

TENNECO INC
Form DEF 14A
April 01, 2010

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

SCHEDULE 14A

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

Filed by the Registrant
Filed by a Party other than the Registrant

Check the appropriate box:

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

Tenneco Inc.

(Name of Registrant as Specified In Its Charter)

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

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SEC 1913 (02-02)

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**Tenneco Inc.
500 North Field Drive
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045
(847) 482-5000**

April 1, 2010

To the Stockholders of Tenneco Inc.:

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Tenneco Inc. will be held Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at our headquarters located at 500 North Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045.

Holders of common stock are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting on the basis of one vote for each share held.

We are pleased to take advantage of Securities and Exchange Commission rules that allow us to furnish these proxy materials and our Form 10-K to stockholders on the Internet. We believe that posting these materials on the Internet enables us to provide stockholders with the information that they need more quickly, while lowering our costs of printing and delivery and reducing the environmental impact of our Annual Meeting.

A record of our activities for the year 2009 is contained in our Form 10-K, which you may access by following the instructions contained in our Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. We urge each stockholder who cannot attend the Annual Meeting to please assist us in preparing for the meeting by following the voting procedures contained in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, proxy card or voting instruction form.

Very truly yours,

GREGG M. SHERRILL

Chairman and Chief Executive Officer

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**Tenneco Inc.
500 North Field Drive
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045
(847) 482-5000**

**NOTICE OF
ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
May 12, 2010**

The Annual Meeting of Stockholders of Tenneco Inc. will be held at our headquarters located at 500 North Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045 on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time.

The purposes of the meeting are:

1. To elect ten directors for a term to expire at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders;
2. To consider and act upon a proposal to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as independent public accountants for 2010; and
3. To consider and act upon such other matters as may properly be brought before the meeting, or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The Board of Directors knows of no other matters at this time that may be brought before the meeting. Holders of common stock of record at the close of business on March 15, 2010 are entitled to vote at the meeting. A list of these stockholders will be available for inspection for 10 days preceding the meeting at our headquarters located at 500 North Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045, and also will be available for inspection at the meeting.

We are pleased to take advantage of Securities and Exchange Commission rules that allow us to furnish these proxy materials and our Form 10-K on the Internet. Stockholders of record have been mailed a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice), which provides stockholders with instructions on how to access the proxy materials and our Form 10-K, on the Internet, and, if they prefer, how to request paper copies of these materials. Plan participants who hold shares in their Tenneco 401(k) accounts and other stockholders who have previously requested paper copies of these materials may receive these materials by email or in paper. We believe that posting these materials on the Internet enables us to provide stockholders with the information that they need more quickly, while lowering our costs of printing and delivery and reducing the environmental impact of our Annual Meeting.

As a stockholder of Tenneco Inc., your vote is important. All stockholders are cordially invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Whether or not you are able to attend the Annual Meeting in person, it is important that your shares be represented. Please vote as soon as possible as instructed in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials, proxy card or voting instruction form.

By Order of the Board of Directors

JAMES D. HARRINGTON
Corporate Secretary

Lake Forest, Illinois
April 1, 2010

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**Tenneco Inc.
500 North Field Drive
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045
(847) 482-5000**

April 1, 2010

**PROXY STATEMENT
ANNUAL MEETING OF STOCKHOLDERS
TO BE HELD MAY 12, 2010**

The Board of Directors of Tenneco Inc. (which we refer to as we, us, our, Tenneco or our company) has made these proxy materials available to you on the Internet, or, upon your request, has delivered printed versions of these materials to you by mail. We are furnishing this proxy statement in connection with the solicitation by our Board of Directors of proxies to be voted at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders on May 12, 2010, or at any adjournment or postponement thereof.

Pursuant to the notice and access rules adopted by the Securities and Exchange Commission, we have elected to provide stockholders access to our proxy materials over the Internet. Accordingly, we mailed a Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials (the Notice) on April 1, 2010 to our stockholders of record. The Notice provides you with instructions regarding how to:

View our proxy materials for the Annual Meeting and our Form 10-K (which includes our audited financial statements) on the Internet at www.proxyvote.com;

Instruct us to provide our future proxy materials to you electronically by email; and

If you prefer, request a printed set of the proxy materials and Form 10-K.

Plan participants who hold Tenneco shares in their 401(k) accounts and other stockholders who have previously requested paper copies of these materials may receive these materials by email or in paper. We elected to use electronic notice and access for our proxy materials because we believe this process will reduce our printing and mailing costs and, by reducing the amount of printed materials, will reduce the environmental impact of our annual stockholders meetings. Choosing to receive your future proxy materials by email will help us in these efforts. If you choose to receive future proxy materials by email, you will receive an email next year with instructions containing a link to those materials and a link to the proxy voting site. Your election to receive proxy materials by email will remain in effect until you terminate it.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT
THIS PROXY STATEMENT AND THE ANNUAL MEETING**

What is the purpose of the Annual Meeting?

At the Annual Meeting, stockholders will consider and vote on the following matters:

The election of the ten nominees named in this proxy statement to our Board of Directors, each for a term of one year; and

The ratification of the selection of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accountants for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010.

The stockholders will also act on any other business that may properly come before the meeting.

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What is the difference between holding shares as a stockholder of record and as a beneficial owner?

If your shares are registered directly in your name with our transfer agent, Wells Fargo Shareowner Services, you are considered, with respect to those shares, the stockholder of record. If your shares are held in a stock brokerage account or by a bank or other record holder, you are considered the beneficial owner of shares held in street name. As the beneficial owner, you have the right to direct your broker, bank or other record holder on how to vote and you are also invited to attend the Annual Meeting. Your broker, bank or other record holder should have enclosed or provided voting instructions for you to use in directing the voting of your shares.

Who may attend the Annual Meeting?

Anyone who was a stockholder as of the close of business on March 15, 2010 may attend the Annual Meeting.

Who is entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting?

Only holders of record of our common stock at the close of business on March 15, 2010 are entitled to vote. There were 59,472,424 shares of common stock outstanding on March 15, 2010. Stockholders are entitled to cast one vote per share on all matters.

How do I vote my shares in person at the Annual Meeting?

Shares held in your name as the stockholder of record may be voted in person at the Annual Meeting. Shares held beneficially in street name may be voted in person at the Annual Meeting only if you obtain a legal proxy from the broker, bank or other record holder that holds your shares giving you the right to vote the shares. Even if you plan to attend the Annual Meeting, we recommend that you also submit your proxy or voting instructions as described below so that your vote will be counted if you later decide not to attend the Annual Meeting.

How do I vote my shares without attending the Annual Meeting?

There are three ways to vote by proxy:

By Internet You can vote over the Internet by following the instructions on the Notice or proxy card;

By Mail If you received your proxy materials by mail, you can vote by filling out the accompanying proxy card and returning it in the return envelope that we have enclosed for you; or

By Telephone You can vote by telephone by following the instructions on the Notice or proxy card.

If you received a proxy card in the mail but choose to vote by Internet, you do not need to return your proxy card.

If your shares are held in the name of a bank, broker or other record holder, follow the voting instructions on the form that you receive from them. The availability of telephone and Internet voting will depend on the bank's, broker's or other record holder's voting process. Your bank, broker or other record holder may not be permitted to exercise voting discretion as to some of the matters to be acted upon. Therefore, please give voting instructions to your bank, broker or other record holder.

Unless you hold your shares through a 401(k) plan of the company or Packaging Corporation of America, you may vote via the Internet or by phone until 11:59 p.m. Eastern Time, on May 11, 2010, or the company's agent must receive your paper proxy card on or before May 11, 2010. If you hold your shares through a 401(k) plan of the company or

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Packaging Corporation of America, you may vote via the Internet or by phone until 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on May 9, 2010, or the company's agent must receive your paper proxy card on or before May 9, 2010.

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How will my proxy be voted?

All properly completed, unrevoked proxies, which are received prior to the close of voting at the Annual Meeting, will be voted in accordance with the specifications made. If a properly executed, unrevoked written proxy card does not specifically direct the voting of shares covered, the proxy will be voted:

FOR the election of all nominees for election as director described in this proxy statement;

FOR the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent public accountants for 2010; and

in accordance with the judgment of the persons named in the proxy as to such other matters as may properly come before the Annual Meeting.

The Board of Directors is not aware of any other matters that may properly come before the Annual Meeting. However, should any such matters come before the Annual Meeting, it is the intention of the persons named in the enclosed form of proxy card to vote all proxies (unless otherwise directed by stockholders) in accordance with their judgment on such matters.

May I revoke or change my vote?

If you are a stockholder of record, you may revoke your proxy at any time before it is actually voted by giving written notice of revocation to our Secretary, by delivering a proxy bearing a later date (including by telephone or by Internet) or by attending and voting in person at the Annual Meeting. Attendance at the Annual Meeting will not cause your previously granted proxy to be revoked unless you specifically make that request. If you are a beneficial owner of shares, you may submit new voting instructions by contacting your bank, broker or other record holder or, if you have obtained a legal proxy from your bank, broker or other record holder giving you the right to vote your shares, by attending the meeting and voting in person.

Will my vote be made public?

All proxies, ballots and voting materials that identify the votes of specific stockholders will generally be kept confidential, except as necessary to meet applicable legal requirements and to allow for the tabulation of votes and certification of the vote.

What constitutes a quorum, permitting the meeting to conduct its business?

The presence at the Annual Meeting, in person or by proxy, of holders of a majority of the issued and outstanding shares of common stock as of the record date is considered a quorum for the transaction of business. If you submit a properly completed proxy or if you appear at the Annual Meeting to vote in person, your shares of common stock will be considered part of the quorum.

Abstentions and broker non-votes are counted as present and entitled to vote for purposes of determining a quorum. A broker non-vote occurs when a bank, broker or other record holder holding shares for a beneficial owner does not vote on a particular proposal because that holder does not have discretionary voting power for that particular item and has not received instructions from the beneficial owner. Starting this year, the election of directors (Item 1) is a non-discretionary item. If you do not instruct your broker how to vote with respect to this item, your broker may not vote with respect to this proposal and those votes will be counted as broker non-votes.

How many votes are needed to approve a proposal?

Assuming the presence of a quorum, each director nominee receiving a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting (in person or by proxy) will be elected as director. A majority of the votes cast means the number of For votes cast exceeds the number of Against votes cast. A proxy marked Abstain with respect to any director will not be counted in determining the total number of votes cast. Because the election of directors is determined on the basis of a majority of the votes cast, abstentions and broker non-votes have no effect on the election of directors.

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Assuming the presence of a quorum, the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present, in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote is required to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accountants for 2010. Because the vote standard for the approval of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is a majority of shares present and entitled to vote, abstentions have the effect of a vote against and broker non-votes would have no effect on the proposal.

Who will count the vote?

Representatives of Broadridge Financial Solutions, Inc. will tabulate the votes and act as inspectors of election.

How can I find the voting results of the Annual Meeting?

We will report the voting results in a Current Report on Form 8-K within four business days after the end of our annual meeting.

How is the solicitation being made?

The cost of solicitation of Proxies will be borne by us. Solicitation will be made by mail, and may be made by directors, officers, and employees, personally or by telephone, telecopy or telegram. Proxy cards and material also will be distributed to beneficial owners of stock through brokers, custodians, nominees and other like parties, and we expect to reimburse such parties for their charges and expenses.

Where can I find more information about Tenneco?

We file reports and other information with the SEC. You may read and copy this information at the SEC's public reference facilities. Please call the SEC at 1-800-SEC-0330 for information about these facilities. This information is also available at our website at <http://www.tenneco.com> and at the Internet site maintained by the SEC at <http://www.sec.gov>.

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**ELECTION OF DIRECTORS
(Item 1)**

Our Board of Directors currently comprises ten individuals, all of whom are proposed to be elected at this Annual Meeting to serve for a term to expire at the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2011 and until their successors are chosen and have qualified.

The persons named as proxy voters in the accompanying proxy card, or their substitutes, will vote your proxy for all the nominees, each of whom has been designated as such by the Board of Directors, unless otherwise indicated in your proxy. In the event that any nominee for director withdraws or for any reason is not able to serve as a director, we will vote your proxy for the remainder of those nominated for director (except as otherwise indicated in your proxy) and for any replacement nominee designated by the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee of the Board of Directors.

You may vote For or Against any or all of the director nominees, or you may Abstain from voting. Assuming a quorum, each director nominee receiving a majority of the votes cast at the Annual Meeting (in person or by proxy) will be elected as director. A majority of the votes cast means the number of For votes cast exceeds the number of Against votes cast. A proxy marked Abstain with respect to any director will not be counted in determining the total number of votes cast.

Brief statements setting forth the age (at March 15, 2010), the principal occupation, the employment during at least the past five years, the year in which first elected a director and other information concerning each nominee appears below.

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR all of the nominees listed below.

We are a Delaware corporation. Under Delaware law, if an incumbent director is not elected, that director remains in office until the director's successor is duly elected and qualified or until the director's death, resignation or retirement. To address this potential outcome, the Board adopted a director resignation policy in Tenneco's By-Laws. Under this policy, the Board of Directors will nominate for directors only those incumbent candidates who tender, in advance, irrevocable resignations, and the Board has obtained such conditional resignations from the nominees in this year's proxy statement. The irrevocable resignations will be effective upon the failure to receive the required vote at any annual meeting at which they are nominated for re-election and Board acceptance of the resignation. If a nominee fails to receive the required vote, the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee will recommend to the Board whether to accept or reject the tendered resignation. The Board will publicly disclose its decision within 90 days following certification of the stockholder vote. In addition, the director whose resignation is under consideration will not participate in the recommendation of the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee with respect to the resignation. If the Board does not accept the resignation, the director will continue to serve until the next annual meeting and until his or her successor is duly elected, or until his or her earlier resignation or removal. If the Board accepts the resignation, then the Board, in its sole discretion, may fill any resulting vacancy or may decrease the size of the Board.

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**NOMINEES FOR THE ELECTION TO THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS
For One-Year Terms Expiring at the 2011 Annual Meeting of Stockholders**

Charles W. Cramb Mr. Cramb has been Vice Chairman, Chief Finance and Strategy Officer of Avon Products, Inc., a global manufacturer and marketer of beauty and related products, since September 2007. In this role, Mr. Cramb is responsible for strategic leadership of Avon's business transformation and restructuring initiatives and also oversees Finance, Strategic Planning and Investor Relations. Mr. Cramb joined Avon in November 2005 as Executive Vice President, Finance and Technology and Chief Financial Officer. Before joining Avon, Mr. Cramb held positions of increasing responsibility at The Gillette Company, a global manufacturer and marketer of a wide variety of consumer products, most recently serving as Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer from 1997 through October 2005. He joined Gillette in 1970 and served in a number of financial positions, including Vice President and Corporate Controller from 1995 to 1997 and Vice President, Finance and Strategic Planning, North Atlantic Group. Mr. Cramb also headed Gillette's information technology function and held leadership positions in business transformation, strategic and financial planning and marketing, and worked in Gillette's international operations. He is a director of Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc., where he is Chairman of the Audit Committee and a member of the Compensation Committee. Mr. Cramb holds a B.A. from Dartmouth College and an M.B.A. from the University of Chicago. He was elected a director of our company in March 2003, is 63 years old and is the Chairman of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Cramb's extensive business experience in senior financial, strategic and operational roles over a 40 year career make him a significant contributor to our Board. He brings to our Board of Directors the financial and accounting experience necessary to lead our Audit Committee. Through his experience as Chief Finance and Strategy Officer at Avon Products, Inc. and as Chief Financial Officer at The Gillette Company, Mr. Cramb has gained extensive knowledge of the financial and accounting issues facing large public companies. He is also an experienced audit committee member, serving as Chairman of Idenix Pharmaceuticals, Inc.'s audit committee. The Board has designated Mr. Cramb as an audit committee financial expert as that term is defined in the SEC's rules adopted pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Dennis J. Letham Mr. Letham serves as Executive Vice President, Finance and Chief Financial Officer of Anixter International Inc., where he oversees the company's finance, accounting, tax, legal, human resource and internal audit activities in 50 countries. Before assuming his role as Chief Financial Officer in 1995, Mr. Letham served as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer of Anixter, Inc., the principal operating subsidiary of Anixter International Inc., which he joined in 1993. Previously, he had a ten-year career with National Intergroup Inc., where he was Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer, as well as Vice President and Controller, Director of Corporate Accounting and Manager for Internal Audit. Mr. Letham began his career at Arthur Andersen & Co. in 1973 where he held progressive responsibilities in the Audit Department. Mr. Letham holds a bachelors degree from Pennsylvania State University's Accounting Honors program. He also is a Certified Public Accountant. Mr. Letham is 58 years old, was elected a director of our company in October 2007 and is a member of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Letham's substantial experience in finance and accounting makes him a valuable asset to our Board and our Audit Committee. Throughout his more than 35 year career, Mr. Letham has gained a deep understanding of the operations and financial reporting and accounting functions of large organizations. His 15 years of experience as the Chief Financial Officer of Anixter, a large international public company, gives him substantial insight into the complex financial, accounting and operational issues that a large multi-national company such as ours can encounter. Further, with his background in public accounting, he brings particular insight to the external and internal audit functions. The Board has designated Mr. Letham as an audit committee financial expert as that term is defined in the SEC's rules adopted pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Frank E. Macher Mr. Macher has served as Chief Executive Officer of Ceres Group LLC since 2008. Previously he served as President and Chief Executive Officer and as a member of the Board of Directors of Collins & Aikman Corporation, a global supplier of motor vehicle parts, from July 2005 through January 2007. Mr. Macher served as Chief Executive Officer of Federal Mogul Corporation, a manufacturer of motor vehicle parts and supplies, from January 2001 to July 2003 and Chairman of Federal Mogul from October 2001 to his retirement in January 2004. From June 1997 to his retirement in July 1999,

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Mr. Macher served as President and Chief Executive Officer of ITT Automotive, a supplier of automotive components. From 1966 to his retirement in 1996, Mr. Macher was employed by Ford Motor Company, ultimately serving as Vice President and General Manager of the Automotive Components Division. He received a BSME from Kettering University and an M.B.A. from Michigan State University. Mr. Macher is 69 years old and was elected a director of our company in July 2000. Mr. Macher is a member of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Macher brings to our Board a comprehensive knowledge of the automotive industry, with 45 years experience in increasingly senior management roles at both automotive suppliers and a major automotive manufacturer, Ford. As the former Chief Executive Officer of three major automotive parts suppliers – Collins & Aikman, Federal Mogul and ITT Automotive – he gained valuable and wide-ranging knowledge of the unique financial, operational and strategic issues faced by suppliers in our industry. Moreover, his years of experience working for Ford give him critical insight into the priorities of and challenges facing our customers. He also brings an understanding of operations and financial strategy in challenging environments such as those facing companies in a cyclical industry like the automotive industry.

Hari N. Nair – Executive Vice President and President - International – Mr. Nair was named our Executive Vice President and President - International effective March 2007. Previously, Mr. Nair served as Executive Vice President and Managing Director of our business in Europe, South America and India. Before that, he was Senior Vice President and Managing Director - International. Before December 2000, Mr. Nair was the Vice President and Managing Director - Emerging Markets. Previously, Mr. Nair was the Managing Director for Tenneco Automotive Asia, based in Singapore and responsible for all operations and development projects in Asia. He began his career with the former Tenneco Inc. in 1987, holding various positions in strategic planning, marketing, business development, quality control and finance. Before joining Tenneco, Mr. Nair was a senior financial analyst at General Motors Corporation focusing on European operations. Mr. Nair has a B.S. degree in Engineering from Bradley University and an M.B.A. in Finance and International Business from the University of Notre Dame. Mr. Nair is 50 years old and was elected a director of our company in March 2009.

Mr. Nair brings to our Board over 25 years of experience in the automotive industry in increasingly senior management roles. He has been with our company for over 20 years in diverse roles from strategic planning, marketing and business development to quality and finance. He has also held senior managerial positions for our company in virtually all of our global locations - from Europe to Asia to North America. He oversees our operations outside of North America, including in key growth areas such as China. During 2009, our operations outside of North America accounted for approximately 55 percent of our global revenue. Mr. Nair's extensive knowledge of our company and its global operations makes him a particular asset to our Board.

Roger B. Porter – Mr. Porter is the IBM Professor of Business and Government and the Master of Dunster House at Harvard University. He has served on the faculty at Harvard University since 1977. He also held senior economic policy positions in the Ford, Reagan and George H. W. Bush White Houses, serving as special assistant to the President and executive secretary of the Economic Policy Board from 1974 to 1977, as deputy assistant to the President and director of the White House Office of Policy Development from 1981 to 1985, and as assistant to the President for economic and domestic policy from 1989 to 1993. He received a B.A. from Brigham Young University and M.A. and Ph.D. degrees from Harvard University. He was also a Rhodes Scholar at Oxford University where he received his B.Phil. degree. He is also a director of Zions Bancorporation, Pactiv Corporation, Extra Space Storage Inc. and Packaging Corporation of America. Mr. Porter is 63 years old and was elected a director of our company in January 1998. He is the Chairman of the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee.

Mr. Porter brings a distinctive background to his service on our Board of Directors. He is the author of several books on economic policy, including *Presidential Decision Making and Efficiency*, *Equity and Legitimacy: The Multilateral Trading System at the Millennium*. His significant policy roles for various White Houses, as well as his scholarly

research and teaching as the IBM Professor of Business and Government at Harvard, give him a unique perspective on the impact of general economic, political and market conditions on our business and operations. His background and experience is unlike that of any other

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Board member, making him a valuable addition to a well-rounded Board. In addition, his service on the Board of Directors of a variety of major public companies provides him an understanding of the strategic, operational and financial issues faced by large public companies.

David B. Price, Jr. Since his retirement from Noveon Inc. in 2001, Mr. Price has worked as an independent consultant, providing investment and operational advice primarily to financial and strategic buyers of businesses. Previously, Mr. Price was President of Noveon Inc. from February 2001 until May 2001. Noveon, Inc. was formerly the Performance Materials segment of BF Goodrich Company before its sale to an investor group in February 2001. While with BF Goodrich Company from July 1997 to February 2001, Mr. Price served as Executive Vice President of the BF Goodrich Company and President and Chief Operating Officer of BF Goodrich Performance Materials. Before joining BF Goodrich, Mr. Price held various executive positions over a 25-year span at Monsanto Company, including President of the Performance Materials Division of Monsanto Company from 1995 to July 1997. From 1993 to 1995, he was Vice President and General Manager of commercial operations for the Industrial Products Group and was also named to the management board of Monsanto's Chemical Group. He is a director and former Chairman of the YMCA of Greater St. Louis and a Director of St. Lukes Hospital in St. Louis. He is also a director of CH2M HILL. Mr. Price is 64 years old and was elected a director of our company in November 1999. Mr. Price is a member of the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee.

Mr. Price is an experienced businessman, having managed major chemicals businesses for Monsanto and B.F. Goodrich over a 30-year period. His experience as president and chief operating officer of various Monsanto and B.F. Goodrich business units gives Mr. Price an understanding of the strategic, operational and financial issues facing major industrial companies and a perspective beyond traditional automotive manufacturing.

Gregg M. Sherrill Chairman and Chief Executive Officer Mr. Sherrill was named our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer in January 2007. Mr. Sherrill joined us from Johnson Controls Inc., where he served since 1998, most recently as President, Power Solutions. From 2002 to 2003, Mr. Sherrill served as the Vice President and Managing Director of Europe, South Africa and South America for Johnson Controls Automotive Systems Group. Before joining Johnson Controls, Mr. Sherrill held various engineering and manufacturing assignments over a 22-year span at Ford Motor Company, including Plant Manager of Ford's Dearborn, Michigan engine plant, Chief Engineer, Steering Systems and Director of Supplier Technical Assistance. Mr. Sherrill holds a B.S. degree in mechanical engineering from Texas A&M University and an M.B.A. from Indiana University's Graduate School of Business. Mr. Sherrill is 57 years old and became a director of our company in January 2007.

Mr. Sherrill brings to our Board over 30 years of experience in the automotive industry, including three years as our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer. Before joining our company, he held increasingly senior management roles at both a major automotive parts supplier - Johnson Controls - and a major original equipment manufacturer - Ford, giving him unique perspective and insight. His extensive experience managing international operations is also of key value to a global company such as ours. Under his leadership, our company has navigated successfully a challenging automotive industry environment and is positioned to capitalize on a recovery in the sector. His extensive knowledge of our business and industry, together with his proven talents and leadership, position him well to serve as our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer.

Paul T. Stecko Mr. Stecko has served as the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Packaging Corporation of America since April 1999. Mr. Stecko served as President and Chief Operating Officer of Tenneco Inc. from November 1998 to April 1999 and as Chief Operating Officer of Tenneco Inc. from January 1997 to November 1998. From December 1993 through January 1997, Mr. Stecko served as Chief Executive Officer of Tenneco Packaging Inc. Before that, Mr. Stecko spent 16 years with International Paper Company in roles of increasing responsibility, most recently serving as Vice President and General Manager of the Publication Papers, Bristols and Converting Papers businesses. Mr. Stecko received a B.S. degree in metallurgy from Pennsylvania State University and an M.S. in

metallurgical engineering and an M.B.A. from the University of Pittsburgh. He is a director of State Farm Mutual Insurance Company, American Forest and Paper Association and Smurfit Kappa Group. Mr. Stecko is 65 years old and has

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been a director of our company since November 1998. Mr. Stecko is a member of the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee and is our lead independent director.

Mr. Stecko, with his more than ten years of experience as Chairman and Chief Executive Officer of Packaging Corporation of America, brings to the Board proven leadership and extensive managerial experience at the most senior level. In addition, his years of service in senior management of Tenneco prior to the 1999 transactions that separated our automotive and packaging businesses give Mr. Stecko unique historical perspective that is of particular value to our company. As a result of these experiences, Mr. Stecko has a thorough knowledge and understanding of the complex strategic, operational and financial issues faced by large public companies. Mr. Stecko's appreciation of the role of directors through his experience as both an inside and independent director of other companies positions him well to serve as our lead independent director.

Mitsunobu Takeuchi Mr. Takeuchi is the retired Chairman of DENSO International America, Inc., the North American arm of Japan-based DENSO Corporation, a worldwide supplier of advanced automotive systems and components. Mr. Takeuchi joined DENSO in 1964 and rose through a series of sales and general manager positions in Japan and North America, with experience in both original equipment and aftermarket. He became President and Chief Executive Officer, DENSO International America in 1997 and Chairman and Chief Executive Officer in 2002. He served as Chairman Emeritus from 2004 through January 2006. He served as a member of the Board of Directors of DENSO Corporation from March 1995 until his retirement in June 2004. Mr. Takeuchi is a director of the Economic Club of Detroit and the Motor Equipment Manufacturers Association and a member and past president of the Japan Business Society of Detroit. Mr. Takeuchi is 68 years old and has been a director of our company since January 2006. Mr. Takeuchi is a member of the Audit Committee.

Mr. Takeuchi gained in-depth knowledge of the automotive industry during his more than 40-year career with the major Japanese automotive parts supplier DENSO. As a result of his significant leadership roles with DENSO, he has deep knowledge of the strategic, operational and financial issues facing automotive parts suppliers. His knowledge of the specific requirements of the Japanese automakers is of particular value to our company as we seek to expand our relationships with these customers.

Jane L. Warner Ms. Warner has served as Executive Vice President at Illinois Tool Works Inc., a global manufacturer of specialty products and equipment, since August 2007, where she has worldwide responsibility for its Global Finishing and Protective Packaging. Ms. Warner joined Illinois Tool Works Inc. in December 2005 as Group President of its Finishing business. She was previously the President of Plexus Systems, L.L.C., a manufacturing software company, from June 2004 to December 2005, and a Vice President with Electronic Data Systems from 2000 through June 2004, where she led their global manufacturing group. Ms. Warner served as Executive Vice President for first tier supplier Textron Automotive from 1994 through 1999, where she was President of its Kautex North America and Randall divisions. Previously, Ms. Warner held executive positions in manufacturing, engineering and human resources over a 20-year span at General Motors Corporation. Ms. Warner received a B.A. and an M.A. from Michigan State University. She also received an M.B.A. from Stanford University where she was a Sloan Fellow. Ms. Warner is a board member of MeadWestvaco Corporation, where she sits on the Audit Committee and chairs the Safety, Health and Environmental Committee. She is also a Trustee for John G. Shedd Aquarium and a Director for Steppenwolf Theater. Ms. Warner is 63 years old and was elected a director of our company in October 2004. Ms. Warner is a member of the Audit Committee and the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee.

With over 20 years of experience at General Motors and five years of experience at Textron Automotive, Ms. Warner has particular appreciation of the challenges facing our customers. Her automotive industry expertise is supplemented by her leadership roles in global manufacturing and manufacturing information systems businesses, both of which are of particular relevance to a global manufacturing company such as ours. She also brings to us the financial understanding she has gained through her business unit leadership and as member of the audit committee at

MeadWestvaco.

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CORPORATE GOVERNANCE

Overview

We have established a comprehensive corporate governance plan for the purpose of defining responsibilities, setting high standards of professional and personal conduct and assuring compliance with these responsibilities and standards. As part of its annual review process, the Board of Directors monitors developments in the area of corporate governance. Listed below are some of the key elements of our corporate governance plan. Many of these matters are described in more detail elsewhere in this proxy statement.

Independence of Directors (see p. 13)

Eight of the Company's ten current directors are independent under the New York Stock Exchange (NYSE) listing standards. Assuming all nominees presented in this Proxy Statement are elected at the Annual Meeting, eight of our ten directors will be independent under the NYSE listing standards.

Independent directors are scheduled to meet separately in executive session after every regularly scheduled Board of Directors meeting.

We have a lead independent director, Mr. Paul T. Stecko.

Audit Committee (see pp. 15-16 and p. 50)

All members meet the independence standards for audit committee membership under the NYSE listing standards and applicable Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) rules.

Two members of the Audit Committee, Messrs. Charles Cramb and Dennis Letham, have been designated as audit committee financial experts as defined in the SEC rules. All members of the Audit Committee satisfy the NYSE's financial literacy requirements.

The Audit Committee operates under a written charter that governs its duties and responsibilities, including its sole authority to appoint, review, evaluate and replace our independent auditors.

The Audit Committee has adopted policies and procedures governing the pre-approval of all audit, audit-related, tax and other services provided by our independent auditors.

Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee and Subcommittee (see pp. 13-15 and p. 49)

All members meet the independence standards for compensation and nominating committee membership under the NYSE listing standards.

The Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee operates under a written charter that governs its duties and responsibilities, including the responsibility for executive compensation.

We have an Executive Compensation Subcommittee which has the responsibility to consider and approve equity-based compensation for our executive officers which is intended to qualify as performance based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code.

Corporate Governance Principles

We have adopted Corporate Governance Principles, including qualification and independence standards for directors.

Stock Ownership Guidelines (see pp. 31-32)

We have adopted Stock Ownership Guidelines to align the interests of our executives with the interests of stockholders and promote our commitment to sound corporate governance.

The Stock Ownership Guidelines apply to the non-management directors, the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, all Executive Vice Presidents and all Senior Vice Presidents.

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Communications with Directors (see p. 17)

The Audit Committee has established a process for confidential and anonymous submissions by our employees, as well as submissions by other interested parties, regarding questionable accounting or auditing matters.

Additionally, the Board of Directors has established a process for stockholders to communicate with the Board of Directors, as a whole, or any independent director.

Codes of Business Conduct and Ethics

We have adopted a Code of Ethical Conduct for Financial Managers that applies to our Chief Executive Officer, Chief Financial Officer, Controller and other key financial managers.

We also operate under an omnibus Statement of Business Principles that applies to all directors, officers and employees and includes provisions ranging from restrictions on gifts to conflicts of interest. All salaried employees are required to affirm annually in writing their acceptance of, and compliance with, these principles.

Related Party Transactions Policy (see pp. 17-18)

We have adopted a Policy and Procedure for Transactions with Related Persons, under which our Board of Directors must generally pre-approve transactions involving more than \$120,000 with our directors, executive officers, five percent or greater stockholders and their immediate family members.

Equity Award Policy

We have adopted a written policy to be followed for all issuances by our company of compensatory awards in the form of our common stock or any derivative of our common stock.

Personal Loans to Executive Officers and Directors

We comply with and operate in a manner consistent with the legislation outlawing extensions of credit in the form of a personal loan to or for our directors or executive officers.

Our Audit Committee, Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee and Executive Compensation Subcommittee Charters, Corporate Governance Principles, Stock Ownership Guidelines, Accounting Complaints Policy, Code of Ethical Conduct for Financial Managers, Statement of Business Principles, Policy and Procedures for Transactions with Related Persons, Equity Award Policy, Director Communications Policy and Audit/Non-Audit Services Policy may be accessed on our website at www.tenneco.com. The contents of the website are not, however, a part of this proxy statement. We intend to satisfy the disclosure requirements under Item 5.05 of Form 8-K and applicable NYSE rules regarding amendments to or waivers of our Code of Ethical Conduct for Financial Managers and Statement of Business Principles by posting this information on our website at www.tenneco.com.

The Board of Directors and Its Committees

Board Leadership Structure. Our Board of Directors currently comprises ten members, eight of whom are independent and two of whom are officers of our company. The Board of Directors believes that our ratio of outside directors to inside directors represents a commitment to the independence of the Board and a focus on matters of

importance to our stockholders.

Mr. Sherill is our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer and leads our Board. Mr. Sherrill has general charge and management of the affairs, property and business of the corporation, under the oversight, and subject to the review and direction, of the Board. He presides at all meetings of stockholders and the Board. We also have a lead independent director, Mr. Stecko. As lead independent director, Mr. Stecko presides at all executive sessions of the Board, consults with management and the other members of the Board regarding Board meeting agendas and serves as the principal liaison between management and the independent directors.

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Our Board of Directors has two standing committees – the Audit Committee and the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee. The responsibilities and authority of each committee are described below. Each of these committees consists solely of independent directors and has its own Chairman who is responsible for directing the work of the committee in fulfilling its responsibilities.

Our Board of Directors believes this leadership structure is in the best interests of our company and its stockholders. Our Chairman and Chief Executive Officer provides the strong, clear and unified leadership that is critical to our relationships with our stockholders, employees, customers, suppliers and other stakeholders. He also serves as a valuable bridge between the Board and our management. We have effective and active oversight by experienced independent directors, who have selected a lead independent director and two independent committee chairs. The independent directors on the Board and each of the committees meet in regularly scheduled executive sessions without any members of management present. The purpose of these executive sessions is to promote open and candid discussion among the independent directors. Our system provides appropriate checks and balances to protect stockholder value and allows for efficient management of our company.

Role of Board of Directors in Risk Oversight. Our Board of Directors recognizes that, although risk management is primarily the responsibility of the company’s management team, the Board of Directors plays a critical role in the oversight of risk, including the identification and management of risk. The Board of Directors believes that an important part of its responsibilities is to assess the major risks we face and review our strategies for monitoring and controlling these risks. The Board of Directors’ involvement in risk oversight involves the full Board of Directors, the Audit Committee and the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee.

We perform an annual enterprise risk assessment which originates within our internal audit department and is performed in accordance with the standards adopted by the Committee of Sponsoring Organizations of the Treadway Commission (COSO). As part of its assessment, our internal audit department interviews each of our directors, as well as members of management, regarding the strategic, operational, compliance and financial risks that the company faces. Our director of internal audit and chief financial officer review the results of this annual enterprise risk assessment with our Board of Directors. In addition, throughout the year, the Board of Directors meets with senior management to discuss (a) current business trends affecting us; (b) the major risk exposures facing us; and (c) the steps management has taken to monitor and control such risks. The Board of Directors receives presentations throughout the year from senior management and leaders of our business units and functional groups, such as Treasury, information technology and insurance/risk management, regarding specific risks that we face, including as to credit or liquidity risks and operational risks. Finally, on an annual basis, management provides a comprehensive strategic review to the Board of Directors which includes a discussion of the major risks faced by our company and our strategies to manage and minimize these risks.

The Audit Committee meets frequently during the year with senior management, our director of internal audit and our independent public accountants and discusses the major risks facing us, and the steps management has taken to monitor and control such risks, as well as the adequacy of internal controls that could mitigate risks and significantly affect our financial statements. At each regularly scheduled meeting, our director of internal audit reviews with the Audit Committee the results of internal audit activities and testing since the Audit Committee’s prior meeting. In addition, at each regularly scheduled Audit Committee meeting, the company’s general counsel provides a report to the Audit Committee regarding any significant litigation, environmental or regulatory risks faced by our company. The Audit Committee also maintains oversight over the company’s compliance programs, including compliance with the company’s Statement of Business Principles. The Chairman of the Audit Committee provides the Board of Directors with a report concerning its risk oversight activities at each Board meeting. The Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee reviews our compensation structures and programs to assure that they do not encourage excessive risk.

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Director Independence. The Board of Directors has determined that all of our non-management directors are independent as that term is defined under the listing standards of the NYSE. As part of its analysis, the Board determined that none of the outside directors has a direct or indirect material relationship with us. Under written guidelines adopted by the Board, the following commercial or charitable relationships are not considered to be material relationships that would impair a director's independence:

the director is an employee, director or beneficial owner of less than 10% of the shares of another company that (directly or indirectly through its subsidiaries or affiliates) does business with us and the annual sales to, or purchases from, us are less than 1% of the annual consolidated revenues of both our company and the other company;

the director is an employee, director or beneficial owner of less than 10% of the shares of another company that (directly or indirectly through its subsidiaries or affiliates) is indebted to us, or to which we are indebted, and the total amount of either company's consolidated indebtedness to the other is less than 1% of the total consolidated assets of the indebted company;

the director is an executive officer of another company in which we own a common equity interest, and the amount of our interest is less than 5% of the total voting power of the other company; or

the director serves as an employee, director or trustee of a charitable organization, and our discretionary charitable contributions to the organization are less than 1% of that organization's total annual charitable receipts.

No outside director has a relationship with us that is not within these guidelines.

In making its determinations, the Board of Directors considered the following relationships, all of which are within these guidelines: in the case of Mr. Letham, an ordinary course supply arrangement between our company and the company where he serves as executive vice president, finance and chief financial officer; in the case of Mr. Stecko, an ordinary course supply arrangement between our company and the company where he serves as chief executive officer; and in the case of Ms. Warner, an ordinary course supply arrangement between our company and the company where she serves as executive vice president.

Board Meetings. During 2009, the Board of Directors held 7 meetings. All of our directors who served in 2009 attended at least 75% of the aggregate of all meetings of the Board of Directors and all meetings of the committees of the Board held and on which the director served. The Board of Directors is scheduled to meet in executive session, without management, after every regularly scheduled Board meeting. Mr. Stecko acts as lead independent director to chair these executive sessions and as primary spokesperson in communicating matters arising out of these sessions to our management.

All of the directors attended last year's annual meeting of the stockholders. The Board of Directors has a policy that, absent unusual circumstances, all directors attend our annual stockholder meetings.

Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee and Subcommittee. The members of the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee are Ms. Warner and Messrs. Price, Stecko and Porter, who is the Chairman of the Committee. The Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee is comprised solely of outside directors who meet the independence standards for compensation and nominating committee members as set forth in the NYSE listing standards.

The Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee has the responsibility, among other things, to:

establish the salary rate of the officers and employees of our company and its subsidiaries;

examine periodically our compensation structure;

supervise our welfare and pension plans and compensation plans; and

produce an annual report on executive compensation for inclusion in our proxy statement in accordance with applicable rules and regulations of the SEC.

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It also has significant corporate governance responsibilities including, among other things, to:

review and determine the desirable balance of experience, qualifications and expertise among members of the Board;

review possible candidates for membership on the Board and recommend a slate of nominees for election as directors at each annual meeting of stockholders;

review the function and composition of the other committees of the Board and recommend membership on these committees;

review the qualifications of, and recommend candidates for, election as officers of our company; and

develop, recommend to the Board of Directors for approval and, as appropriate, recommend to the Board of Directors revisions to our applicable Corporate Governance Principles.

In addition, the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee reviews our compensation practices and policies for our employees to determine whether those practices and policies are reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us.

The Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee may form and delegate authority to subcommittees when appropriate and to the extent permitted by applicable law and the rules of the NYSE. Once a subcommittee of this committee is so formed, the committee may exercise any authority in its discretion that is granted to the subcommittee.

We have an Executive Compensation Subcommittee which consists of all Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee members except Mr. Stecko. This subcommittee has the responsibility of considering and approving equity-based compensation for our Chief Executive Officer and our other executive officers which is intended to qualify as performance based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. This subcommittee does not have the authority to further delegate its responsibilities.

Each of the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee and its Executive Compensation Subcommittee operates pursuant to a written charter, the current versions of which were reaffirmed by the Board of Directors and the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee, respectively, in March 2010 as part of their annual review process. The Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee held six meetings and the Executive Compensation Subcommittee held two meetings during 2009.

For 2009, the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee engaged Hewitt Associates, LLC as its regular outside compensation consultant. Hewitt reports directly to the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee and the scope of its assignment is to (i) assist in decision-making with respect to executive compensation, (ii) provide plan design advice, (iii) provide annual competitive market studies against which committee members can analyze executive compensation and (iv) apprise the committee members regarding best practices and pay levels in association with director compensation. For our director compensation, Hewitt prepares comparative market data and presents that information directly to the committee and the Board. The committee and the Board review this data and establish director compensation in consultation with Hewitt. Total fees paid to Hewitt Associates for its executive compensation services during 2009 were \$252,633.

Hewitt Associates separately was retained by the trustees of certain of our retirement pension plans in the U.K. to provide actuarial services to those plans. Total fees paid to Hewitt Associates for these other services in 2009 were \$169,677. These other services were provided under separate engagements and by separate business units at Hewitt Associates.

The Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee has reviewed and is satisfied that Hewitt Associates was able to provide independent advice. Nevertheless, after our fiscal year end, but prior to the filing of this proxy statement in 2010, the committee decided to retain the services of Meridian Compensation Partners, LLC as its principal compensation consultant. Hewitt Associates will continue to perform the other services described above. Meridian is a newly formed company comprised of former Hewitt

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Associates personnel and operates as an independent consultancy, wholly owned by its partners, and solely provides executive compensation advisory services to the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee. Meridian will provide no other services to the committee or our company.

From time to time, the committees will review materials prepared by other consultants to assist it with specific compensation matters. For example, in 2006, management engaged Buck Consultants, a pension actuarial firm, to provide advice concerning the restructuring of Tenneco's defined benefit and defined contribution retirement benefits plans for U.S. salaried and non-union hourly employees. This information was reviewed by the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee in connection with its decision to freeze future accruals under our defined benefits retirement plans at the end of 2006, as described under Executive Compensation Post-Employment Compensation 2006 Changes in Defined Benefits.

For a discussion of the role of our executive officers in the establishment of executive officer compensation, see Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis. Our executive officers do not participate in the process for establishing director compensation.

A report of the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee regarding executive compensation appears elsewhere in this proxy statement. For a more detailed discussion of the Compensation/ Nominating/Governance Committee's processes and procedures for considering and determining executive compensation, see Executive Compensation Compensation Discussion and Analysis.

Audit Committee. The members of the Audit Committee are Ms. Warner and Messrs. Letham, Macher, Takeuchi and Cramb, who is the Chairman of the Committee. The Audit Committee is comprised solely of directors who meet all of the independence standards for audit committee membership as set forth in the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, and the SEC rules adopted thereunder, and the NYSE listing standards. The Board of Directors has designated Mr. Cramb and Mr. Letham as audit committee financial experts as that term is defined in the SEC rules adopted pursuant to the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002.

Management is responsible for our internal controls over the financial reporting process. The independent public accounting firm is responsible for performing an independent audit of our consolidated financial statements in accordance with generally accepted audit standards and for issuing a report on its audit. The Audit Committee's duty is to oversee and monitor these activities on behalf of the Board of Directors. Specifically, the Audit Committee has the responsibility, among other things, to:

select and approve the compensation of our independent public accountants;

review and approve the scope of the independent public accountants' audit activity and all non-audit services;

review with management and the independent public accountants the adequacy of our basic accounting system and the effectiveness of our internal audit plan and activities;

review with management and the independent public accountants our certified financial statements and exercise general oversight over the financial reporting process;

review with us litigation and other legal matters that may affect our financial condition and monitor compliance with business ethics and other policies;

review the independence, qualifications and performance of our independent public accountants;

provide an avenue of communication among the independent public accountants, management, the internal auditors and the Board of Directors; and

prepare the audit-related report required by the SEC to be included in our annual proxy statement.

In fulfilling its responsibilities, the Audit Committee reviewed with management and the independent public accountants:

significant issues, if any, regarding accounting principles and financial statement presentations, including any significant changes in our selection or application of accounting principles, and

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significant issues, if any, as to the adequacy of our internal controls and any special audit steps adopted in view of material internal control deficiencies;

analyses prepared by management and/or the independent public accountants setting forth significant financial reporting issues and judgments made in connection with the preparation of the financial statements, including analyses of the effects of alternative generally accepted accounting principles methods on financial statements;

the effect of regulatory and accounting initiatives, as well as off-balance sheet structures, if any, on our financial statements; and

the type and presentation of information to be included in earnings press releases, as well as any financial information and earnings guidance provided to analysts and rating agencies.

In addition, the Audit Committee has discussed our major risk exposures and the steps that management has taken to monitor and control such exposures. Management is required to advise the Committee of any instances of fraud relating to employees who have a significant role in our internal controls. The Committee was advised that management was not aware of any such instances of fraud.

The Audit Committee operates under a written charter, the current version of which was reaffirmed by the Board of Directors in March 2010 as part of its annual review process. The Audit Committee held 13 meetings in 2009. A report of the Audit Committee appears elsewhere in this proxy statement.

Consideration of Director Nominees. The Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee regularly assesses the size of the Board of Directors, the need for expertise on the Board of Directors and whether any vacancies are expected on the Board of Directors. The Committee's process for identifying and evaluating nominees is as follows: In the case of incumbent directors, the Committee reviews annually such directors' overall service to us during their term, including the specific experience, qualifications, attributes and skills that the director brings to service on our Board, the number of meetings attended, the level of participation, the quality of performance and any transactions of such directors with us during their term. In the event that vacancies are anticipated, or otherwise arise, the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee considers various potential candidates for director which may come to its attention through a variety of sources, including current Board members, stockholders or other persons. In addition, from time to time the Committee will retain a professional search firm to assist it in identifying director candidates, for which the firm generally receives a fee. All candidates for director are evaluated at regular or special meetings of the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee.

In evaluating and determining whether to recommend a person as a candidate for election as a director, the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee considers each candidate's experience, qualifications, attributes and skills as well as the specific qualification standards set forth in our Corporate Governance Principles, including: (1) personal and professional ethics, integrity and values; (2) an ability and willingness to undertake the requisite time commitment to Board functions; (3) independence pursuant to the guidelines set forth in the Corporate Governance Principles and applicable rules and regulations; (4) age, which must be less than 72; (5) the potential impact of service on the board of directors of other public companies, including competitors of our company; and (6) an absence of employment at a competitor of our company. The Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee and the Board of Directors value diversity as a factor in selecting members to serve on the Board and believe that the diversity which exists in the Board's composition provides significant benefit to the company. Each candidate is reviewed in light of the overall composition and skills of the entire Board of Directors at the time, including the varied characteristics of the Board members and candidate in terms of opinions, perspectives, personal and professional experiences and backgrounds. The nominees selected are those whose experience and background are deemed to provide the most valuable contribution to the Board.

The Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee will consider director candidates recommended by stockholders provided the procedures set forth below are followed by stockholders in submitting recommendations. The committee does not intend to alter the manner in which it evaluates

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candidates, including the minimum criteria set forth above, based on whether the candidate was recommended by a stockholder. A stockholder of our company may nominate persons for election to the Board of Directors at an annual meeting if the stockholder submits such nomination, together with certain related information required by our By-Laws, in writing to our Corporate Secretary at our principal executive offices not later than the close of business on the 90th day nor earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting. In the event, however, that the date of the annual meeting is more than thirty days before or more than seventy days after that anniversary date, the notice must be delivered not earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to such annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 90th day prior to such annual meeting or the tenth day following the day on which public announcement of the date of the meeting is first made. Following verification of the stockholder's status, the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee will perform an initial analysis of the qualifications of the nominee pursuant to the criteria listed above to determine whether the nominee is qualified for service on our Board of Directors before deciding to undertake a complete evaluation of the nominee. Other than the verification of compliance with the procedures set forth in our By-Laws and stockholder status, and the initial analysis performed by the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee, a person nominated by a stockholder for election to the Board of Directors is treated like any other potential candidate during the review process by the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee.

Communications with the Directors. Anyone who has a concern about our conduct, or about our accounting, internal accounting controls or auditing matters, may communicate that concern directly to the Board of Directors, our lead independent director (Mr. Stecko) or any other non-employee director or the Audit Committee. All such concerns will be forwarded to the appropriate directors for their review, and all concerns related to audit or accounting matters will be forwarded to the Audit Committee. All reported concerns will be simultaneously reviewed and addressed by our Chief Compliance Officer and General Counsel, or his or her designee (unless he or she is alleged to be involved in the matter at issue). The status of all outstanding concerns addressed to the Board, the non-employee directors or the Audit Committee will be reported to the Board or the Audit Committee (as applicable) on a quarterly basis. The Board or any committee may direct special treatment, including the retention of outside advisors or counsel, for any concern addressed to them. Our corporate policies prohibit retaliatory action against any employee who raises concerns or questions in good faith about these matters.

Stockholders wishing to communicate with the Board of Directors, any outside director or the Audit Committee may do so by writing to our Corporate Secretary at 500 North Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045. The Corporate Secretary will forward any communications as directed by the stockholder. We maintain a separate, internal system for the receipt of communications from employees.

Transactions with Related Persons

The Board of Directors has adopted its Policy and Procedures for Transactions with Related Persons. As a general matter, the policy requires the Board of Directors to review and approve or disapprove the entry by us or our subsidiaries into certain transactions with related persons. The policy only applies to transactions, arrangements and relationships where the aggregate amount involved could reasonably be expected to exceed \$120,000 in any calendar year and in which a related person has a direct or indirect interest. A related person is:

any director, nominee for director or executive officer of our company;

any immediate family member of a director, nominee for director or executive officer; and

any person, and his or her immediate family members, or any entity, including affiliates, that was a beneficial owner of five percent or more of any of our outstanding equity securities at the time the transaction occurred or existed.

If advance approval of a transaction subject to the policy is not obtained, it must be promptly submitted to the Board of Directors for possible approval, amendment, termination or rescission. In reviewing any transaction, the Board of Directors will take into account, among other factors the Board of Directors

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deems appropriate, whether the transaction is on terms no less favorable than terms generally available to a third party in similar circumstances and the extent of the related person's interest in the transaction.

The policy provides that the following transactions are pre-approved for the purposes of the policy:

Employment of executive officers and compensation of directors and executive officers that is otherwise being reported in our annual proxy statement (as these transactions are otherwise subject to approval by the Board of Directors or one of its committees);

A transaction where the related person's only interest is as an employee, director or owner of less than 10% of the other company's shares, and if the transaction involves the sale or purchase of goods or services, the annual sales to or purchases from our company are less than 1% of the annual consolidated revenue for both our company and the other company, or, if the transaction involves lending or borrowing, the total amount of either company's indebtedness is less than 1% of the total consolidated assets of the indebted company;

Contributions to charitable organizations, foundations or universities at which a related person's only relationship is as an employee, director or trustee, if the aggregate amount does not exceed 1% of the charitable organization's total annual receipts;

Transactions where the related person's only interest arises solely from the ownership of our common stock, and where all stockholders of our company receive benefits on a pro rata basis;

Transactions involving a related person where the rates or charges involved are determined by competitive bids;

Transactions where the related person renders services as a common or contract carrier, or public utility, at rates or charges fixed in conformity with law or governmental authority; and

Transactions involving services as a bank depository of funds, transfer agent, registrar, trustee under a trust indenture or similar services.

Section 16(a) Beneficial Ownership Reporting Compliance

Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, requires our directors and executive officers and beneficial owners of 10 percent or more of a registered class of our equity securities to file with the SEC initial reports of beneficial ownership (Form 3) and reports on changes in beneficial ownership (Form 4 or 5). SEC rules adopted pursuant to Section 16(a) require that such persons furnish us with copies of all such forms they file with the SEC.

Based solely upon our review of such forms furnished to us during 2009, and upon the written representations received by us from certain of our directors and executive officers that no Forms 5 were required, we believe that our directors, executive officers and 10% or greater stockholders complied with all Section 16(a) filing requirements on a timely basis during 2009.

Table of Contents**OWNERSHIP OF COMMON STOCK****Management**

The following table shows, as of March 15, 2010, the number of shares of our common stock, par value \$.01 per share (the only class of voting securities outstanding), beneficially owned by: (1) each director and nominee for director; (2) each person who is named in the Summary Compensation Table below; and (3) all directors and executive officers as a group.

| | Shares of Common Stock Owned (1)(2)(3)(4) | Percent of Common Stock Outstanding |
|--|--|--|
| <u>Directors</u> | | |
| Charles W. Cramb | 29,735 | * |
| Dennis J. Letham | 16,007 | * |
| Frank E. Macher | 15,564 | * |
| Hari N. Nair | 375,007 | * |
| Roger B. Porter | 46,912 | * |
| David B. Price, Jr. | 76,084 | * |
| Gregg M. Sherrill | 594,999 | * |
| Paul T. Stecko | 31,056 | * |
| Mitsunobu Takeuchi | 8,760 | * |
| Jane L. Warner | 19,762 | * |
| <u>Named Executive Officers</u> | | |
| Kenneth R. Trammell | 261,118 | * |
| Neal A. Yanos | 192,975 | * |
| Timothy E. Jackson | 198,102 | * |
| All executive officers and directors as a group (18 individuals) | 2,352,690(5) | 3.88% |

* Less than one percent.

- (1) Each director and executive officer has sole voting and investment power over the shares beneficially owned (or has the right to acquire shares as described in note (2) below) as set forth in this column, except for restricted shares.
- (2) Includes shares of restricted stock. At March 15, 2010, Messrs. Sherrill, Trammell, Nair, Yanos and Jackson held 146,838, 33,999, 54,145, 27,929 and 19,825 shares of restricted stock, respectively. Each outside director held 2,250 shares of restricted stock. Also includes shares that are subject to options that are exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2010 for Ms. Warner and Messrs. Cramb, Nair, Porter, Price, Sherrill, Stecko, Trammell, Yanos and Jackson to purchase 6,502, 16,475, 256,410, 30,000, 30,000, 253,410, 5,000, 168,547, 117,127 and 99,070 shares, respectively.

- (3) Each of the individuals listed in the table owns less than 1% of the outstanding shares of our common stock, respectively, except for all directors and executive officers as a group, who beneficially own approximately 3.88% of the outstanding common stock.
- (4) For outside directors, does not include common stock equivalents received in payment of director fees. These common stock equivalents are payable in cash or, at our option, shares of common stock after an outside director ceases to serve as a director. At March 15, 2010, the total number of common stock equivalents held by Ms. Warner and Messrs. Cramb, Letham, Macher, Porter, Price, Stecko and Takeuchi was: 18,946, 39,413, 33,528, 34,843, 102,011, 57,130, 57,130, and 16,379, respectively.
- (5) Includes 838,203 shares that are subject to options that are exercisable within 60 days of March 15, 2010 by all executive officers and directors as a group. Includes 207,696 shares of restricted stock. Does not include 91,914 common stock equivalents held by an executive officer pursuant to a deferred compensation plan.

Table of Contents**Certain Other Stockholders**

The following table sets forth, as of March 15, 2010, certain information regarding the persons known by us to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of our outstanding common stock (the only class of voting securities outstanding).

| Name and Address of Beneficial Owner(1) | Shares of Common Stock Owned(1) | Percent of Common Stock Outstanding |
|--|--|--|
| FMR LLC, Edward C. Johnson 3d(2) 82 Devonshire Street Boston, MA 02109 | 8,253,522 | 14.39% |
| Wellington Management Company, L.L.P.(3) 75 State Street Boston, MA 02109 | 4,701,466 | 7.92% |
| BlackRock Inc. 40 East 52 nd Street New Rock, NY 10022 | 3,912,366 | 6.82% |
| Citadel Investment Group II, L.L.C. and Kenneth Griffin(4) 131 S. Dearborn St. Chicago, IL 60603 | 3,410,355 | 5.7% |

- (1) This information is based on information contained in filings made with the SEC regarding the ownership of our common stock.
- (2) Fidelity Management & Research Company (Fidelity), 82 Devonshire Street, Boston, Massachusetts 02109, a wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC, is the beneficial owner of 7,374,818 shares as a result of acting as investment adviser to various investment companies. Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of Fidelity and the funds, each has sole power to dispose of the 7,374,818 shares owned by the funds. Neither FMR LLC nor Edward C. Johnson 3d has the sole power to vote or direct the voting of the shares owned directly by the Fidelity funds, which power resides with the funds' Boards of Trustees. Pyramis Global Advisors Trust Company (PGATC), 53 State Street, Boston, Massachusetts, 02109, an indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of FMR LLC, is the beneficial owner of 673,224 shares as a result of its serving as investment manager of institutional accounts owning such shares. Edward C. Johnson 3d and FMR LLC, through its control of PGATC, each has sole dispositive power over 673,224 shares and sole power to vote or to direct the voting of 613,074 shares of Common Stock owned by the institutional accounts managed by PGATC as reported above. FIL Limited (FIL), Pembroke Hall, 42 Crow Lane, Hamilton, Bermuda, is the beneficial owner of 205,480 shares. Partnerships controlled predominantly by members of the family of Edward C. Johnson 3d, Chairman of FIL, or trusts for their benefit, own approximately 47% of the voting shares of FIL. FMR LLC and FIL are of the view that they are not acting as a group for purposes of Section 13(d) under the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and that they are not otherwise required to attribute to each other the beneficial ownership of securities beneficially owned by the other corporation within the meaning of Rule 13d-3 promulgated under the 1934 Act. However, FMR LLC has made filings with the SEC as if all of the shares are beneficially owned by FMR LLC and FIL on a joint basis.

- (3) Wellington Management Company, L.L.P. (Wellington) has shared voting power for 3,135,914 shares and shared dispositive power for 4,701,466 shares. The securities reported by Wellington, in its capacity as investment adviser, are owned of record by clients of Wellington. Those clients have the right to receive, or the power to direct the receipt of, dividends from, or the proceeds from the sale of, such securities. No such client is known to Wellington to have such right or power with respect to more than five percent of this class of securities.
- (4) Citadel Advisors LLC (Citadel Advisors) has shared voting and dispositive power for 3,357,546 shares and is the investment manager for Citadel Global Equities Master Fund Ltd., which has shared voting and dispositive power for 3,179,527 shares. Citadel Holdings II LP (CH-II), which

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has shared voting and dispositive power for 3,357,546 shares is the managing member of Citadel Advisors. Citadel Investment Group II, L.L.C. (CIG-II) has shared voting and dispositive power for 3,410,355 shares and is the general partner of CH-II. Kenneth Griffin is the President and Chief Executive Officer of, and owns a controlling interest in, CIG-II. The address of the principal business office of each of the Citadel filers is c/o Citadel Investment Group, L.L.C., 131 S. Dearborn Street, 32nd Floor, Chicago, Illinois 60603.

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EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION

Compensation Discussion and Analysis

Introduction

Our executive compensation philosophy, policies, plans and programs are under the supervision of the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee of our board of directors. We have an Executive Compensation Subcommittee, which is responsible for making executive compensation determinations with respect to stock options and other equity-based compensation that may qualify as performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code. For a description of the composition, authority and responsibilities of the committee and subcommittee, see Corporate Governance The Board of Directors and Its Committees Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee and Subcommittee. Unless the context requires otherwise, in this Compensation Discussion and Analysis when we refer to the committee, we are also referring to the subcommittee with respect to performance-based compensation under Section 162(m), and when we refer to executives, we are referring to the named executive officers whose compensation is shown in this proxy statement under Summary Compensation Table.

In late 2008 and throughout most of 2009, the global economic crisis led to an unprecedented downturn in demand for automotive products that severely and negatively impacted our financial performance. As a result, we took several significant compensation-related actions designed to reduce costs and preserve cash. Those actions included suspending the 401(k) match for all U.S. employees for 2009, a temporary reduction in base salaries for most salaried employees globally and a decision to suspend the granting of long-term performance units for our executives for 2009. Furthermore, in early 2009 we had a limited number of shares remaining available under our 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan which, combined with the significant decline in our stock price due to the unprecedented market conditions (a result of which would have required significantly more shares to be granted to deliver targeted value), reduced the value of the equity awards we could make to our executives. All of these factors negatively impacted 2009 compensation for our salaried employees, including our executives. As the economy and our performance improved, we reversed some of the actions we took with the goal of providing 2010 compensation that will meet our established targets.

Compensation Objectives

The basic philosophy underlying our executive compensation policies, plans and programs is that (1) executive and stockholder financial interests should be aligned as closely as possible, and (2) compensation packages should be based on delivering pay in line with performance.

Accordingly, our executive compensation program has been structured to:

Reinforce a results-oriented management culture with executive pay that varies according to performance.

Focus executives on annual and long-term business results with the overarching goal of enhancing stockholder value.

Align the interests of our executives and stockholders through equity-based compensation awards.

Provide executive compensation packages that attract, retain and motivate executives of the highest qualifications, experience and ability.

Based on these objectives, our executive compensation program is designed to provide competitive levels of compensation derived from several sources: salaries; annual cash incentive awards; stock ownership opportunities through stock options and restricted stock; and other equity-based long-term compensation. We also offer other benefits typically offered to executives by major U.S. corporations, including defined benefit retirement plans (future benefit accruals under which were substantially eliminated for senior management in 2006 as described below), defined contribution retirement plans,

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perquisites, employment agreements (in limited cases), severance and change in control benefits and welfare benefits.

Compensation Process

In determining competitive compensation, the committee engages a nationally recognized compensation consulting firm that reports directly to the committee to maintain its independence. For more information regarding this consulting firm and the scope of its assignment, see *Corporate Governance* *The Board of Directors and Its Committees* *Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee and Subcommittee*. For our Chief Executive Officer (CEO), the consulting firm generally provides market data regarding salary, annual cash incentive award targets, and long-term incentive compensation awards, and provides advice directly to the committee as it makes decisions with respect to compensation. For the other executives, our management formulates the initial recommendations regarding salary, annual cash incentive award targets and equity-based and other long-term incentive compensation awards. The committee reviews the recommendations in light of market data prepared by the consulting firm. For other forms of compensation and benefits, management generally makes initial recommendations that are considered by the committee.

Our general policy is to provide salary, annual cash incentive payments and long-term incentive compensation to executives based on performance that is competitive and at market levels with comparable companies when financial and qualitative targets are met (i.e. 50th percentile for target performance). In making its determinations regarding these elements of compensation, the committee regularly reviews data regarding compensation practices at other companies that it determines to be relevant to compensation matters affecting our company. Historically, we have not regularly engaged in any form of benchmarking regarding other elements of compensation. As described below, however, we did examine some benchmarking data in connection with our 2006 decision to substantially eliminate future accruals to our defined benefit retirement plans and were provided with advice regarding market practices when determining to amend and restate our change in control plan in 2007.

The benchmarking information we use in establishing salary, annual cash incentive payments and equity-based incentive compensation typically includes the most recently available data regarding companies believed to be comparable to our company in terms of industry (automotive parts manufacturing), size (total revenues, number of employees) and/or other factors. For 2009 compensation determinations, specific data was reviewed regarding a comparison group of eighteen companies selected to reflect a balance of automotive sector and other traditional manufacturing companies. The data was weighted

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based on the size of revenues of the comparison companies. The following is a list of these companies and a description of why the committee believes they are appropriate for the comparison group:

| Company | Basis of Comparison |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| A.O. Smith Corporation | Manufacturer; comparable employee base; Midwest headquarters |
| American Axle & Mfg. Holdings, Inc. | Automotive industry |
| ArvinMeritor, Inc. | Automotive industry; comparable revenues and employee base |
| BorgWarner Inc. | Automotive industry; comparable revenues and employee base |
| Briggs & Stratton Corporation | Manufacturer; comparable market capitalization; Midwest headquarters |
| Cummins, Inc. | Manufacturer; Midwest headquarters |
| Eastman Chemical Company | Comparable revenues; produce paint and plastics for automotive industry |
| FMC Technologies, Inc. | Manufacturer; comparable revenues; former Midwest headquarters |
| Flowsolve Corporation | Manufacturer for aligned industries; comparable revenues and employee base |
| The Goodyear Tire & Rubber Company | Automotive industry |
| W.W. Grainger, Inc. | Midwest headquarters |
| Johnson Controls, Inc. | Automotive industry; Midwest headquarters |
| Lear Corporation | Automotive industry |
| Lennox International Inc. | Manufacturer; comparable employee base |
| Steelcase Inc. | Manufacturer; Midwest headquarters |
| Teleflex Incorporated | Manufacturer; comparable employee base |
| Whirlpool Corporation | Manufacturer; Midwest headquarters |
| Worthington Industries, Inc. | Manufacturer; Midwest headquarters |

In addition, with respect to the executives other than our CEO, the committee reviewed aggregate data regarding a broader group of durable goods manufacturers (that were not specifically identified to the committee). This data was prepared by the consulting firm and compared targeted and actual compensation paid by these companies to their executive officers in specified positions to the compensation we pay to executives in the same or similar positions.

Consistent with our compensation objectives described above, our executive compensation program is designed to be typical of the compensation programs that companies of similar size and in similar industries offer to their executive officers. In addition to looking at the competitiveness of the elements of pay, the committee uses tally sheets to review the total amount of compensation and benefits provided to the executive officers annually as well as over a period of years. The tally sheets also help the committee consider pay decisions in the context of an executive's total compensation.

Traditionally, our CEO and senior human resources executive annually review with the committee the annual salary, incentive plan target and long-term and stock-based compensation for each of our executives and other key management personnel (excluding the CEO). The committee approves that plan with any changes that the committee deems appropriate. In general, the compensation that is developed for each of these executives is based on competitive market data and on the CEO's subjective recommendations regarding the executive's overall contributions. Traditionally, the committee also reviews separately and sets the salary, incentive plan target and long-term and stock-based compensation of the CEO based on competitive market data as well as the committee's assessment of the CEO's past performance and anticipated future contributions.

Table of Contents***Design and Elements of Compensation***

Our compensation program generally provides that, as an executive's level of responsibility increases, a greater portion of his or her potential total compensation is based on corporate performance and varies in accordance with the market price of our common stock. This results in greater potential variability in the individual's total compensation from year-to-year. In designing and administering the components of the executive compensation program, the committee strives to balance short and long-term incentive objectives and to employ prudent judgment when establishing performance criteria, evaluating performance and determining actual incentive payments.

The following is a description of each element of our executive compensation program, along with a discussion of the decisions of and action taken by the committee with respect to each such aspect of compensation for 2009.

Salary and Bonus/Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation

An executive's basic annual cash compensation package consists primarily of a base salary and potential payments under the Tenneco Value Added Incentive Compensation Plan, which we call the TAVA Plan. The TAVA Plan provides for annual incentive payments based on objective and subjective determinations regarding corporate performance. These elements of compensation are customary within our industry.

For 2008 we established salary levels for our executives that were designed to be, in general, in the 50th percentile range when compared to the salaries set by the peer companies in the compensation surveys we reviewed. In December 2008, the committee reviewed those base salaries in light of the unprecedented downturn in the automotive industry at the time and determined, with management's support, to give no salary increases to our executives for 2009. In March 2009, management recommended and the company implemented a reduction in the base salaries of our executives (and most other salaried employees) to help the company weather the economic crisis. The reduction applied to salaries from April 1, 2009 through September 30, 2009. The reduction for most salaried employees was 10%. The following table shows the base salary for each named executive officer as of December 31, 2009 and the percentage reduction taken by the executive during the reduced salary period:

| Named Executive Officer | 2009 Base Salary | Percentage Reduction During Reduction Period |
|--------------------------------|-------------------------|---|
| Gregg M. Sherrill | \$ 950,000 | 20% |
| Hari N. Nair | 625,000 | 15% |
| Kenneth R. Trammell | 500,000 | 15% |
| Neal A. Yanos | 426,937 | 15% |
| Timothy E. Jackson | 393,300 | 15% |

In late 2009, the committee considered whether to provide any base salary increases to our named executive officers for 2010 and, in light of ongoing difficult market conditions and the market data described above, determined to continue salaries at the 2008 level.

The TAVA Plan target payment levels established for our executives for 2009 were also designed to be, in general, in the 50th percentile range when compared to target levels for similar payments set by the companies in the compensation surveys reviewed as described above. Like executives at peer companies, under the TAVA Plan our

executives had the potential to earn payouts above or below the targeted 50th percentile based on our actual corporate performance.

The current annual performance goal for the TAVA Plan was developed, initially, by Stern Stewart & Co., an independent consulting firm with expertise in EVA[®] based incentive programs (EVA[®] is defined as net operating profit after taxes minus the annual cost of capital and is a registered trademark of Stern Stewart & Co.). The firm developed the goal as part of a multi-year recommendation to the committee made in early 2006. The firm's recommended performance goals were reviewed by the committee. The

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committee approved the goals with any changes the committee determined appropriate. At the conclusion of each year, the committee approves incentive award payments to executives based on the degree of achievement of the goals established for that year and on judgments of performance. We base 75% of an individual's award on a formula tied to our corporate achievement of pre-established EVA objectives. However, the TAVA Plan also provides the committee the discretion to adjust this portion of the award based on other factors that the committee considers relevant, including judgment regarding whether the achievement of the EVA objective reflects the overall performance of the company. We base 25% of an individual's award on the committee's discretionary determination of our corporate performance and other relevant factors.

We use EVA as the performance metric for the TAVA Plan because we believe that strong EVA performance is correlated with stockholder returns and that making business and investment decisions based on EVA balances cash-oriented and earnings-oriented results.

While historically there has been no explicit maximum payout under the TAVA Plan, the payouts have ranged from zero to less than two times target bonus based upon the actual EVA growth in relation to the targeted improvement. In early 2010, the committee determined it would be prudent to cap each participant's payout under the TAVA Plan at two times his or her target, except as the committee otherwise determines, and amended the TAVA Plan accordingly.

For 2009, an EVA improvement of \$13 million over EVA for 2008 would have resulted in an executive being eligible to receive an EVA-based bonus equal to 100% of the target bonus amount. For 2009, EVA would have needed to improve \$37 million over EVA for 2008 for an executive to have been eligible to receive an EVA-based bonus equal to two times the target bonus amount. In determining EVA improvement for 2009, the beneficial financial impact of the temporary salary reductions and suspension of ESOP/401(k) company matches was excluded from the calculation.

For 2009, cash awards under the TAVA Plan for both the EVA and discretionary portions of the award were declared at 50% of the aggregate target amount for each executive. Our EVA performance for 2009 would have resulted in payments of the EVA-based portion of executives' TAVA Plan awards at the 96% of target level. In determining to declare bonuses at 50% of target, the committee considered in particular:

The difficult industry environment the company operated in throughout 2009, including a significant decline in automobile production levels in North America and Europe, and the bankruptcy of two original equipment customers in North America;

The fact that the company required amendments to its debt covenants during 2009;

The strong leadership and teamwork exhibited during 2009 in the difficult operating environment, including the successful implementation of aggressive actions to reduce costs and preserve cash; and

The fact that, despite these efforts, the company was not profitable in 2009.

The committee believes the declared bonus of 50% balances the overall negative operating environment and the company's efforts to respond to that environment in 2009. The declared bonus was consistent with management's recommendation.

Long-Term and Stock-Based Incentives

Our long-term and stock-based incentive plans have been designed to align a significant portion of executive compensation with stockholder interests. The current plan—the 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan—permits a variety of awards including stock options, restricted stock, stock equivalent units and performance units.

These awards are based on an analysis of competitive levels of similar awards. As an individual's level of responsibility increases, a greater portion of variable performance-related compensation will be in the form of long-term and stock-based awards.

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The committee has implemented a long-term and stock-based compensation program for our executives that is comprised of (1) stock options which generally vest in 1/3 increments over three years, (2) awards of restricted stock which generally vest in 1/3 increments over three years, and (3) cash-settled long-term performance units (LTPUs) which are payable based on the level of total stockholder return. Each year, the committee reviews previously granted long-term and stock based awards for our executives, typically at its meeting held in January.

LTPUs are denominated in units and are payable based on the level of total stockholder return (stock price appreciation adjusted for any dividends) during the performance period. The total stockholder return is applied against a multiplier that determines the percentage of the awarded units that is earned based on that level of total stockholder return. The value of a unit is equal to the company's average closing stock price during a ten-day period after the announcement of the company's earnings for the last year of the performance period. The LTPUs, in general, are payable at the end of a three-year performance cycle. For 2007 and 2008, the committee granted special LTPUs covering only a one-year period as part of the phase in to the new program.

Historically, we have granted awards of the type described above to our executives that are designed, in general, to place our executives at approximately the 50th percentile range when compared to the value of similar awards granted by peer companies to their executives, based on the committee's assumptions regarding future corporate performance, interest rates and other factors. Our executives have the opportunity for the value actually realized from these awards to be above or below the 50th percentile based on our actual corporate performance.

In January 2009, the committee granted stock option and restricted stock awards to our executives as described in the accompanying tables. The limited number of shares remaining available under our 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan, combined with the significant decline in our stock price due to the unprecedented market conditions (a result of which would have required significantly more shares to be granted to deliver targeted value), reduced the value of these awards. Accordingly, based on the committee's assumptions regarding future corporate performance, interest rates and other factors, the 2009 awards placed our executives at significantly less than the 50th percentile range we have historically targeted. In January 2009, the committee also considered whether to award further LTPUs. Because of the uncertainties surrounding market conditions and our company's anticipated performance, the committee did not grant any LTPU awards in 2009.

For the LTPUs granted for the 2007 to 2009 performance period, the committee's target level of stockholder return was a 10% annualized rate of return. No cash payout was made under the 2007-2009 LTPUs, as our total stockholder return for the period was negative.

For 2010, we are revising our cash-settled long-term performance unit program. Awards under the revised program will continue to cover three-year performance periods. Payments will be based 50% on our relative total stockholder return compared to the total stockholder return of the companies in the S&P 500, 30% based on our EBITDA and 20% based on our free cash flow.

Allocation Among Forms of Compensation

In general, we allocate between currently paid compensation and long-term compensation (excluding retirement benefits), and between cash compensation and compensation which results in the issuance of shares, based on the benchmarking data analyzed as described above. We believe it is customary to have annual and long-term performance awards payable in cash, as well as awards such as stock options and restricted stock that result in the issuance of shares. Our practice of granting these types of awards also enables us to be conservative in the use of shares under our 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan.

Actual Versus Targeted Compensation Levels

We generally target executive pay to be near the median target pay for similarly situated executives at comparable companies. However, we expect that, in 2009, our executives' salaries, TAVA Plan payouts

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and the grant date fair value of equity based awards granted in 2009, after giving effect to the absence of payouts under the 2007-2009 LTPUs, will be below the market median of actual compensation received by executives at the companies in the compensation surveys reviewed by the committee.

Employment Agreements

In January 2007, Gregg M. Sherrill joined us as our CEO. We entered into an employment agreement with him that is described under Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table Employment Agreements. Employment agreements are customary for chief executive officers and necessary to attract the highest quality candidates. In January 2007, we paid Mr. Sherrill a bonus of \$1,325,000 and granted him 125,000 shares of restricted stock that vest in three equal installments, subject to his continued employment, in order to compensate him for the income he was foregoing from his former employer by accepting our offer. These types of signing inducements are customary for chief executive officers.

In general, we do not have employment agreements with our other executive officers. However, for historical reasons there are a few exceptions. In late 1999, we emerged as an independent, stand-alone public company focused solely on our automotive operations. The separation transactions caused substantial changes in our management, as the senior management of the automotive operations became the executive officers of our company and the previous executive officers resigned. In addition, the separation transactions left us with a highly leveraged balance sheet in an extremely competitive industry that historically has faced cycles of exceptionally difficult operating conditions.

In the face of these challenges, we recognized the importance of ensuring the continuation of top-notch managerial talent and the risk our executives were taking in light of our balance sheet and the cyclicity of the automotive industry. As a result, at that time, we entered into employment agreements with our then top eight executive officers. In addition to our recognition of the importance of these agreements as a recruiting and retention tool, they were consistent with the types of employment agreements historically offered by the consolidated Tenneco Inc. and were viewed as customary. Since then, six of these officers have left our employ and, in most cases, other managers have been promoted into positions vacated by them or we have otherwise appointed new executives. Other than with respect to our CEO who was hired in January 2007, we have not, however, extended these type of employment agreements to these employees. For 2009, we had two executives, Mr. Nair and Mr. Jackson, with employment agreements that established various terms and conditions of their employment as described under Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table Employment Agreements. Both of these agreements were entered into in connection with the series of transactions in 1999 that resulted in the separation of Tenneco Inc.'s automotive, packaging and administrative services businesses.

Retirement Plans

For those executives hired before April 1, 2005, we offered defined benefit retirement plans that we believed were customary for the automotive industry and were consistent with similar plans maintained by the consolidated Tenneco Inc. prior to our becoming a stand-alone public company in 1999. These plans included a customary tax-qualified retirement plan that was generally available to all U.S.-based salaried employees and provided benefits as described under Post Employment Compensation. In addition, we maintained a supplemental executive retirement plan, which we call the SERP, that provided benefits as described under Post Employment Compensation Tenneco Supplemental Retirement Plan.

We also offer to our executives and other U.S.-based salaried employees customary, tax-qualified defined contribution retirement (ESOP/401(k)) plans that provide benefits as described under Summary Compensation Table. For 2008, we provided a 50% company match on an executive's contributions (up to 8% of salary), which we established to be in line with prevailing practices for major U.S. corporations. In light of the global economic crisis and the company's

desire to reduce cost and conserve cash, we

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suspended the company match on employee contributions for 2009, but have reinstated it for 2010. In addition to this matching contribution, we also provide a company contribution equal to 2% of salary for persons hired on or after April 1, 2005. We established this company contribution when we closed our defined benefit retirement plans to new participants in 2005. We decided to do this because, in general, companies in our industry have been eliminating traditional defined benefit retirement plans from compensation packages being offered to new employees.

At the time of the 1999 separation transactions, five employees were considered to be of key importance to our successful transition to being a stand-alone company and were granted participation in a key executive pension plan, which we call the KEPP. The KEPP provided benefits as described under Post Employment Compensation Tenneco Supplemental Pension Plan. We modeled the KEPP after the key executive pension plan maintained by the former consolidated Tenneco Inc. prior to the separation transactions.

In August 2006, we froze, effective December 31, 2006, our defined benefit retirement plans for certain employees and replaced them with additional benefits under defined contribution retirement plans. Prior earned benefits under the defined benefit retirement plans were, however, preserved. With the exception of certain officers who had employment contracts providing for specified benefits (all of whom voluntarily accepted a benefits reduction as described below), this freeze impacted all U.S.-based salaried employees (including executives) and non-union hourly employees who participated in any of the plans.

To address the loss of future benefits associated with the freeze, we amended our existing qualified defined contribution retirement plans, effective January 1, 2007, to provide for additional annual company contributions in amounts that increase with the employee's age. These additional contributions, which we refer to as DB Replacement Contributions, are payable for each employee who ceased to accrue benefits or whose benefits were otherwise modified under any defined benefit retirement plan in connection with the freeze. In addition, effective January 1, 2007 we implemented an unfunded non-qualified defined contribution retirement plan. In general, our executives and other senior managers are eligible to participate in this new plan, with allocations under the plan calculated the same as under the applicable existing defined contribution retirement plan (as amended), except that (i) the compensation limit in Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code is disregarded and awards under the TAVA Plan or any successor plan are included in calculating compensation, and (ii) there is an offset for the DB Replacement Contributions.

Under the terms of his employment agreement, our CEO is entitled to 150% of the standard age-graded benefit under the non-qualified defined contribution retirement plan. In addition, in December 2007, the committee granted our Chief Financial Officer an enhanced benefit equal to 200% of the standard age-graded benefit under the non-qualified defined contribution retirement plan. The committee granted these enhanced benefits based on competitive data provided by our compensation consultant.

We decided to freeze our defined benefit retirement plans consistent with an industry trend towards eliminating traditional defined benefits. We decided to offer additional defined contribution retirement benefits to remain competitive in the overall employment marketplace. Specifically, the committee reviewed information presented by Buck Consultants, a pension actuarial firm, regarding the industry trends in retirement compensation, the cost savings to our company of a revised retirement compensation structure and the degree of benefit replacement to be achieved through new defined contribution retirement plans.

Two of our executives Hari N. Nair and Timothy E. Jackson had employment agreements that provided for their participation in the SERP and/or KEPP. As a result, we did not freeze the KEPP and SERP for these officers. Instead, each such executive voluntarily agreed to a reduction in his retirement benefit payable under those plans and to an offset to benefits payable under those plans for DB Replacement Contributions received under the existing or new defined contribution plans. The benefits reduction increases to a maximum of 5% of the benefit that would have

otherwise been paid, depending on the officer's age at retirement.

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Perquisites

In keeping with the competitive practice of providing perquisites, each of our executives received an allowance in 2009 in lieu of perquisites such as tax preparation, financial planning advice, company-owned vehicles and other benefits typical in the industry. This is designed to control our costs and to give flexibility to management. Each executive may spend his perquisite allowance on those items he deems appropriate.

Severance Benefits

We maintain a Severance Benefit Plan that applies to all salaried, full-time employees with at least one month of service who are terminated by us in connection with a reduction in force or similar layoff. The benefits payable under this plan are described under **Other Potential Post-Employment Compensation** **Other Severance Benefits**. This plan was originally adopted in the 1990s based on prevailing practices at other major U.S. corporations and, after several amendments, we continue to believe it reflects these prevailing practices.

Except for our CEO, if any of our executives with an employment agreement (Messrs. Nair and Jackson) is terminated by us other than in connection with a change in control or for death, disability or cause, he will be paid two times the total of his then current salary and bonus for the immediately preceding year, all outstanding stock-based awards will be vested, subject to approval by our board of directors, his stock options will remain exercisable for at least 90 days and he will receive one year of post-termination health and welfare benefits. We established these severance benefits at the time of the 1999 separation transaction based on the severance offered by the former consolidated Tenneco Inc.

Under his employment agreement, we have agreed to pay our CEO two times his then current salary if we terminate his employment other than for disability, cause or in connection with a change in control. We view these benefits as customary and a key element of the recruiting and retention of executives in light of company and industry specific factors. See **Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table** **Employment Agreements**.

Change in Control Plan

We maintain a Change in Control Severance Benefit Plan for Key Executives to enable us to retain and motivate highly qualified employees by eliminating, to the maximum practicable extent, any concern that their job security or benefit entitlements will be jeopardized by a change in control of our company. Benefits are payable under the plan as described in **Other Potential Post-Employment Compensation** **Change in Control Severance Benefit Plan for Key Executives**.

We adopted a version of the plan in connection with the 1999 separation transactions based substantially on the change in control benefits offered by the former consolidated Tenneco Inc. We viewed these benefits as a key element of the recruiting and retention of executives and other senior management at the time in light of company and industry specific factors. For executives with employment agreements, other than our CEO, the terms of this plan as to entitlement to cash payments and the vesting of awards continue to apply.

In 2007, the committee reevaluated our plan in light of current market conditions and practices. While the committee continued to believe that a change in control program was necessary to keep executive decision-making objective and neutral to potential job loss, for executive retention during a transaction and to provide and maintain a competitive total compensation package, the committee determined that changes should be made to the plan so that the plan did not exceed current median market practices. The principal differences between the amended and restated change in control plan adopted in 2007 and our prior change in control plan are (i) it applies to far fewer individuals (currently applies to seven top executives, as compared to 55 under the prior plan), (ii) it redefines what constitutes a change in

control (more limited in scope), (iii) it no longer provides that awards under the plan or any similar benefit plan or compensation arrangement or program will be treated as exercisable, earned at target and vested

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immediately upon the happening of a change in control and (iv) it removes the provision previously allowing certain executives voluntarily separating from the company following a change in control to be paid benefits under the plan.

Equity Award Policy

Our board of directors has adopted a formal policy regarding compensatory awards in the form of our common stock or any common stock derivative, such as options, stock appreciation rights and stock equivalent units. Under the policy, in general, equity awards must be approved by the committee or the full board of directors. Typically, the committee will make annual awards that it determines to be appropriate at its meeting held in January. The committee also has the authority to make interim awards in its discretion. The strike price of any option or stock appreciation right must be the fair market value of a share of our common stock on the date of grant as determined under the 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan (which is the average of the highest and lowest sales price of a share of our common stock on the date of grant).

Our policy also permits a committee of management to make awards in certain cases. The management committee consists of our CEO, General Counsel and Vice President of Global Human Resources (or their respective designees). The management committee has the authority to make equity awards to (i) newly hired employees and (ii) employees who are promoted during the course of a year. The awards can be made only in amounts necessary to provide the employee with awards consistent with the amount of awards most recently made to employees of the same salary grade level, pro-rated based on when the employee was hired or promoted. The awards are pro-rated to and take effect on the first day of the calendar quarter beginning after the employee's hire or promotion date, as applicable, and any strike price for an option or stock appreciation right will be the fair market value of a share of our common stock on that date. The total number of shares that the management committee can issue under this board of directors policy is 100,000. The management committee is not authorized to make awards to new or promoted employees whom we would typically consider to be at the most senior management or executive officer level.

Stock Ownership Guidelines

We maintain stock ownership guidelines that apply to all of our directors and our senior officers. The individual guidelines are:

125,000 shares for the Chairman/Chief Executive Officer (equal to approximately 5x annual base salary as of July 2007);

4,000 shares for the Non-Management Members of Board of Directors (equal to approximately 3x annual retainer fee as of July 2007);

35,000 shares for the Executive Vice Presidents (equal to approximately 3x annual base salary as of July 2007); and

30,000 shares for the Senior Vice Presidents (equal to approximately 3x annual base salary as of July 2007).

The committee may, from time to time, temporarily suspend or reevaluate and revise participants' guidelines to give effect to changes in our common stock price or other factors the committee deems relevant. Shares that count towards satisfaction of the guidelines include: (i) shares owned outright by the participant or an immediate family member that shares the same household; (ii) shares held in our defined contribution plans; (iii) restricted stock issued by us, whether or not vested; (iv) shares underlying vested options granted by us; and (v) shares or share equivalent units underlying deferred compensation of executives or deferred fees paid to directors.

Participants are required to achieve their guideline within five years of becoming subject to the guidelines. The committee has the authority to review each participant's compliance (or progress towards compliance) with the guidelines from time to time. In its discretion, the committee may impose conditions,

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restrictions or limitations on any non-compliant participant as the committee determines to be necessary or appropriate.

Impact of Regulatory Requirements on Compensation

Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code imposes a \$1 million limit on the amount that a publicly-traded corporation may deduct for compensation paid to the CEO or one of the company's other three most highly compensated executives who is employed on the last day of the year. Non-discretionary performance-based compensation, as defined under Internal Revenue Service rules and regulations, is excluded from this \$1 million limitation.

Our compensation programs are structured to support organizational goals and priorities and stockholder interests. The committee has not in the past had, and does not currently have, a policy requiring all compensation to be deductible under Section 162(m). Amounts payable under the TAVA Plan do not qualify for the performance-based compensation exemption under Section 162(m), as the committee retains discretion in making bonus awards. In addition, the TAVA Plan was not submitted to stockholders for approval. Additionally, our restricted stock is not considered performance-based compensation under Section 162(m) because it vests solely on the basis of the individual's continued employment over a defined period of time. The subcommittee makes grants of LTPUs and stock option awards that are generally designed to incorporate the applicable requirements for performance-based compensation under IRS rules and regulations. However, we seek to preserve the tax deductibility of executive compensation only to the extent practicable and consistent with our overall compensation philosophies.

We do not make compensation determinations based on the accounting treatment of any particular type of award.

Table of Contents**Summary Compensation Table**

The following table shows the compensation that we paid, for 2009, to: (1) our Chief Executive Officer; (2) our Chief Financial Officer; and (3) each of our next three most highly compensated executive officers who were serving at the end of 2009 based on total compensation less the increase in actuarial value of defined benefits and any above market or preferential earnings on non tax-qualified deferred compensation. We refer to these individuals collectively as the Named Executives. The table shows amounts paid to the Named Executives for all services provided to our company and its subsidiaries.

Summary Compensation Table

| Principal Position | Year | Salary (\$) | Bonus(1) (\$) | Stock Awards(2) (\$) | Option Awards(2) (\$) | Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation (\$) | Change | All Other Compensation(4) (\$) |
|--|------|----------------|------------------|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | | | | | | | in Pension Value(3) (\$) | |
| Sherrill and CEO | 2009 | 885,000 | 118,750 | 219,417 | 277,490 | 356,250 | | 164,442 |
| | 2008 | 950,000 | | 2,604,253 | 963,600 | | | 316,815 |
| | 2007 | 841,856 | 1,587,500 | 6,165,795 | 989,000 | 787,500 | | 336,611 |
| L. Trammell Vice President and | 2009 | 462,500 | 43,750 | 47,263 | 64,751 | 131,250 | 31,833 | 91,333 |
| | 2008 | 500,000 | | 802,299 | 224,840 | | 29,858 | 165,911 |
| R. Trammell Vice President and International | 2007 | 408,825 | 81,900 | 852,327 | 237,360 | 245,700 | 40,275 | 107,209 |
| | 2009 | 578,125 | 58,594 | 84,396 | 80,930 | 175,781 | 126,681 | 66,644 |
| | 2008 | 625,000 | | 1,169,555 | 281,050 | | 202,579 | 117,003 |
| J. Trammell Vice President, North | 2007 | 466,720 | 81,900 | 852,327 | 237,360 | 245,700 | 167,638 | 115,597 |
| | 2009 | 394,917 | 34,689 | 37,133 | 50,879 | 104,065 | 39,840 | 60,012 |
| | 2008 | 404,297 | | 524,790 | 148,555 | | 37,380 | 101,845 |
| D. Jackson Vice President and Technology Officer | 2007 | 375,000 | 66,900 | 563,131 | 158,240 | 200,700 | 33,922 | 79,871 |
| | 2009 | 363,802 | 29,498 | 25,313 | 34,688 | 88,492 | 368,523 | 57,648 |
| | 2008 | 393,300 | | 456,982 | 120,450 | | 224,007 | 84,009 |
| | 2007 | 372,713 | 63,800 | 543,130 | 157,181 | 191,399 | 416,468 | 490,946 |

(1) The amounts under the column entitled "Bonus" in the table above are comprised of the discretionary portion of the Named Executive's bonus under our TAVA Plan. See "Compensation Discussion and Analysis - Design and Elements of Compensation - Salary and Bonus/Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation." The bonus amount for Mr. Sherrill for 2007 includes \$1,325,000 paid to him upon his joining our Company.

(2) The stock award totals for a year reflect the grant date fair value of all restricted stock and long term performance units (2007 and 2008 awards) awarded during such year. The stock amount for Mr. Sherrill for 2007 includes 125,000 shares of restricted stock granted to him upon his joining our Company. See note 8 to our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2007 for a description of how the 2007 data was computed,

note 9 of our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2008 for a description of how the 2008 data was computed and note 8 of our consolidated financial statements for the year ended December 31, 2009 for a description of how the 2009 data was computed.

- (3) As described below under Post-Employment Compensation, we traditionally maintained defined benefit and supplemental pension plans for our senior management (although future benefit accruals were frozen for most employees as of December 31, 2006 as described below under Post-Employment Compensation 2006 Changes in Defined Benefits). Due to a change in measurement date, the change in value for 2007 reflects the change from September 30, 2006 to December 31, 2007. The change in value for 2008 and 2009 reflects the change from December 31, 2007 to December 31, 2008 and from December 31, 2008 to December 31, 2009, respectively.
- (4) The amounts under the column entitled All Other Compensation in the table above for 2009 are comprised of the following:

| Name | Perquisites and Other Personal Benefits(a) | Registrant Contributions to Defined Contribution Plans(b) |
|--------------|---|--|
| Mr. Sherrill | \$ 50,383 | \$ 114,059 |
| Mr. Trammell | 30,383 | 60,950 |
| Mr. Nair | 30,381 | 36,263 |
| Mr. Yanos | 30,385 | 29,627 |
| Mr. Jackson | 30,000 | 27,648 |

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- (a) Perquisites and other personal benefits include: (a) for Mr. Sherrill, perquisite allowance (\$50,000) and gifts; (b) for Mr. Trammell, perquisite allowance (\$30,000) and gifts; (c) for Mr. Nair, perquisite allowance (\$30,000) and gifts; (d) for Mr. Yanos, perquisite allowance (\$30,000) and gifts; and (e) for Mr. Jackson, perquisite allowance (\$30,000). The amount of the perquisite allowances and personal benefits reflected in the table equals actual cash expenditures made by our company.
- (b) For 2009, we offered retirement benefits to our senior management through a 401(k) savings plan entitled the Tenneco Employee Stock Ownership Plan for Salaried Employees. Under the plan, subject to limitations in the Internal Revenue Code, participants may elect to defer up to 75% of their salary through contributions to the plan, which are invested in selected mutual funds or used to buy our common stock. Typically, we match in cash 50% of each employee's contribution up to eight percent of the employee's salary. We froze those matching contributions for 2009 but have reinstated them for 2010. In addition, as described below under Post-Employment Compensation 2006 Changes in Defined Benefits, we implemented additional company contributions and a new excess defined contribution plan in connection with the December 31, 2006 freezing of our defined benefit plans. All matching contributions vest immediately. Additional company contributions vest upon the executive's third anniversary with Tenneco.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards During 2009

The following table shows certain information regarding grants of plan-based awards we made to the Named Executives during 2009.

Grants of Plan-Based Awards During 2009

| Name | Grant date | Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards(1) Target (\$) | All Other | All Other | Exercise or Base Price of Option Awards (\$/Sh) | Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards |
|--------------|------------|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | | Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units(2) (#) | Option Awards: Number of Securities Underlying Options(2) (#) | | |
| Mr. Sherrill | 1/22/2009 | \$ 712,500 | 110,260 | 220,230 | \$ 1.99 | \$ 219,417 |
| | 1/22/2009 | | | | | |
| | 1/22/2009 | | | | | |
| Mr. Trammell | 1/22/2009 | 262,500 | 23,750 | 51,390 | 1.99 | 47,263 |
| | 1/22/2009 | | | | | |
| | 1/22/2009 | | | | | |
| Mr. Nair | 1/22/2009 | 351,563 | 42,410 | 64,230 | 1.99 | 80,930 |
| | 1/22/2009 | | | | | |
| | 1/22/2009 | | | | | |
| Mr. Yanos | 1/22/2009 | 208,132 | | | | |

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| | | | | | | |
|-------------|-----------|---------|--------|--------|------|--------|
| | 1/22/2009 | | 18,660 | | | 37,133 |
| | 1/22/2009 | | | 40,380 | 1.99 | 50,879 |
| Mr. Jackson | 1/22/2009 | 176,985 | | | | |
| | 1/22/2009 | | 12,720 | | | 25,313 |
| | 1/22/2009 | | | 27,530 | 1.99 | 34,688 |

(1) Represents targeted incentive payouts that are paid based on our corporate performance against Economic Value Added (EVA) goals under the Tenneco Value Added Incentive Plan as described below under Bonus and Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards. There is no threshold or maximum payout for 2009.

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- (2) Represents awards of restricted stock and stock options under our 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan. One-third of the options and restricted stock vest on each of the first three anniversaries of the grant date.

Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table***Bonus and Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards***

Amounts reflected in the Summary Compensation Table under the column entitled *Bonus and Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation* are payments under the Tenneco Value Added Incentive Plan (*TAVA Plan*). The annual performance goal for the TAVA Plan was developed, initially, by Stern Stewart & Co., an independent consulting firm with expertise in EVA[®]-based incentive programs. The firm's recommended performance goals are reviewed by the committee. The committee approves the goals with any changes the committee determines appropriate. At the conclusion of each year, the committee approves incentive award payments to executives based on the degree of achievement of the goals established for that year and on judgments of performance. We base 75% of an individual's award on a formula tied to our corporate achievement of pre-established EVA objectives. We use EVA as the performance metric for the TAVA Plan because we believe that strong EVA performance is correlated with stockholder returns and that making business and investment decisions based on EVA balances cash-oriented and earnings-oriented results. However, the TAVA Plan also provides the committee the discretion to adjust this portion of the award based on other factors that the committee considers relevant, including judgment regarding whether the achievement of the EVA objective reflects the overall performance of the company. We base 25% of an individual's award on the committee's discretionary determination of our corporate performance and other relevant factors. EVA[®] is after-tax operating profit minus the annual cost of capital and is a registered trademark of Stern Stewart & Co. In general, a participant is entitled to a pro rata bonus if his or her employment is terminated due to death, disability or retirement.

See *Compensation Discussion and Analysis* for a discussion of specific determinations under the TAVA Plan for 2009.

In addition to the TAVA Plan payout for 2009 performance, a payment of \$10,933 for Mr. Trammell, \$15,728 for Mr. Nair, \$9,022 for Mr. Yanos and \$9,276 for Mr. Jackson was paid in early 2010 in respect of amounts held in the individual's bonus bank. After giving effect to those payments, \$21,986, \$31,457, \$18,043 and \$18,552 remained credited to the bonus bank of Messrs. Trammell, Nair, Yanos and Jackson, respectively.

Stock Awards

Amounts reflected in the Summary Compensation Table under the column entitled *Stock Awards* represent awards of restricted common stock and long term performance units (2007 and 2008 awards) granted to each Named Executive under our 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan. See *Grants of Plan Based Awards During 2009*.

Our restricted stock awards vest one-third per year during the three years after the grant date, subject to the officer's continued employment. Subject to the terms of any employment agreement, the unvested portion of these awards is generally forfeited by a participant if his or her employment is terminated other than due to death, disability or retirement. All restrictions lapse upon death, disability or retirement.

Our cash-settled long term performance units (*LTPUs*) are payable based on the level of total stockholder return (stock price appreciation adjusted for any dividends) during the performance period. The total stockholder return is applied against a multiplier that determines the percentage of the awarded units that is earned based on that level of total stockholder return. The value of a unit is equal to the company's average stock price during a ten-day period after

the announcement of the company's earnings for the last year of the performance period. The LTPUs, in general, are payable at the end of a three-year performance cycle. For 2007 and 2008, the committee granted special LTPUs covering only a one-year period as part of the phase in to the LTPU program from our prior program. No LTPUs were granted for

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2009 due to market uncertainty. Subject to the terms of any employment agreement, units evidenced by this award are generally forfeited by a participant if his or her employment is terminated other than due to death, disability or retirement, unless the committee determines otherwise. In the event of termination due to death, disability or retirement, all units initially awarded are deemed 100% earned and paid out in cash at our prevailing stock price at the time.

Option Awards

Amounts reflected in the Summary Compensation Table under the column entitled *Option Awards* represent awards of nonqualified options to purchase common stock granted to each Named Executive under our 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan. See *Grants of Plan Based Awards During 2009*. The awards vest one-third per year during the three years after the grant date, subject to the officer's continued employment, and have a seven-year term. Subject to the terms of any employment agreement, the unexercised portion of these awards is generally forfeited by a participant on the date his or her employment is terminated other than due to death, disability or retirement. In the event of death, disability or retirement, the options become fully exercisable and remain exercisable for a period specified in the applicable award agreement.

Employment Agreements

In January 2007, we entered into an agreement with Mr. Sherrill that sets forth certain terms and conditions of his employment with our company. The agreement provides that, under our Change in Control Severance Benefit Plan for Key Executives, Mr. Sherrill's cash payment in connection with a change in control termination will equal three times the total of his then current base salary plus his highest target bonus. See *Post-Employment Compensation* *Other Potential Post-Employment Compensation* for a discussion of the other benefits afforded under the Change in Control Severance Benefit Plan for Key Executives. The agreement also provides that, other than in connection with a change in control, if Mr. Sherrill's employment is terminated by us other than for disability or cause, he will be paid two times his then current annual salary. The employment agreement also provides for participation in an excess non-qualified defined contribution plan which, prior to offset for amounts contributed under the qualified plan, is equal to 150% of the standard age-graded benefit under the plan and for participation in other benefit plans we offer our employees generally.

Mr. Nair and Mr. Jackson are party to agreements with us that set forth certain terms and conditions of their employment with our company. Each of the employment agreements provides that, under our Change in Control Severance Benefit Plan for Key Executives, the relevant Named Executive's cash payment in connection with a change in control termination would equal three times the total of his then current base salary plus the higher of (i) his highest annual target bonus over the prior three years and (ii) his average bonuses for the prior three years. Each of the employment agreements also provides that, other than in connection with a change in control, if the relevant Named Executive's employment is terminated by us other than for death, disability or nonperformance of duties, he will be paid two times the total of his then current salary and bonus for the immediately preceding year, all outstanding stock-based awards would be vested, subject to Board approval, his stock options would remain exercisable for at least 90 days and he would receive one year of post-termination health and welfare benefits. Pursuant to the terms of their employment agreements, Messrs. Nair and Jackson are guaranteed a minimum annual base salary/minimum annual target bonus as follows: Mr. Nair, \$414,000/\$273,000 and Mr. Jackson, \$327,600/\$161,000. The employment agreements also provide for participation in benefit plans we offer to our employees generally, as well as continued participation in supplemental retirement benefit plans as described under *Post-Employment Compensation*.

Table of Contents**Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2009**

The following table shows certain information regarding the outstanding equity awards held by the Named Executives at the end of 2009.

Outstanding Equity Awards at December 31, 2009

| Name | Option Awards | | | | Stock Awards | |
|--------------|---|--|----------------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options Exercisable (#) | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable(1) | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) (1) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) |
| Mr. Sherrill | 66,667 | 33,333 | 26.70 | 1/16/2014 | | |
| | 40,000 | 80,000 | 23.75 | 1/15/2015 | | |
| | | 220,230 | 1.99 | 1/22/2016 | | |
| | | | | | 41,667 | 738,756 |
| | | | | | 18,333 | 325,044 |
| | | | | | 43,333 | 768,294 |
| | | | | | 110,260 | 1,954,910 |
| Mr. Trammell | 15,000 | | 3.66 | 1/9/2011 | | |
| | 30,000 | | 1.57 | 12/5/2011 | | |
| | 15,000 | | 3.77 | 1/21/2013 | | |
| | 3,750 | | 6.45 | 10/1/2013 | | |
| | 15,000 | | 8.68 | 1/20/2014 | | |
| | 15,000 | | 16.00 | 1/17/2012 | | |
| | 15,000 | | 21.19 | 1/16/2013 | | |
| | 16,000 | 8,000 | 26.70 | 1/16/2014 | | |
| | 9,333 | 18,667 | 23.75 | 1/15/2015 | | |
| | 51,390 | 1.99 | 1/22/2016 | | | |
| | | | | | 4,000 | 70,920 |
| | | | | | 9,333 | 165,474 |
| | | | | | 23,750 | 421,088 |
| Mr. Nair | 20,000 | | 3.19 | 1/2/2011 | | |
| | 25,000 | | 3.37 | 7/2/2011 | | |
| | 36,667 | | 1.57 | 12/5/2011 | | |
| | 55,000 | | 3.77 | 1/21/2013 | | |
| | 18,000 | | 8.68 | 1/20/2014 | | |
| | 18,000 | | 16.00 | 1/17/2012 | | |
| | | | 21.19 | 1/16/2013 | | |

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|--------|--------|-------|-----------|--------|---------|
| 16,000 | 8,000 | 26.70 | 1/16/2014 | | |
| 11,667 | 23,333 | 23.75 | 1/15/2015 | | |
| | 64,230 | 1.99 | 1/22/2016 | | |
| | | | | 4,000 | 70,920 |
| | | | | 16,667 | 295,506 |
| | | | | 42,410 | 751,929 |

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| Name | Option Awards | | | | Stock Awards | |
|-------------|---|--|----------------------------|------------------------|---|--|
| | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable | Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable(1) | Option Exercise Price (\$) | Option Expiration Date | Number of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (#) (1) | Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$) |
| Mr. Yanos | 2,000 | | 3.66 | 1/9/2011 | | |
| | 15,000 | | 1.57 | 12/5/2011 | | |
| | 25,000 | | 3.77 | 1/21/2013 | | |
| | 2,500 | | 3.74 | 7/1/2013 | | |
| | 12,000 | | 8.68 | 1/20/2014 | | |
| | 12,000 | | 16.00 | 1/17/2012 | | |
| | 10,000 | | 21.19 | 1/16/2013 | | |
| | 10,667 | 5,333 | 26.70 | 1/16/2014 | | |
| | 5,000 | 10,000 | 23.75 | 1/15/2015 | | |
| | 1,166 | 2,334 | 12.30 | 7/15/2015 | | |
| | 40,380 | 1.99 | 1/22/2016 | | | |
| | | | | 2,667 | 47,286 | |
| | | | | 5,000 | 88,650 | |
| | | | | 1,167 | 20,691 | |
| | | | | 18,660 | 330,842 | |
| Mr. Jackson | 30,000 | | 3.77 | 1/21/2013 | | |
| | 12,000 | | 8.68 | 1/20/2014 | | |
| | 12,000 | | 16.00 | 1/17/2012 | | |
| | 5,000 | | 21.19 | 1/16/2013 | | |
| | 5,000 | | 21.60 | 3/17/2013 | | |
| | 10,267 | 5,133 | 26.70 | 1/16/2014 | | |
| | 329 | 164 | 24.08 | 3/6/2014 | | |
| | 5,000 | 10,000 | 23.75 | 1/15/2015 | | |
| | 27,530 | 1.99 | 1/22/2016 | | | |
| | | | | 2,400 | 42,552 | |
| | | | | 220 | 3,901 | |
| | | | | 5,000 | 88,650 | |
| | | | | 12,720 | 225,526 | |

(1) The vesting dates and number of shares vesting for the options and restricted stock reflected above as of December 31, 2009, are as set forth below.

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| Name | Option Vesting Date | Number of Options Vesting | Stock Vesting Date | Number of Shares Vesting |
|--------------|----------------------------|----------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. Sherrill | 1/16/2010 | 33,333 | 1/15/2010 | 41,667 |
| | 1/15/2010 | 40,000 | 1/16/2010 | 18,333 |
| | 1/22/2010 | 73,410 | 1/15/2010 | 21,667 |
| | 1/15/2011 | 40,000 | 1/22/2010 | 36,753 |
| | 1/22/2011 | 73,410 | 1/15/2011 | 21,666 |
| | 1/22/2012 | 73,410 | 1/22/2011 | 36,753 |
| | | | | 1/22/2012 |
| Mr. Trammell | 1/16/2010 | 8,000 | 1/16/2010 | 4,000 |
| | 1/15/2010 | 9,333 | 1/15/2010 | 4,667 |
| | 1/22/2010 | 17,130 | 1/22/2010 | 7,917 |
| | 1/15/2011 | 9,334 | 1/15/2011 | 4,666 |
| | 1/22/2011 | 17,130 | 1/22/2011 | 7,917 |
| | 1/22/2012 | 17,130 | 1/22/2012 | 7,916 |
| Mr. Nair | 1/16/2010 | 8,000 | 1/16/2010 | 4,000 |
| | 1/15/2010 | 11,667 | 1/15/2010 | 8,333 |
| | 1/22/2010 | 21,410 | 1/22/2010 | 14,136 |
| | 1/15/2011 | 11,666 | 1/15/2011 | 8,334 |
| | 1/22/2011 | 21,410 | 1/22/2011 | 14,137 |
| | 1/22/2012 | 21,410 | 1/22/2012 | 14,137 |
| Mr. Yanos | 1/16/2010 | 5,333 | 1/16/2010 | 2,667 |
| | 1/15/2010 | 5,000 | 1/15/2010 | 2,500 |
| | 7/15/2010 | 1,167 | 7/15/2010 | 583 |
| | 1/22/2010 | 13,460 | 1/22/2010 | 6,220 |
| | 1/15/2011 | 5,000 | 1/15/2011 | 2,500 |
| | 7/15/2011 | 1,167 | 7/15/2011 | 584 |
| | 1/22/2011 | 13,460 | 1/22/2011 | 6,220 |
| | 1/22/2012 | 13,460 | 1/22/2012 | 6,220 |
| Mr. Jackson | 1/16/2010 | 5,133 | 1/16/2010 | 2,400 |
| | 3/6/2010 | 164 | 3/6/2010 | 220 |
| | 1/15/2010 | 5,000 | 1/15/2010 | 2,500 |
| | 1/22/2010 | 9,176 | 1/22/2010 | 4,240 |
| | 1/15/2011 | 5,000 | 1/15/2011 | 2,500 |
| | 1/22/2011 | 9,176 | 1/22/2011 | 4,240 |
| | 1/22/2012 | 9,177 | 1/22/2012 | 4,240 |

Table of Contents**Option Exercises and Stock Vested During 2009**

The following table shows certain information regarding options exercised and stock vested during 2009 for the Named Executives.

Option Exercises and Stock Vested During 2009

| Name | Option Awards | | Stock Awards | |
|--------------|---|---------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| | Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#) | Value Realized on Exercise (\$) | Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (1) (#) | Value Realized on Vesting (1) (\$) |
| Mr. Sherrill | | | 81,667 | 186,917 |
| Mr. Trammell | 15,000 | 127,182 | 13,667 | 30,984 |
| Mr. Nair | | | 17,333 | 39,416 |
| Mr. Yanos | | | 9,083 | 25,634 |
| Mr. Jackson | | | 8,118 | 17,754 |

(1) Does not give effect to shares withheld to satisfy tax obligations.

Post-Employment Compensation***Pension Benefits Table***

The following table shows certain information regarding potential benefits as of December 31, 2009 for the Named Executives under each of our defined benefit retirement plans.

Pension Benefits

| Name(1) | Plan name(2) | Number of years credited service (3) (#) | Present value of accumulated benefit (4) (\$) |
|--------------|--------------|--|---|
| Mr. Trammell | Plan 1 | 9.67 | 129,738 |
| | Plan 2 | 9.67 | 399,294 |
| Mr. Nair | Plan 1 | 18.75 | 217,220 |
| | Plan 2 | 21.75 | 1,277,037 |
| Mr. Yanos | Plan 1 | 17.33 | 209,285 |
| | Plan 2 | 17.33 | 454,672 |
| Mr. Jackson | Plan 1 | 6.50 | 128,811 |
| | Plan 2 | 6.50 | 290,160 |

- (1) Mr. Sherrill does not participate in any defined benefit plan sponsored by us.
- (2) Plan 1 represents the Tenneco Retirement Plan for Salaried Employees; Plan 2 represents the Tenneco Supplemental Retirement Plan (which includes, for purposes of these disclosures, its predecessor plan, the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan); and Plan 3 represents the Tenneco Supplemental Pension Plan for Management (which includes, for purposes of these disclosures, its predecessor plan, the Key Employee Pension Plan).
- (3) In all cases, the Named Executive's years of service credited under the plans is less than his actual years of service with Tenneco and its predecessors.
- (4) The present value of accrued benefits were calculated as of December 31, 2009, using the RP-2000 Blended Mortality Table with a 6.20% discount rate, deferred to the unreduced retirement age, with no deferral if the participant's age on the calculation date is greater than the unreduced retirement age. The unreduced retirement age for Plan 1 and Plan 2 is age 62 (normal retirement age is 65) and for Plan 3 is age 55 (also normal retirement age). In all cases, the Named Executive's years of service

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credited under the plans is less than his actual years of service with Tenneco and its predecessors. For Plans 1 and 2, the first year of service is generally excluded as credited service under the plan. For Plan 3, the officer must earn 1,000 hours of service in order to be credited with an additional year of service under the plan.

Tenneco Retirement Plan for Salaried Employees

The benefit under the Tenneco Retirement Plan for Salaried Employees, in which all U.S. salaried employees were eligible to participate until it was frozen as to new participants on April 1, 2005, is based on the participant's years of service, salary and age at retirement. The monthly benefit formula is 55% of the participant's final average base pay multiplied by the years of credited service (up to a maximum of 35 years) and divided by 35 and then by 12. This amount is then reduced by any benefits accrued under the Pactiv Retirement Plan. (In 1999, we spun off our packaging and administrative services operations. The resulting company, now known as Pactiv Corporation, became the sponsor of our then-existing qualified defined benefit plan for salaried employees. We adopted the Tenneco Retirement Plan for Salaried Employees, which is patterned after the Pactiv-sponsored plan.) The final average base pay excludes all bonus payments and is the average pay for the last 60 full months of participation in the plan. Pay is subject to the Internal Revenue Code Section 401(a)(17) pay limits. If the participant retires prior to the age of 62, the benefit is reduced by an early reduction factor.

Benefits paid under this plan are payable as an annuity only. The default form of payment for a single participant is the Single Life Annuity, and for a married participant is a Qualified 50% Joint and Survivor Annuity. Other forms of benefit payments available include the 100% Joint and Survivor Annuity, the 75% Joint and Survivor Annuity, and the Ten Year Certain and Life Annuity.

As described below, we froze this plan effective December 31, 2006 so that no future benefits will be accrued under the plan.

Tenneco Supplemental Retirement Plan

The benefit under the Tenneco Supplemental Retirement Plan (which includes, for purposes of these disclosures, its predecessor plan, the Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan), is based on the participant's years of service, salary and bonus and age at retirement. The purpose of the plan is to include bonuses in determining retirement payments, which cannot be done under the Tenneco Retirement Plan for Salaried Employees and which we believe provided a level of retirement benefit that was common in manufacturing companies. The monthly benefit formula is 55% of the participant's final average compensation multiplied by the years of credited service (up to a maximum of 35 years) and divided by 35 and then by 12. This amount is then reduced by the accrued benefits from the Tenneco Retirement Plan for Salaried Employees and the Pactiv Retirement Plan. The final average compensation for this plan is the sum of the participant's average base pay plus the average bonus pay, where the average is determined as the highest three out of the past five calendar years. If the participant retires prior to the age of 62, the benefit will be reduced by an early reduction factor.

Benefits paid under this plan are payable as a lump sum only. To calculate the lump sum payment amount, the accrued benefit after offsets, as calculated above, is multiplied by a lump sum factor. This factor is determined using the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Tables at an interest rate that is the average of the 30 year Treasury Bond yields for the November preceding the year of distribution.

This plan applied to our approximately top 60 managers. As described below, effective December 31, 2006, this plan was frozen as to substantially all managers so that no future benefits will be accrued under the plan. One executive did not have his benefits frozen. However, he agreed to a voluntary reduction in benefits under this plan as described below under 2006 Changes in Defined Benefits.

Table of Contents***Tenneco Supplemental Pension Plan***

The accrued benefit under the Tenneco Supplemental Pension Plan (which includes, for purposes of these disclosures, its predecessor plan, the Key Employee Pension Plan), is calculated based on the participant's years of vesting service and salary and bonus. This plan was implemented in 1999 in connection with the transactions that resulted in our becoming a stand-alone company. The plan was designed to attract and retain key management as we faced the challenges of being highly leveraged in the automotive industry. The monthly benefit formula is the number of years of vesting service multiplied by 4%, subject to a maximum of 50%, multiplied by one-twelfth of the participant's final average compensation. This amount is then reduced by any accrued benefits from the Tenneco Retirement Plan for Salaried Employees, the Tenneco Supplemental Retirement Plan and the Pactiv Retirement Plan. The final average compensation for this plan is the sum of the participant's base pay and bonus payments received during the last 36 months of participation in the plan. Benefits from this plan are available to the participant upon reaching age 55 without any reduction for early retirement.

Benefits paid under this plan are payable as a lump sum only. To calculate the lump sum payment amount, the accrued benefit after offsets, as calculated above, is multiplied by a lump sum factor. This factor is determined using the 1994 Group Annuity Mortality Tables at an interest rate that is the average of the 30 year Treasury Bond yields for the November preceding the year of distribution.

As described below, we froze our defined benefits plans as to substantially all of our executives at December 31, 2006. Those who were not fully vested in the Supplemental Pension Plan did not have their benefits frozen. However, they agreed to a voluntary reduction in benefits under this plan as described below under 2006 Changes in Defined Benefits.

2006 Changes in Defined Benefits

In August 2006, we froze, effective December 31, 2006, our defined benefit pension plans for certain employees and replaced them with additional benefits under defined contribution plans beginning in 2007. Prior earned benefits under the defined benefit plans were, however, preserved. With the exception of certain executives who had employment contracts providing for specified benefits (all of whom voluntarily accepted a benefits reduction as described below), this freeze impacted all U.S.-based salaried employees (including executive officers) and non-union hourly employees who participated in any of the plans.

To address the loss of benefits associated with the freeze, we amended our existing qualified defined contribution plans, effective January 1, 2007, to provide for additional annual company contributions in amounts that increase with the employee's age. These additional contributions, which we refer to as DB Replacement Contributions, are payable for each employee who ceased to accrue benefits or whose benefits were otherwise modified under any defined benefit plan in connection with the freeze. In addition, effective January 1, 2007 we implemented an unfunded non-qualified defined contribution pension plan as described in Compensation Discussion and Analysis Design and Elements of Compensation Retirement Plans.

Two of our executive officers Mr. Nair and Mr. Jackson had employment agreements that provided for their participation in the Supplemental Retirement Plan (Mr. Nair and Mr. Jackson) and/or Supplemental Pension Plan (Mr. Jackson). As a result, we did not freeze these plans for these executives. Instead, each individual executive voluntarily agreed to a reduction in his retirement benefit payable under those plans and to an offset to benefits payable under those plans for DB Replacement Contributions received under the existing or new defined contribution plans. The benefits reduction increases to a maximum of 5% of the benefit that would have otherwise been paid, depending on the executive's age at retirement.

Table of Contents***Nonqualified Defined Contribution and Other Deferred Compensation Plans Table***

The following table sets forth certain information regarding potential benefits as of the end of 2009 for the Named Executives under our nonqualified defined contribution plans.

Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

| Name | Registrant Contributions in 2009 (\$) | Aggregate Earnings (Loss) in 2009(1) (\$) | Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions(2) (\$) | Aggregate Balance at 12/31/09(3) (\$) |
|--------------|--|--|---|--|
| Mr. Sherrill | \$ 109,059 | \$ 46,816 | \$ | \$ 457,549 |
| Mr. Trammell | 45,950 | 4,740 | 10,993 | 198,785 |
| Mr. Nair | 21,263 | 2,178 | 15,728 | 115,395 |
| Mr. Yanos | 12,648 | 1,311 | 9,022 | 68,986 |
| Mr. Jackson | 12,127 | 1,452 | 9,276 | 73,689 |

- (1) Reflects earnings on contributions under our non-qualified defined contribution plan based on the individual's selected investments.
- (2) The amounts in this column reflect the portion of the bonus bank under the TAVA Plan that was paid during 2009. All of these amounts were earned and reported as part of the applicable executive's bonus bank for periods prior to 2009.
- (3) Includes the following amounts remaining in the Named Executive's bonus bank under the TAVA Plan after giving effect to payments for 2009, all of which were earned and reported as part of the applicable executive's bonus bank in years prior to 2008: Mr. Trammell, \$21,986, Mr. Nair, \$31,457, Mr. Yanos, \$18,043 and Mr. Jackson, \$18,552.

We maintain a non-qualified defined contribution retirement plan. As described above in Compensation Discussion and Analysis Design and Elements of Compensation Retirement Plans, effective January 1, 2007, our executives and other senior managers became eligible to participate in this plan, with allocations under the plan calculated the same as under the applicable existing defined contribution retirement plan (as amended), except that (i) the compensation limit in Section 401(a)(17) of the Internal Revenue Code is disregarded and awards under the TAVA Plan or any successor plan are included in calculating compensation, and (ii) there is an offset for the DB Replacement Contributions.

Other Potential Post-Employment Compensation***Change in Control Severance Benefit Plan for Key Executives***

We maintain a Change in Control Severance Benefit Plan for Key Executives, which was amended and restated effective as of December 2007. The purpose of the plan is to enable us to continue to attract, retain and motivate highly qualified employees by eliminating, to the maximum practicable extent, any concern on the part of such employees that their job security or benefit entitlements will be jeopardized by a change in control of our company.

Under the amended plan, a change in control happens if:

any person or group acquires 20% or more of our then outstanding common stock or the combined voting power of our then outstanding securities having general voting rights subject to limited exceptions,

our incumbent board of directors ceases to constitute a majority of our board of directors,

any merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all the assets in which our stockholders own less than 50% of the new company, or

we are liquidated or dissolved.

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Benefits under the plan are payable to a key employee who is discharged (either actually or constructively) within two years after a change in control. Under the plan, we must pay an eligible executive a lump sum cash payment equal to one, two or three times, depending on his or her grouping under the plan, (i) his or her base salary and (ii) his or her targeted annual bonus in effect immediately prior to the change in control. In addition, we must provide the executive with (i) a pro rata bonus (payable in a lump sum), (ii) one, two or three years (depending on his or her grouping under the plan) of health and welfare benefits continuation, (iii) out placement services and (iv) all deferred compensation (payable in a lump sum). Finally, we are required to provide a tax gross up to employees whose payments under the plan become subject to the tax imposed by Section 4999 of the Internal Revenue Code (gross up payment provisions differ depending on each employee's grouping under the plan). Benefits under this plan are not conditioned on any action by the participant.

For executives with employment agreements, except for our CEO, various terms of the Change in Control Severance Benefit Plan in effect prior to December 2007 continue to apply in terms of entitlement to cash payments and the vesting of awards. Specifically, for such executives (including Mr. Nair and Mr. Jackson), a change in control happens if:

any person or group acquires 15% or more of our voting stock and the acquisition is not approved by our then incumbent board of directors, or any person or group acquires 40% or more of our voting stock, in each case subject to limited exceptions,

our incumbent board of directors ceases to constitute a majority of our directors or any person elects during any 24 months new directors that represent at least 25% of our board of directors without approval of our incumbent board,

any merger, consolidation or sale of all or substantially all the assets of our company if a majority of our incumbent board of directors is not a majority of the board of the surviving or successor company, or

we are liquidated.

These executives are also entitled to a lump sum cash payment equal to three times (i) his base salary plus, (ii) the higher of (a) his average bonus for the prior three years and (b) his targeted annual bonus in effect immediately prior to the change in control. The employment agreements further provide that each of the executive's outstanding awards under the plan or any similar benefit plan or compensation arrangement or program will be treated as exercisable, earned at target and vested immediately upon the happening of a change in control.

See Narrative Disclosure to Summary Compensation Table and Grants of Plan-Based Awards Table Employment Agreements for additional discussion of specific provisions in employment agreements regarding the calculation of benefits under this plan.

Under our 2006 Long-Term Incentive Plan (and its predecessor, the 2002 Long-Term Incentive Plan), upon a Change in Control, all options will immediately vest and remain exercisable for up to 36 months. All restrictions on outstanding restricted stock will lapse and our LTPUs shall be deemed fully earned on the date of the Change in Control and paid based on assumed achievement of targeted performance goals.

Taking into account specific provisions related to the plan contained in employment agreements, we expect that Messrs. Sherrill, Trammell, Nair, Yanos and Mr. Jackson would have become entitled to receive

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payments from us as follows had we experienced a change in control on December 31, 2009 (assuming termination on that date):

| Name | Severance Amount | Bonus Amount | Long Term | Early | Early | Other | Excise | Total(4) |
|--------------|------------------|--------------|----------------|------------------|---------------------|-------------|----------|---------------|
| | | | Performance | Vesting of | Vesting of | | Tax and | |
| | | | Unit Payout(1) | Stock Options(2) | Restricted Stock(2) | Benefits(3) | Gross-Up | |
| Mr. Sherrill | \$ 5,700,000 | \$ 950,000 | \$ 992,880 | \$ 3,466,419 | \$ 3,787,004 | \$ 514,995 | \$ | \$ 15,411,298 |
| Mr. Trammell | 1,700,000 | 350,000 | 418,428 | 808,878 | 657,481 | 81,297 | | 4,016,084 |
| Mr. Nair | 3,281,250 | 468,750 | 468,072 | 1,010,979 | 1,118,355 | 96,564 | | 6,443,970 |
| Mr. Yanos | 1,408,892 | 277,509 | 282,262 | 648,254 | 487,470 | 69,609 | | 3,173,996 |
| Mr. Jackson | 1,887,840 | 235,980 | 258,468 | 433,322 | 360,628 | 69,937 | | 3,246,175 |

- (1) Represents full value of all unpaid long term performance units at their payout levels that would have vested upon a change in control, based on the closing price of a share of our common stock on December 31, 2009 of \$17.73.
- (2) Represents the difference between the option exercise price and the closing price of a share of our common stock on December 31, 2009 for all unvested options and the value of all unvested restricted shares based on that price.
- (3) Represents welfare benefits, outplacement services and any remaining bonus bank under the TAVA Plan. Also represents, for Mr. Sherrill, amounts under our non-qualified defined contribution plan that were not vested as of December 31, 2009.
- (4) The amounts presented are estimated without any allocation of amounts payable to service prior to or after the change in control.

Other Severance Benefits

Under Mr. Sherrill's employment agreement, if he is involuntarily terminated by us other than for disability or cause or in connection with a change in control, he is entitled to receive a lump sum payment equal to two times his annual base salary (which lump sum amount would have been \$1,770,000 as of December 31, 2009). We expect that Mr. Nair and Mr. Jackson would have become entitled to receive payments from us as follows had their positions been terminated by us on December 31, 2009, other than following a change in control and other than for death, disability or nonperformance of duties (assuming our board of directors agreed to vest outstanding equity-based awards upon termination):

| Name | Severance Amount(1) | Long Term Performance Unit Payout(1)(2) | Early Vesting of Stock Options(3) | Early Vesting of Restricted Stock(3) | Health and Welfare Benefits | Total |
|------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|
|------|---------------------|---|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------|

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| | | | | | | |
|-------------|--------------|------------|--------------|--------------|-----------|--------------|
| Mr. Nair | \$ 2,187,500 | \$ 468,072 | \$ 1,010,979 | \$ 1,118,355 | \$ 24,379 | \$ 4,809,285 |
| Mr. Jackson | 1,258,560 | 258,468 | 433,322 | 360,628 | 17,110 | 2,328,088 |

- (1) Payable in a lump sum.
- (2) Represents full value of all unpaid long term performance units at their payout levels, based on the closing price of a share of our common stock on December 31, 2009 of \$17.73.
- (3) Represents the difference between the option exercise price and the closing price of a share of our common stock on December 31, 2009 for all unvested options and the value of all unvested restricted shares based on that price.

In addition, we maintain a Severance Benefit Plan that applies to all salaried, full-time employees with at least one month of service who are terminated by us in connection with a reduction in force or similar layoff. Under this plan, eligible employees receive a severance payment in a lump sum equal to the total of (1) 1.5 weeks of pay for each full or partial year of service, (2) an additional payment from four to 12 weeks of pay based on the employee's age at termination, and (3) an additional payment from one to 14 weeks of pay based on the employee's pay grade at termination, subject to a maximum of 52 weeks of pay. This plan would apply to Mr. Trammell and Mr. Yanos, who we expect would have received \$394,230 and \$426,937,

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respectively, if his employment had been terminated by us on December 31, 2009 in connection with a reduction in force or similar layoff. We require participants to sign a customary release to receive benefits under this plan.

Compensation-Related Risk

We believe that our compensation programs for our named executive officers and other employees incentivize the creation of stockholder value on both an annual and long-term basis. As a result, we believe our programs do not encourage excessive or inappropriate risk-taking and are not reasonably likely to have a material adverse effect on us.

Our annual cash incentives for most salaried and some hourly employees are based primarily on the achievement of EVA performance, which we believe is a key driver of stockholder value. Each individual incentive target is not excessive in relation to the participant's base salary. Subject to the discretion of the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee of the Board, these annual cash incentives are capped at 200% of target.

Our long-term cash incentive payments are also capped at 200% of target. Historically, they have been based on total stockholder return. For 2010, long-term cash incentive payments will be based on free cash flow and EBITDA measures, in addition to total stockholder return. We believe that these measures are key indicators of the value generated for stockholders. We attempt to set ranges for these measures that encourage success without encouraging excessive risk taking to achieve results. We award stock options and restricted stock to our senior and middle managers to further align the interests of our employees and stockholders. These awards vest over a three-year period. We believe our long-term compensation programs encourage the delivery of sustained performance over multiple periods, rather than performance in a single period.

Director Compensation

The following table and related narrative shows the compensation we paid, for 2009, to each of our outside directors for all services provided to our company and its subsidiaries.

Director Compensation for 2009 (1)

| Name | Fees Earned (\$) |
|--------------|---------------------------------|
| Mr. Cramb | \$ 150,000 |
| Mr. Letham | 147,000 |
| Mr. Macher | 144,500 |
| Mr. Porter | 146,000 |
| Mr. Price | 142,000 |
| Mr. Stecko | 149,500 |
| Mr. Takeuchi | 146,000 |
| Ms. Warner | 156,000 |

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- (1) The aggregate number of awards of restricted stock and options outstanding at December 31, 2009 for each director was:

| Name | Number of Options Outstanding (#) | Number of Restricted Shares Outstanding (#) |
|--------------|--|--|
| Mr. Cramb | 16,475 | |
| Mr. Letham | | |
| Mr. Macher | | |
| Mr. Porter | 30,000 | |
| Mr. Price | 30,000 | |
| Mr. Stecko | 5,000 | |
| Mr. Takeuchi | | |
| Ms. Warner | 6,502 | |

Fee Structure

In 2009, each outside director was paid an annual retainer fee of \$50,000 for service on the Board of Directors. In general, 60% of the retainer fee is paid in the form of common stock equivalents (the directors' stock equivalents), as described below, and 40% of the retainer fee is paid in cash. The outside directors also receive meeting attendance fees, committee chair and membership fees, and reimbursement of their expenses for attending meetings of the Board of Directors and its committees. The fees are generally paid in cash, but at the option of the director may be paid in directors' stock equivalents. Outside directors receive \$1,000 for each in-person meeting of the Board of Directors attended, and \$500 for each telephonic meeting. Outside directors who are members of the Audit Committee or the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee receive \$1,000 for each in-person meeting, and \$500 for each telephonic meeting attended. In 2009, each outside director who served as a Chairman of the Audit Committee or the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee was paid a fee of \$8,000 per chairmanship. Also, the lead independent director was paid a \$6,000 retainer fee for serving as the chairman and primary spokesman when the Board of Directors meets in executive session. Outside directors who serve as members of the Audit Committee or Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee are paid \$4,000 per committee membership.

Common Stock Equivalents, Options and Restricted Stock

As described above, all or a portion of an outside director's retainer fee is generally paid in common stock equivalent units. These directors' stock equivalents are payable in cash or, at our option, shares of common stock after an outside director ceases to serve as a director. Final distribution of these amounts may be made either in a lump sum or in installments over a period of years. The directors' stock equivalents are issued at 100% of the fair market value on the date of the grant.

Through 2005, each outside director generally received an annual grant of an option to purchase up to 5,000 shares of common stock in January. These directors' options: (a) were granted with per share exercise prices equal to 100% of the fair market value of a share of common stock on the day the option is granted; (b) in 2005, had terms of seven years (for prior periods, the terms were ten years); and (c) generally, fully vested six months from the grant date. Once vested, the directors' options are exercisable at any time during the option term. In December 2005, the Board of Directors determined to replace the annual option-grant program with annual awards of restricted stock. In 2008, the

Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee determined that this award should be calculated using a target value of \$75,000 and paid through a yearly award of restricted stock of equivalent value. Accordingly, in January 2008, each outside director was granted 3,010 shares of restricted stock, which vested on the first anniversary of the date of grant. In 2009, no restricted shares were issued. Instead, each director received \$75,000 in cash in January 2010.

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Deferred Compensation Plan

We have a voluntary deferred compensation plan for outside directors. Under the plan, an outside director may elect, prior to commencement of the next calendar year, to have some or all of the cash portion, that is, up to 40%, or \$20,000, of his or her retainer fee and some or all of his or her meeting or other fees credited to a deferred compensation account. The plan provides these directors with various investment options. The investment options include stock equivalent units of our common stock, which may be paid out in either cash or, at our option, shares of common stock.

Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation

During fiscal 2009, Ms. Warner and Messrs. Price, Stecko and Porter served on the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee. From November 1998 to April 1999, Mr. Stecko served as our President and Chief Operating Officer, at a time when we held the former Tenneco Inc.'s automotive and packaging operations. Prior to that time, he served in other executive officer capacities in the former packaging operations. Mr. Stecko, having left our employment in April 1999 to become Chief Executive Officer of Packaging Corporation of America (which simultaneously purchased our former paperboard packaging operations), meets the independence standards for compensation and nominating committee membership under the NYSE listing standards.

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**Tenneco Inc.
Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee
Report On Executive Compensation**

The Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis contained in this proxy statement with management and, based on such review and discussion, the Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the Compensation Discussion and Analysis be included in the Company's Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 and in this proxy statement.

Compensation /Nominating /Governance Committee

Roger B. Porter Chairman

David B. Price, Jr.

Paul T. Stecko

Jane L. Warner

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REPORT OF AUDIT COMMITTEE

General

The Audit Committee comprises five directors and operates under a written charter for the Audit Committee. All of the members of the Audit Committee meet the definition of independence for purposes of the NYSE listing standards. In addition, the Board has designated Messrs. Cramb and Letham as audit committee financial experts under the applicable SEC rules. All of the members of the Audit Committee satisfy the NYSE's financial literacy requirements.

Report

The Audit Committee has furnished the following report:

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the audited financial statements of our company for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 with our management. In addition, the Audit Committee has discussed with Deloitte & Touche LLP, our independent auditors for 2009 (Deloitte & Touche), the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 114, *The Auditor's Communication With Those Charged With Governance*, and Regulation S-X Rule 2-07, *Communication with Audit Committees*.

The Audit Committee has also received the written disclosures and the letter from Deloitte & Touche required by Public Company Accounting Oversight Board Ethics and Independence Rule 3526, *Communications with Audit Committees Concerning Independence* regarding Deloitte & Touche's communications with the audit committee concerning independence. The Audit Committee has also discussed Deloitte & Touche's independence from our company with Deloitte & Touche.

The Audit Committee has considered whether the services rendered by our independent public accountants with respect to audit, audit-related, tax and other non-audit fees are compatible with maintaining their independence.

Based on the review and discussions referred to above, the Audit Committee recommended to the Board of Directors that the audited financial statements for our company for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 be included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009 for filing with the SEC.

Audit Committee

Charles W. Cramb Chairman

Dennis J. Letham

Frank E. Macher

Minsunobu Takeuchi

Jane L. Warner

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**RATIFY APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PUBLIC ACCOUNTANTS
(Item 2)**

The Board of Directors recommends that you vote FOR this proposal.

Financial statements of our company and our consolidated subsidiaries will be included in our Form 10-K furnished to all stockholders. The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP (PwC) as independent public accountants for us to examine our consolidated financial statements for the year ending December 31, 2010, and has determined that it would be desirable to request that the stockholders ratify the appointment. You may vote for, vote against or abstain from voting with respect to this proposal. Assuming the presence of a quorum, the affirmative vote of a majority of the shares present, in person or by proxy, at the Annual Meeting and entitled to vote is required to ratify the appointment. If the stockholders do not ratify the appointment, the Audit Committee will reconsider the appointment. Deloitte & Touche LLP (Deloitte) was engaged as our principal independent public accountants for 2002 through 2009. Representatives of PwC and Deloitte are expected to be present at the Annual Meeting and will have the opportunity to make a statement if they desire to do so and are also expected to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

During 2009, our Audit Committee solicited proposals from the four major accounting firms and conducted an extensive evaluation process in connection with the selection of our independent auditor for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2010. Following this process, on August 5, 2009, the Audit Committee (i) elected to replace Deloitte as our independent auditor for the year ending December 31, 2010 and (ii) approved the engagement of PwC to serve as our independent auditor for 2010. With the filing of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2009 on February 26, 2010, Deloitte was dismissed as our independent auditor and our auditor-client relationship with Deloitte effectively ceased.

Deloitte's audit report dated February 26, 2010 on our consolidated financial statements for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2008 and 2009 did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor was it qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles, except for an explanatory paragraph regarding our adoption of the new measurement date provisions for defined benefit pension and other postretirement plans. Deloitte's audit reports dated February 26, 2010 and February 27, 2009 on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting as of December 31, 2009 and December 31, 2008, respectively, did not contain an adverse opinion or disclaimer of opinion, nor were they qualified or modified as to uncertainty, audit scope or accounting principles.

During our two most recent fiscal years and the subsequent interim period from January 1, 2010 through February 26, 2010, there were no disagreements between us and Deloitte on any matters of accounting principles or practices, financial statement disclosure or auditing scope or procedure, which disagreements, if not resolved to the satisfaction of Deloitte, would have caused Deloitte to make reference to the subject matter of the disagreement in its report on our consolidated financial statements. During our two most recent fiscal years and the subsequent interim period from January 1, 2010 through February 26, 2010, there were no reportable events as that term is defined in Item 304(a)(1)(v) of Regulation S-K.

We have provided Deloitte with a copy of the foregoing statements and have requested and received from Deloitte a letter addressed to the Securities and Exchange Commission stating whether or not Deloitte agrees with the above statements. A copy of the letter from Deloitte is attached as Exhibit 16.1 to our Current Report on Form 8-K filed March 3, 2010.

During the two most recent fiscal years and the subsequent interim period from January 1, 2010 through February 26, 2010, neither we nor anyone acting on our behalf consulted PwC regarding any of the matters or events set forth in

Item 3.04(a)(2) of Regulation S-K.

Table of Contents**Audit, Audit-Related, Tax and All Other Fees**

The following table summarizes the aggregate fees and expenses billed to us for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2009 and 2008 by our principal accounting firm, Deloitte & Touche LLP, the member firms of Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and their respective affiliates (collectively, "Deloitte & Touche"):

| | 2009 | 2008 |
|-------------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| Audit fees(a) | \$ 4,497,849 | \$ 5,378,117 |
| Audit-related fees(b) | | 14,000 |
| Total audit and audit-related fees | 4,497,849 | 5,392,117 |
| Tax fees: | | |
| Compliance and tax audit support(c) | 960,181 | 1,238,633 |
| Planning and consulting(d) | 28,100 | 65,000 |
| Total tax fees | 988,281 | 1,303,633 |
| | \$ 5,486,130 | \$ 6,695,750 |

(a) Audit services in 2009 and 2008 consisted of:

Audit of our annual financial statements including audits of subsidiary financial statements required by local country laws

Audit of Management's assessment of our internal control over financial reporting in accordance with Section 404 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

Reviews of our quarterly financial statements

Comfort letters, consents and other services related to SEC matters

(b) Audit-related services in 2008 consisted of:

Employee benefit plan audits and related Form 11-K filings

(c) Tax compliance services are services rendered based upon facts already in existence or transactions that have already occurred to document, compute, support and obtain government approval for amounts to be included in tax filings. Tax compliance services in 2009 and 2008 consisted of:

Federal, state and local income tax return assistance

Sales and use, property and other tax return assistance

Transfer pricing documentation

Requests for technical advice from taxing authorities

Assistance with tax audits and appeals

- (d) Tax planning and consulting services are services rendered with respect to proposed transactions or that alter a transaction to obtain a particular tax result. Tax planning and consulting services in 2009 and 2008 consisted of:

Tax advice related to intra-group transactions and restructurings

Tax planning related to certain foreign operations

In considering the nature of the services provided by Deloitte & Touche, the Audit Committee determined that such services are compatible with the provision of independent audit services. The Audit Committee discussed these services with Deloitte & Touche and our management to determine that they are permitted under the rules and regulations concerning auditor independence promulgated by the SEC to implement the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002, as well as by the American Institute of Certified Public Accountants.

Pre-Approval Policy

At a meeting held in September 2002, shortly after the adoption of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and its provisions regarding audit committee pre-approval of non-audit services provided by a public company's independent public accountants, the Audit Committee approved the continued provision to us of audit, audit-related and tax services as described above by Deloitte & Touche. In March 2003, after the

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SEC's adoption of final rules regarding provision of non-audit services by a public company's independent public accountants, the Audit Committee adopted a pre-approval policy regarding these services. All of the services performed by Deloitte & Touche in 2009 were pre-approved in accordance with the pre-approval policy adopted by the Audit Committee at its March 2003 meeting.

The Audit Committee's pre-approval policy describes the permitted audit, audit-related, tax and other services (collectively, the Disclosure Categories) that our independent auditor may perform. The policy requires that, each fiscal year, a description of the services (the Service List) expected to be performed by our independent auditor in each of the Disclosure Categories, as well as related budgeted fee amounts, be presented to the Audit Committee for approval. Providing a range of fees for a service incorporates appropriate oversight and control of the independent auditor relationship, while permitting us to receive immediate assistance from the independent auditor when time is of the essence.

Any requests for audit, audit-related, tax and other services not included on the Service List must be submitted to the Audit Committee for specific pre-approval and cannot commence until such approval has been granted. Normally, pre-approval is provided at regularly scheduled meetings. However, the authority to grant specific pre-approval between meetings, as necessary, has been delegated to the Chairman of the Audit Committee. The Chairman must update the Audit Committee at the next regularly scheduled meeting of any services that were granted specific pre-approval. On a quarterly basis, the Audit Committee reviews the status of services and fees incurred year-to-date against the original Service List and the forecast of remaining services and fees for the fiscal year. Any proposed service exceeding 120% of the pre-approved cost level or budgeted amount requires specific additional pre-approval by the Audit Committee.

INCORPORATION BY REFERENCE

To the extent that this proxy statement is incorporated by reference in any other filing by us under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, or the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, the information included or incorporated in the sections of this proxy statement entitled Executive Compensation Tenneco Inc.

Compensation/Nominating/Governance Committee Report on Executive Compensation and Report of Audit Committee will not be deemed to be incorporated, unless specifically provided otherwise in such filing.

DIRECTIONS TO ANNUAL MEETING

If you plan to attend the annual meeting in person, below are directions to our headquarters located at 500 North Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045.

From North

Take 294 South
Exit Route 60 (Town Line Road) (left/east)
Left on Field Drive (2nd light)
Tenneco on Left Side

From O'Hare Airport and South

Take 294 North
Exit Route 60 (Town Line Road) (right/east)
Left on Field Drive (1st light)
Tenneco on Left Side

From Downtown Chicago

Kennedy Expressway, I-90, west
To Edens Expressway, I-94, toward Milwaukee
To 294 North
Exit Route 60 (Town Line Road) (right/east)
Left on Field Drive (1st light)
Tenneco on Left Side

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SUBMISSION OF STOCKHOLDER PROPOSALS

Stockholder Proposals Inclusion in Company Proxy Statement

For a stockholder proposal to be considered by us for inclusion in our proxy statement and form of proxy relating to the annual meeting of stockholders to be held in 2011, the proposal must be received by December 2, 2010.

Other Stockholders Proposals Discretionary Voting Authority and By-Laws

With respect to stockholder proposals not included in the Company's proxy statement and form of proxy, we may utilize discretionary authority conferred by proxy in voting on any such proposals if, among other situations, the stockholder does not give timely notice of the matter to us by the date determined under our By-Laws for the submission of business by stockholders. This notice requirement and deadline are independent of the notice requirement and deadline described above for a stockholder proposal to be considered for inclusion in our proxy statement. Our By-Laws state that, to be timely, notice and certain related information must be received at the principal executive offices not later than the close of business on the 90th day nor earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting. However, in the event that the date of the annual meeting is more than thirty days before or more than seventy days after the anniversary date, the notice must be delivered not earlier than the close of business on the 120th day prior to such annual meeting and not later than the close of business on the later of the 90th day prior to such annual meeting or the tenth day following the day on which public announcement of the date of such meeting is first made. Therefore, to be timely under our By-Laws, a proposal for the 2011 annual meeting not included by or at the direction of the Board must be received not earlier than January 12, 2011, nor later than February 11, 2011.

JAMES D. HARRINGTON
Corporate Secretary

The Company has made available to you its Form 10-K which you may access by following the instructions contained in the Notice of Internet Availability of Proxy Materials. We will furnish without charge to each person whose proxy is being solicited, upon the written request of any such person, a copy of our Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2009, as filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including the financial statements and schedules thereto. Requests for copies of such report should be directed to General Counsel, Tenneco Inc., 500 North Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045.

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NOTICE OF ANNUAL
MEETING AND
PROXY STATEMENT

**Annual Meeting
of Stockholders
May 12, 2010**

**Tenneco Inc.
500 North Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045**

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**Tenneco Inc.
500 North Field Drive
Lake Forest, Illinois 60045**

April 1, 2010

Dear Benefit Plan Participant:

The Annual Meeting of the Stockholders of Tenneco Inc. is scheduled to be held Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at our headquarters located at 500 North Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045. A Notice and proxy statement, which is being sent to all benefit plan participants in connection with the Annual Meeting, is enclosed for your information.

Also enclosed with this letter is a form of proxy card, which designates the number of shares held in your benefit plan account. By executing this proxy card you instruct the benefit plan trustee (the Trustee) how to vote the shares of Tenneco Inc. stock in your account which you are entitled to vote. The Trustee will vote all shares eligible to be voted by benefit plan participants in accordance with their instructions. Please submit your vote by 11:59 p.m. eastern time on May 9, 2010 so that the Trustee can vote the shares in your benefit plan account in accordance with your instructions.

If you return your form of proxy executed but without furnishing voting instructions, the eligible shares in your account will be voted by the Trustee, as holder of record of the shares in your account, FOR the election of the nominees for director named in the proxy statement, FOR the approval of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as independent public accountants for 2010, and in the discretion of the proxies on all other matters as may be properly brought before the Annual Meeting.

If you do not return your executed form of proxy to the Trustee, then your shares can be voted by the Trustee only in accordance with the requirements of your benefit plan, which may or may not reflect your views.

Your vote will generally be kept confidential, except as necessary to meet applicable legal requirements and to allow for the tabulation of votes and certification of the vote.

Your vote is important. Please send your executed form of proxy card with your voting instructions at your earliest opportunity. For your convenience, a return envelope is enclosed.

YOUR BENEFITS COMMITTEE

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**TENNECO INC.
500 N. FIELD DRIVE
LAKE FOREST, IL 60045
ATN: JIM HARRINGTON**

VOTE BY INTERNET - www.proxyvote.com

Use the Internet to transmit your voting instructions and for electronic delivery of information up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time the day before the cut-off date or meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you access the web site and follow the instructions to obtain your records and to create an electronic voting instruction form.

VOTE BY PHONE - 1-800-690-6903

Use any touch-tone telephone to transmit your voting instructions up until 11:59 P.M. Eastern Time the day before the cut-off date or meeting date. Have your proxy card in hand when you call and then follow the instructions.

VOTE BY MAIL

Mark, sign and date your proxy card and return it in the postage-paid envelope we have provided or return it to Vote Processing, c/o Broadridge, 51 Mercedes Way, Edgewood, NY 11717.

TO VOTE, MARK BLOCKS BELOW IN BLUE OR BLACK INK AS FOLLOWS: x

KEEP THIS PORTION FOR
YOUR RECORDS

THIS PROXY CARD IS VALID ONLY WHEN SIGNED AND DATED. DETACH AND RETURN THIS
PORTION ONLY

**The Board of Directors recommends
you vote FOR the following proposal (s):**

| 1. Election of Directors | For | Against | Abstain |
|--------------------------|------------|----------------|----------------|
| 01 Charles W. Cramb | o | o | o |
| 02 Dennis J. Letham | o | o | o |
| 03 Frank E. Macher | o | o | o |
| 04 Hari N. Nair | o | o | o |
| 05 Roger B. Porter | o | o | o |
| 06 David B. Price, Jr. | o | o | o |
| 07 Gregg M. Sherrill | o | o | o |

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 08 Paul T. Stecko | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 09 Mitsunobu Takeuchi | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |
| 10 Jane L. Warner | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

The Board of Directors recommends you vote FOR the following proposal(s):

| | For | Against | Abstain |
|--|-----------------------|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| 2 Approve appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as independent public accountants for 2010. | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> | <input type="radio"/> |

NOTE: In the discretion of the Proxies named herein, the Proxies are authorized to vote upon such other matters as may properly come before the meeting (or any adjournment or postponement thereof).

Please sign exactly as your name(s) appear(s) hereon. When signing as attorney, executor, administrator, or other fiduciary, please give full title as such. Joint owners should each sign personally. All holders must sign. If a corporation or partnership, please sign in full corporate or partnership name, by authorized officer.

| Signature [PLEASE SIGN WITHIN BOX] | Date | Signature (Joint Owners) | Date | SHARES CUSIP # SEQUENCE # |
|---------------------------------------|------|--------------------------|------|--|
| | | | | 02 000000000 |

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Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Annual Meeting: The Notice & Proxy Statement, Form 10-K, 401K Letter (PLAN ONLY) is/are available at www.proxyvote.com.

TENNECO INC.

THIS PROXY IS SOLICITED BY THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Stockholder(s) hereby appoint(s) Gregg M. Sherrill and James D. Harrington, or either of them, as proxies, each with the power to appoint his substitute, and hereby authorizes them to represent and to vote, as designated on the reverse side of this ballot, all of the shares of common stock of Tenneco Inc. that the Stockholder(s) is/are entitled to vote at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders to be held at 10:00 a.m., Central time, on Wednesday, May 12, 2010, at our headquarters located at 500 North Field Drive, Lake Forest, Illinois 60045.

THIS PROXY, WHEN PROPERLY EXECUTED, WILL BE VOTED AS DIRECTED BY THE STOCKHOLDER(S). IF NO SUCH DIRECTIONS ARE MADE, THIS PROXY WILL BE VOTED FOR THE ELECTION OF THE NOMINEES LISTED ON THE REVERSE SIDE FOR THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND FOR EACH PROPOSAL.

Continued and to be signed on reverse side