

Tortoise Midstream Energy Fund, Inc.
Form N-CSR
January 30, 2019

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

FORM N-CSR

**CERTIFIED SHAREHOLDER REPORT OF REGISTERED
MANAGEMENT INVESTMENT COMPANIES**

Investment Company Act file number **811-22409**

Tortoise Midstream Energy Fund, Inc.
(Exact name of registrant as specified in charter)

11550 Ash Street, Suite 300, Leawood, KS 66211
(Address of principal executive offices) (Zip code)

P. Bradley Adams
Diane Bono
11550 Ash Street, Suite 300, Leawood, KS 66211
(Name and address of agent for service)

913-981-1020
Registrant's telephone number, including area code

Date of fiscal year end: **November 30**

Date of reporting period: **November 30, 2018**

Item 1. Report to Stockholders.

Annual Report | November 30, 2018

2018 Annual Report

Closed-End Funds

*Fund name changed to Tortoise Midstream Energy Fund, Inc. (effective January 7, 2019)

Tortoise

2018 Annual Report to Stockholders

This combined report provides you with a comprehensive review of our funds that span the entire energy value chain.

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TTP and TPZ distribution policies

Tortoise Pipeline & Energy Fund, Inc. (“TTP”) and Tortoise Power and Energy Infrastructure Fund, Inc. (“TPZ”) are relying on exemptive relief permitting them to make long-term capital gain distributions throughout the year. Each of TTP and TPZ, with approval of its Board of Directors (the “Board”), has adopted a distribution policy (the “Policy”) with the purpose of distributing over the course of each year, through periodic distributions as nearly equal as practicable and any required special distributions, an amount closely approximating the total taxable income of TTP and TPZ during such year and, if so determined by the Board, all or a portion of the return of capital paid by portfolio companies to TTP and TPZ during such year. In accordance with its Policy, TTP distributes a fixed amount per common share, currently \$0.4075, each quarter to its common shareholders and TPZ distributes a fixed amount per common share, currently \$0.125, each month to its common shareholders. These amounts are subject to change from time to time at the discretion of the Board. Although the level of distributions is independent of TTP’s and TPZ’s performance, TTP and TPZ expect such distributions to correlate with its performance over time. Each quarterly and monthly distribution to shareholders is expected to be at the fixed amount established by the Board, except for extraordinary distributions in light of TTP’s and TPZ’s performance for the entire calendar year and to enable TTP and TPZ to comply with the distribution requirements imposed by the Internal Revenue Code. The Board may amend, suspend or terminate the Policy without prior notice to shareholders if it deems such action to be in the best interests of TTP, TPZ and their respective shareholders. For example, the Board might take such action if the Policy had the effect of shrinking TTP’s or TPZ’s assets to a level that was determined to be detrimental to TTP or TPZ shareholders. The suspension or termination of the Policy could have the effect of creating a trading discount (if TTP’s or TPZ’s stock is trading at or above net asset value), widening an existing trading discount, or decreasing an existing premium. You should not draw any conclusions about TTP’s or TPZ’s investment performance from the amount of the distribution or from the terms of TTP’s or TPZ’s distribution policy. Each of TTP and TPZ estimates that it has distributed more than its income and net realized capital gains; therefore, a portion of your distribution may be a return of capital. A return of capital may occur, for example, when some or all of the money that you invested in TTP or TPZ is paid back to you. A return of capital distribution does not necessarily reflect TTP’s or TPZ’s investment performance and should not be confused with “yield” or “income.” The amounts and sources of distributions reported are only estimates and are not being provided for tax reporting purposes. The actual amounts and sources of the amounts for tax reporting purposes will depend upon TTP’s and TPZ’s investment experience during the remainder of their fiscal year and may be subject to changes based on tax regulations. TTP and TPZ will send you a Form 1099-DIV for the calendar year that will tell you how to report these distributions for federal income tax purposes.

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Closed-end fund comparison

Name/Ticker	Primary focus	Structure	Total assets (\$ millions)¹	Portfolio mix by asset type²	Portfolio mix by structure²
Tortoise Energy Infrastructure Corp.					
NYSE: TYG Inception: 2/2004 Tortoise MLP Fund, Inc.	Midstream MLPs	C-corp	\$1,885.2		
NYSE: NTG Inception: 7/2010 Tortoise Pipeline & Energy Fund, Inc.	Natural gas infrastructure MLPs	C-corp	\$1,326.4		
NYSE: TTP Inception: 10/2011 Tortoise Energy Independence Fund, Inc.	North American pipeline companies	Regulated investment company	\$201.4		
NYSE: NDP Inception: 7/2012 Tortoise Power and Energy Infrastructure Fund, Inc.	North American oil & gas producers	Regulated investment company	\$143.9		
NYSE: TPZ Inception: 7/2009	Power & energy infrastructure companies (Fixed income & equity)	Regulated investment company	\$184.0		

¹As of 12/31/2018²As of 11/30/2018

(unaudited)

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2018 Annual Report to closed-end fund stockholders

Dear stockholders,

The broader energy sector, as represented by the S&P Energy Select Sector[®] Index, retreated substantially during the last fiscal quarter ending Nov. 30, 2018, returning -10.6%, bringing the full fiscal year performance to -1.6%. Commodity prices were volatile with crude oil prices seeing both the peak and trough for the fiscal year in the last three months. Oversupply concerns including: continued U.S. production growth, increased production from the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), specifically Saudi Arabia in anticipation of the Iranian sanctions, and uncertainty leading up to the OPEC meeting in Vienna on Dec. 5, all contributed to driving oil prices lower. The midstream segment pulled back along with broad energy, as well as from near-term uncertainty around simplification transactions and further evolution of the midstream segment. Closed-end funds focused on midstream energy were not immune to the pressure and the market responded driving market-based returns further into negative territory, resulting in discounted trading to net asset value for most funds.

Upstream

Upstream oil and gas producers experienced a stark reversal in performance during the final quarter with the Tortoise North American Oil and Gas Producers IndexSM returning -20.4%, bringing fiscal year-end performance to -10.4%. Crude oil prices, represented by West Texas Intermediate (WTI), ended the fiscal year at slightly more than \$50 per barrel after approaching \$80 per barrel in early Oct. Crude oil prices began the fiscal year on Dec. 1, 2017 at \$58.36 and steadily increased over the first three fiscal quarters. The last fiscal quarter brought volatility as oil prices fell from a fiscal year high of \$76.41 on Oct. 3 to a low of \$50.22 on Nov. 23, 2018 and ended the fiscal year at \$50.93.

U.S. crude oil production is expected to average 10.9 million barrels per day (MMbbl/d) in 2018 and to increase further to 12.1 MMbbl/d in 2019. This is significant growth from the 9.4 MMbbl/d produced in 2017.¹ The U.S. Energy Information Administration (EIA) forecasts a global liquid fuels production increase of 1.4 MMbbl/d in 2019. Production growth in the U.S. will be offset by declining OPEC production as per the agreed upon cut of 800,000 barrels per day (b/d) at the OPEC meeting in early December as well as the 400,000 b/d cut from other countries including Russia. On the other side of the equation, the EIA expects global liquid fuels consumption to grow by 1.5 MMbbl/d, largely driven by increases in China, U.S. and India.

Natural gas prices increased during the fourth fiscal quarter as inventories were low at the end of injection season followed by cold weather in parts of the country. Weather played a factor in natural gas prices throughout the fiscal year. They opened at \$2.84 per million British thermal units (MMBtu), quickly rose in January to peak at \$6.24 and fell to a fiscal year low of \$2.49 in February. The fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 2018 closed at a price of \$4.61. Natural gas production is expected to average 80.7 billion cubic feet per day (bcf/d) in 2018 and 87.3 bcf/d in 2019². The U.S. continues to export significant amounts of natural gas by pipeline to Mexico and liquefied natural gas (LNG) to the rest of the world, which is benefiting natural gas producers.

Midstream

Performance in the midstream sector declined along with broad energy as represented by the Tortoise North American Pipeline IndexSM return of -6.8% and the Tortoise MLP Index[®] return of -9.4% for the fourth fiscal quarter eliminating all gains, resulting in essentially flat 2018 fiscal year performance for both indexes. Despite market turmoil, midstream companies showed their resilience with nearly 95% of midstream MLPs increasing or maintaining their third quarter distribution over the prior quarter.

As the midstream energy landscape continues to evolve, so does the MLP structure. We expect even higher coverage and lower leverage going forward. Many companies have shifted to self-funding the equity portion of their capex programs, reducing reliance on capital markets access. As a result, we expect dramatically less equity supply issuance in 2019 and beyond as companies focus on return of capital to shareholders in the form of strong yield, distribution growth and stock buybacks. Some companies are also selling non-core assets to arbitrage the valuation gap between private and public midstream assets.

We've deemed 2018 as the year of the transaction, with more than half of MLP companies participating in simplification transactions. These transactions have benefited the sector, leading to improved corporate governance and the removal of incentive distribution rights (IDRs). We expect this trend to continue and by the end of 2019 we anticipate more than 85% of MLPs will have eliminated IDRs.

With significant midstream investment needed to transport the record U.S. energy supply to areas of demand, including export facilities, several pipeline companies are planning to consolidate efforts to efficiently put capital to work. One example is a potential consolidation of two competing

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Permian Basin crude oil export lines. If combined, the project would be owned by six different midstream companies and would ease concerns of over investment in basin takeaway capacity. Our outlook for capital investments remains at approximately \$139 billion for 2018 to 2020 in MLPs, pipelines and related organic projects.

Downstream

Cleaner energy solutions continue to change the energy landscape. The breakdown of electricity generation in the U.S. continues to evolve. The most notable transition is the continued displacement of coal by natural gas. Renewables are also expected to continue to gain market share, primarily through the use of solar energy as the average U.S. solar generation is expected to rise by more than 40% from 2017 to 2019.¹ We anticipate that utilities will continue to find opportunities to include renewable infrastructure into their rate base, the value of the property on which the utility is permitted to earn a rate of return. Petrochemical companies, another downstream end-user of energy, will likely take advantage of higher natural gas liquids (NGL) supplies, increasing their margins.

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Regulatory updates

There were two noteworthy issues on the mid-term ballots in November. First, Colorado's Proposition 112 proposing a 2,500 foot drilling setback from occupied structures, was defeated. We believe that the Colorado energy industry and state legislature will likely work together towards a permanent resolution in the near future, removing any uncertainty regarding the issue. Second, in Nevada, voters approved Question 6, a ballot measure to increase the state's renewable portfolio standard (RPS) to 50% by 2030. The measure will require re-approval in 2020 in order to go into effect. The state hopes to spur investment and advance its leadership in renewable energy.

Capital markets

Capital markets activity slowed further during the last fiscal quarter with MLPs and other pipeline companies raising approximately \$9.5 billion in total capital, with nearly all of the issuance in debt. This brings the total capital raised for the fiscal year to approximately \$43.5 billion, significantly lower than the previous fiscal year. Alternative options for capital and self-funding projects continue to trend higher and we expect the trend to continue in the future.

Merger and acquisition activity among MLPs and other pipeline companies picked up during the last fiscal quarter with more than \$44 billion in announced transactions, bringing the fiscal year's announced transactions to more than \$150 billion. There were two large transactions announced in the fourth fiscal quarter with Western Gas' simplification transaction and strategic deal between Western Gas Partners, LP, Western Gas Equity Partners, LP and Anadarko Petroleum Corporation, valued at approximately \$11.5 billion being the largest. EnLink Midstream, LLC also announced a simplification transaction to acquire EnLink Midstream Partners, LP in a deal valued at approximately \$10 billion.

Concluding thoughts

As we set course in 2019, we see a positive energy backdrop with crude oil supply and demand in balance and natural gas inventories low. With oil prices above the \$40 per barrel break-even price in the U.S., we expect U.S. production growth for crude oil, natural gas and NGLs to meaningfully increase again and likely surpass the record 2018 production. Beyond strong fundamentals and compelling valuations, key catalysts unfolding in the midstream sector include: structure clarity as simplification transactions wind down, increased return of capital to shareholders and improved fund flows into the sector. Because of this favorable backdrop, we are excited about the sector's prospects in 2019.

Sincerely,

The Tortoise Energy Team

The S&P Energy Select Sector[®] Index is a capitalization-weighted index of S&P 500[®] Index companies in the energy sector involved in the development or production of energy products. The Tortoise North American Oil and Gas Producers IndexSM is a float-adjusted, capitalization-weighted index of North American energy companies engaged primarily in the production of crude oil, condensate, natural gas or natural gas liquids (NGLs). The Tortoise North American Pipeline IndexSM is a float adjusted, capitalization-weighted index of energy pipeline companies domiciled in the United States and Canada. The Tortoise MLP Index[®] is a float-adjusted, capitalization-weighted index of energy master limited partnerships.

The Tortoise indices are the exclusive property of Tortoise Index Solutions, LLC, which has contracted with S&P Opco, LLC (a subsidiary of S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC) to calculate and maintain the Tortoise MLP Index[®], Tortoise North American Pipeline IndexSM and Tortoise North American Oil and Gas Producers IndexSM (the "Indices"). The Indices are not sponsored by S&P Dow Jones Indices or its affiliates or its third party licensors (collectively, "S&P Dow Jones Indices LLC"). S&P Dow Jones Indices will not be liable for any errors or omission in calculating the Indices. "Calculated by S&P Dow Jones Indices" and its related stylized mark(s) are service marks of S&P Dow Jones Indices and have been licensed for use by Tortoise Index Solutions, LLC and its affiliates. S&P[®] is a registered trademark of Standard & Poor's Financial Services LLC ("SPFS"), and Dow Jones[®] is a registered trademark of Dow Jones Trademark Holdings LLC ("Dow Jones").

It is not possible to invest directly in an index.

Performance data quoted represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. Like any other stock, total return and market value will fluctuate so that an investment, when sold, may be worth more or less than its original cost.

1 Energy Information Administration, Short-Term Energy Outlook, December 2018

2 PIRA Natural Gas, December 2018

(unaudited)

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Energy Infrastructure Corp. (TYG)

Fund description

TYG seeks a high level of total return with an emphasis on current distributions paid to stockholders. TYG invests in midstream energy equities, primarily master limited partnerships (MLPs) and their affiliates that transport, gather, process or store natural gas, natural gas liquids (NGLs), crude oil and refined petroleum products.

Fund performance review

The midstream segment pulled back along with broad energy, as well as from near-term uncertainty around simplification transactions and further evolution of the midstream segment. We believe these transactions will benefit the sector with improved corporate governance and the removal of incentive distribution rights (IDRs). Average coverage ratios for the fund's portfolio companies has increased from 1.25x in 3Q2017 to 1.38x in 3Q2018 while average leverage decreased from 3.94x in 3Q2017 to 3.86x in 3Q2018. The fund has paid out more than \$33 per share in cumulative distributions to stockholders since its inception. In addition to the fund's primary allocation to midstream energy entities, the fund's small allocation to solar assets has aided in managing the fund's taxes through the addition of solar investment tax credits, while also gaining exposure to renewable energy, a critical and growing part of the energy value chain. The fund's market-based and NAV-based returns for the fiscal year ending Nov. 30, 2018 were -3.4% and 8.6%, respectively (including the reinvestment of distributions). Comparatively, the Tortoise MLP Index[®] was flat for the same period.

Fiscal year-end highlights

Distributions paid per share (fiscal year 2018)	\$2.62
Distributions paid per share (4th quarter 2018)	\$0.6550
Distribution rate (as of 11/30/2018)	11.6%
Quarter-over-quarter distribution increase	0.0%
Year-over-year distribution increase	0.0%
Cumulative distributions paid per share to stockholders since inception in February 2004	\$33.0825
Market-based total return	(3.4)%
NAV-based total return	8.6%
Premium (discount) to NAV (as of 11/30/2018)	(3.9)%

Key asset performance drivers

Top five contributors

Energy Transfer Partners, L.P.

Williams Partners L.P.
Plains All American Pipeline, L.P.
Enterprise Products Partners, L.P.

ONEOK, Inc

Company type

Midstream natural gas/natural gas liquids pipeline MLP

Midstream gathering and processing MLP

Midstream crude oil pipeline MLP
Midstream natural gas/natural gas liquids pipeline MLP
Midstream natural gas/natural gas liquids pipeline company

Performance driver

Acquired by its general partner for 11% premium in simplification transaction
Simplification transaction closed in August and was well received by the market

Expected crude oil production growth from Permian Basin

Delivered steady cash flow and healthy project backlog
Natural gas liquid (NGL) volume growth benefitting integrated pipeline network

Bottom five contributors

Buckeye Partners, L.P.

Energy Transfer LP
EQM Midstream Partners, LP
The Williams Companies, Inc.

Company type

Midstream refined product pipeline MLP
Midstream natural gas/natural gas liquids pipeline company
Midstream natural gas/natural gas liquids pipeline company
Midstream gathering and processing C-Corp
Midstream crude oil pipeline MLP

Performance driver

Weaker than expected earnings tied to storage market fundamentals
Traded down due to ownership consolidation following closing of simplification transaction

Regulatory hurdles with Mountain Valley Pipeline build
Acquisition of WPZ closed in August with WMB trading down following the closing of the transaction

Strategic review with lower distribution viewed unfavorably by market

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Enbridge Energy Partners,
L.P.

Unlike the fund return, index return is pre-expenses and taxes.

Performance data quoted represents past performance; past performance does not guarantee future results. Like any other stock, total return and market value will fluctuate so that an investment, when sold, may be worth more or less than its original cost. Portfolio composition is subject to change due to ongoing management of the fund. References to specific securities or sectors should not be construed as a recommendation by the fund or its adviser. See Schedule of Investments for portfolio weighting at the end of the fiscal year.

(unaudited)

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Fund structure and distribution policy

The fund is structured as a corporation and is subject to federal and state income tax on its taxable income. The fund has adopted a distribution policy in which the Board of Directors considers many factors in determining distributions to stockholders. Over the long term, the fund expects to distribute substantially all of its Distributable cash flow (“DCF”) to holders of common stock. The fund’s Board of Directors reviews the distribution rate quarterly, and may adjust the quarterly distribution throughout the year. Although the level of distributions is independent of the funds’ performance in the short term, the fund expects such distributions to correlate with its performance over time.

Distributable cash flow and distributions

DCF is distributions received from investments less expenses. The total distributions received from investments include the amount received as cash distributions from investments, paid-in-kind distributions, and dividend and interest payments. Income also includes the premiums received from sales of covered call options, net of amounts paid to buy back out-of-the-money options. The total expenses include current or anticipated operating expenses, leverage costs and current income taxes. Current income taxes include taxes paid on net investment income, in addition to foreign taxes, if any. Taxes incurred from realized gains on the sale of investments, expected tax benefits and deferred taxes are not included in DCF.

Income from investments decreased approximately 3.2% as compared to 3rd quarter 2018 primarily due to the impact of trading and M&A activity within the fund’s portfolio. Operating expenses, consisting primarily of fund advisory fees, decreased approximately 1.8% during the quarter due to lower asset-based fees. Overall leverage costs decreased approximately 0.7% as compared to 3rd quarter 2018 due to lower leverage utilization during the quarter. As a result of the changes in income and expenses, DCF decreased approximately 4.0% as compared to 3rd quarter 2018. The fund paid a quarterly distribution of \$0.655 per share, which was equal to the distribution paid in the prior quarter and 4th quarter 2017. The fund has paid cumulative distributions to stockholders of \$33.0825 per share since its inception in Feb. 2004.

The Key Financial Data table discloses the calculation of DCF and should be read in conjunction with this discussion. The difference between distributions received from investments in the DCF calculation and total investment income as reported in the Statement of Operations, is reconciled as follows: the Statement of Operations, in conformity with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles (“GAAP”), recognizes distribution income from MLPs and other investments on their ex-dates, whereas the DCF calculation may reflect distribution income on their pay dates; GAAP recognizes that a significant portion of the cash distributions received from MLPs and other investments are characterized as a return of capital and therefore excluded from investment income, whereas the DCF calculation includes the return of capital; and distributions received from investments in the DCF calculation include the value of dividends paid-in-kind (additional stock or MLP units), whereas such amounts may not be included as income for GAAP purposes, and includes distributions related to direct investments when the purchase price is reduced in lieu of receiving cash distributions. Net premiums on options written (premiums received less amounts paid to buy back out-of-the-money options) with expiration dates during the fiscal quarter are included in the DCF calculation, whereas GAAP recognizes the net effect of options written as realized and unrealized gains (losses). Income for DCF purposes is reduced by amortizing the cost of certain investments that may not have a residual value after a known time period and by distributions received from investments deemed to be return of principal. The treatment of expenses in the DCF calculation also differs from what is reported in the Statement of Operations. In addition to the total operating expenses, including fee waiver, as disclosed in the Statement of Operations, the DCF calculation reflects interest expense, realized and unrealized gains (losses) on interest rate swap settlements, distributions to preferred stockholders, other recurring leverage expenses, as well as taxes paid on net investment income.

“Net Investment Income (Loss), before Income Taxes” on the Statement of Operations is adjusted as follows to reconcile to DCF for YTD and 4th quarter 2018 (in thousands):

	YTD 2018	4th Qtr 2018
Net Investment Loss, before Income Taxes	\$ (50,419)	\$ (8,817)
Adjustments to reconcile to DCF:		
Distributions characterized as return of capital	184,612	44,330
Other	(1,602)	(2,319)
DCF	\$ 132,591	\$ 33,194

Leverage

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The fund's leverage utilization decreased \$43.7 million during 4th quarter 2018 and represented 30.5% of total assets at November 30, 2018. The fund has maintained compliance with its applicable coverage ratios. At year-end, including the impact of interest rate swaps, approximately 77% of the leverage cost was fixed, the weighted-average maturity was 4.1 years and the weighted-average annual rate on leverage was 3.76%. These rates will vary in the future as a result of changing floating rates, utilization of the fund's credit facilities and as leverage and swaps mature or are redeemed. During the quarter, \$10.0 million Senior Notes with a fixed interest rate of 3.15% matured. The fund utilized its credit facilities to facilitate the maturity of the Senior Notes.

Income taxes

During 4th quarter 2018, the fund's deferred tax liability decreased by \$65.7 million to \$189.6 million, primarily as a result of the decrease in value of its investment portfolio. The fund had net realized losses of \$45.2 million during the quarter. To the extent that the fund has taxable income, it will owe federal and state income taxes. Tax payments can be funded from investment earnings, fund assets, or borrowings.

Please see the Financial Statements and Notes to Financial Statements for additional detail regarding critical accounting policies, results of operations, leverage, taxes and other important fund information.

For further information regarding the calculation of distributable cash flow and distributions to stockholders, as well as a discussion of the tax impact on distributions and results and recent tax reform, please visit www.tortoiseadvisors.com.

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TYG Key Financial Data (supplemental unaudited information)
(dollar amounts in thousands unless otherwise indicated)

The information presented below regarding Distributable Cash Flow and Selected Financial Information is supplemental non-GAAP financial information, which the fund believes is meaningful to understanding operating performance. The Distributable Cash Flow Ratios include the functional equivalent of EBITDA for non-investment companies, and the fund believes they are an important supplemental measure of performance and promote comparisons from period-to-period. This information is supplemental, is not inclusive of required financial disclosures (e.g. Total Expense Ratio), and should be read in conjunction with the full financial statements.

	Year Ended November 30,		2017	2018	Q2 ⁽¹⁾	Q3 ⁽¹⁾	Q4 ⁽¹⁾
	2017	2018	Q4 ⁽¹⁾	Q1 ⁽¹⁾			
Total Income from Investments							
Distributions and dividends from investments	\$ 180,342	\$ 177,860	\$ 44,323	\$ 43,107	\$ 44,308	\$ 46,231	\$ 44,214
Dividends paid in kind	—	2,752	—	910	850	879	113
Premiums on options written	920	1,274	27	11	—	5	1,258
Total from investments	181,262	181,886	44,350	44,028	45,158	47,115	45,585
Operating Expenses Before Leverage Costs and Current Taxes							
Advisory fees	24,396	21,466	5,533	5,487	5,091	5,496	5,392
Other operating expenses	1,764	1,741	443	430	431	442	438
	26,160	23,207	5,976	5,917	5,522	5,938	5,830
Distributable cash flow before leverage							