). There may also be one or more special Board meetings.

Each Board committee member will receive \$1,500 for each committee meeting attended in person (or \$425 per meeting for participation via conference call). During a typical calendar year, there would be (i) nine regularly scheduled audit committee meetings (five in person and four telephonic); (ii) six regularly scheduled compensation committee meetings (five in person and one telephonic); and (iii) three regularly scheduled corporate governance and nominating committee meetings (all in person). There may also be one or more special committee meetings.

CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**Pre-IPO Owners**

CHS Inc. and GROWMARK, Inc. were two of our pre-IPO owners. John D. Johnson, who is the former president and chief executive officer of CHS, and William Davisson, who is the former chief executive officer of GROWMARK, are members of our Board. Messrs. Davisson and Johnson retired from their respective positions with GROWMARK and CHS at the end of 2010. As discussed below under the headings "Product Sales" and "Supply Contracts," CHS and GROWMARK purchase substantial quantities of fertilizers from us.

Product Sales

CHS Inc. and GROWMARK, Inc. purchased substantial quantities of fertilizers from us in 2011, as shown in the following table.

Customer	Net Sales (in millions)	Percent of Total Net Sales
CHS Inc.	\$ 609.2	10.0%
GROWMARK, Inc.	474.2	7.8%
	\$ 1,083.4	17.8%

In addition to purchasing fertilizer from us, CHS and GROWMARK also contracted with us to store fertilizer products at certain of our warehouses. In connection with these storage arrangements, we recognized approximately \$0.4 million from CHS and \$0.4 million from GROWMARK in 2011. GROWMARK has also entered into a terminal sublease with us pursuant to which we pass through to GROWMARK the economics of our underlying terminal lease with a third party. In connection with this terminal sublease, we recognized approximately \$0.3 million in offsetting sublease income and underlying lease expense in 2011.

Supply Contracts

In connection with our IPO, we entered into a multi-year supply contract with GROWMARK, Inc. relating to purchases of fertilizer products. The original contract lasted until June 30, 2008, which was

Table of Contents

the expiration of that contract's initial three-year term. Effective July 1, 2008, we entered into a new multi-year supply contract with GROWMARK, with an initial term lasting until June 30, 2013. The term for the contract will be extended automatically for successive one-year periods unless a termination notice is given by either party.

The GROWMARK contract specifies a sales target volume and a requirement volume for the first contract year. The requirement volume is a percentage of the sales target volume and represents the volume of fertilizer that we are obligated to sell and GROWMARK is obligated to purchase during the first contract year. Thereafter, the sales target volume is subject to yearly adjustment by mutual agreement or, failing such agreement, to an amount specified by us which is not more than 105% of the prior year's sales target volume. The requirement volume in the contract is also subject to yearly adjustment to an amount specified by GROWMARK which is not less than 65% nor more than 100% of the then applicable sales target volume.

The contract also contains a reciprocal "meet or release" provisions pursuant to which each party must provide the other party with notice and the opportunity to match certain third-party transactions. Any volume of fertilizer that GROWMARK purchases from third parties or that we sell to third parties pursuant to these provisions will be applied entirely to reduce GROWMARK's sales target volume without any reduction in its requirement volume.

The prices for product sold under the supply contract will vary depending on the type of sale selected by GROWMARK. GROWMARK may select (i) cash sales at prices that are published in our weekly cash price list, (ii) index sales at a published index price, (iii) forward pricing sales under our forward pricing program, and (iv) sales negotiated between the parties. The contract also provides for performance incentives based on (i) the percentage of the sales target volume actually purchased, (ii) the timing of purchases under our forward pricing program, (iii) the amount of purchases under our forward pricing program, and (iv) specifying a requirement volume in excess of the then applicable minimum requirement volume.

We have agreed with GROWMARK that the prices it is charged for cash sales, index sales, and forward pricing sales will be the same prices we charge all of our similarly situated customers and that the performance incentives offered to GROWMARK will be equal to the highest comparable incentives offered to other requirement contract customers. We believe the performance incentives offered under the supply contract are consistent with the incentives offered to similarly situated customers in our industry in transactions between unaffiliated parties.

Net Operating Loss Carryforwards

In connection with the IPO and related reorganization, we entered into a net operating loss agreement with CF Industries, Inc.'s pre-IPO owners, including CHS Inc. and GROWMARK, Inc., relating to the future treatment of the pre-IPO NOLs. Under the NOL agreement, if it is finally determined that CF Industries, Inc.'s pre-IPO net operating loss carryforwards can be utilized subsequent to the IPO, we will pay to CF Industries, Inc.'s pre-IPO owners an amount equal to the resulting federal and state income taxes actually saved. These payments, if any, will be made only after it has been finally determined that utilization of the pre-IPO NOLs has provided us with actual tax savings. The NOL agreement does not require that we operate in a way that maximizes our use of the pre-IPO NOLs. Costs incurred after completion of our IPO in pursuing a determination regarding the usability of these pre-IPO NOLs will be borne by CF Industries, Inc.'s pre-IPO owners.

Canadian Fertilizers Limited

GROWMARK, Inc. owns 9% of the outstanding common stock of Canadian Fertilizers Limited ("CFL"), our Canadian joint venture, and elects one director to the CFL board.

Table of Contents

Policy Regarding Related Person Transactions

We recognize that transactions with related persons can present potential or actual conflicts of interest and create the appearance that our decisions are based on considerations other than the best interests of the company and its stockholders. Accordingly, as a general matter, it is our preference to avoid such transactions.

Nevertheless, we recognize that there are situations where related person transactions may be in, or not inconsistent with, the best interests of the company and its stockholders, including but not limited to situations where we may obtain products or services of a nature, quantity, or quality, or on other terms, that are not readily available from alternative sources, or when we provide products or services to related persons on an arm's length basis on terms comparable to those provided to unrelated third parties or on terms comparable to those provided to employees generally.

In order to deal with the potential conflicts inherent in such transactions, our audit committee has adopted a written policy regarding related person transactions. For the purposes of this policy, a "related person transaction" is a transaction, arrangement, or relationship (or any series of similar transactions, arrangements, or relationships) in which the company was, is, or will be a participant and the amount involved exceeds \$120,000, and in which any related person had, has, or will have a direct or indirect material interest, other than (a) transactions where the rates or charges involved in the transaction are determined by competitive bids, or the transaction involves the rendering of services as a common or contract carrier, or public utility, at rates or charges fixed in conformity with law or governmental authority; (b) transactions involving services as a bank depository of funds, transfer agent, registrar, or trustee under a trust indenture, or similar services; (c) transactions in which the interest of the related person derives solely from his or her service as a director of another entity that is a party to the transaction; or (d) transactions in which the interest of the related person derives solely from his or her ownership of less than 10% of the equity interest in another entity (other than a general partnership interest) which is a party to the transaction.

In addition, transactions involving the purchase of products or services (other than personal or professional services) from an entity for which a director of the company or an immediate family member of a director serves as an executive officer shall not be considered to involve a material interest on the part of such director (and therefore shall not be considered related person transactions) if (i) the director did not participate in the decision on the part of the company to enter into such transactions, (ii) the transactions are made in the ordinary course of business and on substantially the same terms as those prevailing at the time for transactions with other unrelated third parties, and (iii) the amount paid in all transactions with any such entity in a twelve-month period is less than the greater of \$500,000 or 1% of such entity's consolidated gross revenues for the most recently completed fiscal year for which data is publicly available.

For purposes of the policy, a "related person" means:

any person who is, or at any time since the beginning of our last fiscal year was, a director or executive officer of the company or a nominee to become a director of the company;

any person who is known to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of any class of our voting securities;

any immediate family member of any of the foregoing persons; and

any firm, corporation, or other entity in which any of the foregoing persons is employed or is a general partner or principal or in a similar position or in which such person has a 5% or greater beneficial ownership interest.

Table of Contents

Except as described below with respect to certain commercial transactions in the ordinary course of business, any proposed transaction with a related person shall be consummated or amended only if the following steps are taken:

The general counsel will assess whether the proposed transaction is a related person transaction for purposes of this policy.

If the general counsel determines that the proposed transaction is a related person transaction, the proposed transaction shall be submitted to the audit committee for consideration at the next committee meeting or, in those instances in which the general counsel, in consultation with the chief executive officer or the chief financial officer, determines that it is not practicable or desirable for us to wait until the next committee meeting, to the chairman of the audit committee (who has been delegated authority to act between committee meetings).

The audit committee, or where submitted to the chairman of the committee, the chairman, shall consider all of the relevant facts and circumstances available to the committee or the chairman, including (if applicable) but not limited to: (i) the benefits to the company; (ii) the impact on a director's independence in the event the related person is a director, an immediate family member of a director, or an entity in which a director is a partner, stockholder, or executive officer; (iii) the availability of other suppliers or customers for comparable products or services; (iv) the terms of the transaction; and (v) the terms available to unrelated third parties or to employees generally.

The committee (or the chairman) shall approve only those related person transactions that are in, or are not inconsistent with, the best interests of the company and its stockholders, as the committee (or the chairman) determines in good faith.

The committee or chairman, as applicable, shall convey the decision to the general counsel, who shall convey the decision to the appropriate persons within the company.

At the audit committee's first meeting of each fiscal year, the committee shall review any previously approved related person transactions that remain ongoing and have a remaining term of more than six months or remaining amounts payable to or receivable from the company of more than \$120,000. Based on all relevant facts and circumstances, taking into consideration the company's contractual obligations, the committee shall determine if it is in the best interests of the company and its stockholders to continue, modify, or terminate the related person transaction.

No member of the audit committee shall participate in any review, consideration, or approval of any related person transaction with respect to which such member or any of his or her immediate family members is the related person.

Sales of our products and services to related persons in the ordinary course of business, at prices and on terms consistent with those offered to similarly situated customers in our industry in transactions between unaffiliated parties, including without limitation sales to GROWMARK, Inc. pursuant to the multi-year supply contract for the purchase and sale of fertilizer, will generally not be subject to the approval procedures described above; provided, however, that any (i) modification or amendment of a multi-year supply contract or (ii) entry into, modification, or amendment of a similar long-term supply contract with any related person (including, without limitation, CHS Inc. or GROWMARK) will be subject to the same procedures under this policy as are applicable to any other related person transactions. Additional information regarding our commercial transactions with CHS and GROWMARK and our long-term supply contract with GROWMARK is set forth above under the headings "Product Sales" and "Supply Contracts", respectively.

Table of Contents**PROPOSAL 3: RATIFICATION OF SELECTION OF INDEPENDENT AUDITOR**

The audit committee has selected KPMG as the independent registered public accounting firm to perform the audit of our financial statements and our internal control over financial reporting for 2012. KPMG was our independent registered public accounting firm for the year ended December 31, 2011.

KPMG representatives are expected to attend the Annual Meeting. They will have an opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and will be available to respond to appropriate stockholder questions.

We are asking our stockholders to ratify the selection of KPMG as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2012. Although ratification is not required by our bylaws or otherwise, the Board is submitting the selection of KPMG to our stockholders for ratification as a matter of good corporate practice. Should the stockholders fail to provide such ratification, the audit committee will reconsider its approval of KPMG as our independent registered public accountants for 2012. Even if the selection is ratified, the audit committee in its discretion may select a different registered public accounting firm at any time during the year if it determines that such a change would be in the best interests of CF Industries and its stockholders.

Unless otherwise instructed, we will vote all proxies we receive FOR ratifying the selection of KPMG as the company's independent registered public accounting firm for 2012.

The Board unanimously recommends that you vote FOR the proposal to ratify the selection of KPMG as our independent registered public accounting firm for 2012.

AUDIT AND NON-AUDIT FEES

On behalf of CF Industries and its affiliates, the audit committee retained KPMG to audit our consolidated financial statements for 2011. In addition, the audit committee retained KPMG, as well as other accounting firms, to provide other auditing and advisory services in 2011.

The aggregate fees for professional services provided by KPMG with respect to these various services for 2011 and 2010 were:

	2011	2010
Audit fees ⁽¹⁾	\$ 2,085,200	\$ 3,506,600
Audit-related fees ⁽²⁾	28,900	68,300
Tax fees		
All other fees ⁽³⁾		200,600
	\$ 2,114,100	\$ 3,775,500

- (1) Audit fees consisted principally of audit and review work performed on the consolidated financial statements, as well as work generally only the independent registered public accounting firm can reasonably be expected to provide, such as statutory audits and review of documents filed with the SEC. The amounts in 2010 include audit fees related to our acquisition of Terra Industries and the relating debt and equity offerings.
- (2) Audit-related fees were principally for audits of employee benefit plans.
- (3) All other fees in 2011 and 2010 relate to an information technology assessment project related to our acquisition of Terra Industries.

Table of Contents

PRE-APPROVAL OF AUDIT AND NON-AUDIT SERVICES

Consistent with SEC policies regarding auditor independence, the audit committee has responsibility for appointing, setting the compensation of, and overseeing the work of the independent registered public accounting firm. In recognition of this responsibility, the audit committee has established a policy to pre-approve all audit and permissible non-audit services provided by the independent registered public accounting firm.

Prior to engagement of the independent registered public accounting firm for the next year's audit, management will submit a list of services and related fees expected to be rendered during that year within each of four categories of services to the audit committee for approval.

Audit services include audit and review work performed on the financial statements and audit work related to internal control over financial reporting, as well as work that generally only the independent registered public accounting firm can reasonably be expected to provide, including statutory audits and review of documents filed with the SEC.

Audit-related services are for assurance and related services that are traditionally performed by the independent registered public accounting firm, including due diligence related to mergers and acquisitions, employee benefit plan audits, and consultation regarding financial accounting and reporting standards.

Tax services include all services, except those services specifically related to the audit of the financial statements, performed by the independent registered public accounting firm's tax personnel, including tax compliance, tax planning, and other tax advice.

All other services are those services not captured in the audit, audit-related, or tax categories. The company generally doesn't request such services from the independent registered public accounting firm.

Prior to engagement, the audit committee pre-approves independent registered public accounting firm services within each category. The fees are budgeted and the audit committee requires the independent registered public accounting firm and management to report actual fees versus the budget periodically throughout the year by category of service. During the year, circumstances may arise when it may become necessary to engage the independent registered public accounting firm for additional services not contemplated in the original pre-approval categories. In those instances, the audit committee requires specific pre-approval before engaging the independent registered public accounting firm.

The audit committee has delegated specific pre-approval authority to the chairman of the audit committee provided that the estimated fee for any such engagement does not exceed \$100,000. The chairman of the audit committee must report, for informational purposes only, any pre-approval decisions to the audit committee at its next scheduled meeting.

Table of Contents

AUDITOR INDEPENDENCE

We understand the need for KPMG to maintain objectivity and independence in its audit of our financial statements and our internal control over financial reporting. To minimize relationships that could appear to impair the objectivity of KPMG, our audit committee has restricted the non-audit services that KPMG may provide to us primarily to audit-related services and tax services. The committee also has determined that we will only obtain these non-audit services from KPMG when the services offered by KPMG are more effective or economical than services available from other service providers, and, to the extent possible, only after competitive bidding. It is the committee's goal that the fees we pay KPMG for non-audit services should not exceed the audit fees paid to KPMG.

Our audit committee has adopted restrictions on our hiring of any KPMG partner, director, manager, staff, advising member of the department of professional practice, reviewing actuary, reviewing tax professional, and any other persons having responsibility for providing audit assurance on any aspect of their certification of our financial statements. KPMG partners assigned to our audit rotate at least every five years, in accordance with professional standards.

AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT

The audit committee is responsible for monitoring the integrity of our consolidated financial statements, our system of internal controls, and the independence and performance of our internal and independent auditors. The audit committee is also responsible for the selection, evaluation, and oversight of our independent auditors. The audit committee is composed of five non-management directors and operates under a written charter adopted by our Board. Each member of the audit committee is independent within the meaning of the rules of the corporate governance standards of the NYSE applicable to audit committee members.

Management is responsible for the financial reporting process, including establishing and maintaining adequate internal control over financial reporting, and for the preparation of consolidated financial statements in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles. KPMG, our independent auditor, is responsible for auditing the financial statements. The audit committee's responsibility is to monitor and review these processes. The audit committee relies on the accuracy and completeness of the information provided to it and on the representations made by management and KPMG.

During 2011, the audit committee held nine meetings and met in executive session at each of the five meetings that were held in person and at two of the four telephonic meetings. The audit committee also reviewed and discussed with management and KPMG the audited consolidated financial statements of CF Industries for the year ended December 31, 2011. The audit committee also discussed with KPMG the matters required to be discussed by Statement of Auditing Standards No. 114 (Communication with Audit Committees), the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board, and Rule 2-07 of Regulation S-X of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended. In addition, the audit committee received the written disclosures and the letter from KPMG required by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board regarding the independent accountant's communications with the audit committee concerning independence and discussed with KPMG its independence. The audit committee also considered whether the provision of non-audit services by KPMG was compatible with maintaining its independence.

Table of Contents

Based on its review and the foregoing meetings, discussions, and reports, and subject to the limitations on its role and responsibilities referred to above and in the audit committee charter, the audit committee recommended to the Board that the audited consolidated financial statements of CF Industries for the year ended December 31, 2011, as audited by KPMG, be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for filing with the SEC. The audit committee selected KPMG as our independent auditor for 2012 and recommended to the Board that the Board seek stockholder ratification of the selection of KPMG.

Wallace W. Creek (Chairman)
Robert C. Arzbaecher
Stephen J. Hagge
David R. Harvey
Robert G. Kuhbach

PROPOSAL 4: STOCKHOLDER PROPOSAL REGARDING DECLASSIFICATION OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Information regarding a stockholder proposal is set forth below. CF Industries disclaims any responsibility for the content of this proposal and statement of support, which is presented as received from the stockholder. The Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association, 300 N. Lake Ave., Pasadena, CA 91101, has advised us that it beneficially owns 10,800 shares of our common stock and has given us notice that its representative intends to present this proposal at the Annual Meeting. The proposal is being co-sponsored by The Office of the Comptroller of the City of New York, 1 Centre Street, New York, NY 10007-2341, as the trustee and/or custodian of the New York City Employees' Retirement System, the New York City Teachers' Retirement System, the New York City Police Pension Fund, the New York City Fire Department Pension Fund, and the New York City Board of Education Retirement System (the "Systems"), which has advised us that the Systems beneficially own 189,484 shares of our common stock.

PROPOSAL TO REPEAL CLASSIFIED BOARD

RESOLVED, that shareholders of CF Industries Holdings, Inc. urge the Board of Directors to take all necessary steps (other than any steps that must be taken by shareholders) to eliminate the classification of the Board of Directors and to require that all directors elected at or after the annual meeting held in 2013 be elected on an annual basis. Implementation of this proposal should not prevent any director elected prior to the annual meeting held in 2013 from completing the term for which such director was elected.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

This resolution was submitted by the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association. The Harvard Law School Shareholder Rights Project represented and advised the Los Angeles County Employees Retirement Association in connection with this resolution.

The resolution urges the board of directors to facilitate a declassification of the board. Such a change would enable shareholders to register their views on the performance of all directors at each annual meeting. Having directors stand for elections annually makes directors more accountable to shareholders, and could thereby contribute to improving performance and increasing firm value.

Over the past decade, many S&P 500 companies have declassified their board of directors. According to data from FactSet Research Systems, the number of S&P 500 companies with classified boards declined by more than 50%; and the average percentage of votes cast in favor of shareholder proposals to declassify the boards of S&P 500 companies during the period January 1, 2010 - June 30, 2011 exceeded 75%.

Table of Contents

The significant shareholder support for proposals to declassify boards is consistent with empirical studies reporting that classified boards could be associated with lower firm valuation and/or worse corporate decision-making. Studies report that:

Classified boards are associated with lower firm valuation (Bebchuk and Cohen, 2005; confirmed by Faleye (2007) and Frakes (2007));

Takeover targets with classified boards are associated with lower gains to shareholders (Bebchuk, Coates, and Subramanian, 2002);

Firms with classified boards are more likely to be associated with value-decreasing acquisition decisions (Masulis, Wang, and Xie, 2007); and

Classified boards are associated with lower sensitivity of compensation to performance and lower sensitivity of CEO turnover to firm performance (Faleye, 2007).

Please vote for this proposal to make directors more accountable to shareholders.

THE BOARD'S STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

The Board unanimously recommends a vote AGAINST this proposal.

The Board has given careful consideration to the stockholder proposal regarding the classified structure of the Board, and believes that its classified structure continues to be in the best interest of the company and its stockholders. At the company's 2011 annual meeting of stockholders, a comparable proposal received the affirmative vote of 83.4% of the shares present at the meeting and 70.8% of the total shares outstanding as of the 2011 record date. The Board recognizes the significance of this result and has carefully considered the classified Board structure in light of this vote and the receipt of this year's proposal. The Board is firmly committed to maintaining the highest standards of corporate governance. We believe there is no single approach to corporate governance that suits all companies and that the key consideration is whether the company's corporate governance practices support and promote stockholder interests given the company's specific circumstances. The Board believes there are many reasons to favor multi-year, staggered terms, including the following:

Stability and Experience. The three-year staggered terms are designed to provide and promote stability, enhance long-term planning, and ensure that a majority of the company's directors at any given time have prior experience as directors of the company and an in-depth knowledge of its business and strategy. Experienced directors are a valuable resource and, with their knowledge about the company's business and affairs, are better positioned to make decisions that are best for the company and its stockholders. The Board believes that this is particularly important for the company, given that it operates in a cyclical industry. In addition, a classified board properly balances the dynamics of recruiting new directors while providing continuity through experience on the Board. The recruiting process is enhanced in that the Board believes that longer terms help attract more qualified candidates willing to commit the time and dedication necessary to understand the company, its operations, and its competitive environment.

Independence/Long-Term Focus. The Board believes that electing directors to three-year terms, rather than one-year terms, enhances the independence of non-management directors. It permits them to act independently and on behalf of stockholders without being concerned about whether they will be re-elected each year. In addition, the Board believes that the three-year terms afforded by a classified board encourage directors to focus long-term on the company's business and stockholder value. The freedom to focus on the long-term interests of the company instead of on the re-election process leads to greater independence and better governance.

Accountability to Stockholders. Whether directors are elected for a one-year or a three-year term, the directors have the same fiduciary duties to the company and its stockholders. Accountability depends

Table of Contents

on the selection of responsible and experienced individuals, not on whether they serve terms of one year or three years. In addition, since approximately one-third of directors stand for election each year, stockholders have the opportunity on an annual basis to express dissatisfaction with the Board or management by replacing, or withholding votes from, any director standing for election that year. As a result, stockholders have an ongoing opportunity to hold directors to account should they have any concern that management entrenchment is taking priority over the interests of stockholders.

Protection Against Unfair and Abusive Takeover Tactics and Inadequate Offers. The classified board structure helps to safeguard the company against the efforts of a third party that is intent on quickly taking control of the company and not paying fair value to stockholders for the company's business and assets. Staggered elections are intended to ensure that two annual meetings are required in order for individuals or entities seeking control of the Board to elect a majority of the directors. The Board therefore has the time and leverage necessary to evaluate any proposal, negotiate on behalf of all stockholders and weigh alternatives for maximizing stockholder value. As a result, the classified board structure encourages purchasers seeking control of the company to initiate such attempts under circumstances that the Board would view as favorable to all of the company's stockholders. While the current classified board structure does not preclude a takeover, it does help to ensure that the process will be more deliberative and afford the Board the opportunity to determine what is in the best interest of all stockholders.

Protection Against Undue Influence of Minority Holders. A classified board structure may serve as an obstacle to any sudden and disruptive attempts by various individuals and entities to acquire significant minority positions in the company with the intent of obtaining actual control by electing their own slate of directors, or of achieving some other goal, such as the repurchase of their shares at a premium, or by threatening to obtain such control. These dissidents may threaten to gain control of a company's Board through a proxy contest or otherwise, even though they do not own a majority of the company's outstanding shares. The company's classified board structure may discourage such purchases because its provisions are intended to operate to delay a dissident stockholder's ability to obtain control of the Board in a relatively short period of time. For this reason, a person seeking to acquire control of the company also is encouraged to initiate such action through arm's-length negotiations with management and the Board, who are in a position to negotiate a transaction that is fair to all of the company's stockholders.

Positive Financial Performance of the Company under the Leadership of a Classified Board. The Board and our management have demonstrated accountability to the stockholders through the financial performance of the company. In particular, we note that:

From the date of the IPO through March 15, 2012, CF Industries' stock price increased by approximately 1,052% compared to an approximate 29% growth in the S&P 500 Index, an approximate 78% growth in the Dow Jones United States Commodity Chemicals (DJUSCC) Index, and an approximate 240% growth in a peer group index⁽¹⁾ over the same time period.

The company paid dividends each quarter since the IPO, increasing the dividend payments five-fold in 2008 and quadrupling the dividend payments in 2011.

The company reported positive free cash flow each year since the IPO.

The company repurchased \$500 million of our common stock in November 2008, representing approximately 15% of our then outstanding shares, at an average price of \$58.96 per share and

(1)

In constructing our peer group, we have selected Agrium Inc., The Mosaic Company, and Potash Corporation of Saskatchewan Inc., all of which are publicly traded manufacturers of agricultural chemical fertilizers with headquarters in North America. We have assumed the initial investment was allocated among them on the basis of their respective market capitalizations at the beginning of the period.

Table of Contents

\$1.0 billion of our common stock during 2011, representing approximately 9% of our outstanding shares, at an average price of \$153.49 per share. As of March 26, 2012, the closing price for our common stock was \$188.03 per share.

Classified boards of directors are common among large public corporations. According to a report by SharkRepellent.net, 41% of the companies in the S&P 1,500, 25% of the companies in the S&P 500, 47% of the companies in the S&P MidCap 400, and 49% of the companies in the S&P SmallCap 600 have classified boards. Moreover, ten out of fifteen (67%) companies in our reference group had classified boards, including ten out of thirteen (77%) of our peer companies headquartered in the U.S. (see information under the heading "Industry Reference Group" above for a listing of our peer companies).

We believe that we have an experienced and well-qualified Board. Our Board is committed to utilizing effective corporate governance practices and has adopted corporate governance guidelines that emphasize this commitment. Further, our Board, through our corporate governance and nominating committee and with the assistance of outside counsel and other experts, continually seeks to improve and enhance its corporate governance practices by reviewing the company's existing practices in light of those of its peers and the current corporate governance environment, and retaining or implementing practices that the company believes serve the best interests of the company's stockholders.

For these reasons, the Board unanimously recommends that you vote AGAINST the proposal.

The proposal is advisory in nature, and approval of the proposal would not eliminate our classified board structure. Such approval would serve as a recommendation to the Board to take the necessary steps to declassify the Board. If the proposal is not properly presented by the proponent at the Annual Meeting, it will not be voted upon.

PROPOSAL 5: STOCKHOLDER PROPOSAL REGARDING MAJORITY VOTING STANDARD FOR DIRECTOR ELECTIONS

Information regarding a stockholder proposal is set forth below. CF Industries disclaims any responsibility for the content of this proposal and statement of support, which is presented as received from the stockholder. The Sheet Metal Workers' National Pension Fund, 601 N. Fairfax Street, Suite 500, Alexandria, VA 22314, has advised us that it beneficially owns 1,850 shares of our common stock and has given us notice that its representative intends to present this proposal at the Annual Meeting.

PROPOSAL FOR DIRECTOR ELECTION MAJORITY VOTE STANDARD

Resolved: That the shareholders of CF Industries Holdings, Inc. ("Company") hereby request that the Board of Directors initiate the appropriate process to amend the Company's corporate governance documents (certificate of incorporation or bylaws) to provide that director nominees shall be elected by the affirmative vote of the majority of votes cast at an annual meeting of shareholders, with a plurality vote standard retained for contested director elections, that is, when the number of director nominees exceeds the number of board seats.

SUPPORTING STATEMENT

In order to provide shareholders a meaningful role in director elections, the Company's director election vote standard should be changed to a majority vote standard. A majority vote standard would require that a nominee receive a majority of the votes cast in order to be elected. The standard is particularly well-suited for the vast majority of director elections in which only board nominated candidates are on the ballot. We believe that a majority vote standard in board elections would establish a challenging vote standard for board nominees and improve the performance of individual directors and entire boards. The Company presently uses a plurality vote standard in all director

Table of Contents

elections. Under the plurality standard, a board nominee can be elected with as little as a single affirmative vote, even if a substantial majority of the votes cast are "withheld" from the nominee.

In response to strong shareholder support for a majority vote standard, over 70% of companies in the S&P 500 have adopted a majority vote standard in company bylaws or articles of incorporation. Additionally, these companies have adopted director resignation policies in their bylaws or corporate governance policies to address post-election issues related to the status of director nominees that fail to win election. Other companies have responded only partially to the call for change by simply adopting post election director resignation policies that set procedures for addressing the status of director nominees that receive more "withhold" votes than "for" votes. At the time of this proposal submission, our Company and its board had not taken either action.

We believe that a post election director resignation policy without a majority vote standard in company governance documents is an inadequate reform. The critical first step in establishing a meaningful majority vote policy is the adoption of a majority vote standard. With a majority vote standard in place, the board can then take action to develop a post election procedure to address the status of directors that fail to win election. A majority vote standard combined with a post election director resignation policy would establish a meaningful right for shareholders to elect directors, and reserve for the board an important post election role in determining the continued status of an unelected director. We urge the Board to take this important step of establishing a majority vote standard in the Company's governance documents.

THE BOARD'S STATEMENT IN OPPOSITION

The Board unanimously recommends a vote AGAINST this proposal.

The Board has given careful consideration to the stockholder proposal regarding the majority voting standard, and believes that the current plurality voting standard in uncontested Board elections continues to be in the best interest of the company and its stockholders.

CF Industries stockholders have a history of electing, by a plurality, strong and independent Boards. CF Industries is incorporated in the State of Delaware and, like most Delaware companies, provides that directors be elected by a plurality of the votes of shares present, in person or by proxy, at the meeting and entitled to vote on the election of directors. A plurality standard means that for any seat on the Board, the director who receives the most votes in favor of his or her candidacy, even if less than a majority of all votes cast, is elected. The proposal implies that CF Industries' directors may have been elected by less than a majority of stockholders in the past. To the contrary, since the IPO, directors have been elected with an average approval exceeding 91%. The Board believes that this proposal would increase the complexity and costs associated with director elections without creating any demonstrated value for the company's stockholders or our corporate governance practices.

The Board is committed to good governance practices and has implemented a variety of measures (discussed elsewhere in this Proxy Statement) to strengthen the company's governance practices. These processes are designed to identify and propose director nominees who will serve the best interests of the company and its stockholders. Seven of the Board's current ten members are independent under the NYSE rules, all securities rules and regulations, and our corporate governance guidelines. Also, nine of the Board's current ten members are non-management directors. The corporate governance guidelines also set forth how stockholders may communicate with the Board and suggest potential directors for nomination to the Board. The Board believes that the mechanisms provided by the corporate governance guidelines, not the process requested by the proposal, provide the best foundation for a strong and effective Board and excellence in corporate governance.

Furthermore, the proposal would have only limited effect because under Delaware law, a director nominated for re-election who is not approved by the required vote of stockholders does not automatically lose his or her seat. Instead, the director would continue to serve either until a successor

Table of Contents

is elected and qualified or the director is affirmatively removed by the stockholders, which under our amended and restated bylaws may only be done "for cause" and only by the affirmative vote of the holders of at least two-thirds of the voting power of the company's then issued and outstanding capital stock entitled to vote generally at an election of directors of the company. The Board believes that the resulting instability would undermine effective Board functioning and distract the Board from its core oversight and strategic role, without resolving the issues that the proposal purports to address.

Finally, implementation of the proposal could have the unintended consequence of unnecessarily increasing the cost of soliciting stockholder votes. Implementation of this proposal could provide special interest stockholder groups the power to promote "vote-no" campaigns that are not in the best interest of all stockholders, forcing the company to implement an active telephone solicitation, a second mailing of proxy soliciting materials, or other vote-getting strategy to obtain the required vote. The end result may be increased spending by the company in routine elections.

The Board therefore believes this proposal could unnecessarily complicate the election of directors, increase costs, and create distractions for a Board that already has strong governance practices and stockholder support.

For these reasons, the Board unanimously recommends that you vote AGAINST the proposal.

The proposal is advisory in nature, and approval of the proposal would not implement a majority voting standard for the election of directors. Such approval would serve as a recommendation to the Board to initiate the appropriate process to amend the Company's certificate of incorporation or bylaws to provide for a majority voting standard. If the proposal is not properly presented by the proponent at the Annual Meeting, it will not be voted upon.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Submission of Future Stockholder Proposals

Under SEC rules, a stockholder who intends to present a proposal at the next annual meeting of stockholders and who wishes the proposal to be included in our proxy statement for that meeting pursuant to Rule 14a-8 under the Exchange Act must submit the proposal in writing to our corporate secretary at the address on the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement. The proposal must be received no later than November 30, 2012 (120 days before March 30, 2013, the one year anniversary of the anticipated mailing date of this proxy statement).

Our bylaws require that written notice of (i) proposals intended to be presented by a stockholder at the next annual meeting, but that are not intended for inclusion in our proxy statement for that meeting pursuant to Rule 14a-8, and (ii) nominees for the election of directors intended to be made by a stockholder at the next annual meeting be delivered to our corporate secretary at the address on the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement no earlier than January 10, 2013 and no later than February 9, 2013. Such advance notice deadline will also be the deadline for "timely" proposals made in accordance with Rule 14a-4(c) under the Exchange Act. To be in proper written form, such a notice must set forth the information prescribed in our bylaws. You can obtain a copy of our bylaws by writing our corporate secretary at the address on the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement.

Cost of Annual Meeting and Proxy Solicitation

We pay the cost of the Annual Meeting and the cost of soliciting proxies. In addition to soliciting proxies by mail, we may solicit proxies by personal interview, telephone, and similar means. None of our directors, officers, and employees will be specially compensated for these activities. We also intend to request that brokers, banks, and other nominees solicit proxies from their principals, and we will reimburse the brokers, banks, and other nominees for certain expenses they incur for such activities.

Table of Contents

Annual Report on Form 10-K

A copy of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011, required to be filed with the SEC, without exhibits, will be furnished without charge to any stockholder of record or beneficial owner of common shares upon written request to our corporate secretary at the address on the Notice of Annual Meeting accompanying this Proxy Statement.

March 30, 2012

