

CITIZENS & NORTHERN CORP

Form S-3/A

October 16, 2009

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on October 16, 2009

Registration No. 333-162279

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

AMENDMENT NO. 1

TO

FORM S-3

**REGISTRATION STATEMENT UNDER THE
SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

CITIZENS & NORTHERN CORPORATION

(Exact Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

Pennsylvania
(State or Other Jurisdiction of
Incorporation or Organization)

23-2951943
(IRS Employer
Identification Number)

**90-92 Main Street
Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901
(570) 724-3411**

(Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number,
Including Area Code, of Registrant's Principal Executive Offices)

Craig G. Litchfield
President and Chief Executive Officer
Citizens & Northern Corporation
90-92 Main Street
Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901
(570) 724-3411

(Name, Address, Including Zip Code, and Telephone Number,
Including Area Code, of Agent For Service)

With copies to:

Charles J. Ferry, Esquire
Paul F. Wessell, Esquire
Rhoads & Sinon LLP
One South Market Street, 12th Floor
Harrisburg, PA 17101
(717) 233-5731

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Edgar Filing: CITIZENS & NORTHERN CORP - Form S-3/A

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

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The Registrant hereby amends this registration statement on such date or dates as may be necessary to delay its effective date until the Registrant files a further amendment which specifically states that this registration statement is to become effective in accordance with Section 8(a) of the Securities Act or until the registration statement becomes effective on the date the Commission, acting under Section 8(a), determines.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The information in this prospectus is not complete and may be changed. We may not sell these securities until the registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission is effective. This prospectus is not an offer to sell these securities, and it is not soliciting an offer to buy these securities in any state where the offer or sale is not permitted.

Subject to Completion, Dated October 16, 2009

PROSPECTUS

CITIZENS & NORTHERN CORPORATION

\$75,000,000

**Common Stock
Debt Securities
Warrants**

We may offer and sell from time to time, together or separately, in one or more offerings, any combination of the securities listed above. The securities we may offer may be convertible into or exchangeable for other securities. The maximum aggregate initial public offering price of the securities offered through this prospectus is \$75,000,000.

This prospectus provides a general description of these securities. We will provide the specific terms of the securities offered in supplements to this prospectus. **This prospectus may not be used to sell securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.** The prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus. Please read this prospectus, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus, as well as any documents incorporated by reference in this prospectus or any prospectus supplement, carefully before you invest in any of our securities.

Our common stock is quoted on the NASDAQ Capital Market, under the symbol CZNC. On October 15, 2009, the last quoted sale price of our common stock was \$13.28 per share. None of the other securities that we may offer are currently traded on any securities exchange. You are urged to obtain current market quotations of the common stock.

We may offer and sell the securities on a continuous or delayed basis, through agents, dealers or underwriters, or directly to purchasers. The prospectus supplement for each offering of securities will describe in detail the plan of distribution for that offering. If agents or any dealers or underwriters are involved in the sale of the securities, the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the names of the agents, dealers or underwriters and any applicable commissions or discounts. Net proceeds from the sale of securities will be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement. For general information about the distribution of securities offered, please see Plan of Distribution in this prospectus.

Investing in our securities involves risks. You should carefully consider the risk factors referred to on page 3 of this prospectus and set forth in the documents incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into this

prospectus and in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus before making any decision to invest in our securities.

Neither the Securities and Exchange Commission nor any state securities commission or regulatory body has approved or disapproved of these securities or determined if this prospectus is truthful or complete. Any representation to the contrary is a criminal offense.

The securities are not savings accounts, deposits or obligations of any bank and are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation or any other governmental agency.

The date of this Prospectus is , 2009

TABLE OF CONTENTS**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	Page
<u>ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS</u>	1
<u>CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS</u>	1
<u>THE COMPANY</u>	3
<u>RISK FACTORS</u>	3
<u>USE OF PROCEEDS</u>	4
<u>RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES</u>	4
<u>DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER</u>	5
<u>DESCRIPTION OF COMMON STOCK</u>	6
<u>DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES</u>	10
<u>DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS</u>	18
<u>DESCRIPTION OF OUR PREFERRED STOCK AND OUTSTANDING TARP SECURITIES</u>	20
<u>Preferred Stock</u>	20
<u>TARP Warrant</u>	24
<u>REGULATION AND SUPERVISION</u>	26
<u>PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION</u>	32
<u>LEGAL MATTERS</u>	33
<u>EXPERTS</u>	33
<u>WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION</u>	34
<u>INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE</u>	35

No dealer, salesperson or other person has been authorized to give any information or to make any representations in connection with the offer made by this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus other than those contained in, or incorporated by reference in, this prospectus or any prospectus supplement or related free writing prospectus, and if given or made, such information or representations must not be relied upon as having been authorized by us or any agent, underwriter or dealer. This prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus does not constitute an offer to sell or a solicitation of any offer to buy any securities in any jurisdiction to any person to whom it is unlawful to make an offer or solicitation in such jurisdiction. The delivery of this prospectus, any prospectus supplement or any free writing prospectus or any sale of a security at any time does not imply that the information contained herein or therein is correct as of any time subsequent to their respective dates.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This prospectus is part of a registration statement on Form S-3 that we filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the SEC) using a shelf registration process. Under this shelf registration process, we may sell any combination of the securities described in this prospectus as being offered, from time to time in one or more offerings, up to a total dollar amount of \$75,000,000.

This prospectus provides you with a general description of the securities we may offer. Each time we sell securities, we will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about all of the terms of that offering.

We may also authorize one or more free writing prospectuses to be provided to you that may contain material information relating to that offering. The applicable prospectus supplement (and any related free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) may also add, update or change information contained in this prospectus or in the documents that we have incorporated by reference. This prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and the exhibits to the registration statement. You should read this prospectus and the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus together with additional information from the sources described in Where You Can Find More Information and Incorporation of Certain Documents by Reference in this prospectus. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, the prospectus supplements, any free writing prospectus or any document incorporated by reference is accurate as of any date other than the date of the applicable document.

You should rely only on the information provided or incorporated by reference in this prospectus, any free writing prospectus and any prospectus supplement, if applicable. We have not authorized anyone to provide you with different information.

References to we, us, our, Citizens & Northern Corporation, Citizens & Northern or the Company refer to Citizens & Northern Corporation and its direct or indirect owned subsidiaries, unless the context otherwise requires. The term you refers to a prospective investor.

CAUTIONARY STATEMENT REGARDING FORWARD-LOOKING STATEMENTS

Certain of the statements made in this prospectus, including information incorporated herein by reference to other documents, are forward-looking statements within the meaning and protections of Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

Forward-looking statements include statements with respect to our beliefs, plans, objectives, goals, expectations, anticipations, assumptions, estimates, intentions, and future performance, and involve known and unknown risks, uncertainties and other factors, which may be beyond our control, and which may cause our actual results, performance or achievements to be materially different from future results, performance or achievements expressed or implied by such forward-looking statements.

All statements other than statements of historical fact are statements that could be forward-looking statements. You can identify these forward-looking statements through our use of words such as may, will, anticipate, assume, should, indicate, would, believe, contemplate, expect, estimate, continue, plan, point to, project, could, and other similar words and expressions of the future. These forward-looking statements may not be realized due to a

variety of factors, including, without limitation:

the effects of future economic, business and market conditions, domestic and foreign, including seasonality;
the effects of, and changes in, governmental monetary and fiscal policies;
legislative and regulatory changes, including changes in banking, securities and tax laws and regulations and their application by our regulators;
changes in accounting policies, rules and practices;
the risk of changes in interest rates on the levels, composition and costs of deposits, loan demand, and the values and liquidity of loan collateral, securities, and interest sensitive assets and liabilities;

1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

the risk of decreases in the values of investment securities we own;
failure to realize deferred tax assets;
credit risks of borrowers;
changes in the availability and cost of credit and capital in the financial markets;
changes in the prices, values and sales volumes of residential and commercial real estate;
the effects of competition from a wide variety of local, regional, national and other providers of financial, investment and insurance services;
the failure of assumptions underlying the establishment of allowances or reserves for possible loan losses and other estimates;
the risks of mergers, acquisitions and divestitures, including, without limitation, the related time and costs of implementing such transactions, integrating operations as part of these transactions and possible failures to achieve expected gains, revenue growth and/or expense savings from such transactions;
changes in technology or products that may be more difficult, costly, or less effective, than anticipated;
the effects of war or other conflicts, acts of terrorism or other catastrophic events that may affect general economic conditions; and
other factors and risks described under "Risk Factors" in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008 and in any of our subsequent reports that we have made or make with the SEC under the Exchange Act.

Because such forward-looking statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, actual results may differ materially from those expressed or implied by such statements. The foregoing list of important factors is not exclusive and you are cautioned not to place undue reliance on these forward-looking statements, which speak only as of the date of this document or, in the case of documents incorporated by reference, the dates of those documents. We do not undertake to update any forward-looking statements, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time by or on behalf of us.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

THE COMPANY

We are a Pennsylvania business corporation formed on February 19, 1987, and a bank holding company registered under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended. Through our subsidiaries, we offer a full array of deposit accounts and retail banking services, engage in consumer and commercial lending and provide a wide variety of trust and asset management services, as well as offer securities products and annuities and other insurance products.

Our primary subsidiary, Citizens & Northern Bank, referred to as C&N Bank, a Pennsylvania banking institution, operates 24 branches in seven counties in north-central Pennsylvania. In addition, First State Bank, Canisteo, N.Y., a wholly-owned subsidiary of Canisteo Valley Corporation, a bank holding company and our wholly-owned subsidiary, operates two branches located in Steuben County, New York.

As of June 30, 2009, we had total deposits of approximately \$886 million, total assets of approximately \$1.3 billion and shareholders' equity of approximately \$137 million. Citizens & Northern Corporation's operating revenues and net income are derived primarily from C&N Bank through the payment of dividends.

We also reinsure credit and mortgage life and accident and health insurance on behalf of C&N Bank through our wholly-owned subsidiary, Bucktail Life Insurance Company, and offer securities brokerage and annuities and other insurance products on an agency basis through C&N Financial Services Corporation, a wholly-owned subsidiary of C&N Bank, through an agreement with a registered broker dealer. Our wholly-owned subsidiary, Citizens & Northern Investment Corporation, holds investment securities.

Our principal executive offices are located at 90-92 Main Street, Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901, and our telephone number at that address is (570) 724-3411. We maintain an Internet website at www.cnbankpa.com. The foregoing website address is intended to be an inactive textual reference only. The information on this website is not a part of this prospectus.

RISK FACTORS

Investing in our securities involves risk. You should carefully consider the specific risks set forth in "Risk Factors" in the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus and under the captions "Risk Factors" in any of our filings with the SEC, including our most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K, and in all other information appearing in this prospectus or incorporated by reference into this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement. For additional information, please see the sources described in "Where You Can Find More Information."

These risks are not the only risks we face. Additional risks not presently known to us, or that we currently view as immaterial, may also impair our business. If any of the risks described in our SEC filings or any prospectus supplement or any additional risks actually occur, our business, financial condition, results of operations and cash flows could be materially and adversely affected. In that case, the value of our securities could decline substantially and you could lose all or part of your investment.

TABLE OF CONTENTS**USE OF PROCEEDS**

We will retain broad discretion over the use of the net proceeds from the sale of the securities offered hereby. Unless otherwise specified in the applicable prospectus supplement or any related free writing prospectus, we currently expect to use the net proceeds of our sale of securities for general corporate purposes.

General corporate purposes may include, among other purposes, contribution to the capital of our bank subsidiary to support its lending and investing activities; repayment of our debt; redemption of our capital stock or warrants to purchase our capital stock; to support or fund acquisitions of other institutions or branches if opportunities for such transactions become available; and other permitted activities. We may temporarily invest funds that we do not immediately need for these purposes in investment securities.

RATIO OF EARNINGS TO FIXED CHARGES

The following table sets forth our historical consolidated ratio of earnings to fixed charges for the periods shown. No shares of preferred stock were outstanding prior to January 16, 2009 and no preferred dividends were paid prior to February 2009.

	Six Months Ended June 30, 2009 (Unaudited)	Year Ended December 31, 2008	Year Ended December 31, 2007	Year Ended December 31, 2006	Year Ended December 31, 2005	Year Ended December 31, 2004
Ratio of earnings to fixed charges:						
Excluding interest on deposits	(1)	2.1x	2.4x	2.6x	2.6x	2.8x
Including interest on deposits	(1)	1.4x	1.4x	1.5x	1.6x	1.8x

Note: For the purpose of computing the ratios of earnings to fixed charges, earnings consist of consolidated (loss) income before provision for income taxes, preferred stock dividends on a fully taxable equivalent basis and fixed charges. Fixed charges consist of interest expense, and are presented in two separate calculations — one including, and one excluding, interest expense on deposits.

(1) For the six months ended June 30, 2009, pre-tax earnings were inadequate to cover fixed charges (including preferred stock dividends on a fully taxable-equivalent basis) by \$26.461 million.

4

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION OF SECURITIES WE MAY OFFER

The securities that may be offered from time to time through this prospectus are:

common stock;

debt securities, which we may issue in one or more series; and

warrants entitling the holders to purchase common stock or debt securities.

We will describe in a prospectus supplement that we will deliver with this prospectus, the terms of particular securities that we may offer in the future. **This prospectus may not be used to offer or sell any securities unless accompanied by a prospectus supplement.** In each prospectus supplement we will include, if relevant and material, the following information:

type and amount of securities which we propose to sell;

initial public offering price of the securities;

maturity;

original issue discount, if any;

rates and times of payment of interest, dividends or other payments, if any;

redemption, conversion, exercise, exchange, settlement or sinking fund terms, if any;

ranking;

voting or other rights, if any;

conversion, exchange or settlement prices or rates, if any, and, if applicable, any provisions for changes to or adjustments in the conversion, exchange or settlement prices or rates and in the securities or other property receivable upon conversion, exchange or settlement;

names of the underwriters, agents or dealers, if any, through or to which we will sell the securities;

compensation, if any, of those underwriters, agents or dealers;

details regarding over-allotment options, if any;

net proceeds to us;

information about any securities exchange or automated quotation system on which the securities will be listed or traded, if any;

material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the securities;

any material risk factors associated with the securities; and

any other material information about the offer and sale of the securities.

In addition, the applicable prospectus supplement and any related free writing prospectus may add, update or change the information contained in this prospectus or in the documents we have incorporated by reference.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION OF OUR COMMON STOCK

The following is a description of our common stock, certain provisions of our articles of incorporation, as amended, referred to herein as our articles of incorporation, and by-laws, as amended, referred to herein as our by-laws, and certain provisions of applicable law. The following is qualified by applicable law and by the provisions of our amended articles of incorporation and by-laws, copies of which have been filed with the SEC and are also available upon request from us. You should read the prospectus supplement, which will contain additional information and which may update or change some of the information below.

General

Our articles of incorporation provide that we may issue up to 20,000,000 shares of common stock, par value of \$1.00 per share, and 30,000 shares of preferred stock, \$1,000 par value per share, which are permitted to be issued in connection with our participation in the TARP Capital Purchase Program of the U.S. Treasury. As of September 30, 2009, 9,108,695 shares of our common stock and 26,440 shares of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, were issued and outstanding. All outstanding shares of our common stock are fully paid and nonassessable.

Our common stock is traded on the NASDAQ Capital Market under the symbol **CZNC**.

Voting Rights

Each outstanding share of our common stock entitles the holder to one vote on all matters submitted to a vote of shareholders, including the election of directors. The holders of our common stock possess exclusive voting power, except as otherwise provided by law or by articles of amendment establishing any series of our preferred stock, including the voting rights held by holders of our Series A Preferred Stock.

There is no cumulative voting in the election of directors, which means that the holders of a plurality of our outstanding shares of common stock entitled to vote can elect all of the directors then standing for election.

When a quorum is present at any meeting, questions brought before the meeting will be decided by the vote of the holders of a majority of the shares present and voting on such matter, whether in person or by proxy, except when the meeting concerns matters requiring the vote of the holders of a majority of all outstanding shares under applicable law or our articles of incorporation require a higher vote. Our articles of incorporation provide certain anti-takeover provisions that require super-majority votes, which may limit shareholders' rights to effect a change in control, as described below under **Anti-Takeover Provisions of Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws and Pennsylvania Law**.

Classification of Board of Directors

Our articles of incorporation provide for a classified board, to which approximately one-third of our board of directors is elected each year at our annual meeting of shareholders. Accordingly, our directors serve three-year terms rather than one-year terms.

Dividends, Liquidation and Other Rights

Holders of shares of common stock are entitled to receive dividends only when, as and if approved by our board of directors from funds legally available for the payment of dividends, after payment of dividends on our outstanding

series of preferred stock. Our shareholders are entitled to share ratably in our assets legally available for distribution to our shareholders in the event of our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, voluntarily or involuntarily, after payment of, or adequate provision for, all of our known debts and liabilities and of any preferences of Series A Preferred Stock or any other series of our preferred stock that may be outstanding in the future. These rights are subject to the preferential rights of any other series of our preferred stock that may then be outstanding.

Holders of shares of our common stock have no preference, conversion, exchange, sinking fund or redemption rights and have no preemptive rights to subscribe for any of our securities. Our board of directors may issue additional shares of our common stock or rights to purchase shares of our common stock without the approval of our shareholders, except as limited by law and our articles of incorporation.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Preferred Stock

The rights of holders of our common stock may be limited by the rights of our preferred stock that may be outstanding. Our preferred stock is described below under Description Of Our Preferred Stock And Outstanding Tarp Securities, which description is incorporated by reference.

Transfer Agent and Registrar

The transfer agent and registrar for shares of our common stock is American Stock Transfer & Trust Company.

Anti-Takeover Provisions of Articles of Incorporation and By-Laws and Pennsylvania Law

Our articles of incorporation contain certain provisions that make it more difficult to acquire control of us by means of a tender offer, open market purchase, a proxy fight or otherwise. These provisions are designed to encourage persons seeking to acquire control of us to negotiate with our directors. We believe that, as a general rule, the interests of our shareholders would be best served if any change in control results from negotiations with our directors.

Our articles of incorporation provide for a classified board, to which approximately one-third of our board of directors is elected each year at our annual meeting of shareholders. Accordingly, our directors serve three-year terms rather than one-year terms. The classification of our board of directors has the effect of making it more difficult for shareholders to change the composition of our board of directors. At least two annual meetings of shareholders, instead of one, will generally be required to effect a change in a majority of our board of directors. Such a delay may help ensure that our directors, if confronted by a holder attempting to force a proxy contest, a tender or exchange offer, or an extraordinary corporate transaction, would have sufficient time to review the proposal as well as any available alternatives to the proposal and to act in what they believe to be the best interests of our shareholders. The classification provisions apply to every election of directors, however, regardless of whether a change in the composition of our board of directors would be beneficial to us and our shareholders and whether or not a majority of our shareholders believe that such a change would be desirable.

The classification of our board of directors could also have the effect of discouraging a third party from initiating a proxy contest, making a tender offer or otherwise attempting to obtain control of us, even though such an attempt might be beneficial to us and our shareholders. The classification of our board of directors could thus increase the likelihood that incumbent directors will retain their positions. In addition, because the classification of our board of directors may discourage accumulations of large blocks of our stock by purchasers whose objective is to take control of us and remove a majority of our board of directors, the classification of our board of directors could tend to reduce the likelihood of fluctuations in the market price of our common stock that might result from accumulations of large blocks of our common stock for such a purpose. Accordingly, our shareholders could be deprived of certain opportunities to sell their shares at a higher market price than might otherwise be the case.

Additionally our articles of incorporation and by-laws contain certain other provisions that may have the effect of deterring or discouraging an attempt to take control of Citizens & Northern. Among other things, these provisions:

do not permit shareholders actions without a meeting;
eliminate cumulative voting in the election of directors;

require advance notice of nominations for the election of directors and the presentation of shareholder proposals at meetings of shareholders;
permit our board of directors to consider the effects on our employees, customers, depositors and communities it serves when determining whether to oppose any tender offer for our common stock;
require the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the votes that all holders of our common stock are entitled to cast to approve any merger, consolidation, sale, lease, exchange or other transfer of all or substantially all of our assets, share exchange in which a person or entity acquires our issued and

7

TABLE OF CONTENTS

outstanding shares of capital stock pursuant to a vote of shareholders, or any transaction similar to, or having a similar effect to, any of the foregoing, unless such action is approved in advance by the affirmative vote of 66-2/3% of our board of directors;

require the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the votes that all shareholders are entitled to cast to approve liquidation or dissolution, unless such action is approved in advance by the affirmative vote of 66-2/3% of our board of directors;

require that mergers and other similar transactions with an Acquiring Entity (defined as a person or entity holding more than 5% of our common stock and entitled to vote as of the applicable record date) be approved by the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the votes entitled to be cast by the remaining shareholders, unless the transaction is approved, in advance, by at least 66-2/3% of our directors who are Continuing Directors (defined as a director who is elected prior to the time the Acquiring Entity became the owner of more than 10% of our common stock or who is elected by the remaining shareholders or by the other Continuing Directors);

require that, following the acquisition by any person or group of 30% of our common stock, the remaining holders of our common stock shall have the right to receive payment for their shares, in cash, from such person or group, in an amount equal to the fair value of the shares, including an increment representing a proportion of any value payable for control, unless such acquisition was approved in advance by 66-2/3% or more of the board of directors;

require an affirmative vote of at least 75% of the votes that all holders of our common stock are entitled to cast in order for the shareholders to repeal or amend our by-laws; and

require to approve the repeal or amendment of certain provisions of our articles of incorporation either (i) the affirmative vote of at least 75% of the votes entitled to be cast by holders of our common stock or (ii) the affirmative vote of 66-2/3% of our board of directors who are Continuing Directors and the affirmative vote of at least a majority of the votes that all holders of our common stock are entitled to cast.

The Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988, as amended, also contains certain provisions applicable to us that may have the effect of deterring or discouraging an attempt to take control of Citizens & Northern, among other things:

Require that, following any acquisition by any person or group of 20% of a public corporation's voting power, the remaining shareholders have the right to receive payment for their shares, in cash, from such person or group in an amount equal to the fair value of the shares, including an increment representing a proportion of any value payable for control of the corporation (Subchapter 25E of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law);

Prohibit for five years, subject to certain exceptions, a business combination (which includes a merger or consolidation of the corporation or a sale, lease or exchange of assets) with a person or group beneficially owning 20% or more of a public corporation's voting power (Subchapter 25F of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law);

Prevent a person or group acquiring different levels of voting power (20%, 33% and 50%) from voting any shares over the applicable threshold, unless disinterested shareholders approve such voting rights (Subchapter 25G of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law);

Require any person or group that publicly announces that it may acquire control of a corporation, or that acquires or publicly discloses an intent to acquire 20% or more of the voting power of a corporation, to disgorge to the corporation any profits that it receives from sales of the corporation's equity securities purchased over the prior 24 or subsequent 18 months (Subchapter 25H of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law);

Expand the factors and groups (including shareholders) which a corporation's board of directors can consider in determining whether an action is in the best interests of the corporation;

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Provide that a corporation's board of directors need not consider the interests of any particular group as dominant or controlling;

Provide that a corporation's directors, in order to satisfy the presumption that they have acted in the best interests of the corporation, need not satisfy any greater obligation or higher burden of proof with respect to actions relating to an acquisition or potential acquisition of control;

Provide that actions relating to acquisitions of control that are approved by a majority of disinterested directors are presumed to satisfy the directors' standard, unless it is proven by clear and convincing evidence that the directors did not assent to such action in good faith after reasonable investigation; and

Provide that the fiduciary duty of a corporation's directors is solely to the corporation and may be enforced by the corporation or by a shareholder in a derivative action, but not by a shareholder directly.

The Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law also explicitly provides that the fiduciary duty of directors does not require them to:

Redeem any rights under, or to modify or render inapplicable, any shareholder rights plan;

Render inapplicable, or make determinations under, provisions of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law relating to control transactions, business combinations, control-share acquisitions or disgorgement by certain controlling shareholders following attempts to acquire control; or

Act as the board of directors, a committee of the board or an individual director, solely because of the effect the action might have on an acquisition or potential acquisition of control of the corporation or the consideration that might be offered or paid to shareholders in such an acquisition.

9

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION OF DEBT SECURITIES

The complete terms of the debt securities will be contained in the indenture and indenture supplement applicable to the debt securities. These documents have been or will be included or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. You should read the indenture and indenture supplement. You should also read the prospectus supplement, which will contain additional information and which may update or change some of the information below.

General

We may issue debt securities, in one or more series, as either senior or subordinated debt or as senior or subordinated convertible or exchangeable debt. The senior debt securities will rank equally with any other unsubordinated debt that we may have and may be secured or unsecured. The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in right of payment, to the extent and in the manner described in the instrument governing the debt, to all or some portion of our senior indebtedness. Any convertible debt securities that we may issue will be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or other securities of ours or of a third party. Conversion may be mandatory or at your option and would be at prescribed conversion rates.

The debt securities will be issued under one or more indentures, which are contracts between us and a national banking association or other eligible party, as trustee. While the terms we have summarized below will apply generally to any debt securities that we may offer under this prospectus, we will describe the particular terms of any debt securities that we may offer in more detail in a prospectus supplement (and any free writing prospectus).

We will issue the senior notes under the senior indenture which we will enter into with the trustee named in the senior indenture. We will issue the subordinated notes under the subordinated indenture which we will enter into with the trustee named in the subordinated indenture. We have filed forms of these documents as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. We use the term indentures to refer to both the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture.

The indentures will be qualified under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended. We use the term indenture trustee to refer to either the senior trustee or the subordinated trustee, as applicable.

The following summaries of the material provisions of the senior notes, the subordinated notes and the indentures are not complete and are qualified in their entirety by reference to all of the provisions of the indenture applicable to a particular series of debt securities. You should read the applicable prospectus supplement (and any free writing prospectus that we may authorize to be provided to you) related to the series of debt securities being offered, as well as the complete indentures that contain the terms of the debt securities. Forms of indentures have been filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part, and supplemental indentures and forms of debt securities containing the terms of the debt securities being offered will be filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part or will be incorporated by reference from reports that we file with the SEC. Except as we may otherwise indicate, the terms of the senior indenture and the subordinated indenture are identical.

The following are some of the terms relating to a series of debt securities that could be described in a prospectus supplement:

title;

principal amount being offered, and, if a series, the total amount authorized and the total amount outstanding;
any limit on the amount that may be issued;
whether we will issue the series of debt securities in global form and, if so, the terms and who the depositary will be;
maturity date;
principal amount due at maturity, and whether the debt securities will be issued with any original issue discount;

10

TABLE OF CONTENTS

whether and under what circumstances, if any, we will pay additional amounts on any debt securities held by a person who is not a United States person for tax purposes, and whether we can redeem the debt securities if we have to pay such additional amounts;

annual interest rate, which may be fixed or variable, or the method for determining the rate, the date interest will begin to accrue, the dates interest will be payable and the regular record dates for interest payment dates or the method for determining such dates;

whether the debt securities will be secured or unsecured, and the terms of any secured debt;

terms of the subordination of any series of subordinated debt;

place where payments will be payable;

restrictions on transfer, sale or other assignment, if any;

our right, if any, to defer payment of interest and the maximum length of any such deferral period;

date, if any, after which, the conditions upon which, and the price at which we may, at our option, redeem the series of debt securities pursuant to any optional or provisional redemption provisions, and any other applicable terms of those redemption provisions;

provisions for a sinking fund, purchase or other analogous fund, if any;

date, if any, on which, and the price at which we are obligated, pursuant to any mandatory sinking fund or analogous fund provisions or otherwise, to redeem, or at the holder's option to purchase, the series of debt securities;

whether the indenture will restrict our ability or the ability of our subsidiaries to:

◦ incur additional indebtedness;

◦ issue additional securities;

◦ create liens;

◦ pay dividends or make distributions in respect of our capital stock or the capital stock of our subsidiaries;

◦ redeem capital stock;

◦ place restrictions on our subsidiaries' ability to pay dividends, make distributions or transfer assets;

◦ make investments or other restricted payments;

◦ sell or otherwise dispose of assets;

◦ enter into sale-leaseback transactions;

◦ engage in transactions with shareholders or affiliates;

◦ issue or sell stock of our subsidiaries; or

◦ effect a consolidation or merger;

whether the indenture will require us to maintain any interest coverage, fixed charge, cash flow-based, asset-based or other financial ratios;

a discussion of any material or special United States federal income tax considerations applicable to the debt securities;

information describing any book-entry features;

procedures for any auction or remarketing, if any;

TABLE OF CONTENTS

whether the debt securities are to be offered at a price such that they will be deemed to be offered at an original issue discount as defined in paragraph (a) of Section 1273 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended; denominations in which we will issue the series of debt securities, if other than denominations of \$1,000 and any integral multiple thereof;

if other than dollars, the currency in which the series of debt securities will be denominated; and any other specific terms, preferences, rights or limitations of, or restrictions on, the debt securities, including any events of default that are in addition to those described in this prospectus or any covenants provided with respect to the debt securities that are in addition to those described above, and any terms that may be required by us or advisable under applicable laws or regulations or advisable in connection with the marketing of the debt securities.

Conversion or Exchange Rights

We will set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus the terms on which a series of debt securities may be convertible into or exchangeable for common stock or other securities of ours or of a third party, including the conversion or exchange rate, as applicable, or how it will be calculated, and the applicable conversion or exchange period. We will include provisions as to whether conversion or exchange is mandatory, at the option of the holder or at our option. We may include provisions pursuant to which the number of our securities or the securities of a third party that the holders of the series of debt securities receive upon conversion or exchange would, under the circumstances described in those provisions, be subject to adjustment, or pursuant to which those holders would, under those circumstances, receive other property upon conversion or exchange, for example in the event of our merger or consolidation with another entity.

Consolidation, Merger or Sale

The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part do not contain any covenant that restricts our ability to merge or consolidate, or sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets, except that any successor of ours or acquiror of such assets must be a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States and must assume all of our obligations under the indentures and the debt securities, as appropriate. In addition, the terms of any securities that we may offer pursuant to this prospectus may limit our ability to merge or consolidate or otherwise sell, convey, transfer or otherwise dispose of all or substantially all of our assets, which terms would be set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and supplemental indenture.

If the debt securities are convertible for our other securities or securities of other entities, the person with whom we consolidate or merge or to whom we sell all of our property would have to make provisions for the conversion of the debt securities into securities that the holders of the debt securities would have received if they had converted the debt securities before the consolidation, merger or sale.

Events of Default Under the Indenture

The events of default under the indentures, subject to modification or deletion as provided in a supplemental indenture with respect to any specific series of debt securities, include the following events:

if we fail to pay interest when due and payable and our failure continues for 90 days and the time for payment has not been extended or deferred;

if we fail to pay the principal, premium or sinking fund payment, if any, when due and payable and the time for payment has not been extended or deferred;

if we fail to observe or perform any other covenant contained in the debt securities or the indentures, other than a covenant specifically relating to another series of debt securities, and our failure continues for 90 days after we (and the indenture trustee in the event of notice from security holders) receive notice from the indenture trustee or holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of the applicable series; and

12

TABLE OF CONTENTS

if specified events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization occur.

If an event of default with respect to debt securities of any series occurs and is continuing, the indenture trustee or the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series, by notice to us in writing, and to the indenture trustee if notice is given by such holders, may declare the unpaid principal of, premium, if any, and accrued interest, if any, due and payable immediately.

The holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of an affected series may waive any default or event of default with respect to such series and its consequences, except defaults or events of default regarding payment of principal, premium, if any, or interest, and in the event of a waiver after acceleration as described in the immediately preceding paragraph, we have received written notice of such waiver and have remedied such default or event of default. Any waiver shall cure the default or event of default.

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

the direction so given by the holder is not in conflict with any law or the applicable indenture; and subject to its duties under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, the indenture trustee need not take any action that might involve it in personal liability or might be unduly prejudicial to the holders not involved in the proceeding.

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

the holder has given written notice to the indenture trustee of a continuing event of default with respect to that series; the holders of at least 25% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series have made written request to the indenture trustee, and such holders have offered reasonable indemnity to the indenture trustee to institute the proceeding as trustee; and for 60 days after receipt of written notice of such event of default, request to institute the proceeding and offer of indemnity, the indenture trustee does not institute such proceeding, and does not receive from the holders of a majority in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of that series other conflicting directions.

These limitations do not apply to a suit instituted by a holder of debt securities if we default in the payment of the principal, premium, if any, or interest on, the debt securities.

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

Modification of Indenture; Waiver

By entering into supplemental indentures, we and the indenture trustee may modify the terms of an indenture without the consent of any holders with respect to specific matters, including:

to fix any ambiguity, defect or inconsistency in the indentures;

to evidence the assumption by a successor corporation of our obligations in compliance with the provisions described above under Consolidation, Merger or Sale ;

to comply with any requirements of the SEC in connection with the qualification of any indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended;

13

TABLE OF CONTENTS

to provide for the issuance of and establish the form and terms and conditions of the debt securities of any series as provided under Description of Debt Securities General, to establish the form of any certifications required to be furnished pursuant to the terms of the indenture or any series of debt securities, or to add to the rights of the holders of any series of debt securities;

to evidence and provide for the acceptance of appointment by a successor trustee;
to provide for uncertificated debt securities and to make all appropriate changes for such purpose;
to secure any series of debt securities;

to add to our covenants such new covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions for the protection of the holders, to make the occurrence, or the occurrence and the continuance, of a default in any such additional covenants, restrictions, conditions or provisions an event of default; or

to make such other provisions in regard to matters or questions arising under the indentures or supplemental indentures that do not materially adversely affect the interests of any holder of debt securities of any series.

In addition, under the indentures or supplemental indentures, the rights of holders of a series of debt securities may be changed by us and the indenture trustee with the written consent of the holders of at least 66- 2/3% in aggregate principal amount of the outstanding debt securities of each series that is affected. However, we and the indenture trustee may make the following changes only with the consent of each holder of any outstanding debt securities affected:

extending the fixed maturity of the series of debt securities;
reducing the principal amount of, reducing the rate of or extending the time of payment of interest on, or reducing any premium payable upon the redemption of, any debt securities;
reducing the percentage of debt securities for which the holders are required for any supplemental indenture; or
modifying any of the three bullet points above.

Discharge, Defeasance and Covenant Defeasance

We may elect to have our obligations under the indenture discharged with respect to the outstanding debt securities of any series, known as defeasance. Defeasance means that we will be deemed to have paid and discharged the entire indebtedness represented by the outstanding debt securities of such series under the indenture, except for:

the rights of holders of the debt securities to receive principal, interest and any premium when due;
our obligations with respect to the debt securities concerning issuing temporary debt securities, registration of transfer of debt securities, mutilated, destroyed, lost or stolen debt securities and the maintenance of an office or agency for payment for security payments held in trust;

the rights, powers, trusts, duties and immunities of the trustee; and
the defeasance provisions of the indenture.

In addition, we may elect to have our obligations released with respect to certain covenants applicable to any series of outstanding debt securities established by and set forth in a supplemental indenture, known as covenant defeasance. If we so elect, any failure to comply with such obligations will not constitute a default or an event of default with respect to the debt securities of such series.

In order to exercise either defeasance or covenant defeasance with respect to outstanding debt securities of any series:

we must irrevocably have deposited or caused to be deposited with the indenture trustee as trust funds for the purpose of making the following payments, specifically pledged as security for, and dedicated solely to the benefits of the holders of the debt securities of such series:

TABLE OF CONTENTS

money in an amount; or

U.S. government obligations (or equivalent government obligations in the case of debt securities denominated in other than U.S. dollars or a specified currency) that will provide, not later than one day before the due date of any payment, money in an amount; or

a combination of money and U.S. government obligations (or equivalent government obligations, as applicable); in each case sufficient, in the written opinion (with respect to U.S. or equivalent government obligations or a combination of money and U.S. or equivalent government obligations, as applicable) of a nationally recognized firm of independent public accountants to pay and discharge, and which shall be applied by the trustee to pay and discharge, all of the principal (including mandatory sinking fund payments), interest and any premium at due date or maturity;

in the case of defeasance, we have delivered to the indenture trustee an opinion of counsel stating that, under then applicable Federal income tax law, the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of the defeasance to be effected and will be subject to the same Federal income tax as would be the case if the defeasance did not occur;

in the case of covenant defeasance, we have delivered to the indenture trustee an opinion of counsel to the effect that the holders of the debt securities of that series will not recognize income, gain or loss for Federal income tax purposes as a result of the covenant defeasance to be effected and will be subject to the same Federal income tax as would be the case if the covenant defeasance did not occur;

no event of default or default with respect to the outstanding debt securities of that series has occurred and is continuing at the time of such deposit, or any time during the period ending on the 123rd day after the date of such deposit, or, if longer, the period ending the day following the expiration of the longest preference period applicable to us with respect to such deposit;

the defeasance or covenant defeasance will not cause the indenture trustee to have a conflicting interest within the meaning of the Trust Indenture Act, assuming all debt services of a series were in default within the meaning of such Act;

the defeasance or covenant defeasance will not result in a breach or violation of, or constitute a default under, any other agreement or instrument to which we are a party;

the defeasance or covenant defeasance is effected in compliance with the applicable provisions set forth in any supplemental indenture;

the defeasance or covenant defeasance will not result in the trust arising from such deposit constituting an investment company within the meaning of the Investment Company Act of 1940, as amended, unless the trust is registered under such Act; and

we have delivered to the trustee and officers certificate and an opinion of counsel stating that all conditions precedent with respect to the defeasance or covenant defeasance have been satisfied.

Form, Exchange and Transfer

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

TABLE OF CONTENTS

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

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

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

If we elect to redeem the debt securities of any series, we will not be required to:

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

Information Concerning the Indenture Trustee

The indenture trustee, other than during the occurrence and continuance of an event of default under an indenture, undertakes to perform only those duties as are specifically set forth in the applicable indenture. Upon an event of default under an indenture, the indenture trustee must use the same degree of care as a prudent person would exercise or use in the conduct of his or her own affairs.

Payment and Paying Agents

Unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus, we will make payment of the interest on any debt securities on any interest payment date to the person in whose name the debt securities, or one or more predecessor securities, are registered at the close of business on the regular record date for the interest.

We will pay principal of and any premium and interest on the debt securities of a particular series at the office of the paying agents designated by us, except that, unless we otherwise indicate in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus, we may make interest payments by check which we will mail to the holder. Unless we otherwise indicate in a prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus, we will designate an office or agency of the indenture trustee in the City of New York as our sole paying agent for payments with respect to debt securities of each series. We will name in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus any other paying agents that we initially designate for the debt securities of a particular series. We will maintain a paying agent in each place of

payment for the debt securities of a particular series.

All money we pay to a paying agent or the indenture trustee for the payment of the principal of or any premium or interest on any debt securities which remains unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal, premium or interest has become due and payable will be repaid to us, and the holder of the debt security thereafter may look only to us for payment thereof.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Governing Law

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the indentures and the debt securities will be governed by and construed in accordance with the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, except to the extent that the Trust Indenture Act of 1939 is applicable.

Subordination of Subordinated Debt Securities

The subordinated debt securities will be subordinate and junior in priority of payment to certain of our other indebtedness to the extent described in a supplemental indenture and applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. The indentures in the forms initially filed as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part do not limit the amount of indebtedness which we may incur, including senior indebtedness or subordinated indebtedness, and do not limit us from issuing any other debt, including secured debt or unsecured debt.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION OF WARRANTS

The complete terms of the warrants will be contained in the applicable warrant agreement and warrant. These documents have been or will be included or incorporated by reference as exhibits to the registration statement of which this prospectus is a part. You should read the warrant and warrant agreement. You should also read the prospectus supplement, which will contain additional information and which may update or change some of the information below.

We may issue warrants for the purchase of common stock and/or debt securities in one or more series. If we offer warrants, we will describe the terms in a prospectus supplement (and any free writing prospectus). Warrants may be offered independently, together with other securities offered by any prospectus supplement, or through a dividend or other distribution to shareholders and may be attached to or separate from other securities. Warrants may be issued under a written warrant agreement to be entered into between us and the holder or beneficial owner, or under a written warrant agreement with a warrant agent specified in a prospectus supplement. A warrant agent would act solely as our agent in connection with the warrants of a particular series and would not assume any obligation or relationship of agency or trust for or with any holders or beneficial owners of those warrants.

The following are some of the terms relating to a series of warrants that could be described in a prospectus supplement:

title of the warrants;
aggregate number of warrants;
price or prices at which the warrants will be issued;
designation, number, aggregate principal amount, denominations and terms of the securities that may be purchased on exercise of the warrants;
date, if any, on and after which the warrants and the debt securities offered with the warrants, if any, will be separately transferable;
purchase price for each security purchasable on exercise of the warrants;
dates on which the right to purchase certain securities upon exercise of the warrants will begin and end;
minimum or maximum number of securities that may be purchased at any one time upon exercise of the warrants;
anti-dilution provisions or other adjustments to the exercise price of the warrants;
terms of any right that we may have to redeem the warrants;
effect of any merger, consolidation, sale or other transfer of our business on the warrants and the applicable warrant agreement;
name and address of the warrant agent, if any;
information with respect to book-entry procedures;
a discussion of material U.S. federal income tax considerations; and
other material terms, including terms relating to transferability, exchange, exercise or amendments of the warrants. Warrants for the purchase of common stock will be in registered form only. Until any warrants to purchase common stock are exercised, holders of the warrants will not have any rights of holders of the underlying common stock, including any rights to receive dividends or to exercise any voting rights, except as set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement or free writing prospectus. Until any warrants to purchase debt securities are exercised, the holder of the warrants will not have any of the rights of holders of the debt securities that can be purchased upon exercise, including any rights to receive payments of principal, premium or interest on the underlying debt securities or to enforce covenants in the applicable indenture.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Unless otherwise provided in the applicable prospectus supplement, the warrants and the warrant agreements will be governed by the laws of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. We will evidence each series of warrants by warrant certificates that we will issue. We will file as an exhibit to a filing with the SEC that is incorporated by reference into this prospectus the forms of the warrant agreements and forms of warrant certificates containing the terms of the warrants being offered. The description of warrants in any prospectus supplement will not necessarily describe all of the terms of the warrants in detail. You should read the applicable warrant agreements and warrant certificates for a complete description of all of the terms.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

DESCRIPTION OF OUR PREFERRED STOCK AND OUTSTANDING TARP SECURITIES

Preferred Stock

This section summarizes specific terms and provisions of our preferred stock, including Series A Preferred Stock. The description of the Series A Preferred Stock contained in this section is qualified in its entirety by the actual terms of the Series A Preferred Stock, as are stated in the Certificate of Designations of Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock, Series A, which is included in our articles of incorporation, and is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. See [Where You Can Find More Information](#).

General

Our articles of incorporation provide that we may issue up to 30,000 shares of preferred stock, \$1,000 par value per share, in connection with our participation in the TARP Capital Purchase Program. The Series A Preferred Stock constitutes a series of our perpetual, cumulative, preferred stock, consisting of 26,440 shares, par value \$1,000 per share, having a liquidation preference amount of \$1,000 per share. The Series A Preferred Stock has no maturity date. We issued the shares of Series A Preferred Stock and Warrant to Treasury on January 16, 2009 in connection with the

TARP Capital Purchase Program for an aggregate purchase price of \$26.44 million. Pursuant to the Purchase Agreement between us and Treasury, we have agreed, if requested by Treasury, to enter into a depositary arrangement pursuant to which the shares of Series A Preferred Stock may be deposited and depositary shares, each representing a fraction of a share of Series A Preferred Stock as specified by Treasury, may be issued. The Series A Preferred Stock and Warrant qualify as Tier 1 capital for regulatory purposes.

Dividends

Rate. Dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock are payable quarterly in arrears, when, as and if authorized and declared by our board of directors out of legally available funds, on a cumulative basis on the \$1,000 per share liquidation preference amount plus the amount of accrued and unpaid dividends for any prior dividend periods, at a rate of (i) 5% per annum, from the original issuance date to but excluding the first day of the first dividend period commencing after the fifth anniversary of the original issuance date (i.e., 5% per annum from January 16, 2009 to but excluding February 15, 2014), and (ii) 9% per annum, from and after the first day of the first dividend period commencing after the fifth anniversary of the original issuance date (i.e., 9% per annum on and after February 15, 2014). Dividends are payable quarterly in arrears on February 15, May 15, August 15 and November 15 of each year, commencing on February 15, 2009. Each dividend will be payable to holders of record as they appear on our stock register on the applicable record date, which will be the 15th calendar day immediately preceding the related dividend payment date (whether or not a business day), or such other record date determined by our board of directors that is not more than 60 nor less than ten days prior to the related dividend payment date. Each period from and including a dividend payment date (or the date of the issuance of the Series A Preferred Stock) to but excluding the following dividend payment date is referred to as a dividend period. Dividends payable for each dividend period are computed on the basis of a 360-day year consisting of twelve 30-day months. If a scheduled dividend payment date falls on a day that is not a business day, the dividend will be paid on the next business day as if it were paid on the scheduled dividend payment date, and no interest or other additional amount will accrue on the dividend. The term business day means any day except Saturday, Sunday and any day on which banking institutions in the State of New York generally are authorized or required by law or other governmental actions to close.

Dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock will be cumulative. If for any reason our board of directors does not declare a dividend on the Series A Preferred Stock for a particular dividend period, or if the board of directors declares less than a full dividend, we will remain obligated to pay the unpaid portion of the dividend for that period and the unpaid dividend will compound on each subsequent dividend date (meaning that dividends for future dividend periods will accrue on any unpaid dividend amounts for prior dividend periods).

We are not obligated to pay holders of the Series A Preferred Stock any dividend in excess of the dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock that are payable as described above. There is no sinking fund with respect to dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock.

Priority of Dividends. So long as the Series A Preferred Stock remains outstanding, we may not declare or pay a dividend or other distribution on our common stock or any other shares of Junior Stock (other than

TABLE OF CONTENTS

dividends payable solely in shares of common stock) or Parity Stock (other than dividends paid on a pro rata basis with the Series A Preferred Stock), and we generally may not directly or indirectly purchase, redeem or otherwise acquire any shares of common stock, Junior Stock or Parity Stock unless all accrued and unpaid dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock for all past dividend periods are paid in full.

Junior Stock means our common stock and any other class or series of our stock the terms of which expressly provide that it ranks junior to the Series A Preferred Stock as to dividend rights and/or as to rights on liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Citizens & Northern. We currently have no outstanding class or series of stock constituting Junior Stock other than our common stock.

Parity Stock means any class or series of our stock, other than the Series A Preferred Stock, the terms of which do not expressly provide that such class or series will rank senior or junior to the Series A Preferred Stock as to dividend rights and/or as to rights on liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Citizens & Northern, in each case without regard to whether dividends accrue cumulatively or non-cumulatively. We currently have no outstanding class or series of stock constituting Parity Stock.

Liquidation Rights

In the event of any voluntary or involuntary liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of Citizens & Northern, holders of the Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to receive for each share of Series A Preferred Stock, out of the assets of Citizens & Northern or proceeds available for distribution to our stockholders, subject to any rights of our creditors, before any distribution of assets or proceeds is made to or set aside for the holders of our common stock and any other class or series of our stock ranking junior to the Series A Preferred Stock, payment of an amount equal to the sum of (i) the \$1,000 liquidation preference amount per share and (ii) the amount of any accrued and unpaid dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock (including dividends accrued on any unpaid dividends). To the extent the assets or proceeds available for distribution to stockholders are not sufficient to fully pay the liquidation payments owing to the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock and the holders of any other class or series of our stock ranking equally with the Series A Preferred Stock, the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock and such other stock will share ratably in the distribution.

For purposes of the liquidation rights of the Series A Preferred Stock, neither a merger or consolidation of Citizens & Northern with any entity, nor a sale, lease or exchange of all or substantially all of Citizens & Northern's assets, will constitute a liquidation, dissolution or winding up of the affairs of Citizens & Northern.

Redemptions and Repurchases

The Series A Preferred Stock is redeemable at our option, subject to, when applicable in limited circumstances, prior approval by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or its delegee (the Federal Reserve), in whole or in part at a redemption price equal to 100% of the liquidation preference amount of \$1,000 per share plus any accrued and unpaid dividends to but excluding the date of redemption (including dividends accrued on any unpaid dividends), provided that any declared but unpaid dividend payable on a redemption date that occurs subsequent to the record date for the dividend will be payable to the holder of record of the redeemed shares on the dividend record date, and provided further that the Series A Preferred Stock may be redeemed prior to the first dividend payment date falling after the third anniversary of the original issuance date (i.e., prior to February 15, 2012) only if (i) we have, or our successor following a business combination with another entity which also participated in the TARP Capital Purchase Program has, raised aggregate gross proceeds in one or more Qualified Equity Offerings of at least the Minimum Amount and (ii) the aggregate redemption price of the Series A Preferred Stock does not exceed the aggregate net proceeds from such Qualified Equity Offerings by us and any successor. The Minimum Amount means \$6,610,000

plus, in the event we are succeeded in a business combination by another entity which also participated in the TARP Capital Purchase Program, 25% of the aggregate liquidation preference amount of the preferred stock issued by that entity to Treasury. A Qualified Equity Offering is defined as the sale for cash by Citizens & Northern (or its successor) of preferred stock or common stock that qualifies as Tier 1 capital under applicable regulatory capital guidelines.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009 (ARRA), which was signed into law on February 17, 2009, provides that the Secretary of the Treasury shall permit, subject to consultation with the recipient's appropriate federal banking agency, a recipient of funds under the TARP

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Capital Purchase Program to repay such assistance, without regard to whether the recipient has replaced such funds from any other source or to any waiting period. ARRA further provides that when the recipient repays such assistance, the Secretary of the Treasury shall liquidate the warrants associated with the assistance at the current market price. It appears that ARRA will permit us, if we so elect and following consultation with the Federal Reserve and the FDIC, to redeem the Series A Preferred Stock at any time without restrictions.

To exercise the redemption right described above, we must give notice of the redemption to the holders of record of the Series A Preferred Stock by first class mail, not less than 30 days and not more than 60 days before the date of redemption. Each notice of redemption given to a holder of Series A Preferred Stock must state: (i) the redemption date; (ii) the number of shares of Series A Preferred Stock to be redeemed and, if less than all the shares held by such holder are to be redeemed, the number of such shares to be redeemed from such holder; (iii) the redemption price; and (iv) the place or places where certificates for such shares are to be surrendered for payment of the redemption price. In the case of a partial redemption of the Series A Preferred Stock, the shares to be redeemed will be selected either pro rata or in such other manner as our board of directors determines to be fair and equitable.

The Purchase Agreement between us and Treasury provides that so long as Treasury continues to own any shares of Series A Preferred Stock, we may not repurchase any shares of Series A Preferred Stock from any other holder of such shares unless we offer to repurchase a ratable portion of the shares of Series A Preferred Stock then held by Treasury on the same terms and conditions.

Shares of Series A Preferred Stock that we redeem, repurchase or otherwise acquire will revert to authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock.

No Conversion Rights

Holders of the Series A Preferred Stock have no right to exchange or convert their shares into common stock or any other securities.

Voting Rights

The holders of the Series A Preferred Stock do not have voting rights other than those described below, except to the extent specifically required by Pennsylvania law.

Whenever dividends have not been paid on the Series A Preferred Stock for six or more quarterly dividend periods, whether or not consecutive, the authorized number of directors of Citizens & Northern will automatically increase by two and the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock will have the right, with the holders of shares of any other classes or series of Voting Parity Stock outstanding at the time, voting together as a class, to elect two directors (the Preferred Directors) to fill such newly created directorships at our next annual meeting of stockholders (or at a special meeting called for that purpose prior to the next annual meeting) and at each subsequent annual meeting of stockholders until all accrued and unpaid dividends for all past dividend periods on all outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock have been paid in full, at which time this right will terminate with respect to the Series A Preferred Stock, subject to re-vesting in the event of each and every subsequent default by us in the payment of dividends on the Series A Preferred Stock.

No person may be elected as a Preferred Director who would cause us to violate any corporate governance requirements of any securities exchange or other trading facility on which our securities may then be listed or traded that listed or traded companies must have a majority of independent directors. Upon any termination of the right of the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock and Voting Parity Stock as a class to vote for directors as described above, the

Preferred Directors will cease to be qualified as directors, the terms of office of all Preferred Directors then in office will terminate immediately and the authorized number of directors will be reduced by the number of Preferred Directors which had been elected by the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock and the Voting Parity Stock. Any Preferred Director may be removed at any time, with or without cause, and any vacancy created by such a removal may be filled, only by the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock voting separately as a class together with the holders of shares of Voting Parity Stock, to the extent the voting rights of such holders described above are then exercisable. If the office of any Preferred Director becomes vacant for any reason other than removal from office, the remaining Preferred Director may choose a successor who will hold office for the unexpired term of the office in which the vacancy occurred.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

The term "Voting Parity Stock" means with regard to any matter as to which the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock are entitled to vote, any series of Parity Stock (as defined above under "Dividends-Priority of Dividends") upon which voting rights similar to those of the Series A Preferred Stock have been conferred and are exercisable with respect to such matter. We currently have no outstanding shares of Voting Parity Stock.

If holders of the Series A Preferred Stock obtain the right to elect two directors and if the Federal Reserve deems the Series A Preferred Stock a class of "voting securities", (a) any bank holding company that is a holder may be required to obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve to acquire more than 5% of the Series A Preferred Stock and (b) any person may be required to obtain the approval of the Federal Reserve to acquire or retain 10% or more of the then outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock.

In addition to any other vote or consent required by Pennsylvania law or by our articles of incorporation, the vote or consent of the holders of at least 66 2/3% of the outstanding shares of Series A Preferred Stock, voting as a separate class, is required in order to do the following:

amend our articles of incorporation to authorize or create or increase the authorized amount of, or any issuance of, any shares of, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for shares of, any class or series of stock ranking senior to the Series A Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends and/or the distribution of assets on any liquidation, dissolution or winding up of Citizens & Northern; or

amend our articles of incorporation in any way that materially and adversely affect the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the Series A Preferred Stock; or

consummate a binding share exchange or reclassification involving the Series A Preferred Stock or a merger or consolidation of Citizens & Northern with another entity, unless (i) the shares of Series A Preferred Stock remain outstanding or, in the case of a merger or consolidation in which Citizens & Northern is not the surviving or resulting entity, are converted into or exchanged for preference securities of the surviving or resulting entity or its ultimate parent, and (ii) the shares of Series A Preferred Stock remaining outstanding or such preference securities, have such rights, preferences, privileges, voting powers, limitations and restrictions, taken as a whole, as are not materially less favorable than the rights, preferences, privileges, voting powers, limitations and restrictions of the Series A Preferred Stock prior to consummation of the transaction, taken as a whole;

provided, however, that (1) any increase in the amount of our authorized but unissued shares of preferred stock, and (2) the creation and issuance, or an increase in the authorized or issued amount, of any other series of preferred stock, or any securities convertible into or exchangeable or exercisable for any other series of preferred stock, ranking equally with and/or junior to the Series A Preferred Stock with respect to the payment of dividends, whether such dividends are cumulative or noncumulative and the distribution of assets upon our liquidation, dissolution or winding up, will not be deemed to materially and adversely affect the rights, preferences, privileges or voting powers of the Series A Preferred Stock and will not require the vote or consent of the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock.

To the extent the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock are entitled to vote, holders of shares of the Series A Preferred Stock will be entitled to one vote for each share then held.

The voting provisions described above will not apply if, at or prior to the time when the vote or consent of the holders of the Series A Preferred Stock would otherwise be required, all outstanding shares of the Series A Preferred Stock have been redeemed by us or called for redemption upon proper notice and sufficient funds have been set aside by us for the benefit of the holders of Series A Preferred Stock to effect the redemption.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

TARP Warrant

*This section summarizes specific terms and provisions of the Warrant we issued to Treasury on January 16, 2009 concurrent with our sale to Treasury of 26,440 shares of Series A Preferred Stock pursuant to the TARP Capital Purchase Program. The description of the Warrant contained in this section is qualified in its entirety by the actual terms of the Warrant, a copy of which was attached as Exhibit 4.2 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on January 22, 2009 and is incorporated by reference into this prospectus. See *Where You Can Find More Information*.*

General

The Warrant gives the holder the right to initially purchase up to 194,794 shares of our common stock at an exercise price of \$20.36 per share. Subject to the limitations on exercise to which Treasury is subject described below under Transferability, the Warrant is immediately exercisable and expires on January 16, 2019. The Warrant may be exercised by surrender of the Warrant and a completed notice of exercise attached as an annex to the Warrant and the payment of the exercise price for the shares of common stock for which the Warrant is being exercised. The exercise price may be paid (i) by having us withhold from the shares of common stock that would otherwise be issued to the warrant holder upon exercise, a number of shares of common stock having a market value equal to the aggregate exercise price determined by reference to the market price of our common stock on the trading day on which the Warrant is exercised or (ii) if both we and the warrant holder consent, in cash.

Possible Reduction in Number of Shares

If we (or any successor to us by a business combination) complete one or more Qualified Equity Offerings (as defined above under Series A Preferred Stock Redemption and Repurchases) prior to December 31, 2009 resulting in aggregate gross proceeds of not less than \$26.44 million, which is equal to 100% of the aggregate liquidation preference of the Series A Preferred Stock, the number of shares of common stock underlying the Warrant then held by Treasury will be reduced by 50%. The number of shares subject to the Warrant are subject to further adjustment as described below under Other Adjustments.

Transferability

The Warrant is not subject to any restrictions on transfer; however, Treasury may only transfer or exercise the Warrant with respect to one-half of the shares underlying the Warrant (as such number may be adjusted from time to time as set forth below under Other Adjustments) prior to the earlier of (i) the date on which we (or any successor to us by a business combination) have received aggregate gross proceeds of at least \$26.44 million from one or more Qualified Equity Offerings (including those by any successor to us by a business combination) and (ii) December 31, 2009.

Voting of Warrant Shares

Treasury has agreed that it will not vote any of the shares of common stock that it acquires upon exercise of the Warrant. This does not apply to any other person who acquires any portion of the Warrant, or the shares of common stock underlying the Warrant, from Treasury.

Other Adjustments

The exercise price of the Warrant and the number of shares underlying the Warrant automatically adjust upon the following events:

any stock split, stock dividend, subdivision, reclassification or combination of our common stock; until the earlier of (i) the date on which Treasury no longer holds any portion of the Warrant and (ii) January 16, 2012, issuance of our common stock (or securities convertible into our common stock) for consideration (or having a conversion price per share) less than 90% of then current market value, except for issuances in connection with benefit plans, business acquisitions and public or other broadly marketed offerings;

a pro rata repurchase by us of our common stock; or
a determination by our board of directors to make an adjustment to the anti-dilution provisions as are reasonably necessary, in the good faith opinion of the board, to protect the purchase rights of the warrant holders.

24

TABLE OF CONTENTS

In addition, if we declare any dividends or distributions on our common stock other than our historical, ordinary cash dividends, dividends paid in our common stock and other dividends or distributions covered by the first bullet point above, the exercise price of the Warrant will be adjusted to reflect such distribution.

In the event of any merger, consolidation, or other business combination to which we are a party, the Warrant holder's right to receive shares of our common stock upon exercise of the Warrant will be converted into the right to exercise the Warrant to acquire the number of shares of stock or other securities or property (including cash) which the common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant immediately prior to such business combination would have been entitled to receive upon consummation of the business combination. For purposes of the provision described in the preceding sentence, if the holders of our common stock have the right to elect the amount or type of consideration to be received by them in the business combination, then the consideration that the Warrant holder will be entitled to receive upon exercise will be the amount and type of consideration received by a majority of the holders of the common stock who affirmatively make an election.

No Rights as Stockholders

The Warrant does not entitle its holder to any of the rights of a stockholder of Citizens & Northern prior to the date of the exercise of the Warrant.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

REGULATION AND SUPERVISION

General

Each of Citizens & Northern and its subsidiary, Canisteo Valley Corporation, or Canisteo, is a bank holding company, and is registered as such with the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, or the Federal Reserve. As registered bank holding companies, Citizens & Northern and Canisteo are subject to regulation under the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, as amended, or the BHCA, and to inspection, examination, and supervision by the Federal Reserve.

The operations of our subsidiary banks are subject to federal and state statutes and regulations applicable to state chartered banks, and to banks whose deposits are insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or FDIC. C&N Bank's operation is subject to regulations of the Pennsylvania Department of Banking, the Federal Reserve and the FDIC. First State Bank, Canisteo, N.Y., or First State Bank, is subject to regulation by the New York State Banking Department, the Federal Reserve and the FDIC.

The following discussion sets forth certain of the material elements of the regulatory framework applicable to bank holding companies and their subsidiaries and provides certain specific information relevant to Citizens & Northern. The regulatory framework is intended primarily for the protection of depositors, other customers and the Federal Deposit Insurance Fund and not for the protection of security holders. To the extent that the following information describes statutory or regulatory provisions, it is qualified in its entirety by reference to the particular statutory provisions. Any change in applicable law or regulation may have a material effect on the business and prospects of Citizens & Northern, Canisteo and its bank subsidiaries.

Capital Requirements

Citizens & Northern and each of its bank subsidiaries are subject to various regulatory capital requirements administered by Federal banking agencies. Capital adequacy guidelines involve quantitative measures of assets, liabilities and certain off-balance sheet items calculated under regulatory accounting practices. Capital amounts and classifications are also subject to qualitative judgments by regulators about components, risk weighting and other factors. Failure to meet minimum capital requirements can initiate certain mandatory and possible additional discretionary actions by regulators that, if undertaken, could have a direct material effect on Citizens & Northern's financial statements. As of June 30, 2009, our bank subsidiaries were considered well capitalized based on the guidelines implemented by the banks' regulatory agencies.

The capital guidelines require that a bank holding company, on a consolidated basis, and each subsidiary bank maintain minimum capital ratios of capital to risk-weighted assets. For purposes of calculating the ratios, assets of the bank or bank holding company and some of specified off-balance sheet commitments and obligations are assigned various risk categories. The required minimum ratio of total capital to risk-weighted assets (including certain off-balance sheet activities, such as standby letters of credit) is 8%. At least half, or 4%, of total capital must be Tier 1 capital. Tier 1 capital consists principally of common shareholders' equity, retained earnings, a limited amount of qualifying perpetual preferred stock and minority interests in the equity accounts of consolidated subsidiaries, less goodwill and certain intangible assets. The Federal Reserve has ruled that the Series A Preferred Stock issued by us to the U.S. Department of the Treasury, referred to as the Treasury, under the Capital Purchase Program also qualifies as Tier 1 capital. The remainder of total capital may consist of mandatory convertible debt securities and a limited amount of subordinated debt, qualifying preferred stock, unrealized gains on investments in marketable equity

securities and loan loss allowance (Tier 2 capital). At June 30, 2009, our Tier 1 capital and total (Tier 1 and Tier 2 combined) capital ratios, on a consolidated basis, were 14.71% and 13.90%, respectively.

In addition to the risk-based capital guidelines, the Federal Reserve requires a bank holding company, on a consolidated basis, and each bank subsidiary to maintain a minimum leverage ratio . This requires a minimum level of Tier 1 capital (as determined under the risk-based capital rules) to average total consolidated assets of 4%, except that bank holding companies or banks that have the highest regulatory examination ratings and are not contemplating or experiencing significant growth or expansion are subject to a 3% requirement. At June 30, 2009, our leverage ratio, on a consolidated basis, was 10.60%.

Under Federal Reserve Board policy, a bank holding company is expected to act as a source of financial and managerial strength to each of its subsidiary banks and to commit resources to their support. This support

TABLE OF CONTENTS

may be required at times when the bank holding company may not have the resources to provide it. Similarly, under the cross-guarantee provisions of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, the FDIC can hold any FDIC-insured depository institution liable for any loss suffered or anticipated by the FDIC in connection with (1) the default of a commonly controlled FDIC-insured depository institution; or (2) any assistance provided by the FDIC to a commonly controlled FDIC-insured depository institution in danger of default .

The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation Improvement Act of 1991, or FDICIA, and the regulations promulgated under FDICIA, among other things, established five capital categories for insured depository institutions well capitalized, adequately capitalized, undercapitalized, significantly undercapitalized and critically undercapitalized and requires federal bank regulatory agencies to implement systems for prompt corrective action for insured depository institutions that do not meet minimum capital requirements based on these categories. Unless a bank is well capitalized, it is subject to restrictions on its ability to offer brokered deposits and on certain other aspects of its operations. An undercapitalized bank must develop a capital restoration plan and its parent bank holding company must guarantee the bank's compliance with the plan up to the lesser of 5% of the bank's assets at the time it was deemed undercapitalized and the amount needed to restore the bank's capital to required levels.

FDIC Insurance and Assessments

Our subsidiary banks are subject to deposit insurance assessments by the FDIC. The assessments are based on the risk classification of the insured institution. Due to the increase in bank failures and the depletion of the deposit insurance fund, the FDIC increased assessment rates by seven cents for every \$100 of deposits beginning with the first quarter of 2009, with additional changes beginning April 1, 2009, which require riskier institutions to pay a larger share of premiums by factoring in rate adjustments based on secured liabilities and unsecured debt levels.

To further support the rebuilding of the deposit insurance fund, the FDIC imposed a special assessment on each insured institution, equal to five basis points of the institution's total assets minus Tier 1 capital as of June 30, 2009. For our banks, this represents an aggregate charge of approximately \$589,000, which was recorded as a pre-tax charge during the second quarter of 2009. The FDIC has indicated that future special assessments are possible, although it has not determined the magnitude or timing of any future assessments. We are generally unable to control the amount of premiums that we are required to pay for FDIC insurance. If there are additional bank or financial institution failures, we may be required to pay even higher FDIC premiums.

On September 29, 2009, the FDIC proposed to require insured depository institutions prepay, on December 30, 2009, their estimated quarterly risk-based assessments for the fourth quarter of 2009 and for all of 2010, 2011, and 2012, along with their quarterly risk-based assessment for the third quarter of 2009. The amount of the prepayment attributable to the fourth quarter of 2009 and all of 2010 would be based upon each of our bank's total base assessment rate in effect on September 30, 2009, which would be increased by 3 basis points for 2011 and 2012. In order to determine the amount of the prepayment, the assessment rate (as adjusted) would be applied to the assessment base for the third quarter of 2009, increased quarterly to reflect an estimated 5 percent annual growth rate through 2012.

Under GAAP accounting rules, prepaid assessments, unlike special assessments, would not immediately affect bank earnings, although prepayments would reduce our banks' liquid assets by approximately \$5.2 million. Our banks would record the entire amount of its prepaid assessment as a prepaid expense (asset) as of December 30, 2009 (the proposed date of payment), and record an expense (charge to earnings) for its regular quarterly assessment and an offsetting credit to the prepaid assessment until the asset is exhausted. It is impossible to determine at this time whether the rule will be adopted, or whether it will be adopted substantially as proposed.

FDIC Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program

We have enrolled in the Temporary Liquidity Guarantee Program, or TLG, which was established by the FDIC in October. The TLG provides two limited guarantee programs; however, we participate only in the Transaction Account Guarantee Program, or TAG, established under the TLG. The TAG guarantees non-interest-bearing transaction accounts, regardless of dollar amount, held by insured depository institutions.

27

TABLE OF CONTENTS

In addition to traditional demand deposit accounts, the TAG covers business payroll accounts, low-interest NOW accounts and funds held in trust by attorneys, called IOLTA accounts. The additional insurance coverage provided by TAG terminates on June 30, 2010. For TAG participants, a 10-basis point annual rate surcharge was added to an institution's current FDIC insurance assessment to cover non-interest-bearing transaction account amounts over \$250,000.

Troubled Asset Relief Program

On October 3, 2008, the Emergency Economic Stabilization Act, or EESA, was signed into law. This legislation included the Troubled Asset Relief Program, or TARP, which provides that the Treasury can purchase troubled assets from any financial institution. On October 14, 2008, the Treasury announced the creation of the TARP Capital Purchase Program, or CPP, pursuant to which a participating institution may sell shares of its senior preferred stock valued between 1% and 3% of its risk-weighted assets to the Treasury.

On January 16, 2009, we issued and sold to the Treasury: (i) 26,440 shares of Series A Fixed Rate Cumulative Perpetual Preferred Stock having a liquidation preference of \$1,000 per share; and (ii) a warrant to purchase up to 194,794 shares of our common stock, par value \$1.00 per share, at an initial exercise price, subject to anti-dilution adjustments, of \$20.36 per share, for an aggregate purchase price of \$26.44 million in cash. The Series A preferred stock ranks senior to our common stock, is non-voting, and is callable at par after three years. Shares of Series A preferred stock pay a cumulative annual dividend of 5% for the first five years and 9% in later years. Upon exercise of the Warrant, certificates for the shares of common stock issuable upon exercise of the Warrant will be issued to the Warrant holder. We will not issue fractional shares upon any exercise of the Warrant. Instead, the Warrant holder will be entitled to a cash payment equal to the market price of our common stock on the last day preceding the exercise of the Warrant (less the pro-rated exercise price of the Warrant) for any fractional shares that would have otherwise been issuable upon exercise of the Warrant.

Rules issued by the Treasury and certain provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act of 2009, or ARRA, require participating institutions, including Citizens & Northern, to adopt certain standards for executive compensation and corporate governance for the period during which the Treasury holds CPP senior preferred stock.

Under these standards, the amount of bonus and incentive compensation that may be paid each year is limited, incentive compensation must not be designed to encourage executives to take excessive risks or to manipulate earnings, bonuses and incentive compensation based on materially inaccurate financial statements must be returned, golden parachute payments are prohibited, and certain federal income tax deductions are limited. These restrictions generally apply to the chief executive officer, chief financial officer, and the next three most highly compensated executive officers but, in some instances, apply to a larger group of executives. In addition, CPP participants to hold a non-binding say-on-pay shareholder vote to approve the compensation of their executives.

Participating institutions are also restricted from increasing their common stock dividend and redeeming or repurchasing shares of their common stock while the Treasury owns the institution's senior preferred stock. These dividend restrictions and executive and corporate governance standards must remain in place as long as the Treasury holds the CPP participant's senior preferred stock. See Description of Our Preferred Stock and Outstanding TARP Securities for more information on the Series A Preferred Stock and the Warrant.

Bank Holding Company Regulation

In general, the BHCA limits the business in which a bank holding company may engage to banking, managing or controlling banks and other activities that the Federal Reserve determines to be appropriately incidental to the

business of banking. The BHCA prohibits us from engaging in, or from acquiring ownership or control of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of any class of voting stock of any company engaged in, a non-banking business unless such business is determined by the Federal Reserve, by regulation or order, to be so closely related to banking as to be a proper incident thereto. The Federal Reserve Board can prohibit bank holding companies from engaging in any activities.

The Federal Reserve's regulations concerning permissible non-banking activities for bank holding companies provide fourteen categories of activities that have been deemed permissible non-banking activities including, but not limited to, servicing loans, leasing personal or real property under certain conditions,

TABLE OF CONTENTS

operating non-bank depository institutions, trust company functions, certain agency transactional services for customer investments, including securities brokerage activities and certain insurance agency and underwriting activities. Federal Reserve approval may be required prior to us or our non-bank subsidiaries engaging in the aforementioned activities.

Additionally, the BHCA gives the Federal Reserve the authority to require a bank holding company to terminate any activity or relinquish control of a non-bank subsidiary (other than a non-bank subsidiary of a bank) upon the Federal Reserve's determination that such activity or control constitutes a serious risk to the financial soundness and stability of any bank subsidiary of the bank holding company.

Citizens & Northern is required to file an annual report with the Federal Reserve Board and any additional information that the Federal Reserve may require pursuant to the BHCA. The Federal Reserve may also make examinations of Citizens & Northern and any or all of its subsidiaries.

Restrictions on Acquisitions. The BHCA prohibits us from acquiring direct or indirect control of more than 5% of the outstanding shares of any class of voting stock or substantially all of the of any bank, or merging or consolidating with another bank holding company, without the prior approval of the Federal Reserve. Such a transaction may also require the approval of the Pennsylvania Department of Banking.

The Change in Bank Control Act prohibits a person or group of persons from acquiring control of a bank holding company, unless the Federal Reserve has been notified and has not objected to the transaction. Under a rebuttable presumption established by the Federal Reserve, the acquisition of 10% or more of a class of voting stock of a bank holding company with a class of securities registered under Section 12 of the Exchange Act, such as Citizens & Northern, would, under the circumstances set forth in the presumption, constitute acquisition of control of the bank holding company.

Satisfactory financial condition, particularly with regard to capital adequacy, and satisfactory Community Reinvestment Act ratings are generally prerequisites to obtaining federal regulatory approval to make acquisitions. The Banks are currently rated satisfactory under the Community Reinvestment Act.

Dividend Restrictions. Our funding for cash distributions to our shareholders is derived from a variety of sources, including cash and temporary investments. Our principal source of those funds is dividends received from our primary subsidiary, C&N Bank. Various federal and state laws limit the amount of dividends C&N Bank can pay to us without regulatory approval. In addition, federal bank regulatory agencies have authority to prohibit C&N Bank from engaging in an unsafe or unsound practice in conducting their business. The payment of dividends, depending upon the financial condition of the bank in question, could be deemed to constitute an unsafe or unsound practice. The ability of C&N Bank to pay dividends in the future is currently, and could be further, influenced by bank regulatory policies and capital guidelines.

Tying Arrangements. A bank holding company and its subsidiaries are prohibited from engaging in certain tying arrangements in connection with the extension of credit or provision for any property or service. Thus, an affiliate of Citizens & Northern such as the Banks, may not condition the extension of credit, the lease or sale of property or furnishing of any services on (i) the customer's obtaining or providing some additional credit, property or services from or to the Banks or other subsidiaries of Citizens & Northern, or (ii) the customer's refraining from doing business with a competitor of the Bank, Citizens & Northern or of its subsidiaries. Citizens & Northern or the Bank may impose conditions to the extent necessary to reasonably assure the soundness of credit extended.

Regulation of the Banks

Our subsidiary banks are supervised jointly by their primary state and federal regulator, the Pennsylvania Department of Banking and the FDIC with respect to C&N Bank, and the New York State Banking Department and the Federal Reserve with respect to First State Bank. The Banks' deposits are insured by the FDIC up to applicable legal limits. Some of the aspects of the lending and deposit business of our subsidiary banks that are regulated by these agencies include personal lending, mortgage lending and reserve requirements. The banks are also subject to numerous federal, state and local laws and regulations which set forth specific restrictions and procedural requirements with respect to the payment of dividends to Citizens & Northern or Canisteo, extension of credit, credit practices, the disclosure of credit terms and discrimination in credit transactions.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Subsidiary banks of a bank holding company are also subject to certain restrictions imposed by the Federal Reserve Act on (i) any extension of credit to the bank holding company or any of its subsidiaries, (ii) investments in the stock or other securities of the bank holding company, and (iii) taking the stock or securities of the bank holding company as collateral for loans to any borrower. In addition, the FDIC has authority to prohibit state banks from engaging in any activity, which, in the FDIC's opinion, constitutes an unsafe or unsound practice in conducting their businesses.

Under the Change in Bank Control Act, subject to certain exceptions, no person may acquire control of a bank without giving at least sixty days' prior written notice to such bank's primary federal regulator. Under this Act and its regulations, control of a bank is generally presumed to be the power to vote ten percent (10%) or more of the common stock of the bank. The primary federal regulatory is empowered to object to any such acquisition of control.

Our banking operations are also subject to additional federal laws and regulations applicable to financial institutions, including, without limitation:

Privacy provisions of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act and related regulations, which require us to maintain privacy policies intended to safeguard customer financial information, to disclose the policies to our customers and to allow customers to opt out of having their financial service providers disclose their confidential financial information to non-affiliated third parties, subject to certain exceptions;

Right to Financial Privacy Act, which imposes a duty to maintain confidentiality of consumer financial records and prescribes procedures for complying with administrative subpoenas of financial records;

Consumer protection rules for the sale of insurance products by depository institutions, adopted pursuant to the requirements of the Gramm-Leach-Bliley Act; and

USA Patriot Act, which requires financial institutions to take certain actions to help prevent, detect and prosecute international money laundering and the financing of terrorism.

National Monetary Policy

In addition to being affected by general economic conditions, our earnings and growth are affected by the policies of regulatory authorities, including the Federal Reserve, the FDIC, the Pennsylvania Department of Banking, and the New York State Banking Department. An important function of the Federal Reserve is to regulate the money supply and credit conditions. Among the instruments used to implement these objectives are open market operations in U.S. Government securities, setting the discount rate, and changes in reserve requirements against bank deposits. These instruments are used in varying combinations to influence overall growth and distribution of credit, bank loans, investments and deposits, and their use may also affect interest rates charged on loans or paid on deposits.

The monetary policies and regulations of the Federal Reserve have had a significant effect on the operating results of commercial banks in the past and are expected to continue to do so in the future. The effects of such policies upon the future business, earnings, and growth of Citizens & Northern cannot be predicted.

Federal Securities Laws

As a public company, we are subject to the jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission, or SEC, and of state securities commissions for matters relating to the offering and sale of its securities and is subject to the SEC's rules and regulations relating to periodic reporting, reporting to shareholders, proxy solicitation and insider trading.

The Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 represents a comprehensive revision of laws affecting corporate governance, accounting obligations and reporting requirements. The provisions of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act are applicable to all companies with equity securities registered or that file reports under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, such as

Citizens & Northern. In particular, the Sarbanes-Oxley Act established: (i) new requirements for audit committees, including independence, expertise, and responsibilities; (ii) additional

TABLE OF CONTENTS

responsibilities regarding financial statements for the Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer of the reporting company; (iii) new standards for auditors and regulation of audits; (iv) increased disclosure and reporting obligations for the reporting company and its directors and executive officers; (v) accelerated reporting of transactions in the reporting company's securities and prohibitions on trading during pension blackout periods; (vi) a requirement that management evaluated a reporting company's internal controls over financial reporting and that its auditors assess the effectiveness of such controls annually; and (vii) new and increased civil and criminal penalties for violations of the securities laws.

We have addressed the requirements imposed by regulations relating to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act, including forming independent Audit, Compensation, and Governance and Nominating Committees (and establishing charters for such committees), and adopting a Code of Ethics applicable to our senior financial officers, all employees and Board members, and meeting NASDAQ's and the SEC's procedural and disclosure requirements.

Future Legislation

Changes to the laws and regulations in the states where we and our subsidiary banks do business can affect our operating environment in substantial and unpredictable ways. We cannot accurately predict whether those changes in laws and regulations will occur, and, if those changes occur, the ultimate effect they would have upon our financial condition or results of operations. This is also true of federal legislation particularly given the current environment.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION

We may sell the securities from time to time pursuant to public offerings, negotiated transactions, block trades or a combination of these methods. We may sell the securities to or through underwriters or dealers, through agents, or directly to one or more investors.

We may distribute securities from time to time in one or more transactions:

at a fixed price or prices, which may be changed;
at market prices prevailing at the time of sale;
at prices related to such prevailing market prices; or
at negotiated prices.

A prospectus supplement or supplements will describe the terms of the offering of the securities, including:

the name or names of the underwriters or placement agents, if any;
the purchase price of the securities and the proceeds we will receive from the sale;
any over-allotment options under which underwriters may purchase additional securities from us;
any agency fees or underwriting discounts and other items constituting agents or underwriters' compensation;
any public offering price;
any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated to be paid to dealers; and
any securities exchange or market on which the securities may be listed or quoted.

Any initial public offering price and any discounts or concessions allowed or reallocated to be paid to dealers may be changed from time to time.

Unless stated otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, the obligations of any underwriters to purchase securities will be subject to certain conditions set forth in the applicable underwriting agreement, and generally the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of the securities if they purchase any of the securities. If underwriters are used in the sale of any securities, the securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time in one or more transactions described above. The securities may be either offered to the public through underwriting syndicates represented by managing underwriters, or directly by underwriters. Generally, the underwriters' obligations to purchase the securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent. If a dealer is used in a sale, we may sell the securities to the dealer as principal. The dealer may then resell the securities to the public at varying prices to be determined by the dealer at the time of resale.

We or our agents may solicit offers to purchase securities from time to time. Unless stated otherwise in the applicable prospectus supplement, any agent will be acting on a best efforts basis for the period of its appointment.

In connection with the sale of securities, underwriters or agents may receive compensation (in the form of fees, discounts, concessions or commissions) from us or from purchasers of securities for whom they may act as agents.

Underwriters may sell securities to or through dealers, and such dealers may receive compensation in the form of discounts, concessions or commissions from the underwriters and/or commissions from the purchasers for whom they may act as agents. Underwriters, dealers and agents that participate in the distribution of securities may be deemed to be underwriters, as that term is defined in the Securities Act, and any discounts or commissions received by them from us and any profits on the resale of the securities by them may be deemed to be underwriting discounts and commissions under the Securities Act. We will identify any such underwriter or agent, and we will describe any compensation paid to them, in the related prospectus supplement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Underwriters, dealers and agents may be entitled under agreements with us to indemnification against and contribution toward certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the Securities Act, or contribution with respect to payments that the underwriters, dealers or agents may make with respect to these liabilities.

If stated in the applicable prospectus supplement, we may authorize underwriters, dealers or agents to solicit offers by certain investors to purchase securities from us at the public offering price set forth in the prospectus supplement under delayed delivery contracts providing for payment and delivery on a specified date in the future. These contracts will be subject only to those conditions set forth in the applicable prospectus supplement and the applicable prospectus supplement will set forth the commission payable for solicitation of these contracts.

The securities we may offer, other than common stock, will be new issues of securities with no established trading market. No assurance can be given as to the liquidity of the trading market for any of our securities. Any underwriter may make a market in these securities. However, no underwriter will be obligated to do so, and any underwriter may discontinue any market making at any time, without prior notice.

Any underwriter may engage in over-allotment, stabilizing transactions, short-covering transactions and penalty bids in accordance with Regulation M under the Exchange Act. Over-allotment involves sales in excess of the offering size, which create a short position. Stabilizing transactions permit bids to purchase the underlying security so long as the stabilizing bids do not exceed a specified maximum price. Syndicate-covering or other short-covering transactions involve purchases of the securities, either through exercise of the over-allotment option or in the open market after the distribution is completed, to cover short positions. Penalty bids permit the underwriters to reclaim a selling concession from a dealer when the securities originally sold by the dealer are purchased in a stabilizing or covering transaction to cover short positions. Those activities may cause the price of the securities to be higher than it would otherwise be. If commenced, the underwriters may discontinue any of the activities at any time.

Any underwriters who are qualified market makers on the NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc. may engage in passive market making transactions in our common stock, preferred stock and warrants, as applicable, on the NASDAQ Stock Market, Inc. in accordance with Rule 103 of Regulation M, during the business day prior to the pricing of the offering, before the commencement of offers or sales of the securities. Passive market makers must comply with applicable volume and price limitations and must be identified as passive market makers. In general, a passive market maker must display its bid at a price not in excess of the highest independent bid for such security; if all independent bids are lowered below the passive market maker's bid, however, the passive market maker's bid must then be lowered when certain purchase limits are exceeded. Passive market making may stabilize the market price of the securities at a level above that which might otherwise prevail in the open market and, if commenced, may be discontinued at any time.

Certain of the underwriters or agents and their associates may engage in transactions with and perform services for us or our affiliates in the ordinary course of their respective businesses.

In compliance with guidelines of the Financial Industry Regulatory Authority, or FINRA, the maximum consideration or discount to be received by any FINRA member or independent broker dealer may not exceed 8% of the aggregate amount of the securities offered pursuant to this prospectus and any applicable prospectus supplement.

LEGAL MATTERS

Unless otherwise indicated in the applicable prospectus supplement, the validity of the securities offered hereby will be passed upon for us by Rhoads & Sinon LLP, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania. If the validity of the securities offered hereby in connection with offerings made pursuant to this prospectus are passed upon by counsel for underwriters,

dealers or agents, if any, such counsel will be named in the prospectus supplement related to such offering.

EXPERTS

The audited consolidated financial statements of Citizens & Northern Corporation and subsidiaries incorporated in this prospectus and elsewhere in the Registration Statement by reference to Citizens & Northern's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008, were audited by

33

TABLE OF CONTENTS

ParenteBeard, LLC (formerly Parente Randolph, LLC), an independent registered public accounting firm, whose reports thereon contained in such Annual Report on Form 10-K is incorporated herein by reference. Management's report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting and ParenteBeard, LLC's report on Citizens & Northern Corporation and subsidiaries' internal control over financial reporting are also incorporated in this prospectus and elsewhere in the Registration Statement by reference to Citizens & Northern's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2008. Such financial statements have been incorporated herein by reference in reliance upon such reports of ParenteBeard, LLC given upon the authority of such firm as experts in auditing and accounting.

WHERE YOU CAN FIND MORE INFORMATION

We have filed with the SEC a registration statement on Form S-3 under the Securities Act of 1933 for the securities being offered under this prospectus. This prospectus, which is part of the registration statement, does not contain all of the information set forth in the registration statement and accompanying exhibits. This prospectus contains descriptions of certain agreements or documents that are exhibits to the registration statement. The statements as to the contents of such exhibits, however, are brief descriptions and are not necessarily complete, and each statement is qualified in all respects by reference to such agreement or document.

In addition, we file annual, quarterly and other reports, proxy statements and other information with the SEC. Our current SEC filings and the registration statement and accompanying exhibits may be inspected without charge at the public reference facilities of the SEC located at 100 F Street, N. E., Washington, D.C. 20549. You may obtain copies of this information at prescribed rates. The SEC also maintains a website that contains reports, proxy statements, registration statements and other information, including our filings with the SEC. The SEC website address is www.sec.gov. You may call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 to obtain further information on the operations of the public reference room.

We make available free of charge through our website our Annual Report on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K, Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A and all amendments to those reports as soon as reasonably practicable after such material is electronically filed with or furnished to the SEC. Information about us can be found on the internet at www.cnbankpa.com. Please note that our website addresses are provided as inactive textual references only. Information contained on or accessible through our website is not part of this prospectus or the prospectus supplement, and is therefore not incorporated by reference unless such information is otherwise specifically referenced elsewhere in this prospectus or the prospectus supplement.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The SEC allows us to incorporate by reference certain information that we file with the SEC into this prospectus. By incorporating by reference, we can disclose important information to you by referring you to another document we have filed separately with the SEC. The information incorporated by reference is deemed to be part of this prospectus, except for information incorporated by reference that is superseded by information contained in this prospectus or any document we subsequently file with the SEC that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference into this prospectus. Likewise, any statement in this prospectus or any document which is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein will be deemed to have been modified or superseded to the extent that any statement contained in any document that we subsequently file with the SEC that is incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference herein modifies or supersedes that statement. This prospectus incorporates by reference the documents listed below and any future filings we make with the SEC under Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, after the filing of this prospectus and prior to the sale of all the securities covered by this prospectus.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008;

Those portions of our proxy statement for our annual meeting of shareholders filed on March 11, 2009, which were incorporated by reference into Part III of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2008;

Our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2009 and June 30, 2009;

Our Current Reports on Form 8-K filed on January 22, 2009, February 2, 2009, May 1, 2009, July 20, 2009, July 30, 2009, September 21, 2009, September 25, 2009 and October 14, 2009; and

The description of our common stock set forth in our Current Report on Form 8-K filed on September 25, 2009 (which Report was filed solely to set forth a complete updated description of our common stock), including any amendment or reports filed under the Exchange Act for the purpose of updating such description.

We are also incorporating by reference additional documents that we file with the SEC pursuant to Sections 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the Exchange Act after the initial filing of the registration statement that contains this prospectus and until the registration statement and this offering have been terminated. Any statement contained in a document that is incorporated by reference will be deemed to be modified or superseded for all purposes to the extent that a statement contained in this document (or in any other document that is subsequently filed with the SEC and incorporated by reference) modifies or is contrary to that previous statement.

Notwithstanding the foregoing, any document or portion of a document that is furnished to, but not filed with, the SEC is not incorporated by reference in this prospectus.

We hereby undertake to provide without charge to each person, including any beneficial owner, to whom a copy of this prospectus is delivered, upon written or oral request of any such person, a copy of any and all of the information that has been or may be incorporated by reference in this prospectus, other than exhibits to such documents, unless the exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference into the documents that this prospectus incorporates. Requests for such copies should be directed to Mark A. Hughes, Treasurer, at the following address or by calling the following telephone number:

Citizens & Northern Corporation
90-92 Main Street
P.O. Box 58

Wellsboro, Pennsylvania 16901
Attention: Mark A. Hughes, Treasurer
Phone No.: (570) 724-3411
Facsimile: (570) 723-8097

You should rely only on the information in our prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus and the documents that are incorporated by reference. We have not authorized

TABLE OF CONTENTS

anyone else to provide you with different information. We are not offering these securities in any state where the offer is prohibited by law. You should not assume that the information in this prospectus, any applicable prospectus supplement, any related free writing prospectus or any incorporated document is accurate as of any date other than the date of the document.

36

TABLE OF CONTENTS

PART II

INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS

Item 14. Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.

The following table itemizes the expenses incurred, or expected to be incurred, by the Registrant in connection with the registration and issuance of the securities being registered hereunder. As indicated below, all amounts shown are estimates except for the SEC registration fee.

SEC Registration Fee	\$ 4,185.00
FINRA Filing Fee	\$ 8,000.00
Printing Expenses	\$ *
Accounting Fees and Expenses	\$ *
Legal Fees and Expenses	\$ *
Blue Sky Fees and Expenses	\$ *
Transfer Agent Fees and Expenses	\$ *
Trustee Fees and Expenses	\$ *
Miscellaneous	\$ *
Total	\$ 12,185.00

*Fees will depend on the securities offered, the number of issuances and the nature of offerings, and cannot be estimated at this time.

Item 15. Indemnification of Directors and Officers.

Subchapter D of Chapter 17 of the Pennsylvania Business Corporation Law of 1988, as amended, provides that a business corporation has the power under certain circumstances to indemnify its directors, officers, employees and agents against certain expenses incurred by them in connection with any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding and provides for mandatory indemnification under certain circumstances when the indemnified person has been successful in defense of a claim.

Article VIII of Citizens & Northern's bylaws provides as follows:

Section 8.1. INDEMNIFICATION. The Corporation shall indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending, or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative, or investigative by reason of the fact that such person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership joint venture, trust, or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys fees), amounts paid in settlement, judgments, and fines actually and reasonably incurred by such person in connection with such action, suit, or proceeding; provided, however, that no indemnification shall be made in any case where the act or failure to act giving rise to the claim for indemnification is determined by a court to have constituted willful misconduct or recklessness.

Section 8.2. ADVANCEMENT OF EXPENSES. Expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred in defending a civil or criminal action, suit, or proceeding shall be paid by the Corporation in advance of the final disposition of such action,

suit, or proceeding upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of the director, officer, employee, or agent to repay such amount if it shall be ultimately determined that he is not entitled to be indemnified by the Corporation as authorized in this Article VIII.

Section 8.3. NONEXCLUSIVITY. The indemnification provided by this Article VIII shall not be deemed exclusive of any other right to which persons seeking indemnification may be entitled under any agreement, vote of shareholders or disinterested directors, or otherwise, both as to actions in such persons' official capacity and as to their actions in another capacity while holding office, and shall continue as to a person who has ceased to be a director, officer, employee, or agent and shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors, and administrators of such person.

Section 8.4. INSURANCE. The Corporation may purchase and maintain insurance on behalf of any person who is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the

II-1

TABLE OF CONTENTS

request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee, or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, or other enterprise against any liability asserted against such person and incurred by such person in any such capacity, or arising out of such person's status as such, whether or not the Corporation would have the power to indemnify such person against such liability under the provisions of this Article VIII.

Any underwriting agreement that we might enter into (Exhibit 1.1) will provide for indemnification by any underwriters of us, our directors, our officers who sign the registration statement and our controlling persons for some liabilities, including liabilities arising under the Securities Act.

Item 16. Exhibits.

Number	Description
1.1	Form of Underwriting Agreement*
3.1	Articles of Incorporation, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.1 to Registrant's Report on Form 8-K filed on September 21, 2009)
3.2	Bylaws, as amended (incorporated by reference to Exhibit 3.2 to Registrant's Report on Form 8-K filed on September 21, 2009)
4.1	Specimen Certificate of the Registrant's Common Stock**
4.2	Specimen of Debt Security*
4.3	Form of Indenture for Senior Debt**
4.4	Form of Indenture for Subordinated Debt**
4.5	Form of Warrant Agreement*
4.6	Form of Warrant*
4.7	Certificate of Designations establishing the Series A Preferred Stock (included in Exhibit 3.1)
5.1	Opinion of Rhoads & Sinon LLP as to the validity of the securities registered hereunder.**
12.1	Statement Re Computation of Ratios**
23.1	Consent of ParenteBeard, LLC**
23.3	Consent of Rhoads & Sinon LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1)
24.1	Power of Attorney**

* If applicable, to be filed by an amendment to this registration statement or by a Current Report on Form 8-K and incorporated by reference herein.

**

Previously filed.

Item 17. Undertakings.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes:

- (1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:
 - (i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;
- (ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the SEC pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in

volume and price represent no more than 20% change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the
Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement; and
II-2

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- (iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;
Provided, however, that paragraphs (1)(i), (1)(ii) and (1)(iii) above do not apply if the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the SEC by the Registrant pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

- That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each such post-effective (2) amendment shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.
- (3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.
- (4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:
- (i) If the Registrant is subject to Rule 430B:
- (A) Each prospectus filed by the Registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and
- (B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by Section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof. *Provided, however,* that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

- If the Registrant is subject to Rule 430C, each prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) as part of a registration statement relating to an offering, other than registration statements relying on Rule 430B or other than prospectuses filed in reliance on Rule 430A, shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the date it is first used after effectiveness. *Provided, however,* that no statement made in a (ii) registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such first use, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such date of first use.

II-3

TABLE OF CONTENTS

- (5) That, for the purpose of determining liability of the Registrant under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser in the initial distribution of the securities:

The undersigned Registrant undertakes that in a primary offering of securities of the undersigned Registrant pursuant to this registration statement, regardless of the underwriting method used to sell the securities to the purchaser, if the securities are offered or sold to such purchaser by means of any of the following communications, the undersigned Registrant will be a seller to the purchaser and will be considered to offer or sell such securities to such purchaser:

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

- To file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of (6) Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the SEC under section 305(b)2 of the Trust Indenture Act.

- That, for the purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, the information omitted from the form of prospectus filed as part of this registration statement in reliance upon Rule 430A and contained in a (7) form of prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b) (1) or (4) or 497(h) under the Securities Act shall be deemed to be part of this registration statement as of the time it was declared effective.

- That, for the purpose of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each post-effective amendment (8) that contains a form of prospectus shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial bona fide offering thereof.

The undersigned Registrant hereby undertakes that, for purposes of determining any liability under the Securities Act of 1933, each filing of the Registrant's annual report pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (and, where applicable, each filing of an employee benefit plan's annual report pursuant to Section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934) that is incorporated by reference in the registration statement shall be deemed to be a new registration statement relating to the securities offered therein, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide offering thereof*.

Insofar as indemnification for liabilities arising under the Securities Act of 1933 may be permitted to directors, officers and controlling persons of the Registrant pursuant to the foregoing provisions, or otherwise, the Registrant has been advised that in the opinion of the SEC such indemnification is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and is, therefore, unenforceable. In the event that a claim for indemnification against such liabilities (other than the payment by the Registrant of expenses incurred or paid by a director, officer, or controlling person of the Registrant in the successful defense of any action, suit or proceeding) is asserted by such director, officer or controlling person in connection with the securities being registered, the Registrant will, unless in the opinion of its counsel the matter has been settled by controlling precedent, submit to a court of appropriate jurisdiction the question whether such indemnification by it is against public policy as expressed in the Securities Act of 1933 and will be governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

TABLE OF CONTENTS

SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, the Registrant certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Wellsboro, Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, on October 16, 2009.

CITIZENS & NORTHERN CORPORATION

By:

/s/ Craig G. Litchfield

Craig G. Litchfield
President and Chief Executive Officer

II-5

TABLE OF CONTENTS

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this Registration Statement has been signed by the following persons in the capacities and on the dates indicated.

Signature	Capacity	Date
* Craig G. Litchfield	Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)	October 16, 2009
* Mark A. Hughes	Treasurer (Principal Accounting Officer)	October 16, 2009
* Dennis F. Beardslee	Director	October 16, 2009
* Jan E. Fisher	Director	October 16, 2009
* R. Bruce Haner	Director	October 16, 2009
* Susan E. Hartley	Director	October 16, 2009
* Leo F. Lambert	Director	October 16, 2009
* Edward L. Learn	Director	October 16, 2009
* Raymond R. Mattie	Director	October 16, 2009
* Edward H. Owlett, III	Director	October 16, 2009
* Leonard Simpson	Director	October 16, 2009
* James E. Towner	Director	October 16, 2009
* Ann M. Tyler	Director	October 16, 2009
* Charles H. Updegraff, Jr.	Director	October 16, 2009
*By:		

/s/ Craig G. Litchfield
Craig G. Litchfield
Attorney-in-Fact