



## NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the Annual Meeting of Shareholders of Albemarle Corporation will be held at the Pavilion at the Lod Cook Conference Center, 3848 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, on Wednesday, April 30, 2008, at 10:00 a.m., Central Daylight Time, for the following purposes:

1. To elect a Board of Directors to serve for the ensuing year;
2. To approve the Albemarle Corporation 2008 Incentive Plan;
3. To approve the 2008 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors of Albemarle Corporation;
4. To ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008; and
5. To conduct any other business properly raised at the meeting or any adjournments or postponements thereof.

Holders of shares of Albemarle Corporation common stock of record at the close of business on February 21, 2008, will be entitled to vote at the meeting.

You are requested to vote your shares promptly by completing, signing, dating and returning the enclosed proxy card in the self-addressed, stamped envelope provided, or by telephone or over the Internet, regardless of whether you expect to attend the meeting.

If you are present at the meeting, you may vote in person even if you already have voted your proxy by mail, by telephone or over the Internet.

Seating at the meeting will be on a first-come, first-served basis. To ensure that you have a seat, please arrive early. Refreshments will be served prior to the start of the meeting.

By Order of the Board of Directors

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Luther C. Kissam IV".

Luther C. Kissam, IV, *Secretary*

March 12, 2008

## **PROXY STATEMENT**

### **FOR ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS ALBEMARLE CORPORATION**

**TO BE HELD APRIL 30, 2008  
APPROXIMATE DATE OF MAILING – MARCH 21, 2008**

This Proxy Statement sets forth certain information with respect to the accompanying proxy to be used at the Annual Meeting (the “Meeting”) of Shareholders of Albemarle Corporation, or at any adjournments or postponements thereof, for the purposes set forth in the accompanying Notice of Annual Meeting. The Board of Directors has designated the Lod Cook Conference Center, 3848 West Lakeshore Drive, Baton Rouge, Louisiana as the place of the Meeting. The Meeting will be called to order at 10:00 a.m., Central Daylight Time, on Wednesday, April 30, 2008.

The Board of Directors solicits this proxy and urges you to vote immediately. Unless the context otherwise indicates, reference to “Albemarle,” “we,” “us,” “our” or “the Company” means Albemarle Corporation.

Our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007 (the “2007 Annual Report”), is being mailed concurrently with this Proxy Statement to our shareholders. Our 2007 Annual Report is not incorporated into this Proxy Statement and shall not be considered a part of this Proxy Statement or soliciting materials.

### **QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS FOR ANNUAL MEETING**

**Q: Who is asking for my vote and why am I receiving this document?**

A: The Board of Directors asks that you vote on the matters listed in the Notice of Annual Meeting, which are more fully described in this Proxy Statement.

We are providing this Proxy Statement and related proxy card to our shareholders in connection with the solicitation by the Board of Directors of proxies to be voted at the Meeting. A proxy, if duly executed and not revoked, will be voted and, if it contains any specific instructions, will be voted in accordance with those instructions.

**Q: Who is entitled to vote?**

A: You may vote if you owned shares of our common stock (“Common Stock”) on February 21, 2008, the date established by the Board of Directors under Virginia law for determining shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the Meeting. On the record date, there were outstanding 91,407,676 shares of Common Stock. Each share of Common Stock is entitled to one vote.

**Q: What is a proxy?**

A: A proxy is your legal designation of another person to vote the stock you own. If you designate someone as your proxy or proxy holder in a written document, that document also is called a proxy or a proxy card. Messrs. Seymour S. Preston III and William M. Gottwald have been designated as proxies or proxy holders for the Meeting. Proxies properly executed and received by our Secretary prior to the Meeting and not revoked will be voted in accordance with the terms thereof.

**Q: What is a voting instruction?**

A: A voting instruction is the instruction form you receive from your bank, broker or its nominee if you hold your shares of Common Stock in street name. The instruction form instructs you how to direct your bank, broker or its nominee, as record holder, to vote your shares of Common Stock.

**Q: What am I voting on at the Meeting?**

A: You will be voting on the following matters at the Meeting:

- Election of nine directors.
- Approval of the Albemarle Corporation 2008 Incentive Plan.
- Approval of the 2008 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors of Albemarle Corporation.

- Ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008.
- Any other business properly raised at the Meeting or any adjournments or postponements of thereof.

**Q: How many votes must be present to hold the Meeting?**

A: In order for the Meeting to be conducted, a majority of the outstanding shares of Common Stock as of the record date must be present in person or represented by proxy at the Meeting. This is referred to as a quorum. Abstentions, withheld votes and shares held of record by a bank, broker or its nominee that are voted on any matter (“broker shares”) are included in determining the number of votes present. Broker shares that are not voted on any matter will not be included in determining whether a quorum is present.

**Q: What vote is needed to elect directors?**

A: The election of each nominee for director requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a plurality of the shares of the Common Stock voted in the election of directors.

**Q: What vote is needed to approve the Albemarle Corporation 2008 Incentive Plan?**

A The approval of the Albemarle Corporation 2008 Incentive Plan (the “2008 Incentive Plan”) requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of Common Stock cast on the proposal to approve the 2008 Incentive Plan, provided that the total of the votes cast on the proposal to approve the 2008 Incentive Plan represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock.

**Q: What vote is needed to approve the 2008 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors of Albemarle Corporation?**

A The approval of the 2008 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors of Albemarle Corporation (the “2008 Directors Plan”) requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of Common Stock cast on the proposal to approve the 2008 Directors Plan, provided that the total of the votes cast on the proposal to approve the 2008 Directors Plan represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock.

**Q: What vote is needed to ratify the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP?**

A: The ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP requires that the votes cast in favor of the ratification exceed the number of votes cast opposing the ratification.

**Q: What are the voting recommendations of the Board of Directors?**

A: The Board of Directors recommends that shareholders vote “**FOR**” all of the proposed nominees for director, “**FOR**” approval of the 2008 Incentive Plan, “**FOR**” approval of the 2008 Directors Plan and “**FOR**” the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP.

**Q: How do I vote?**

A: Registered shareholders (shareholders who hold Common Stock in certificated form as opposed to through a bank, broker, or other nominee) or employees who hold Common Stock through our Albemarle Corporation Savings Plan (“401(k) Plan”) may vote in person at the Meeting or by proxy. Registered shareholders and employees who own Common Stock through our 401(k) Plan have the following ways to vote by proxy:

- *By mail* — complete, sign, date and return the enclosed proxy card or voting instruction, or
- *By telephone or over the Internet* — follow the instructions provided on the enclosed proxy card or voting instruction.

Registered shareholders and participants in plans holding shares of Common Stock are urged to deliver proxies and voting instructions by calling the toll-free telephone number, by using the Internet or by completing and mailing the enclosed proxy card or voting instruction. The telephone and Internet voting procedures are designed to authenticate shareholders’ and plan participants’ identities, to allow shareholders and plan participants to give their proxies or voting instructions and to confirm that such instructions have been recorded properly. Instructions for voting by telephone or over the Internet are set forth on the enclosed proxy card or voting instruction. Registered shareholders and plan participants may

also send their proxies or voting instructions by completing, signing and dating the enclosed proxy card or voting instruction and returning it as promptly as possible in the enclosed postage-paid envelope.

Shareholders who hold Common Stock through banks, brokers or other nominees (street name shareholders) who wish to vote at the Meeting should be provided voting instructions from the institution that holds their shares. If this has not occurred, please contact the institution that holds your shares. Street name shareholders may also be eligible to vote their shares electronically by following the voting instructions provided by the bank, broker or other nominee that holds the shares, using either the toll-free telephone number or the Internet address provided on the voting instruction, or otherwise complete, date and sign the voting instruction and return it promptly in the enclosed pre-paid envelope.

The deadline for voting electronically through the Internet or by telephone is 11:59 p.m., Eastern Time, on April 29, 2008.

**Q: Can I attend the Meeting?**

A: The Meeting is open to all holders of our Common Stock as of the record date, February 21, 2008. You may vote by attending the Meeting and voting in person. Even if you plan to attend the Meeting, however, we encourage you to vote your shares by proxy. We will not permit cameras, recording devices and other electronic devices at the Meeting.

**Q: Can I change or revoke my vote?**

A: Any shareholder giving a proxy may change or revoke it at any time before it is voted at the Meeting. A proxy can be changed or revoked by

- delivering a later dated proxy, or written notice of revocation, to our Secretary at the address listed under "Shareholder Proposals" on page 47, or
- appearing at the Meeting and voting in person.

If you voted by telephone or over the Internet, you can also revoke your vote by any of these methods or you can change your vote by voting again by telephone or over the Internet. If you decide to vote by completing, signing, dating and returning the enclosed proxy card, you should retain a copy of the voter control number found on the proxy card in the event that you decide later to change or revoke your proxy by telephone or over the Internet. Your attendance at the Meeting will not itself revoke a proxy.

If you are a shareholder whose stock is held in street name with a bank, broker or other nominee, you must follow the instructions found on the voting instruction card provided by the bank, broker or other nominee, or contact your bank, broker or other nominee in order to change or revoke your previously given proxy.

**Q: How will my shares be voted if I sign, date and return my proxy card or voting instruction card, but do not provide complete voting instructions with respect to each proposal?**

A: Shareholders should specify their choice for each matter on the enclosed proxy. If no specific instructions are given, it is intended that all proxies that are signed and returned will be voted "**FOR**" the election of all nominees for director, "**FOR**" approval of the 2008 Incentive Plan, "**FOR**" approval of the 2008 Directors Plan, "**FOR**" the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and according to the discretion of the proxy holders on any other business proposal properly raised at the Meeting, with the following two exceptions:

- shares of Common Stock held in our 401(k) Plan for which no direction is provided on a properly executed, returned and not revoked voting instruction card will be voted proportionately in the same manner as those shares held in our 401(k) Plan for which timely and valid voting instructions are received with respect to such proposals, and
- shares of Common Stock held in our 401(k) Plan for which timely and valid voting instructions are not received will be considered to have been designated to be voted by the trustee proportionately in the same manner as those shares held in our 401(k) Plan for which timely and valid voting instructions are received.

As to any other business that may properly come before the Meeting, the persons named in the enclosed proxy card or voting instruction will vote the shares of Common Stock represented by the proxy in the manner as the Board of Directors may recommend, or otherwise in the proxy holders' discretion. The Board of Directors does not presently know of any other such business.

**Q: How will my shares be voted if I do not return my proxy card or my voting instruction?**

A: It will depend on how your ownership of shares of Common Stock is registered. If you own your shares as a registered holder, which means that your shares of Common Stock are registered in your name with National City Bank, our transfer agent, your shares will only be voted if National City Bank receives specific voting instructions from you. Otherwise, your unvoted shares will not be represented at the Meeting and will not count toward the quorum requirement, which is explained under “— How many votes must be present to hold the Meeting?” above, unless you attend the Meeting to vote them in person.

If you are a shareholder whose shares of Common Stock are held in street name, which means that your shares are registered in the name of your bank, broker or other nominee, your bank, broker or other nominee may or may not vote your shares in its discretion if you have not provided voting instructions to the bank, broker or its nominee. Whether the bank, broker or other nominee may vote your shares depends on the proposals before the Meeting. Under the rules of the New York Stock Exchange, or NYSE, your broker may vote your shares in its discretion on “routine matters.” Based on the rules of the NYSE, we believe that the election of directors and the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm are routine matters for which brokerage firms may vote on behalf of their clients if no voting instructions are provided. Therefore, if you are a shareholder whose shares of Common Stock are held in street name with a bank, broker or other nominee and you do not return your voting instruction card, your bank, broker or other nominee may vote your shares (1) “**FOR**” the election of the director nominees named in the Proxy Statement and (2) “**FOR**” the ratification of the appointment by the Audit Committee of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm.

The rules of the NYSE, however, do not permit your bank, broker or other nominee to vote your shares on proposals that are not considered “routine.” When a proposal is not a routine matter and your bank, broker or other nominee has not received your voting instructions with respect to that proposal, your bank, broker or other nominee cannot vote your shares on that proposal. Based on the rules of the NYSE, we believe that the approval of the 2008 Incentive Plan and the approval of the 2008 Directors Plan are not routine matters and if your bank, broker or other nominee has not received your voting instructions with respect to either the 2008 Incentive Plan or the 2008 Directors Plan, your bank, broker or other nominee cannot vote your shares on the proposal to approve the 2008 Incentive Plan or the proposal to approve the 2008 Directors Plan, as the case may be. This is called a “broker non-vote.”

**Q: How are abstentions and broker non-votes counted?**

A: Abstentions and broker non-votes and, with respect to the election of directors, withheld votes, will not be included in the vote totals for the election of directors and the ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP and will not affect the outcome of the vote for these proposals. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the proposal to approve the 2008 Incentive Plan or the proposal to approve the 2008 Directors Plan, provided that the total vote cast on the proposal to approve the 2008 Incentive Plan or the proposal to approve the 2008 Directors Plan, as the case may be, represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock.

**Q: Where can I find the results of the Meeting?**

A: We intend to announce preliminary voting results at the Meeting and publish final results in our Quarterly Report on Form 10-Q for the second quarter of 2008.

**Q: Who pays for the solicitation of proxies?**

A: We will pay for the cost of the solicitation of proxies. In addition to the use of the mails, proxies may be solicited personally or by telephone by our employees. The Altman Group, Inc. (“Altman”) has been engaged to assist in the solicitation of proxies from brokers, nominees, fiduciaries and other custodians. We will pay Altman approximately \$6,500 for its services and reimburse its out-of-pocket expenses for such items as mailing, copying, phone calls, faxes and other related matters and will indemnify Altman against any losses arising out of Altman’s proxy soliciting services on behalf of us.

**Q: Could other matters be decided in the Meeting?**

A: The Board of Directors does not know of any other business that may be brought before the Meeting. However, if any other matters should properly come before the Meeting or at any adjournment or

postponement thereof, it is the intention of the persons named in the accompanying proxy to vote on such matters as they, in their discretion, may determine.

**Q: Where can I find the corporate governance materials?**

A: Our Corporate Governance Guidelines, including our independence standards for members of the Board of Directors, Code of Conduct and the charters of the Audit, Executive Compensation, and Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committees are available on our Internet website at [http://www.albemarle.com/Investor\\_information/Corporate\\_information/Corporate\\_governance/](http://www.albemarle.com/Investor_information/Corporate_information/Corporate_governance/), and are available in print to any shareholder upon request by contacting our investor relations department as described below.

**Q: How do I communicate with the Board of Directors?**

A: Shareholders and other interested persons may communicate with the full Board of Directors, a specified committee of the Board of Directors or a specified individual member of the Board of Directors in writing by mail at Albemarle Corporation, 451 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801, Attention: Chairman of the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee or by electronic mail at [governance@albemarle.com](mailto:governance@albemarle.com). The Chairman of the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee and his or her duly authorized agents are responsible for collecting and organizing shareholder communications. Absent a conflict of interest, the Chairman of the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee is responsible for evaluating the materiality of each shareholder communication and determining whether further distribution is appropriate, and, if so, whether to (1) the full Board of Directors, (2) one or more committee members, (3) one or more Board members and/or (4) other individuals or entities.

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**Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the Shareholder Meeting to Be Held on April 30, 2008.**

**The Proxy Statement and the 2007 Annual Report are both available free of charge at [http://www.albemarle.com/Investor\\_information/Financial\\_information/Annual\\_reports/](http://www.albemarle.com/Investor_information/Financial_information/Annual_reports/).** In addition, a copy of the 2007 Annual Report is enclosed. **We will provide without charge to each person to whom this Proxy Statement has been delivered, on the request of any such person, additional copies of the 2007 Annual Report, including the financial statements and financial statement schedules.** Requests should be directed to our investor relations department as described below:

Albemarle Corporation  
451 Florida Street  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801  
Attention: Investor Relations  
Telephone: (225) 388-7402

We make available free of charge through our Internet website ([http://www.albemarle.com/Investor\\_information/](http://www.albemarle.com/Investor_information/)) our Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, Current Reports on Form 8-K and amendments to those reports filed or furnished pursuant to Section 13(a) or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (the "Exchange Act"), as well as reports on Forms 3, 4 and 5 filed pursuant to Section 16 of the Exchange Act, as soon as reasonably practicable after such documents are electronically filed with, or furnished to, the Securities and Exchange Commission. The information on our Internet website is not, and shall not be deemed to be, a part of this Proxy Statement or incorporated into any other filings we make with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

**PROPOSAL NO. 1  
ELECTION OF DIRECTORS**

The Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee has recommended to the Board of Directors, and the Board of Directors has approved, the persons named below as nominees for election to the Board of Directors. Each of the nominees presently serves as a director. Proxies will be voted for the election of the persons named below (or if for any reason such persons are unavailable, of such substitutes as the Board of Directors may designate) as directors for the ensuing year. The Board of Directors has no reason to believe that any of the nominees will be unavailable. Set forth below is certain information about the nominees for election to the Board of Directors as of March 1, 2008.

**Mark C. Rohr;** age 56; director since 2001; President and Chief Executive Officer since October 1, 2002, having previously served as our President and Chief Operating Officer from January 1, 2000 through September 30, 2002, and our Executive Vice President from March 22, 1999 through December 31, 1999, and Senior Vice President, Specialty Chemicals, of Occidental Chemical Corporation (chemical manufacturer with interests in basic chemicals, vinyls, petrochemicals and specialty products and a subsidiary of Occidental Petroleum Corporation) prior thereto. Other directorships: Celanese Corporation (industrial chemicals producer).

**J. Alfred Broadus, Jr.;** age 68; director since 2004; retired, having previously served as President of the Federal Reserve Bank of Richmond until July 31, 2004. Other directorships: Markel Corporation (markets and underwrites specialty insurance products and programs for a variety of niche markets), Owens & Minor, Inc. (distributor of national name-brand medical and surgical supplies and a healthcare supply chain management company) and T. Rowe Price Group, Inc. (global investment management firm).

**William M. Gottwald;** age 60; director since 1999; Chairman of the Board of Directors since March 28, 2001, having previously served as our Vice President, Corporate Strategy. Other directorship: Tredegar Corporation.

**R. William Ide III;** age 67; director since December 16, 2005; Partner of McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP (law firm), having previously served as Senior Vice President, General Counsel of Monsanto Corporation. Other directorships: AFC Enterprises, Inc. (the franchisor and operator of Popeyes® Chicken & Biscuits).

**Richard L. Morrill;** age 68; director since 2002; Chancellor of the University of Richmond since July 1, 1998, having previously served as Distinguished University Professor of Ethics and Democratic Values from July 1, 1998 until June 1, 2004, and as President of the University of Richmond. Other directorship: Tredegar Corporation (Chairman of the Board).

**John Sherman, Jr.;** age 62; director since 2003; retired, having previously served as Vice Chairman of Scott & Stringfellow, Inc. (regional brokerage) from September 1, 2002 through December 31, 2005 and as President and Chief Executive Officer of Scott & Stringfellow prior thereto.

**Charles E. Stewart;** age 72; director since 1997; consultant, having previously served as Executive Vice President of Occidental Chemical Corporation.

**Harriett Tee Taggart,** age 59; director since February 7, 2007; consultant, having previously served until December 2006 as a Partner of Wellington Management LLC (investment management firm). Ms. Taggart was global sector equity portfolio manager and global industry analyst for the chemicals and related industries at Wellington Management. Other directorship: The Lubrizol Corporation (a specialty chemical company).

**Anne Marie Whittemore;** age 61; director since 1996; Partner of McGuireWoods LLP (law firm). Other directorships: Owens & Minor, Inc. and T. Rowe Price Group, Inc.

Mr. Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr. has served as our Director Emeritus and Chairman Emeritus since April 11, 2007. As Director Emeritus and Chairman Emeritus, Mr. Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr. neither attends nor votes at Board of Directors meetings. Mr. Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr. does not receive any compensation for service as Director Emeritus and Chairman Emeritus.

Mr. Seymour S. Preston III will retire from the Board of Directors upon the expiration of his current term at the Meeting and he is therefore not being nominated for reelection.

## **Board of Directors**

We are managed under the direction of the Board of Directors, which has adopted Corporate Governance Guidelines to set forth certain corporate governance practices. The Corporate Governance Guidelines are available on our website at [http://www.albemarle.com/Investor\\_information/Corporate\\_information/Corporate\\_governance/](http://www.albemarle.com/Investor_information/Corporate_information/Corporate_governance/).

### ***Independence of Directors***

The Board of Directors has determined that Messrs. Broaddus, Ide, Morrill, Sherman and Stewart and Ms. Taggart and Ms. Whittemore are “independent” directors within the listing standards of the NYSE and the independence standards of our Corporate Governance Guidelines, which are set forth below.

As set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, in order for a director to be considered “independent” by the Board of Directors, he or she must (1) be free of any relationship that, applying the rules of the NYSE, would preclude a finding of independence and (2) not have any material relationship (either directly or as a partner, shareholder or officer of an organization) with us or any of our affiliates or any executive officer of us or any of our affiliates. In evaluating the materiality of any such relationship, the Board of Directors takes into consideration whether disclosure of the relationship would be required by the proxy rules under the Exchange Act. If disclosure of the relationship is required, the Board of Directors must make a determination that the relationship is not material as a prerequisite to finding that the director is “independent.”

### ***Board of Directors Meetings***

The Board of Directors meets on a regularly scheduled basis during the year to review significant developments affecting us and to act on matters requiring Board of Directors’ approval, and may hold special meetings between scheduled meetings when appropriate. During 2007, the Board of Directors held seven meetings. During 2007, each of the directors attended over 75% of the aggregate of (1) the total number of meetings of all committees of the Board of Directors on which the director then served and (2) the total number of meetings of the Board of Directors.

### ***Meetings of Non-Management Directors; Presiding Director***

Executive sessions of the independent members of the Board of Directors and executive sessions of the non-management members of the Board of Directors were held regularly in conjunction with scheduled Board meetings in 2007. The Chairman of the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee presides at the executive session of the non-management directors, as provided in our Corporate Governance Guidelines. Shareholders and other interested persons may contact the Chairman of the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee or the non-management members of the Board of Directors as a group through the method described in “Questions and Answers — How do I communicate with the Board of Directors?” on page 5.

### ***Attendance at Annual Meeting***

As set forth in our Corporate Governance Guidelines, we expect all directors to attend the annual meeting of shareholders each year. All directors attended last year’s annual meeting of shareholders.

### ***Director Continuing Education***

We encourage directors to attend director continuing education programs. Typically, director education programs focus on issues and current trends affecting directors of publicly-held companies. We reimburse our directors for tuition and expenses associated with attending these programs. In 2007, five of our independent directors attended director continuing education programs accredited by ISS Governance Services.

## **Committees of the Board of Directors**

The Board of Directors has established various committees to assist it with the performance of its responsibilities. These committees and their current members are described below.

### ***Audit Committee***

Messrs. Broaddus (Chairman), Preston (Vice Chairman), Sherman and Stewart and Ms. Taggart currently serve on our Audit Committee. The Audit Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors and is available on our Internet website. See “Questions and Answers — Where can I find the corporate governance materials?” on page 5. During 2007, the Audit Committee met on 14 occasions. The Board of Directors has determined that the members of the Audit Committee are “independent” within the meaning of the enhanced

independence standards for audit committee members in the Exchange Act and the rules thereunder, as incorporated into the listing standards of the NYSE, and the independence standards of our Corporate Governance Guidelines. The Board of Directors has further determined that each of the members of the Audit Committee is financially literate and that, as required by the NYSE listing standards, at least one member of the Audit Committee has accounting or related financial management expertise, as such terms are interpreted by the Board in its business judgment. The Board of Directors has also determined that each of Messrs. Sherman and Preston is an “audit committee financial expert,” as that term is defined in the rules promulgated by the Securities and Exchange Commission under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002. For a description of the Audit Committee’s function, see the Audit Committee Report beginning on page 39.

#### ***Executive Compensation Committee***

Messrs. Morrill (Chairman), Ide, Preston and Sherman and Ms. Whittemore currently serve on our Executive Compensation Committee. The Executive Compensation Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, which is available on our Internet website. See “Questions and Answers — Where can I find the corporate governance materials?” on page 5. The Board of Directors has determined that all of the members of the Executive Compensation Committee are (i) “independent” within the meaning of the listing standards of the NYSE and the independence standards of our Corporate Governance Guidelines, (ii) “non-employee directors” (within the meaning of Rule 16b-3 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended) and (iii) “outside directors” (within the meaning of Section 162(m) of the Internal Revenue Code). The Executive Compensation Committee’s primary role is to develop and oversee the implementation of our philosophy with respect to the compensation of our executive officers and other key employees, including the named executive officers listed in this Proxy Statement. The Executive Compensation Committee has the overall responsibility of evaluating the performance of and determining the compensation of the Chief Executive Officer and approving the compensation structure for senior management and other key employees. In performing these duties during 2007, the Executive Compensation Committee met on eight occasions.

The Executive Compensation Committee also approves cash incentive awards, certain consultant agreements and initial compensation packages of new executive-level personnel and may grant stock options, stock appreciation rights (“SARs”), performance units, restricted stock and cash incentive awards under our 2003 Incentive Plan (the “2003 Incentive Plan”). If the shareholders approve the Albemarle Corporation 2008 Incentive Plan (the “2008 Incentive Plan”) at the Meeting, then the 2003 Incentive Plan shall be terminated and replaced by the 2008 Incentive Plan.

The Executive Compensation Committee reviews and approves the performance, compensation and annual performance goals of the Chief Executive Officer with input from both the full Board and the Chief Executive Officer’s self evaluation. The Executive Compensation Committee approves the compensation of the other named executive officers, following discussions with each of them and based upon the evaluation and recommendation of the Chief Executive Officer for those executives who are his direct reports. The Executive Compensation Committee retains Pearl Meyer & Partners (“Pearl Meyer”) as the Executive Compensation Committee’s outside independent compensation consultant to provide competitive information concerning compensation and to assist in designing compensation plans. The Executive Compensation Committee periodically meets individually with members of senior management in order to assess progress toward meeting long-term objectives approved by the Board of Directors. The Executive Compensation Committee reports regularly to the Board of Directors on matters relating to the Executive Compensation Committee’s responsibilities. In addition, the Executive Compensation Committee follows regulatory and legislative developments and considers corporate governance best practices in performing its duties. For additional information with respect to the Executive Compensation Committee, please see “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” beginning on page 15.

#### ***Executive Compensation Committee Interlocks and Insider Participation***

No member of the Executive Compensation Committee was at any time an officer or employee of us, or is related to any other member of the Executive Compensation Committee, any other member of the Board of Directors or any executive officer of us.

#### ***Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee***

Messrs. Stewart (Chairman), Ide and Morrill and Ms. Taggart and Ms. Whittemore currently serve on our Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee. The Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors, which is available on our Internet

website. See “Questions and Answers — Where can I find the corporate governance materials?” on page 5. The Board of Directors has determined that all of the members of the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee are “independent” within the meaning of the listing standards of the NYSE and the independence standards of our Corporate Governance Guidelines. During 2007, the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee met on five occasions. The Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee assists the Board of Directors on all matters relating to the selection, qualification and compensation of members of the Board of Directors, as well as matters relating to the duties of the members of the Board of Directors. The Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee also assists the Board of Directors with oversight of corporate governance, including the enhancement of our global reputation, our corporate social responsibility, and the stewardship and sustainability of our products. The Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee administers the 2006 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors (the “2006 Directors Plan”) and will administer the 2008 Directors Plan if it is approved by the shareholders at this Meeting.

*Director Candidate Recommendations and Nominations by Shareholders.* The Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee’s charter provides that the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee will consider director candidate recommendations by shareholders. Shareholders should submit any such recommendations to the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee through the method described in “Questions and Answers — How do I communicate with the Board of Directors?” on page 5. In addition, in accordance with our bylaws, any shareholder entitled to vote for the election of directors may nominate persons for election to the Board of Directors if such shareholder complies with the procedures set forth in the bylaws and summarized in “Shareholder Proposals” on page 47.

*Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee Process for Identifying and Evaluating Director Candidates.* The Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee identifies and evaluates all director candidates in accordance with the director qualification standards described in the Corporate Governance Guidelines. The Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee evaluates any candidate’s qualifications to serve as a member of the Board of Directors based on the background and expertise of individual Board members as well as the background and expertise of the Board as a whole. In addition, the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee will evaluate a candidate’s independence and his or her background and expertise in the context of the Board’s needs. There are no differences in the manner in which the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee evaluates director candidates based on whether the candidate is recommended by a shareholder.

*Sources for New Nominees.* We did not utilize any third party search firms to assist in identifying potential director candidates during 2007. The Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee did not receive any recommendations from any shareholders in connection with the Meeting.

### **Compensation of Directors**

In 2007, non-employee directors were paid \$15,800 per quarter (\$63,200 per year). In addition, in accordance with the 2006 Directors Plan, non-employee directors received for service as a director 200 shares of Albemarle common stock per quarter for the first three quarters of 2007 and 400 shares of Albemarle common stock for the fourth quarter of 2007. Non-employee directors also received an additional amount based on their committee service: Audit Committee members received \$2,250 per quarter (\$9,000 per year) and the Chairman of the Audit Committee received an additional \$2,250 per quarter (\$9,000 per year); Executive Compensation Committee members received \$2,250 per quarter (\$9,000 per year) and the Chairman of the Executive Compensation Committee received an additional \$2,250 per quarter (\$9,000 per year); and Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility members received \$1,250 per quarter (\$5,000 per year) and the Chairman of the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee received an additional \$750 per quarter (\$3,000 per year). In addition, we reimbursed each of our non-employee directors for reasonable travel expenses incurred in connection with attending Board and Board Committee meetings. Employee members of the Board of Directors were not paid separately for service on the Board. In addition, we match up to \$2,500 for director charitable giving.

The following table presents information relating to total compensation of the directors for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007.

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Fees Earned or Paid in Cash<sup>(2)</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Stock Awards<sup>(3)(4)</sup></u></b>	<b><u>All Other Compensation<sup>(5)</sup></u></b>	<b><u>Total</u></b>
J. Alfred Broaddus, Jr. ....	\$ 78,950	\$ 41,002	\$ 2,500	\$ 122,452
Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr. <sup>(1)</sup> .....	24,800	7,198	2,500	34,498
John D. Gottwald <sup>(1)</sup> .....	63,200	41,002	2,500	106,702
R. William Ide III.....	77,200	41,002	2,500	120,702
Richard L. Morrill.....	86,200	41,002	2,500	129,702
Seymour S. Preston III.....	81,200	41,002	2,500	124,702
John Sherman, Jr.....	81,200	41,002	2,500	124,702
Charles E. Stewart.....	77,950	41,002	2,500	121,452
Harriett Tee Taggart.....	68,433	33,804	2,500	104,737
Anne Marie Whittemore .....	77,200	41,002	2,500	120,702

<sup>1</sup> Mr. Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr. retired as a director effective April 11, 2007 and Mr. John D. Gottwald retired as a director effective February 28, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Amounts shown include fees that have been deferred at the election of the director under our director deferred compensation plan.

<sup>3</sup> Amounts shown represent the dollar amounts of the expense recognized in fiscal year 2007 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with Statement of Financial Accounting Standards No. 123(R), "Share-Based Payments" ("SFAS 123(R)") (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions). Each non-employee director received 200 shares of Common Stock in accordance with our 2006 Directors Plan for service as a director in January, April and July 2007 and 400 shares of Common Stock in October 2007. These amounts reflect our accounting expense for these awards and do not correspond to the actual value that will be recognized by each of the non-employee directors.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Floyd D. Gottwald held options exercisable for 210,000 shares of Common Stock as of December 31, 2007. Mr. Gottwald exercised those options in February 2008. The aggregate number of stock awards that were granted by us to each non-employee director (including stock awards deferred at the election of Messrs. Ide and Sherman) through December 31, 2007, was as follows:

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Aggregate Stock Awards</u></b>
J. Alfred Broaddus, Jr. ....	1,400
Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr. <sup>(1)</sup> .....	600
John D. Gottwald .....	1,400
R. William Ide III.....	1,400
Richard L. Morrill.....	1,400
Seymour S. Preston III.....	1,400
John Sherman, Jr.....	1,400
Charles E. Stewart.....	1,400
Harriett Tee Taggart.....	800
Anne Marie Whittemore .....	1,400

<sup>5</sup> Amounts in this column do not represent compensation paid to the directors. The amounts represent our matching contributions of the non-employee directors' charitable donations to eligible

### ***Deferred Compensation***

Non-employee directors may defer, in 10% increments, all or part of their retainer fee, quarterly fees and/or meeting fees into either a deferred cash account or a deferred stock account (the “Deferred Compensation Plan”), or a percentage of the fees into each of the accounts, in 10% increments, both of which are unfunded and maintained for record-keeping purposes only. Distributions under the Deferred Compensation Plan will be paid in a single sum unless the participant specifies installment payments over a period up to 10 years. Deferred cash account amounts are paid in the form of cash and deferred stock account amounts are paid in whole shares of stock. Unless otherwise elected by the participant, distributions will begin on February 15 following the earlier of the participant’s attainment of age 65 or ceasing to be a director. The maximum aggregate number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued under the Deferred Compensation Plan is 200,000 shares. Messrs. Preston, Sherman and Stewart have elected to defer all or a part of their retainer fees and/or meeting fees into the deferred cash account and, as of December 31, 2007, had accumulated \$288,517, \$44,835, and \$79,929, respectively. Messrs. Broadus, Ide, Morrill and Sherman have elected to defer all or a part of their retainer fees and/or meeting fees into the deferred stock account and, as of December 31, 2007, had accumulated 4,510, 6,294, 2,215 and 5,033 phantom shares, respectively, representing an equivalent number of shares of Common Stock under the Deferred Compensation Plan.

### ***Stock Ownership Requirements***

Under our policy for stock ownership by non-employee directors, all non-employee directors are to achieve ownership of Common Stock equal to the lesser of 5,000 shares, or \$150,000 value, after five years of service as a director. Currently, all of our non-employee directors with at least five years of service satisfy these stock ownership requirements.

### ***2006 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors***

On April 19, 2006, our shareholders approved the 2006 Directors Plan. The 2006 Directors Plan provides for the grant of shares of Common Stock to each non-employee who is a director on the effective date of the Non-Employee Director Stock Plan or who thereafter becomes a director (each, a “participant”). The Board of Directors has the authority to increase the amount of shares of Common Stock issued to each participant during the calendar year, but in no event shall more than 2,000 shares of Common Stock be issued to a participant during any calendar year. In the event of a change in capital, shares of capital stock, or any special distribution to our shareholders, the Board of Directors will make equitable adjustments in the number of shares of Common Stock that have been, or thereafter may be, granted to participants. The maximum aggregate number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued under the 2006 Directors Plan is 150,000 shares.

The Board of Directors may amend, suspend or terminate the 2006 Directors Plan, but no such amendment shall (1) increase the number of shares of Common Stock that may be granted to any participant (except as described above) or (2) increase the total number of shares of Common Stock that may be granted under the 2006 Directors Plan; provided, however, that the 2006 Directors Plan may not be amended more than once every six months other than to comply with changes in the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended (the “Code”), or any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder. Any amendment of the 2006 Directors Plan must comply with the rules of the NYSE.

Our Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee administers the 2006 Directors Plan. The Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee interprets all provisions of the 2006 Directors Plan, establishes administrative regulations to further the purpose of the 2006 Directors Plan and takes any other action necessary for the proper operation of the 2006 Directors Plan. All decisions and acts of the Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee shall be final and binding.

If the shareholders approve the 2008 Directors Plan at the Meeting, then the 2006 Directors Plan will be terminated and replaced by the 2008 Directors Plan. See “Proposal 2 — Approval of the Albemarle Corporation 2008 Incentive Plan” beginning on page 41.

### ***Retirement Compensation***

Any director who became a member of the Board of Directors on or before October 27, 1999 and retires from the Board after age 60 with at least five years of service on the Board of Directors will receive, commencing with retirement from the Board of Directors, \$12,000 per year for life, payable in quarterly installments. The following current directors will be eligible for this benefit upon their retirement after age 60: Messrs. Stewart and Preston, Ms. Whittemore and Mr. William M. Gottwald. The payment period limitation on this benefit may be

waived in certain circumstances. In addition, such retirement payments to former directors may not commence and may be discontinued under certain circumstances. Retirement benefits are not available to any director who became a member of the Board of Directors after October 27, 1999.

### **CERTAIN RELATIONSHIPS AND RELATED TRANSACTIONS**

The Board of Directors has adopted a written related person transaction policy that governs the review, approval or ratification of covered related person transactions. The Audit Committee manages this policy. The policy generally provides that we may enter into a related person transaction only if the Audit Committee approves or ratifies such transaction in accordance with the guidelines set forth in the policy and if the transaction is on terms comparable to those that could be obtained in arm's length dealings with an unrelated third party; or the transaction is approved by the disinterested members of the Board of Directors; or the transaction involves compensation approved by our Compensation Committee.

In the event our management determines to recommend a related person transaction to the Audit Committee, such transaction must be presented to the Audit Committee for approval. After review, the Audit Committee will approve or disapprove such transaction and at each subsequently scheduled Audit Committee meeting, our management will update the Audit Committee as to any material change to the proposed related person transaction. In those instances in which our general counsel, in consultation with our Chief Executive Officer or the Chief Financial Officer, determines that it is not practicable or desirable for us to wait until the Audit Committee meeting, the Chair of the Audit Committee has delegated authority to act on behalf of the Audit Committee. The Audit Committee (or the Chair) approves only those related person transactions that it determines in good faith to be in our best interests and the best interests of our shareholders. To the extent that the Board of Directors has approved a standing resolution with respect to the repurchase of outstanding shares of Common Stock, the Audit Committee has pre-approved the repurchase of shares of Common Stock from related persons, provided that the compliance officer determines that such repurchase is in compliance with such standing resolution and the terms offered to the related persons are no less favorable to us than those that could be obtained in arm's length dealings with an unrelated third party.

For purposes of this policy, a "related person transaction" is a transaction, arrangement or relationship (or any series of similar transactions, arrangements or relationships) in which we were, are or will be a participant and the amount involved exceeds \$120,000 and in which any related person had, has or will have a direct or indirect material interest. For purposes of determining whether a transaction is a related person transaction, the Audit Committee relies upon Item 404 of Regulation S-K, promulgated under the Exchange Act.

A "related person" is (i) any person who is, or at any time since the beginning of our last fiscal year was, a director or executive officer of us or a nominee to become a director, (ii) any person who is known to be the beneficial owner of more than 5% of any class of our voting securities, (iii) any immediate family member of any of the foregoing persons, which means any child, stepchild, parent, stepparent, spouse, sibling, mother-in-law, father-in-law, son-in-law, daughter-in-law, brother-in-law, or sister-in-law of the director, executive officer, nominee or more than 5% beneficial owner, and any person (other than a tenant or employee) sharing the household of such director, executive officer, nominee or more than 5% beneficial owner and (iv) any firm, corporation or other entity in which any of the foregoing persons is employed or is a general partner or principal or in a similar position or in which such person has a 5% or greater beneficial ownership interest.

On May 1, 2007, pursuant to a Stock Purchase Agreement, dated as of April 25, 2007, with each of Messrs. William M. Gottwald and John D. Gottwald, we purchased an aggregate of 100,000 shares of Common Stock from Mr. William M. Gottwald and an aggregate of 400,000 shares of Common Stock from Mr. John D. Gottwald, each at a purchase price of \$43.36 per share.

On December 10, 2007, pursuant to a Stock Purchase Agreement, dated as of November 30, 2007, with each of Mr. Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr. and Westham Partners, L.P., we purchased an aggregate of 120,000 shares of Common Stock from Mr. Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr. and an aggregate of 1,000,000 shares of Common Stock from Westham Partners, L.P., each at a purchase price of \$43.9758 per share of Common Stock. Conagret Corporation is the general partner of Westham Partners L.P. Mr. William M. Gottwald is the president of Conagret Corporation.

On February 8, 2008, pursuant to a Stock Purchase Agreement, dated as of February 5, 2008, with each of (i) Messrs. William M. Gottwald, John D. Gottwald and James T. Gottwald as Trustees of Floyd, Jr.'s Trust (the "Trust") under the will of Floyd D. Gottwald, (ii) Mr. Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr. and (iii) Westham Partners, L.P., we purchased an aggregate of 3,000,000 shares of Common Stock from the Trust, an aggregate of 300,000 shares of

Common Stock from Mr. Floyd D. Gottwald, Jr., and an aggregate of 700,000 shares of Common Stock from Westham Partners, L.P., each at a price equal to \$37.2174 per share of Common Stock.

**SECTION 16(A)  
BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP REPORTING COMPLIANCE**

Based solely on our review of the forms required by Section 16(a) of the Exchange Act that have been received by us, we believe there has been compliance with all filing requirements applicable to our officers, directors and beneficial owners of greater than 10% of Common Stock, except that John G. Dabkowski, Ronald R. Gardner and Anthony S. Parnell each filed a single late Form 4 due to administrative oversight.

**STOCK OWNERSHIP**

**Principal Shareholders**

The following table lists any person (including any “group” as that term is used in Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act) who, to our knowledge, was the beneficial owner, as of February 27, 2008, of more than 5% of our outstanding voting shares.

<u>Title of Class</u>	<u>Name and Address of Beneficial Owners</u>	<u>Number of Shares</u>	<u>Percent of Class*</u>
Common Stock	FMR LLC 82 Devonshire Street Boston, Massachusetts 02109	14,374,406 <sup>(1)</sup>	15.72%
	Steven A. Cohen c/o SAC Capital Advisors, LLC 72 Cummings Point Road Stamford, Connecticut 06902	4,860,561 <sup>(2)</sup>	5.32%
	JPMorgan Chase & Co. 270 Park Avenue New York, New York 10017	4,639,935 <sup>(3)</sup>	5.08%

\* Calculated based upon 91,413,676 shares of Common Stock outstanding.

<sup>1</sup> Based solely on the information contained in Amendment No. 1 to Schedule 13G filed by FMR LLC with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the “SEC”) on February 14, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> Based solely on the information contained in the Schedule 13G filed with the SEC on January 31, 2008 by: (i) S.A.C. Capital Advisors, LLC (“SAC Capital Advisors”) with respect to shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by S.A.C. Capital Associates, LLC (“SAC Capital Associates”) and S.A.C. Select Fund, LLC (“SAC Select Fund”); (ii) S.A.C. Capital Management, LLC (“SAC Capital Management”) with respect to shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by SAC Capital Associates and SAC Select Fund; (iii) CR Intrinsic Investors, LLC (“CR Intrinsic Investors”) with respect to shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by CR Intrinsic Investments, LLC (“CR Intrinsic Investments”); (iv) Sigma Capital Management, LLC (“Sigma Management”) with respect to shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by Sigma Capital Associates, LLC (“Sigma Capital Associates”); and (v) Steven A. Cohen with respect to shares of Common Stock beneficially owned by SAC Capital Advisors, SAC Capital Management, SAC Capital Associates, SAC Select Fund, CR Intrinsic Investors, CR Intrinsic Investments, Sigma Management and Sigma Capital Associates. The business address of SAC Capital Management and Sigma Management is 540 Madison Avenue, New York, New York 10022. Each of SAC Capital Advisors, SAC Capital Management, CR Intrinsic Investors, Sigma Management and Mr. Cohen disclaim beneficial ownership of any of the shares of Common Stock and SAC Capital Associates disclaims beneficial ownership of any of the shares of Common Stock held by CR Intrinsic Investments.

<sup>3</sup> Based solely on the information contained in Amendment No. 3 to the Schedule 13G filed by JPMorgan Chase & Co. with the SEC on January 16, 2008.

## Directors and Executive Officers

The following table sets forth as of February 27, 2008, the beneficial ownership of Common Stock by each director of the Company, the executive officers named in the Summary Compensation Table on page 22, and all directors and executive officers of the Company as a group.

<u>Name of Beneficial Owner or Number of Persons in Group</u>	<u>Number of Shares with Sole Voting and Investment Power<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Number of Shares with Shared Voting and Investment Power</u>	<u>Total Number of Shares</u>	<u>Percent of Class*</u>
J. Alfred Broaddus, Jr.....	1,800	—	1,800 <sup>(2)</sup>	*
Richard J. Diemer, Jr. ....	119,406	15,000	134,406	*
William M. Gottwald.....	3,473,968	831,763 <sup>(3)</sup>	4,305,731	4.71%
R. William Ide III.....	6,100 <sup>(4)</sup>	—	6,100	*
Luther C. Kissam, IV.....	130,857	—	130,857	*
Richard L. Morrill .....	9,601	1,000	10,601 <sup>(5)</sup>	*
Seymour S. Preston III .....	33,462	—	33,462	*
Mark C. Rohr.....	541,480	—	541,480	*
John Sherman, Jr. ....	9,950	—	9,950 <sup>(6)</sup>	*
John M. Steitz .....	127,526	—	127,526	*
Charles E. Stewart .....	23,800	—	23,800	*
Harriett Tee Taggart .....	1,200	—	1,200	*
Anne Marie Whittemore.....	14,623	700 <sup>(7)</sup>	15,323	*
Directors and executive officers as a group (13 persons).....	4,493,773	848,463	5,342,236	5.84%

\* Except as indicated, each person owns less than 1% of Common Stock.

<sup>1</sup> The amounts in this column include shares of Common Stock with respect to which certain persons had the right to acquire beneficial ownership within 60 days of February 20, 2008: Mr. Gottwald: 190,000 shares and Mr. Rohr: 300,000 shares.

<sup>2</sup> Mr. Broaddus has elected to defer all or a part of his retainer fees and/or meeting fees into a deferred stock account under the Deferred Compensation Plan. The phantom shares held in the deferred stock account represent an equivalent number of shares of Common Stock. The phantom shares are not reflected in the table above. See “Compensation of Directors—Deferred Compensation” on page 11.

<sup>3</sup> Mr. Gottwald disclaims beneficial ownership of all 831,763 such shares.

<sup>4</sup> Mr. Ide has elected to defer all or a part of his retainer fees and/or meeting fees into a deferred stock account under the Deferred Compensation Plan. The phantom shares held in the deferred stock account represent an equivalent number of shares of Common Stock. The phantom shares are not reflected in the table above. See “Compensation of Directors—Deferred Compensation” on page 11.

<sup>5</sup> Mr. Morrill has elected to defer all or a part of his retainer fees and/or meeting fees into a deferred stock account under the Deferred Compensation Plan. The phantom shares held in the deferred stock account represent an equivalent number of shares of Common Stock. The phantom shares are not reflected in the table above. See “Compensation of Directors—Deferred Compensation” on page 11.

<sup>6</sup> Mr. Sherman has elected to defer all or a part of his retainer fees and/or meeting fees into a deferred stock account under the Deferred Compensation Plan. The phantom shares held in the deferred stock account represent an equivalent number of shares of Common Stock. The phantom shares are not reflected in the table above. See “Compensation of Directors—Deferred Compensation” on page 11.

<sup>7</sup> Ms. Whittemore disclaims beneficial ownership of all 700 such shares.

## Stock Ownership Guidelines

Our policy is that all non-employee directors own stock equal to the lesser of 5,000 shares of Common Stock or \$150,000 in value after five years of service as a director. We also have stock ownership guidelines that require our named executive officers to maintain direct share ownership equal to 60% of the first two performance unit grants beginning in 2004. New officers after 2004 are required to maintain direct share ownership equal to 60% of the first two grants they receive after becoming an officer. For additional information with respect to our stock ownership guidelines, please see “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” beginning on page 15.

## COMPENSATION DISCUSSION AND ANALYSIS

**General Philosophy.** Albemarle's compensation philosophy is to:

- Pay executives a competitive amount of fixed compensation (generally salary and benefits).
- Reward the achievement of annual goals and objectives with a cash incentive.
- Reward the creation of long-term sustained shareholder value with the grant of cash and equity.
- Require executives to be shareholders by holding a material amount of our stock.
- Provide a competitive level of benefits.

When establishing what is competitive for the Company, the Committee generally considers the median of data from a comparator group in addition to survey information from nationally recognized compensation surveys.

### **Compensation Program Success**

The Executive Compensation Committee (the "Committee") believes our executive compensation plans have been extremely successful in attracting, retaining and motivating our high-performing executives. The Committee believes the Company has performed at high levels in recent years and that our executive compensation plans have contributed to this success.

As the Committee reviews each element, level and mix of executive compensation, the Committee considers the performance of existing plans against the potential opportunities and headwinds facing the Company. Accordingly, the Committee seeks to maintain programs that work.

**Compensation Governance.** The Committee is responsible for executive compensation. The Chief Executive Officer, the Vice President, Human Resources and counsel may attend Committee meetings and make recommendations regarding plan design and levels of compensation. However, only Committee members are allowed to vote on decisions made regarding executive compensation.

The Committee engages a compensation consultant to assist in gathering and analyzing data, advising the Committee on compensation standards and trends, and assisting in the implementation of policies and programs. The consultant's role is to provide independent advice and counsel. Mercer Human Resources Consulting served in this role until August of 2007 when the Committee engaged Pearl Meyer & Partners. The consultant reports directly to the Chair of the Committee and may not work with management without the Chair's permission. The Committee meets with the consultant, without management present, to discuss our compensation programs. The consultant may provide consulting advice to management outside the scope of executive compensation. All work completed by the consultant, whether for the Committee or management, is subject to the approval of the Committee. The Committee does not delegate authority to its outside advisor or to other parties.

While the Committee will ask for advice and recommendations from management and the consultant, the Committee is responsible for executive compensation and as such:

1. Sets and annually adjusts executive officer salaries.
2. Reviews financial and operational goals, performance measures and action plans that will be executed by our business segments and approved by our management. These goals and objectives are reviewed and are subject to acceptance by the entire Board.
3. Establishes specific goals, objectives and potential rewards for the annual and long-term incentive plans.
4. Reviews annual and long-term performance against goals and objectives and approves payment of any incentive earned.
5. Reviews contractual agreements and benefits including supplemental retirement and payments that may be earned upon termination and makes changes as appropriate.
6. Reviews incentive plan designs and makes changes as appropriate.
7. Reviews total compensation (using tally sheets) to ensure compensation earned by executive officers is fair and reasonable given performance.

**Comparator Group Analysis.** In setting 2007 salaries, incentive opportunities and total compensation, the Committee considered levels of compensation paid to the following group of chemical companies (the “Comparator Group”):

Chemtura Corporation	Ferro Corp.	Lubrizol Corp.
Cytec Industries Inc.	FMC Corp.	Olin Corp.
Eastman Chemical Co.	W.R. Grace & Co.	Praxair Inc.
Ecolab Inc.	Hercules Inc.	Rohm and Haas Co.
Engelhard Corp.	International Flavors & Fragrances	Sigma-Aldrich Corp.

The Committee, with input from management and the consultant, annually reviews the companies included in the Comparator Group and may add or eliminate companies based on their size and industry focus.

The Committee has not established target levels of compensation relative to the Comparator Group or survey data. The Committee does not have a rigid or formulaic process to set pay levels. In setting compensation levels, the Committee uses its judgment and considers:

- the competitive data (Comparator Group and survey data), focusing on the median of the data as a starting point;
- each executive’s performance;
- each executive’s scope of responsibility and impact on our performance;
- internal equity – an executive’s compensation levels relative to his or her peers, direct reports and supervisors; and
- the CEO’s recommendations for his direct reports.

**Components of Compensation**

The Company provides executive officers with the components of compensation discussed below. The Committee annually reviews the total of all elements of compensation (and post employment payments), the levels of individual components and the overall compensation component mix. The Committee generally manages individual components of compensation and target total compensation relative to the median of the competitive data. However, as described above, the Committee considers other factors. For 2007, the Committee believed the mix of fixed salary and benefits when added to the potential variability of the annual and long term incentive provided an appropriate mix of financial security, risk and reward. The Committee does not consider the actual amounts earned under the incentive plans when setting the future mix or levels of the various components of compensation. Based on its review, the Committee believes total compensation for each of the named executive officers is reasonable and not excessive.

**Base Salaries.** Base salary provides an executive officer with a basic level of financial security. Base salary increases (other than for the Chief Executive Officer and Chairman) are recommended by our Chief Executive Officer and subject to review and approval by the Committee and the Board. Base salary increases for our Chief Executive Officer are determined by the Committee and approved by the Board. Base salary increases for the Chairman are determined and approved by the Committee. Effective as of January 1, 2007, the Committee approved the following adjustments and resulting base salaries for the named executive officers:

<u>Executive Officer</u>	<u>2006 Base Salary</u>	<u>Increase</u>	<u>2007 Base Salary</u>
Mark C. Rohr..... President and Chief Executive Officer	\$825,000	\$75,000 or 9.1%	\$900,000
John M. Steitz..... Senior Vice President – Business Operations	390,000	35,040 or 9.0%	425,040
Richard J. Diemer, Jr. .... Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	375,020	25,000 or 6.7%	400,020
Luther C. Kissam, IV..... Senior Vice President, General Counsel and Secretary	325,020	25,020 or 7.7%	350,040
William M. Gottwald..... Chairman of the Board	315,000	15,000 or 4.8%	330,000

The executive officers were provided with salary adjustments larger than the median adjustment provided to other employees. This is reflective of the executives' base salaries being below the median of the competitive data and our executives' continued outstanding performance, both individually and as a team. Some of our executive officers, after these adjustments, remain below the median of the competitive data. The Committee will continue to act to adjust the salaries of executive officers if their position relative to the competitive market remains below the median and their performance remains outstanding. The Committee is satisfied that each executive officer's salary, relative to each other, is reasonable and appropriate based on each executive's responsibilities and performance.

**Annual Incentive Plan.** The purpose of the annual incentive plan is to reward achievement of annual goals and objectives. Each year, management proposes and the full Board, after ensuring the annual goals and objectives are sufficiently robust, approves the annual goals and objectives. By using goals and objectives thoroughly reviewed by the Board, the Committee rewards participants for achieving performance levels that management has identified and the Board has agreed are key to creating and sustaining shareholder value.

Key features of the annual incentive award include the following:

- a primary emphasis on sustained Company-wide financial growth as measured by such metrics as net income before special items and working capital efficiency;
- a qualitative assessment of our strategic achievements in areas of sustainability, stewardship, governance and development of our employees;
- a structured approach to determine awards;
- recognition of individual achievement and contribution of participants; and
- a specified portion of the annual cash bonus is based on the discretion of the Committee.

The Committee, with the input of management, determines how much of the annual incentive will be earned for achievement of each of the various goals and objectives. For 2007, the Committee established the following mix of performance measures:

<u>Goal and/or Objective</u>	<u>Weight</u>
Financial – Annual Net Income Before Special Items.....	60%
Growth Metric – Reduction in Working Capital .....	20%
Health, Safety, and Environmental .....	5%
Strategic Sustainability .....	<u>15%</u>
Total .....	<u>100%</u>

The actual targets for each criterion are set by the Committee, taking into consideration our expected performance based upon our business plan and recommendations from management. Net income before special items is defined as net income after tax as reported in our financial disclosures excluding declared special items, if any, as reported throughout the year. Working capital is the difference between current assets and current liabilities as reflected on our balance sheet.

The following table summarizes the threshold, target and superior levels for the annual net income before special items and reduction in working capital metrics for 2007 and the 2007 results. Awards for performance between the identified points are interpolated.

	<u>Threshold Level</u>	<u>Target Level</u>	<u>Superior Level</u>	<u>2007 Results</u>
<b>Annual net income before special items.....</b>	\$195 MM	\$214.5 MM	\$234 MM	\$233 MM
<b>Reduction in working capital .....</b>	\$0	\$20 MM	\$40 MM	No Reduction

*Why did the Committee choose these performance metrics?* The Committee chose these performance targets to align the annual incentive plan with our 2007 goals and objectives as established by management and the Board. The Committee chose the relative weights of the performance measures based on the Committee's desire to emphasize financial results (increasing net income year over year and a reduction in working capital) while maintaining a focus on non-financial initiatives.

The Committee may take into account extraordinary, unusual or infrequently occurring events and transactions to adjust the performance goals used to determine whether or not the annual cash incentive components are met. For example, the Committee may take into account effects of items that were not foreseen or contemplated when the performance goals were set, such as mergers, corporate restructurings, stock splits, or other exceptional, one-time or non-recurring events by backing out the impact of such events on the performance goals being measured.

We believe annual net income before special items and reduction in working capital are appropriate and effective measures of annual Company-wide performance. The threshold level for each performance measure was set based on a level of performance that was believed to be achievable. The target level for each performance measure was set based on a level of performance that was believed to be aggressive, but obtainable. The maximum level for each performance measure was set based on a level of performance that was believed to be realizable, but only as a result of exceptional performance.

We believe financial measures are important but not sufficient to fully assess Company-wide performance. Health, safety and environmental performance consisting of measures to achieve superior personnel safety and environmental performance are key measures. Strategic sustainability goals in areas of strategic concern to the Company are also key measures for annual performance. These included measures of corporate governance, enterprise risk management, emission reductions, sustainability vision communications and reporting, corporate citizenship, consumer advocacy, and people development. Targets and maximum level performance goals are set for each metric with the same philosophy of establishing aggressive, but obtainable performance levels to achieve target level and realizable, but exceptional performance required to achieve the maximum level.

*How much can the named executive officers earn?* Named executive officers may earn 60% of their salary (80% for the CEO) for achieving target performance levels. At threshold performance, executives earn no incentive. For superior performance, executive officers may earn up to two times target or 120% of salary. Performance between threshold, target and superior is prorated.

The CEO's maximum is limited by the terms of the plan to \$1 million or 121% of his salary. The \$1 million limit was set when Albemarle was a substantially smaller company. The Committee does not believe this limit is reasonable and has proposed in the new 2008 Incentive Plan (Proposal 2 in this Proxy Statement) to eliminate this limit. Had the limit not existed, the Chief Executive Officer would have been able to earn up to two times target or 160% of salary. If the new 2008 Incentive Plan is approved by shareholders, the CEO's maximum opportunity will be two times target as applies to other named executives.

The Committee generally sets the annual incentive opportunity near the median of data from the Comparator Group and survey information. The Committee believes these amounts are competitive and provide an appropriate level of opportunity and reward.

For 2007, the Company achieved an above target but less than superior level of annual net income, but did not reduce working capital. The Committee determined that the Company achieved a below threshold level of performance on Health, Safety and Environmental goals, but an above target level of performance on Strategic Sustainability performance measures. For 2007, the Committee elected to award additional discretionary incentive payments to Messrs. Rohr, Steitz, Kissam and Gottwald to recognize the outstanding contributions of each executive. Based on these results, the Committee awarded the following annual cash incentive awards that were paid in the first quarter of 2008:

<u>Name</u>	<u>2007 Annual Cash Incentive Award</u>
Mark C. Rohr .....	\$1,000,000
John M. Steitz .....	420,000
Richard J. Diemer, Jr.....	330,000
Luther C. Kissam, IV .....	345,000
William M. Gottwald .....	300,000

### **The Long-Term Incentive Plan**

We believe it is important to provide our named executive officers with a long-term incentive to promote retention, incent sustainable growth and long-term value creation, and to further align the interests of our named executive officers with those of our shareholders. The Committee grants performance unit awards every other year with a two-year performance period. Performance unit awards are both "performance based" and "time based." In

order for the award to be earned, the Company must achieve certain financial performance. Half of the amount earned vests at the end of the performance period, the other half vests a year later. Upon vesting, awards are paid in stock, net of share withholding for taxes.

The Committee has used an every other year grant methodology since 2004 and has continued it in 2008. The Committee believes granting performance units every other year reflects the long-term nature of the program. The Committee has thoroughly considered the success of the current plan design and a variety of potential changes including annual grants and different performance periods. However, the Committee determined that an every other year grant methodology with a two-year performance period best meets the objectives of the long-term incentive plan.

The Committee granted performance unit awards in 2006 (no awards were granted in 2007) as follows:

<u>Name</u>	<b>2006 Performance Unit Grant</b>		
	<u>(Threshold Units)</u>	<u>(Target 100%)</u>	<u>(Superior 150%)</u>
Mark C. Rohr.....	60,000 Units	140,000 Units	210,000 Units
John M. Steitz.....	20,000 Units	70,000 Units	105,000 Units
Richard J. Diemer, Jr. ....	20,000 Units	60,000 Units	90,000 Units
Luther C. Kissam, IV.....	20,000 Units	60,000 Units	90,000 Units
William M. Gottwald.....	20,000 Units	60,000 Units	90,000 Units

The Committee generally considers the median of data from the Comparator Group and survey information when setting the long-term incentive opportunity. The Committee believes these amounts are competitive and provide an appropriate level of opportunity and reward.

The performance goals require achievement of financial goals over the 2006 and 2007 calendar years and are based on average annual net income before special items. The following table reflects the goals for this award at the respective earned award levels:

	<u>Threshold</u>	<u>Target</u>	<u>Superior</u>
<b>Average annual net income before special items for 2006 and 2007.....</b>	\$114.7 MM	\$127.0 MM	\$140.0 MM

We believe average net income before special items for the two-year period is an appropriate and effective measure of Company-wide performance. At grant, the threshold level of performance was set based on continuing the level of performance achieved in 2005 and was believed to be achievable. The target level of performance was set based on a 7% compound growth in net income that was believed to be aggressive, but obtainable. The maximum level of performance was set based on a 14% compounded growth in net income that was believed to be realizable, but only with exceptional performance.

Actual performance was outstanding, with average annual net income exceeding \$140 million over the performance period with our stock price (on an adjusted basis) increasing from \$21 to \$41. As a result, one half of the award based on superior performance was vested and paid in the first quarter of 2008; the remaining half will vest and be paid in January 2009.

The Committee considers the performance unit plan a success. The 2006 grant was the second two-year performance cycle grant of performance units. The first grant was made in 2004. Half of the 2004 grant, earned over the 2004 – 2005 performance period, was vested and paid in 2006 and the remaining balance vested and was paid at the beginning of 2007.

In 2008, the Committee granted performance units using the same general structure and performance measures with a performance period of 2008 and 2009.

### **Restricted Stock Grants**

In 2007, the Committee granted certain executive officers restricted stock. The Committee made these grants to support long-term retention of Messrs. Rohr, Steitz, Kissam and Diemer. Each grant begins vesting after three years and vests in equal amounts after the third, fourth and fifth anniversaries of the date of grant. Mr. Rohr's award may fully vest upon his retirement under the terms of our defined benefit retirement plan if sooner than five years, but only if he retires after the third anniversary of the date of grant. If an executive terminates employment prior to full vesting, except as noted above for Mr. Rohr, any nonvested portion of the grant will be forfeited. In establishing these grants, the Committee considered the performance achievements of the Corporation through the

leadership of this executive team, the nature of and competitive environment for top talent, and the strategic needs of the Corporation.

## **Benefits**

The Company provides executive officers with the same benefits provided other Albemarle employees including:

- Health and dental insurance (portion of costs);
- Basic life insurance;
- Long-term disability insurance;
- Participation in Albemarle's Savings Plan (401(k) plan), including Company matching;
- Participation for those executives hired prior to 2004 in our Pension Plan; and
- Matching charitable contributions.

*Executive Deferred Compensation Plan (EDCP).* We maintain a deferred compensation plan which covers executives who are limited in how much they can contribute to tax qualified deferred compensation plans. We maintain this plan because we want to encourage executives to save for their retirement. The plan design is intended to mirror what they would have been able to save, including employer contributions absent any statutory limitations. A participant in the EDCP may defer up to 50% of base salary and/or up to 100% of each cash incentive award.

*Defined Benefit Plan.* Until April 1, 2004, we maintained a traditional defined benefit pension plan. In 2004, we implemented a new defined contribution retirement benefit for all non-represented employees hired on or after April 1, 2004 and limited participation in the defined benefit pension plan to then current participants. Each of our named executive officers, except Mr. Diemer, participates in the defined benefit pension plan. We maintain a supplemental executive retirement plan ("SERP") to provide participants with the difference between (a) the benefits they would actually accrue under the qualified defined benefit plan but for the maximum benefit limitations under the Internal Revenue Code, and (b) the statutory limitation of the Internal Revenue Code on compensation that may be recognized under the qualified plan. Certain provisions of the SERP also permit the Committee to award key executives additional pension credits related to offset reduction in defined benefit pension as a mid-career hire. This provision was also limited to then current participants in 2004 concurrent with the defined benefit plan changes.

*Perquisites.* In general, we do not provide our executives with many of the types of perquisites that other companies may offer their executives, such as personal use of the corporate jet or vehicle allowances. For business purposes it may be appropriate for senior management to belong to a golf or social club so that the executives have an appropriate entertainment forum for customers and appropriate interaction with their communities. In such cases, the Committee approves each executive's eligibility for reimbursement of fees.

## **Post Termination Payments**

*Severance Benefit and Change in Control Benefits.* We believe that we should provide reasonable severance benefits in the event an executive's position is eliminated. Severance benefits for executive officers reflect the fact that it may be difficult to find comparable employment within a short period of time. In addition, our senior management and key employees have built our Company into the successful enterprise that it is today, and we believe it is important to provide reasonable protection for them in the event of a change in control and potential loss of employment. It is our belief that the interests of shareholders will be best served if the interests of our senior management are aligned by virtue of this protection. We also believe our arrangement facilitates the recruitment of talented executives by providing protections in the event we are acquired. We believe relative to the overall value of any potential transaction, these potential post-termination change in control benefits are reasonable.

Pursuant to the philosophy above, the Company maintains a plan to provide severance payments to certain of our employees upon either (i) a termination of employment without cause in the absence of a change in control by reason of the elimination of the employee's position or a change to our organizational structure which results in a redesign of work processes and individual responsibilities affecting two or more individuals, subject to certain exceptions, or (ii) termination of employment by the Company without cause following a change in control, a so-called change in control double-trigger.

In addition, the Committee maintains additional severance compensation agreements with Messrs. Rohr, Steitz, Diemer and Kissam that expire December 31, 2008. These agreements provide severance payments in the

event of involuntary terminations after a change of control which are not covered by the above severance plan. We do not have an additional severance compensation agreement with Mr. William M. Gottwald.

The Committee annually reviews the post-employment compensation arrangements. The Committee has determined that both the terms and the payout levels are appropriate to accomplish the stated objective of each arrangement. The Committee considers each of the arrangements described above as part of the analysis it conducted regarding all elements of compensation for each of our named executive officers and determined the reasonableness of each individual element of compensation (including post-employment compensation arrangements) and of the named executive officers' compensation package as a whole. The Committee also considered the non-competition agreement that the Company would receive from the named executive officer in exchange for any post-employment termination benefits. The Committee believes that these arrangements are generally consistent with those arrangements being offered by the Comparator Group companies and other companies of similar size and complexity. As a result, the Committee believes that the payout amounts under each arrangement are necessary to remain competitive in attracting and retaining executive talent and are reasonable compared to the benefits they provide to us.

As part of its analysis, the Committee annually projects potential severance payments including a tax gross up. The current arrangements provide a tax gross up in the event an excise tax is imposed on change in control payments. We currently cap gross up payments to \$5 million for the Chief Executive Officer and \$3 million for any other executive. When establishing the mix, levels and design of the various components of compensation, the Committee considers their impact on the potential for a tax gross up with the intent of reducing any potential gross up.

For additional information with respect to these arrangements, please see "Compensation of Executive Officers — Agreements with Executive Officers and Other Potential Payments Upon Termination or a Change in Control" beginning on page 35.

**Stock Ownership Guidelines.** To further align the interests of members of management with our shareholders, the Company has stock ownership guidelines that require the accumulation and retention of our Common Stock. The guidelines require our named executive officers to maintain direct share ownership equal to 60% of the first two performance units grants beginning in 2004. New officers after 2004 are required to maintain direct share ownership equal to 60% of the first two grants they receive after becoming an officer. The following table provides the number of shares of Common Stock that each of our named executive officers must own:

<u>Name</u>	<u>2007</u>	<u>2008</u>	<u>2009</u>	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>
Mark C. Rohr.....	48,000	90,000	132,000	132,000	132,000
John M. Steitz.....	24,000	45,000	66,000	66,000	66,000
Richard J. Diemer, Jr. ....	—	18,000	36,000	51,000	66,000
Luther C. Kissam, IV.....	24,000	42,000	60,000	60,000	60,000
William M. Gottwald.....	24,000	42,000	60,000	60,000	60,000

Each of the named executive officers met their respective stock ownership guidelines in 2007.

**Deductibility of Compensation.** In determining the total compensation of each named executive officer, the Committee considers the tax deductibility of compensation. The Committee believes it is in our best interests and that of our shareholders to provide compensation that is deductible by the Company. While the Committee intends that all compensation be deductible, there may be instances where potentially non-deductible compensation is provided to reward executives consistent with our compensation philosophy for each compensation element.

### **EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Executive Compensation Committee has reviewed and discussed the Compensation Discussion and Analysis section of this Proxy Statement with management and, based on such review and discussion, recommends to the Board of Directors that it be included in this Proxy Statement.

EXECUTIVE COMPENSATION COMMITTEE  
 Richard L. Morrill, Chairman  
 R. William Ide  
 Seymour S. Preston III  
 John Sherman, Jr.  
 Anne Marie Whittemore

February 26, 2008

## COMPENSATION OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS

### Total Compensation of Our Named Executive Officers

The following table presents information relating to total compensation of our President and Chief Executive Officer, our Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer and our three other highest paid executive officers (the “named executive officers”) for the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and 2006.

#### SUMMARY COMPENSATION TABLE

Name and Principal Position	Year	Salary <sup>(1)</sup>	Stock Awards	Bonus <sup>(2)</sup>	Option Awards	Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation	Change in Pension Value and Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Earnings	All Other Compensation	Total <sup>(39)</sup>
Mark C. Rohr President and Chief Executive Officer	2007	\$ 900,000	\$ 2,490,971 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 7,200	\$ —	\$ 992,800	\$ 1,876,589 <sup>(6)</sup>	\$ 21,750 <sup>(8)</sup>	\$ 6,289,310
	2006	825,000	2,154,806 <sup>(4)</sup>	—	15,396 <sup>(5)</sup>	1,000,000	1,375,783 <sup>(7)</sup>	11,000 <sup>(9)</sup>	5,381,985
Richard J. Diemer, Jr. Senior Vice President and Chief Financial Officer	2007	400,020	1,307,315 <sup>(10)</sup>	130,000	187,344 <sup>(12)</sup>	330,000	42,978 <sup>(14)</sup>	272,238 <sup>(16)</sup>	2,669,895
	2006	375,020	915,400 <sup>(11)</sup>	29,976	187,333 <sup>(13)</sup>	450,024	32,235 <sup>(15)</sup>	106,275 <sup>(17)</sup>	2,096,263
John M. Steitz Senior Vice President, Business Operations	2007	425,040	1,299,173 <sup>(18)</sup>	68,400	—	351,600	471,872 <sup>(21)</sup>	25,876 <sup>(23)</sup>	2,641,961
	2006	390,000	1,077,403 <sup>(19)</sup>	52,000	19,773 <sup>(20)</sup>	468,000	315,888 <sup>(22)</sup>	11,000 <sup>(24)</sup>	2,334,064
Luther C. Kissam, IV Senior Vice President, Law and Manufacturing and Secretary	2007	350,040	1,202,595 <sup>(25)</sup>	55,400	—	289,600	178,004 <sup>(28)</sup>	29,247 <sup>(30)</sup>	2,104,886
	2006	325,020	1,006,789 <sup>(26)</sup>	59,976	97,125 <sup>(27)</sup>	390,024	118,473 <sup>(29)</sup>	17,646 <sup>(31)</sup>	2,015,053
William M. Gottwald Chairman of the Board	2007	330,000	837,470 <sup>(32)</sup>	27,000	—	273,000	514,206 <sup>(35)</sup>	11,250 <sup>(37)</sup>	1,992,926
	2006	315,000	949,456 <sup>(33)</sup>	—	5,132 <sup>(34)</sup>	375,000	261,272 <sup>(36)</sup>	15,073 <sup>(38)</sup>	1,920,933

<sup>1</sup> Salary amounts include cash compensation earned by each named executive officer during fiscal year 2007, as well as any amounts earned in fiscal year 2007 but contributed into the 401(k) Plan and/or deferred at the election of the named executive officer into our deferred compensation program. For a discussion of the deferred compensation program and amounts deferred by the named executive officers in fiscal year 2007, including earnings on amounts deferred, please see “Nonqualified Deferred Compensation” beginning on page 35.

<sup>2</sup> Reflects discretionary amounts awarded above the maximum amounts payable under the annual cash incentive award plan. For a discussion concerning the annual cash incentive award plan, please see “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” beginning on page 15. While such amounts were earned for fiscal year 2007 performance, they were not paid to our named executive officers until February 2008. Also includes a \$130,000 bonus paid in 2007 as part of Mr. Diemer’s initial compensation arrangement.

<sup>3</sup> The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2007 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes amounts from awards granted in and prior to fiscal year 2007. This amount reflects our accounting expense for these awards, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received. Includes \$1,954,096 for the 2007 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 140,000 performance unit award granted in February 2006 calculated at 150%, maximum level, that will vest 50% in 2008 (after 23 months) and 50% in 2009 (after 35 months) based on meeting certain performance targets. Assumes a price per share of \$21.525, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. These performance unit awards convert 1-for-1 into shares of our

Common Stock upon vesting. Also includes \$536,875 for 2007 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) relating to a restricted stock award of 50,000 shares that were granted in April 2007. The restricted stock grant assumes a price per share of \$42.95, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. Restricted stock is payable 100% in our Common Stock on vesting date, which is in three increments as of April 2010, 2011, and 2012. For other assumptions, please see Note 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page 65 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007. Information on individual equity awards granted to Mr. Rohr in fiscal year 2007 is set forth in the section entitled “Grants of Plan-Based Awards” on page 29.

- 4 The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2006 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes amounts from awards granted in and prior to fiscal year 2006. This amount reflects our accounting expense for these awards, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received. Includes \$1,791,254 for the 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 140,000 performance unit award granted in February 2006 calculated at 150%, maximum level, that vested 50% in 2008 (after 23 months) and 50% in 2009 (after 35 months) if certain performance targets are met. Assumes a price per share of \$21.525, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. Includes \$55,084 for 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of 60,000 performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004, which vested in February 2006 (after 24.5 months). These performance units represented 50% of the total award. Also includes \$308,468 for the 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of an additional 60,000 performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004. This amount represents the remaining 50% distribution of the 2004 performance award, which vests on January 1, 2007 (after 35 months). The performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004 are based on a price per share of \$14.995, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. These performance unit awards convert 1-for-1 into shares of our Common Stock upon vesting. For other assumptions, please see Note 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page 62 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006.
- 5 Includes \$15,396 for one month of compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 150,000 stock option award granted in January 2003 that vested in January 2006. Assumes a value per share of \$3.695 under the Black Scholes fair value model. This amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2006 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes the amount from an award granted prior to fiscal year 2006. This amount reflects our accounting expense for this award, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received.
- 6 Includes \$1,833,489 for the actuarial increases in the present values of the named executive officers’ benefits under our pension plans during fiscal year 2007 determined using interest rate and mortality rate assumptions consistent with those used in our financial statements and \$43,100 for change in nonqualified deferred compensation earnings. For additional information on our pension plans, please see the section entitled “Retirement Benefits” on page 33 and the tables entitled “Pension Benefits” on page 33 and “Nonqualified Deferred Compensation” on page 35. For a full description of the pension plan assumptions used by us for financial reporting purposes, see Note 17 to our consolidated financial statements, which is included in our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007, and incorporated by reference into this Proxy Statement.
- 7 Includes \$1,345,533 for the actuarial increases in the present values of the named executive officers’ benefits under our pension plans during fiscal year 2006 determined using interest rate and mortality rate assumptions consistent with those used in our financial statements and \$30,250 for change in nonqualified deferred compensation earnings.
- 8 Includes contribution of \$11,250 to the Albemarle Savings Plan and \$10,500 for dividends paid on restricted stock in 2007.
- 9 Includes contribution of \$8,125 to the Albemarle Savings Plan and accruals in our non-qualified deferred compensation plan for benefits that could not be provided in the Albemarle Savings Plan of \$2,875.
- 10 The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2007 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions)

and, accordingly, includes amounts from awards granted in and prior to fiscal year 2007. This amount reflects our accounting expense for these awards, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received. Includes \$837,470 for the 2007 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 60,000 performance unit award granted in February 2006 calculated at 150%, maximum level, that vested 50% in 2008 (after 23 months) and 50% in 2009 (after 35 months) based on meeting certain performance targets. Assumes a price per share of \$21.525, which represents that closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. The performance unit awards convert 1-for-1 into shares of our Common Stock upon vesting. Also includes \$147,720 and \$322,125 for 2007 compensation costs pursuant to FAS 123(R) relating to restricted stock awards of 40,000 and 50,000 shares that were granted in August 2005 and April 2007, respectively. Assumes a price per share of \$18.465 and \$42.95, respectively, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock on the date of each of the respective grants. Restricted stock is payable 100% in our Common Stock on the vesting date, which is in August 2010 for the 40,000 shares and is in three equal increments as of April 2010, 2011, and 2012 for the 50,000 shares of restricted stock. For other assumptions, please see Note 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page 65 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007. Information on individual equity awards granted to Mr. Diemer in fiscal year 2007 is set forth in the section entitled "Grants of Plan-Based Awards" on page 29.

- <sup>11</sup> The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2006 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes amounts from awards granted in and prior to fiscal year 2006. This amount reflects our accounting expense for these awards, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received. Includes \$767,680 for the 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 60,000 performance unit award granted in February 2006 calculated at 150%, maximum level, that will vest 50% in 2008 (after 23 months) and 50% in 2009 (after 35 months) if certain performance targets are met. Assumes a price per share of \$21.525, which represents that closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. The performance unit awards convert 1-for-1 into shares of our Common Stock upon vesting. Also includes \$147,720 for 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) relating to a restricted stock award of 40,000 shares that were granted in August 2005. Assumes a price per share of \$18.465, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. Restricted stock is payable 100% in our Common Stock on the vesting date, which is in August 2010. For other assumptions, please see Note 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page 62 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006.
- <sup>12</sup> Includes \$187,344 for twelve months of compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 100,000 stock option award granted in August 2005 that will vest in August 2008. Assumes a value per share of \$5.62 under the Black Scholes fair value model. The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2007 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes the amount from the award granted prior to fiscal year 2007. This amount reflects our accounting expense for this award, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received.
- <sup>13</sup> Includes \$187,333 for twelve months of compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 100,000 stock option award granted in August 2005 that will vest in August 2008. Assumes a value per share of \$5.62 under the Black Scholes fair value model. The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2006 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes the amount from the award granted prior to fiscal year 2006. This amount reflects our accounting expense for this award, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received.
- <sup>14</sup> Includes \$42,978 for change in nonqualified deferred compensation earnings.
- <sup>15</sup> Includes \$32,235 for change in nonqualified deferred compensation earnings.
- <sup>16</sup> Includes contribution of \$6,609 to the Albemarle Savings Plan and accruals in our non-qualified deferred compensation plan for benefits that could not be provided in the Albemarle Savings Plan of \$4,641, contributions to our defined contribution retirement benefit plan for 2007 of \$10,776, \$48,527 for taxable relocation expenses relating to temporary living and relocation lump sum allowances which includes \$19,842 of tax gross up, \$164,831 for non-taxable relocation expenses relating to selling prior residence, moving household

goods, and relocation lump sum allowance, \$4,193 for airfare related to commuting expenses, \$5,961 for car rental and service related to commuting expenses and \$26,700 for dividends paid on restricted stock in 2007.

- <sup>17</sup> Includes contribution of \$1,531 to the Albemarle Savings Plan and accruals in our non-qualified deferred compensation plan for benefits that could not be provided in the Albemarle Savings Plan of \$8,985, contributions to our defined contribution retirement benefit plan for 2006 of \$10,516, \$57,360 for relocation expenses relating to temporary living which includes \$23,654 of tax gross up, \$6,467 for airfare related to commuting expenses, \$8,016 for car rental and service related to commuting expenses and \$13,400 for dividends paid on restricted stock in 2006.
- <sup>18</sup> The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2007 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes the amount from the awards granted in and prior to fiscal year 2007. This amount reflects our accounting expense for these awards, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received. Includes \$977,048 for the 2007 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 70,000 performance unit award granted in February 2006 calculated at 150%, maximum level, that will vest 50% in 2008 (after 23 months) and 50% in 2009 (after 35 months) based on meeting certain performance targets. Assumes a price per share of \$21.525, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. These performance unit awards convert 1-for-1 into shares of our Common Stock upon vesting. And includes \$322,125 for 2007 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) relating to a restricted stock award of 50,000 shares that were granted in April 2007. Assumes a price per share of \$42.95, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. Restricted Stock is payable 100% in our Common Stock on vesting date, which is in (3) three increments as of April 2010, 2011, and 2012. For other assumptions, please see Note 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page 65 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007. Information on individual equity awards granted to Mr. Steitz in fiscal year 2007 is set forth in the section entitled "Grants of Plan-Based Awards" on page 29.
- <sup>19</sup> The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2006 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes the amount from the awards granted in and prior to fiscal year 2006. This amount reflects our accounting expense for these awards, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received. Includes \$895,627 for the 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 70,000 performance unit award granted in February 2006 calculated at 150%, maximum level, that will vest 50% in 2008 (after 23 months) and 50% in 2009 (after 35 months) if certain performance targets are met. Assumes a price per share of \$21.525, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. Includes \$27,542 for 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of 30,000 performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004, which vested in February 2006 (after 24.5 months). These performance units represented 50% of the total award. And includes \$154,234 for the 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of an additional 30,000 performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004. This amount represents the remaining 50% distribution of the 2004 performance award, which vests on January 1, 2007 (after 35 months). The performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004 are based on a price per share of \$14.995, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. These performance unit awards convert 1-for-1 into shares of our Common Stock upon vesting. For other assumptions, please see Note 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page 62 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006.
- <sup>20</sup> The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2006 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes the amounts from the awards granted prior to fiscal year 2006. This amount reflects our accounting expense for these awards, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received. Includes \$4,106 for one month of compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 40,000 stock option award granted in January 2003 that vested in January 2006. Assumes a value per share of \$3.695 under the Black Scholes fair value model. Also includes \$15,667 for six months of compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 100,000 stock option award granted in July 2000 that vested in July 2006. Assumes a value per share of \$3.76 under the Black Scholes fair value model.

- <sup>21</sup> Includes \$460,520 for the actuarial increases in the present values of the named executive officers' benefits under our pension plans during fiscal year 2007 determined using interest rate and mortality rate assumptions consistent with those used in our financial statements and \$11,352 for change in nonqualified deferred compensation earnings.
- <sup>22</sup> Includes \$307,388 for the actuarial increases in the present values of the named executive officers' benefits under our pension plans during fiscal year 2006 determined using interest rate and mortality rate assumptions consistent with those used in our financial statements and \$8,500 for change in nonqualified deferred compensation earnings.
- <sup>23</sup> Includes contribution of \$11,250 to the Albemarle Savings Plan, \$10,500 for dividends paid on restricted stock in 2007 and \$4,126 for spouse travel on a business trip which includes \$1,702 of tax gross up.
- <sup>24</sup> Includes contribution of \$7,688 to the Albemarle Savings Plan and accruals in our non-qualified deferred compensation plan for benefits that could not be provided in the Albemarle Savings Plan of \$3,312.
- <sup>25</sup> The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2007 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes amounts from awards granted in and prior to fiscal year 2007. This amount reflects our accounting expense for these awards, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received. Includes \$837,470 for the 2007 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 60,000 performance unit award granted in February 2006 calculated at 150%, maximum level, that will vest 50% in 2008 (after 23 months) and 50% in 2009 (after 35 months) based on meeting certain performance targets. Assumes a price per share of \$21.525, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. These performance unit awards convert 1-for-1 into shares of our Common Stock upon vesting. And includes \$43,000 and \$322,125 for 2007 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) relating to a restricted stock awards of 10,000 and 50,000 shares that were granted in September 2004 and April 2007, respectively. Assumes a price per share of \$17.20 and \$42.95, respectively, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grants. Restricted stock is payable 100% in our Common Stock on vesting date, which is in September 2007 for the 10,000 shares and is in (3) three increments as of April 2010, 2011, and 2012 for the 50,000 shares. For other assumptions, please see Note 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page 65 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007. Information on individual equity awards granted to Mr. Kissam in fiscal year 2007 is set forth in the section entitled "Grants of Plan-Based Awards" on page 29.
- <sup>26</sup> The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2006 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes amounts from awards granted in and prior to fiscal year 2006. This amount reflects our accounting expense for these awards, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received. Includes \$767,680 for the 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 60,000 performance unit award granted in February 2006 calculated at 150%, maximum level, that will vest 50% in 2008 (after 23 months) and 50% in 2009 (after 35 months) if certain performance targets are met. Assumes a price per share of \$21.525, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. Includes \$27,542 for 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of 30,000 performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004, which vested in February 2006 (after 24.5 months). These performance units represented 50% of the total award. And includes \$154,234 for the 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of an additional 30,000 performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004. This amount represents the remaining 50% distribution of the 2004 performance award, which vests on January 1, 2007 (after 35 months). The performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004 are based on a price per share of \$14.995, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. These performance unit awards convert 1-for-1 into shares of our Common Stock upon vesting. And includes \$57,333 for 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) relating to a restricted stock award of 10,000 shares that were granted in September 2004. Assumes a price per share of \$17.20, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. Restricted stock is payable 100% in our Common Stock on vesting date, which is in September 2007. For other assumptions, please see Note 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page 62 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006.

- <sup>27</sup> Includes \$97,125 for nine months of compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 100,000 stock option award granted in September 2003 that vested in September 2006. Assumes a value per share of \$3.885 under the Black Scholes fair value model. The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2006 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes amounts from the award granted prior to fiscal year 2006. This amount reflects our accounting expense for this award, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received.
- <sup>28</sup> Includes \$171,752 for the actuarial increases in the present values of the named executive officers' benefits under our pension plans during fiscal year 2007 determined using interest rate and mortality rate assumptions consistent with those used in our financial statements and \$6,252 for change in nonqualified deferred compensation earnings.
- <sup>29</sup> Includes \$113,222 for the actuarial increases in the present values of the named executive officers' benefits under our pension plans during fiscal year 2006 determined using interest rate and mortality rate assumptions consistent with those used in our financial statements and \$5,251 for change in nonqualified deferred compensation earnings.
- <sup>30</sup> Includes contribution of \$11,250 to the Albemarle Savings Plan, country club dues of \$3,447 and dividends on restricted stock of \$14,550.
- <sup>31</sup> Includes contribution of \$5,417 to the Albemarle Savings Plan, accruals in our non-qualified plan for deferred compensation benefits that could not be provided in the Albemarle Savings Plan of \$5,583, country club dues of \$3,296 and dividends on restricted stock of \$3,350.
- <sup>32</sup> The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2007 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes amounts from awards granted in and prior to fiscal year 2007. This amount reflects our accounting expense for these awards, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received. Includes \$837,470 for the 2007 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 60,000 performance unit award granted in February 2006 calculated at 150%, maximum level, that will vest 50% in 2008 (after 23 months) and 50% in 2009 (after 35 months) based on meeting certain performance targets. Assumes a price per share of \$21.525, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. These performance unit awards convert 1-for-1 into shares of our Common Stock upon vesting. For other assumptions, please see Note 14 to our Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page 65 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007.
- <sup>33</sup> The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2006 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes amounts from awards granted in and prior to fiscal year 2006. This amount reflects our accounting expense for these awards, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received. Includes \$767,680 for the 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 60,000 performance unit award granted in February 2006 calculated at 150%, maximum level, that will vest 50% in 2008 (after 23 months) and 50% in 2009 (after 35 months) if certain performance targets are met. Assumes a price per share of \$21.525, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. Includes \$27,542 for 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of 30,000 performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004, which vested in February 2006 (over 24.5 months). These performance units represented 50% of the total award. And includes \$154,234 for the 2006 compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of an additional 30,000 performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004. This amount represents the remaining 50% distribution of the 2004 performance award, which vests on January 1, 2007 (over 35 months). The performance units earned from the grant made in January 2004 are based on a price per share of \$14.995, which represents the closing price of our Common Stock as of the date of grant. These performance unit awards convert 1-for-1 into shares of our Common Stock upon vesting. For other assumptions, please see Note 12 to our Consolidated Financial Statements beginning on page 62 of our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2006.
- <sup>34</sup> Includes \$5,132 for one month of compensation cost pursuant to FAS 123(R) of a 50,000 stock option award granted in January 2003 that vested in January 2006. Assumes a value per share of \$3.695 under the Black

Scholes fair value model. The amount represents the expense we recognized in fiscal year 2006 for financial statement reporting purposes in accordance with FAS 123(R) (excluding estimates for forfeitures related to service-based vesting conditions) and, accordingly, includes the amount from the award granted prior to fiscal year 2006. This amount reflects our accounting expense for this award, and does not correspond to the actual cash value that will be recognized by the named executive officer when received.

- <sup>35</sup> Includes \$506,740 for the actuarial increases in the present values of the named executive officers' benefits under our pension plans during fiscal year 2007 determined using interest rate and mortality rate assumptions consistent with those used in our financial statements and \$7,466 for change in nonqualified deferred compensation earnings.
- <sup>36</sup> Includes \$256,522 for the actuarial increases in the present values of the named executive officers' benefits under our pension plans during fiscal year 2006 determined using interest rate and mortality rate assumptions consistent with those used in our financial statements and \$4,750 for change in nonqualified deferred compensation earnings.
- <sup>37</sup> Includes contribution of \$11,250 to the Albemarle Savings Plan.
- <sup>38</sup> Includes contribution of \$7,772 to the Albemarle Savings Plan, \$4,073 related to personal use of our airplane and accruals in our non-qualified plan for benefits that could not be provided in the qualified savings plan of \$3,228.
- <sup>39</sup> The amount of salary, cash incentive award and Non-Equity Incentive Plan Compensation for each of the named executive officers represents the following proportion of total compensation in 2006 and 2007:

<u>Name</u>	<u>Year Ended</u>	
	<u>2006</u>	<u>2007</u>
Mark C. Rohr .....	34%	30%
Richard J. Diemer, Jr.....	41%	32%
John M. Steitz .....	39%	32%
Luther C. Kissam, IV .....	38%	33%
William M. Gottwald .....	36%	32%

### Grants of Plan-Based Awards

The 2003 Incentive Plan serves as the core program for the performance-based compensation components of our named executive officers' total compensation. In early 2003, our shareholders approved the 2003 Incentive Plan which defines the incentive arrangements for eligible participants and:

- authorizes the granting of annual cash incentive awards, stock options, stock appreciation rights, performance shares, restricted stock and other incentive awards, all of which may be made subject to the attainment of performance goals recommended by management and approved by the Committee;
- provides for the enumeration of the business criteria on which an individual's performance goals are to be based; and
- establishes the maximum share grants or awards (or, in the case of incentive awards, the maximum compensation) that can be paid to a participant in the 2003 Incentive Plan.

With the exception of significant promotions and new hires, generally equity awards are made at the first meeting of the Executive Compensation Committee each year following the availability of the financial results for the prior year. The Executive Compensation Committee's schedule is determined several months in advance, and the proximity of any awards to earnings announcements or other market events is coincidental. Our last grant of performance unit awards was in February 2008 for the calendar year 2008 and 2009 periods. We did not make any performance unit grants in 2007. This timing was selected because it enables us to consider our prior year performance and the participants and our expectations for the next two-year period.

The following table presents information regarding grants of plan-based awards to our named executive officers during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007.

**GRANTS OF PLAN-BASED AWARDS**

Name	Grant Date	Estimated Future Payouts Under Non-Equity Incentive Plan Awards <sup>(1)</sup>			All Other Stock Awards: Number of Shares of Stock or Units <sup>(2)</sup>	Grant Date Fair Value of Stock and Option Awards <sup>(3)</sup>
		Threshold (\$)	Target (\$)	Maximum (\$)		
Mark C. Rohr		\$0	\$720,000	\$1,000,000		
	4/10/2007				50,000	\$2,147,500
Richard J. Diemer, Jr.		\$0	\$240,012	\$480,024		
	4/10/2007				50,000	\$2,147,500
John M. Steitz		\$0	\$255,024	\$510,048		
	4/10/2007				50,000	\$2,147,500
Luther C. Kissam, IV		\$0	\$210,024	\$420,048		
	4/10/2007				50,000	\$2,147,500
William M. Gottwald		\$0	\$198,000	\$396,000		

<sup>1</sup> For additional information with respect to the annual cash incentive award plan, please see “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” beginning on page 15.

<sup>2</sup> On April 10, 2007, the Executive Compensation Committee approved a grant of 50,000 shares of restricted stock under the 2003 Incentive Plan to each of Messrs. Rohr, Diemer, Kissam and Steitz. The shares of restricted stock granted to Mr. Rohr will vest in three equal increments beginning on the third anniversary of the award, unless Mr. Rohr elects to retire under our defined benefit retirement plan at any time following the third anniversary of the award. In such event, any unvested portion of the award will become vested and non-forfeitable upon retirement. The shares of restricted stock granted to Messrs. Diemer, Kissam and Steitz vest in three equal increments beginning on the third anniversary of the award. If any such individual terminates his employment with us for any reason prior to the full vesting of such award, the unvested portions of such award will be forfeited.

<sup>3</sup> Represents the grant date fair value of the award determined in accordance with FAS 123(R). Assumes a price per share of \$42.95, which was the closing price of our Common Stock on the NYSE on the date of grant.

## Outstanding Equity Awards at Fiscal Year-End

The following table presents information concerning the number and value of unexercised options, SARs and similar instruments, nonvested stock (including restricted stock, restricted stock units or other similar instruments) and incentive plan awards for the named executive officers outstanding as of the end of the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007.

### OUTSTANDING EQUITY AWARDS AT FISCAL YEAR-END

Name	Option Awards				Stock Awards			
	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Exercisable	Number of Securities Underlying Unexercised Options (#) Unexercisable	Option Exercise Price (\$)	Option Expiration Date	Number of Shares or Units or Stock That Have Not Vested (#)	Market Value of Shares or Units of Stock That Have Not Vested (\$)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Number of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (#)	Equity Incentive Plan Awards: Market or Payout Value of Unearned Shares, Units or Other Rights That Have Not Vested (\$)
<b>Mark C. Rohr</b>	150,000		\$ 11.725	January 30, 2012				
	150,000		\$ 12.915	January 29, 2013				
					50,000	\$2,062,500 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>		
							210,000	\$8,662,500 <sup>(1)(3)</sup>
<b>Richard J. Diemer, Jr.</b>		100,000 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 18.465	August 14, 2015				
					40,000	\$1,650,000 <sup>(1)(5)</sup>		
					50,000	\$2,062,500 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>		
							90,000	\$3,712,500 <sup>(1)(3)</sup>
<b>John M. Steitz</b>					50,000	\$2,062,500 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>		
							105,000	\$4,331,250 <sup>(1)(3)</sup>
<b>Luther C. Kissam, IV</b>					50,000	\$2,062,500 <sup>(1)(2)</sup>		
							90,000	\$3,712,500 <sup>(1)(3)</sup>
<b>William M. Gottwald</b>	50,000 <sup>(6)</sup>		\$ 12.875	April 21, 2008				
	50,000		\$ 10.00	June 22, 2009				
	40,000		\$ 12.19	January 24, 2011				
	50,000		\$ 11.725	January 30, 2012				
	50,000		\$ 12.915	January 29, 2013				
							90,000	\$3,712,500 <sup>(1)(3)</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Based on the closing price on December 31, 2007. Used last reported price of \$41.25.

<sup>2</sup> Reflects 50,000 shares of restricted stock granted on April 10, 2007, that cliff vests in three equal increments as of the third, fourth and fifth anniversaries as of the date of grant, April 10, 2010, 2011 and 2012. Dividends are paid on these shares of restricted stock.

<sup>3</sup> Each of the named executive officers received a performance unit award grant in 2006 that will vest 50% in 2008 and 50% in 2009 based on meeting certain performance targets. Assumes 100% vesting of the award which represents the maximum. The performance unit award converts 1-for-1 into shares of our Common Stock upon vesting. In February 2008, the Executive Compensation Committee determined that our actual

performance was outstanding, with average annual net income exceeding \$140 million over the performance period with our stock price (on an adjusted basis) increasing from \$21 to \$41. As a result, one half of the award based on superior performance was vested and paid in the first quarter of 2008; the remaining half will vest and be paid in January 2009. See “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” beginning on page 15.

- <sup>4</sup> Ten-year option that cliff vests in full on August 15, 2008. Cliff vesting means that until August 15, 2008, there is no vesting, at which point the option becomes fully vested.
- <sup>5</sup> Reflects 40,000 shares of restricted stock granted on August 15, 2005, that cliff vest in full on August 15, 2010. Dividends are paid on these shares of restricted stock.
- <sup>6</sup> On February 11, 2008, Mr. Gottwald exercised this option in full.

### Option Exercises and Stock Vested

The following table presents information concerning the exercise of stock options, SARs and similar instruments and the vesting of stock (including restricted stock, restricted stock units and similar instruments) for the named executive officers during the fiscal year ended December 31, 2007.

#### OPTION EXERCISES AND STOCK VESTED

<u>Name</u>	<u>Option Awards</u>		<u>Stock Awards</u>	
	<u>Number of Shares Acquired on Exercise (#)</u>	<u>Value Realized on Exercise (\$)</u>	<u>Number of Shares Acquired on Vesting (#)</u>	<u>Value Realized on Vesting (\$)</u>
Mark C. Rohr			60,000	\$ 2,159,400 <sup>(1)</sup>
	200,000 <sup>(2)</sup>	\$ 5,553,200 <sup>(2)</sup>		
	50,000 <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 1,648,160 <sup>(3)</sup>		
	78,700 <sup>(4)</sup>	\$ 2,626,176 <sup>(4)</sup>		
	21,300 <sup>(5)</sup>	\$ 706,313 <sup>(5)</sup>		
	100,000 <sup>(6)</sup>	\$ 3,056,400 <sup>(6)</sup>		
	50,000 <sup>(7)</sup>	\$ 1,551,450 <sup>(7)</sup>		
Richard J. Diemer, Jr.	—	—	—	—
John M. Steitz			30,000	\$ 1,079,700 <sup>(1)</sup>
	100,000 <sup>(8)</sup>	\$ 3,170,280 <sup>(8)</sup>		
	36,000 <sup>(9)</sup>	\$ 1,104,086 <sup>(9)</sup>		
	40,000 <sup>(10)</sup>	\$ 1,245,362 <sup>(10)</sup>		
	40,000 <sup>(11)</sup>	\$ 1,197,762 <sup>(11)</sup>		
Luther C. Kissam, IV			30,000	\$ 1,079,700 <sup>(1)</sup>
			10,000	\$ 426,700 <sup>(12)</sup>
	100,000 <sup>(13)</sup>	\$ 2,830,130 <sup>(13)</sup>		
William M. Gottwald			30,000	\$ 1,079,700 <sup>(1)</sup>

<sup>1</sup> At the end of the two-year performance period for the performance units granted in 2004 under the 2003 Incentive Plan, each of the named executive officers were awarded performance units equal to twice the number of performance units set forth herein. The first 50% of the performance unit awards vested on February 16, 2006. The amount shown above reflects the value of the remaining 50% of the performance units that vested on January 1, 2007. Each performance unit that vested on January 1, 2007, per the Notice of the Performance Unit

Award was valued at \$35.99 per share, the closing price of our Common Stock on the NYSE on the first business day in January, which was January 3, 2007.

- <sup>2</sup> On March 5, 2007, Mr. Rohr exercised and sold options for 200,000 shares of Common Stock at a grant price of \$12.875 and a sales price of \$40.641.
- <sup>3</sup> On May 21, 2007, Mr. Rohr exercised and sold options for 50,000 shares of Common Stock at a grant price of \$10.00 and a sales price of \$42.9632.
- <sup>4</sup> On May 21, 2007, Mr. Rohr exercised and sold options for 78,700 shares of Common Stock at a grant price of \$9.59375 and a sales price of \$42.9632.
- <sup>5</sup> On May 22, 2007, Mr. Rohr exercised and sold options for 21,300 shares of Common Stock at a grant price of \$9.59375 and a sales price of \$42.754.
- <sup>6</sup> On May 22, 2007, Mr. Rohr exercised and sold options for 100,000 shares of Common Stock at a grant price of \$12.19 and a sales price of \$42.754.
- <sup>7</sup> On May 22, 2007, Mr. Rohr exercised and sold options for 50,000 shares of Common Stock at a grant price of \$11.725 and a sales price of \$42.754.
- <sup>8</sup> On February 26, 2007, Mr. Steitz exercised and sold options for 100,000 shares of Common Stock at a grant price of \$11.15625 and a sales price of \$42.85905 (stock split adjusted).
- <sup>9</sup> On February 26, 2007, Mr. Steitz exercised and sold options for 36,000 shares of Common Stock at a grant price of \$12.19 and a sales price of \$42.85905 (stock split adjusted).
- <sup>10</sup> On February 26, 2007, Mr. Steitz exercised and sold options for 40,000 shares of Common Stock at a grant price of \$11.725 and a sales price of \$42.85905 (stock split adjusted).
- <sup>11</sup> On February 26, 2007, Mr. Steitz exercised and sold options for 40,000 shares of Common Stock at a grant price of \$12.915 and a sales price of \$42.85905 (stock split adjusted).
- <sup>12</sup> Reflects 10,000 shares of restricted stock which vested on September 22, 2007 based on the closing price on September 21, 2007 of \$42.67.
- <sup>13</sup> On May 17, 2007, Mr. Kissam exercised and sold options for 100,000 shares of Common Stock at a grant price of \$13.725 and a sales price of \$42.0263.

## Retirement Benefits

### *Pension Benefits Table*

In 2004, we implemented a new defined contribution retirement benefit for all non-represented employees hired on or after April 1, 2004. Non-represented employees hired prior to that date continue to participate in our defined benefit pension plan. The following table presents information concerning each of our defined benefit plans that provides for payments or other benefits to our named executive officers at, following, or in connection with retirement. To the extent benefits payable at retirement exceed amounts that may be payable under applicable provisions of the Code, they will be paid under the SERP. This table also includes the amounts that would be payable under the qualified pension plan and the SERP.

#### PENSION BENEFITS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Plan Name</u>	<u>Number of Years Credited Service (#)<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Present Value of Accumulated Benefit (\$)<sup>(2)(4)</sup></u>	<u>Payments During Last Fiscal Year (\$)</u>
Mark C. Rohr	Albemarle Corporation Pension Plan	8.9025	\$ 243,550	\$ —
	Albemarle Corporation Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	8.75	\$ 4,717,431	\$ —
Richard J. Diemer, Jr.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
John M. Steitz	Albemarle Corporation Pension Plan	7.5225	\$ 133,676	\$ —
	Albemarle Corporation Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	7.4167	\$ 1,036,203	\$ —
Luther C. Kissam, IV <sup>(3)</sup>	Albemarle Corporation Pension Plan	4.3325	\$ 51,734	\$ —
	Albemarle Corporation Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	4.25	\$ 288,157	\$ —
William M. Gottwald	Albemarle Corporation Pension Plan	11.3333	\$ 395,720	\$ —
	Albemarle Corporation Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan	26.9975	\$ 1,674,978	\$ —

<sup>1</sup> The differences in service between the qualified pension plan and the SERP are generally due to rounding differences. The qualified plan bases credited service hours worked during the year, whereas the SERP bases credited service on the completed years and months of employment. However, Mr. Gottwald's credited service in the SERP includes service with NewMarket Corporation (formerly Ethyl Corporation), which increases the present value of accumulated SERP benefits by approximately \$1.2 million.

<sup>2</sup> For the qualified pension plan, pension earnings is W2 earnings plus salaried deferrals under Code Section 125 and 401(K), less imputed income, severance pay, 50% of cash incentive awards, and other types of allowances and bonuses, and limited by the 401(a)(17) pay limit. However, SERP pay for the named executive officers other than Mr. Gottwald is based on base pay plus 100% of cash incentive awards paid during the fiscal year. For Mr. Gottwald, SERP pay is equal to the qualified pension plan earnings without limits, plus any contributions to the nonqualified deferred compensation plans.

<sup>3</sup> The short service SERP formula requires five years of service for vesting. Accordingly, Mr. Kissam is not vested in approximately \$221,000 of the present value of accumulated SERP benefits resulting from the short service SERP formula.

<sup>4</sup> The present value of accumulated benefits including supplements, if any, are based on the benefits payable at age 60, the earliest age at which unreduced benefits are payable. The following FAS 87 assumptions as of December 31, 2006 and December 31, 2007, respectively, were used to determine the above present values:

- discount rate of 5.90% and 6.50%;
- payment form of a life annuity with a 60 month guarantee of payments from the qualified plan, and a lump sum from the SERP;
- mortality based on the RP2000 combined healthy table with mortality improvements projected to 2006 and 2013; and
- no termination, withdrawal, disability, or death is assumed before retirement age.

The benefit formula under the pension plan is based on the participant's final average earnings, which are defined as the average of the highest three consecutive calendar years' earnings (base pay plus 50% of incentive awards paid in any fiscal year) during the 10 consecutive calendar years immediately preceding the date of determination. However, for participants who retire on or after December 31, 2010, final average earnings shall be determined as of December 31, 2010, except that for participants who retire on or after December 31, 2015, final average earnings shall be determined as of December 31, 2012, and for participants who retire on or after December 31, 2020, final average earnings shall be determined as of December 31, 2014. The years of pension benefit service for the named executive officers as of December 31, 2007 are: Messrs. Gottwald, 27; Rohr, 9; Steitz, 8; and Kissam, 5. Benefits under the pension plan are computed on the basis of a life annuity with 60 months of guaranteed payments. The benefits listed in the above compensation table are not subject to deduction for Social Security or other offset payments.

***Supplemental Executive Retirement Plan.*** We maintain a SERP in the form of a non-qualified pension plan that provides eligible individuals the difference between the benefits they actually accrue under the qualified plan but for the maximum benefit limitations and the limitation on compensation pursuant to the Code that may be recognized under the qualified plan and deferrals of their compensation under our Executive Deferred Compensation Plan. These benefits are paid at the time and in the form corresponding benefits are paid under the qualified pension plan, except that all such benefits are paid in one lump sum payment.

In addition to the retirement benefits provided under our defined pension plan and the SERP, which are reflected in the table above, certain key employees may be granted special pension service benefits equal to 4% per annum of the employee's average pay over his or her last three years multiplied by the number of years of service to us up to 15 years, net of certain other benefits received from us (including amounts received under the qualified and non-qualified plans) and Social Security; these benefits vest only after the employee has completed five years of service with us and are paid out in the form of a 100% survivor annuity with 60 payments guaranteed, on the later of (1) age 55 (65 if the employee has not completed at least 10 years of service with us and is not disabled), and (2) the employee's separation from service (except that for key employees as defined under relevant law, not earlier than six months after the employee's separation from service). All such benefits shall be paid in one lump sum payment. These benefits have been granted to Messrs. Rohr, Kissam and Steitz. In addition, certain key employees may be granted special pension benefits based on their service and compensation with Ethyl Corporation; these benefits are vested at all times and are paid out in the form of a 100% survivor annuity with 60 payments guaranteed, on the later of (1) age 55 (65 if the employee has not completed at least 10 years of service with us and is not disabled), and (2) the employee's separation from service (except that for key employees as defined under relevant law, no earlier than six months after the employee's separation from service). Effective February 1, 2006, all such benefits will be paid in one lump sum payment. Such benefits have been provided to Mr. William M. Gottwald. All benefits under the SERP will be immediately paid if, within 24 months following a change in control, a participant's employment is terminated by us or the participant resigns due to a change or diminution of responsibilities or compensation, a reduction of benefit level or eligibility, or refusal by a successor company to assume the participant's severance agreement.

In 2005, we amended and restated the SERP. Some of the amendments to the SERP were made to ensure compliance with Section 409A of the Code, enacted as part of the American Jobs Creation Act of 2004 ("Code Section 409A"), which imposes new restrictions and requirements that must be satisfied in order to assure the deferred taxation of benefits as intended by the SERP. The SERP was further amended in 2005 to freeze Final Average Compensation (as defined in the SERP) as of December 31, 2010 for participants who retire after December 31, 2010, other than for participants who retire after December 31, 2015 or December 31, 2020 for whom Final Average Compensation will be frozen as of December 31, 2012 and December 31, 2014, respectively, consistent with the changes under our qualified defined benefit retirement plan.

## Nonqualified Deferred Compensation

The following table presents information concerning each of our defined contribution or other plans that provides for the deferral of compensation of our named executive officers on a basis that is not tax qualified.

### NONQUALIFIED DEFERRED COMPENSATION<sup>(1)</sup>

<u>Name</u>	<u>Executive Contributions in Last FY (\$) <sup>(2)</sup></u>	<u>Registrant Contributions in Last FY (\$) <sup>(3)</sup></u>	<u>Aggregate Earnings in Last FY (\$) <sup>(4)</sup></u>	<u>Aggregate Withdrawals/ Distributions (\$) <sup>(4)</sup></u>	<u>Aggregate Balance at Last FYE (\$) <sup>(4)</sup></u>
Mark C. Rohr.....	\$ 1,162,527	\$ —	\$ 515,696	—	\$ 3,440,531
Richard J. Diemer, Jr. ....	654,459	24,000	131,122	—	961,465
John M. Steitz.....	27,004	—	55,062	—	107,296
Luther C. Kissam, IV.....	—	—	29,102	—	29,244
William M. Gottwald.....	231,813	—	155,171	—	894,165

<sup>1</sup> Amounts reflected are based on activities recorded by the plan trustee, Merrill Lynch, as of December 31, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> All amounts are reported as compensation to the named executive officers in the Summary Compensation Table.

<sup>3</sup> Contributions made in 2007 relate to fiscal year 2006.

<sup>4</sup> Ending balances include phantom stock contributions made in 2007 for fiscal year 2006 of the following amounts: Mr. Rohr: \$37,063, Mr. Diemer: \$15,986, Mr. Steitz: \$9,700, Mr. Kissam: \$5,251 and Mr. Gottwald: \$6,428.

*Executive Deferred Compensation Plan.* Company contributions that cannot be made under our qualified employee savings plan because of limitations under the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, as amended, are credited under our Executive Deferred Compensation Plan (the “EDCP”). In addition to the savings plan make-up contributions, an EDCP participant may elect to defer up to 50% of his or her salary and/or 100% of each cash incentive award paid in a year. Such amounts are deferred and will be paid at specified intervals during employment or after retirement, or in a lump sum upon termination of employment. For eligible employees hired after March 31, 2004, the EDCP also provides a supplemental benefit of 5% of compensation in excess of amounts that may be recognized under the tax-qualified savings plan. Executives who participate in the defined contribution plan may receive an additional credit under the EDCP each year equal to 5% of actual cash incentive award to fulfill their full defined contribution pension credit under the non-qualified EDCP plan. The 5% supplemental benefit increases to a 6% supplemental benefit commencing with an employee’s 10th anniversary of employment, and to 7% at the 20th anniversary of employment. The amounts credited in the EDCP relative to the defined contribution vest only upon completion of five years of service with us.

### Agreements with Executive Officers and Other Potential Payments Upon Termination or a Change in Control

In December 2006, we approved a severance compensation program for certain of our executive officers, pursuant to which we entered into severance compensation agreements with each of Messrs. Rohr, Steitz, Diemer and Kissam. The severance compensation agreements replaced compensation arrangements with Messrs. Rohr, Diemer and Kissam that contained severance and change in control provisions. In addition, we do not have any severance compensation agreement with Mr. William M. Gottwald.

In December 2006, we adopted the Albemarle Corporation Severance Pay Plan, or SPP. The SPP provides severance payments to certain of our employees upon either (i) a termination of employment without cause in the absence of a change in control by reason of the elimination of the employee’s position or a change to our organizational structure which results in a redesign of work processes and individual responsibilities affecting two or more individuals, subject to certain exceptions, or (ii) termination of employment by us without cause following a change in control. Any participant who is also party to a severance compensation agreement discussed below is only eligible to receive payments under the SPP triggered in the absence of a change in control. For purposes of the SPP, change in control has the same meaning as in the severance compensation agreements. For additional information with respect to these arrangements, please see “Compensation Discussion and Analysis” beginning on page 15.

The employees eligible to participate in the SPP are employees located in the United States, including those on expatriate assignments outside of the United States, who have been nominated for participation by our Chief Executive Officer and approved by the Committee.

Payments under the SPP will be paid in a lump sum and consist of (i) with respect to payments triggered in the absence of a change in control, the sum of (x) one year of the employee's base salary in effect at the time of termination and (y) the target cash incentive award for the employee for the year in which the employee is terminated, and (ii) with respect to payments triggered following a change in control, the sum of (x) the greater of the employee's base salary prior to the date of termination and the employee's base salary prior to the change in control and (y) the greater of the amount of the employee's actual cash incentive award for the year preceding the date on which the change in control occurs and the employee's target cash incentive award for the year in which the change in control occurs.

The term of the SPP is indefinite, but it may be amended or ended at any time in the absence of a change in control and, after any such change in control, no amendment or termination will be effective with respect to any employee unless such employee consents. The SPP expires two years after the date of any change in control. Mr. William M. Gottwald does not participate in the SPP.

The estimated payments and benefits for each named executive officer (other than Mr. Gottwald) due to an employment termination without cause absent a change in control by reason of the elimination of the employee's position or a change to our organizational structure which results in a redesign of work processes and individual responsibilities affecting two or more individuals, assuming the triggering event took place on December 31, 2007 would be approximately as follows:

	<u>Mark C. Rohr</u>	<u>John M. Steitz</u>	<u>Richard J. Diemer, Jr.</u>	<u>Luther C. Kissam, IV</u>
<b>Estimated payments</b>	\$ 1,620,000	\$ 680,064	\$ 640,032	\$ 560,064

The severance compensation agreements provide that, in the event of a change in control, upon termination of employment by us other than for cause (as defined in the severance compensation agreements), upon death after the execution of a definitive agreement which results in a change in control, or upon good reason for resignation (as defined in the severance compensation agreements), the executive will be entitled to (i) base salary and vacation pay accrued through the termination date, for the year in which the termination occurs, (ii) accrued annual cash incentive award, (iii) a lump sum severance payment further described below, (iv) vesting of any outstanding but unvested stock options and restricted stock, (v) payment of earned performance units for completed performance periods, (vi) payment of performance units for the then current performance period, calculated based on actual performance for the completed portion of the performance period and the target amount for the remainder of the unfinished performance period, (vii) the elimination of certain offsets for the short service benefits under our SERP, (viii) other insurance and counseling benefits, and (ix) tax gross-up payments for any excise taxes imposed on the executive in connection with payments made under the relevant severance compensation agreement, not to exceed \$5,000,000 with respect to Mr. Rohr or \$3,000,000 with respect to each of the others. Due to the methodology required to calculate tax gross-ups, the Committee expects that gross-up amounts will diminish over time as performance unit awards are earned and vested, thereby increasing the earnings upon which excise tax obligations are determined.

The severance payments referenced in clause (iii) of the previous paragraph consist of the product of (x) the lesser of (a) two and (b) the number of years until the executive's anticipated normal retirement date (defined in accordance with our pension plan), but not less than one; multiplied by (y) the sum of the executive's annual base salary and the greater of (A) the amount of the executive's actual annual cash incentive award for the year preceding the date of the change in control and (B) the amount of the executive's target cash incentive award for the year in which the change in control occurs. The severance payments are subject to reduction if the severance payments exceed certain Code limits by up to \$100,000.

The severance compensation agreement contains a one-year non-competition agreement for which the executive will receive consideration equal to one year's base salary and incentive award compensation and which, if materially breached, will entitle us to recover the payment. The severance payment will also be offset by the payment to the executive for the non-competition agreement.

The severance compensation agreements originally had terms extending through December 31, 2007, subject to automatic additional one-year term extensions unless either the Committee or the executive notifies the other of the desire not to extend. These agreements were extended through December 31, 2008.

For purposes of the severance compensation agreements and the SPP, “change in control” means:

- any person or group, as defined in Section 13(d)(3) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (excluding Mr. Floyd D. Gottwald, members of his family and any affiliate), becoming, directly or indirectly, the beneficial owner of 20% or more of the combined voting power of our then outstanding voting securities; provided, however, in the event such person or group becomes the beneficial owner of 20% or more, and less than 30%, of such voting securities, the directors who were directors prior to December 13, 2006 or whose nomination or election was recommended or approved by directors who were directors prior to December 13, 2006, or continuing directors, as defined below, determine by a vote of at least two-thirds of the continuing directors that such event does not constitute a change in control,
- as a result of a reorganization, merger, share exchange or consolidation (each, a business combination), contested election of directors, or a combination of any such items, the continuing directors cease to constitute a majority of our or any successor’s board of directors within two years of the last of such transaction(s), or
- our shareholders approve a business combination, subject to certain exceptions, one of which exceptions is that all or substantially all of the beneficial owners of our outstanding voting securities immediately prior to such business combination own more than 60% of the combined voting power of the then outstanding voting securities entitled to vote generally in the election of directors resulting from the business combination in substantially the same proportions as immediately prior to such business combination.
- Continuing directors means any member of our Board of Directors, while a member of that Board of Directors, and (i) who was a member of our Board of Directors prior to December 13, 2006, or (ii) whose subsequent nomination for election or election to our Board of Directors was recommended or approved by a majority of the continuing directors.

In the event of the hypothetical occurrence of both (i) a change of control and (ii) a concurrent termination of a named executive officer in accordance with such named executive officer’s severance compensation agreement and assuming these events took place on December 31, 2007, and the price per share of our Common Stock is \$41.25 per share, the closing market price as of that date, each named executive officer will be entitled to the following estimated payments and accelerated vesting:

	<u>Mark C. Rohr</u>	<u>John M. Steitz</u>	<u>Richard J. Diemer, Jr.</u>	<u>Luther C. Kissam, IV</u>	<u>William M. Gottwald*</u>
Lump sum severance payment <sup>(1)</sup>	\$ 1,900,000	\$ 945,040	\$ 880,020	\$ 800,040	\$ N/A
Tax gross-up <sup>(2)</sup>	3,429,795	2,017,137	2,274,303	1,821,135	N/A
Fair market values of accelerated equity compensation <sup>(3)</sup>	1,102,037	1,102,037	2,023,016	1,102,037	N/A
Payment for performance units <sup>(4)</sup>	8,662,500	4,331,250	3,712,500	3,712,500	3,712,500
Elimination of offsets under SERP	145,969	88,033	N/A	190,871 <sup>(5)</sup>	N/A
Counseling and other insurance benefits <sup>(6)</sup>	60,344	61,262	60,308	60,499	N/A
Non-competition agreement <sup>(7)</sup>	<u>1,900,000</u>	<u>945,040</u>	<u>880,020</u>	<u>800,040</u>	<u>N/A</u>
<b>Total</b>	<u>\$17,200,645</u>	<u>\$9,489,799</u>	<u>\$9,830,167</u>	<u>\$8,487,122</u>	<u>\$3,712,500</u>

\* Mr. William M. Gottwald does not have a severance compensation agreement; however, performance units pay out under the terms of the 2003 Incentive Plan.

- <sup>1</sup> Upon termination following a change in control, a lump sum severance would be paid to the executive equal to two times annual salary and incentive award (the higher of target incentive award or actual incentive award paid in the year preceding a change in control) reduced by the amount of the non-competition payment, as reflected above.
- <sup>2</sup> Gross-up of excise tax is subject to a maximum payment as described above.
- <sup>3</sup> Upon a change in control, all unvested stock options and restricted stock held by a participant under our incentive compensation programs will immediately vest and be non-forfeitable.
- <sup>4</sup> Upon a change in control,
- (i) any performance units which have been earned but not yet vested, will become vested and non-forfeitable and paid to the named executive officer on the date of the change in control;
  - (ii) that portion of the unearned performance units described in clause (iii) below will become vested and non-forfeitable and paid to the named executive officer on the date of the change in control;
  - (iii) the number of performance units to be vested and paid in accordance with clause (ii) above will equal the greater of:
    - (A) the target number of performance units granted to a named executive officer; and
    - (B) a number of performance units based on our actual performance against the performance criteria for the performance units for that portion of the performance period elapsed up to the end of the most recently completed calendar quarter prior to the date of the change in control and based on target performance during the balance of such performance period.
- <sup>5</sup> This amount reflects \$53,930 for the value of Mr. Kissam's social security offset under the SERP and \$136,941 for the value of his immediate vesting of SERP benefits under the short service formula.
- <sup>6</sup> This amount includes outplacement counseling not to exceed \$25,000, financial counseling not to exceed \$10,000 and the value of the continuation of medical benefits for two years following termination.
- <sup>7</sup> The executive will receive a lump sum non-competition payment equal to one year of annual salary plus cash incentive award (as calculated per lump sum severance above) at termination of employment in return for an agreement not to compete for a one year period following termination of employment.

### Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table presents information as of December 31, 2007 with respect to compensation plans under which shares of our Common Stock are authorized for issuance. The table does not include securities that may be issuable under either the 2008 Incentive Plan or the 2008 Directors Plan, each of which are being submitted to shareholders for approval at the Meeting and have not yet been implemented.

<b>Plan Category</b>	<b>Number of Securities to Be Issued upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights<sup>(1)</sup></b>	<b>Weighted Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights</b>	<b>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance under Equity Compensation Plans<sup>(2)</sup></b>
<b>Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Shareholders</b>			
1994 Incentive Plan	63,334	\$ 12.88	— <sup>(3)</sup>
1998 Incentive Plan	1,111,000	\$ 12.07	— <sup>(4)</sup>
2003 Incentive Plan <sup>(5)</sup>	1,481,500	\$ 22.01	2,802,500
2006 Stock Plan for Non-Employee Directors <sup>(6)</sup>	—	—	137,400
<b>Equity Compensation Plans Not Approved by Shareholders<sup>(7)</sup></b>			
Total	<u>2,655,834</u>	\$ 17.63	<u>2,939,900</u>

<sup>1</sup> There are no outstanding warrants or rights.

- <sup>2</sup> Amounts exclude any securities to be issued upon exercise of outstanding options.
- <sup>3</sup> As permitted under the terms of the 1994 Plan, we approved an amendment to the 1994 Plan effective December 30, 2002 canceling all authorized shares remaining for future grants or awards.
- <sup>4</sup> As permitted under the terms of the 1998 Plan, we approved an amendment to the 1998 Plan effective October 1, 2003 canceling all authorized shares remaining for future grants or awards.
- <sup>5</sup> If the 2008 Incentive Plan is approved at the Meeting, it will replace the 2003 Incentive Plan.
- <sup>6</sup> The 2006 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors permits the grant of shares of stock to each of our non-employee Directors. The maximum aggregate number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued under the 2006 Directors Plan is 150,000 shares. If the 2008 Directors Plan is approved at the Meeting, it will replace the 2006 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors of Albemarle Corporation.
- <sup>7</sup> We do not have any equity compensation plans that have not been approved by shareholders.

### **THE AUDIT COMMITTEE REPORT**

The Audit Committee of the Board of Directors is composed of five independent directors and operates under a written charter adopted by the Board of Directors. The Audit Committee approves the selection of our independent registered public accounting firm.

Management is responsible for our disclosure controls, internal controls and the financial reporting process. The independent registered public accounting firm is responsible for performing an independent audit of our consolidated financial statements in accordance with the standards of the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) and for issuing a report thereon. The Audit Committee's primary responsibility is to monitor and oversee these processes and to report thereon to the Board of Directors. In this context, the Audit Committee has met privately with management, the internal auditors and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm, all of whom have unrestricted access to the Audit Committee.

The Audit Committee has discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP the matters required to be discussed by Statement on Auditing Standards No. 61, as amended (AICPA, Professional Standards, Vol. 1, AU Section 380), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3200T, including the scope of the auditor's responsibilities whether there are any significant accounting adjustments or any disagreements with management.

The Audit Committee also has received the written disclosures and the letter from PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP relating to the independence of that firm as required by Independence Standards Board Standard No. 1 (Independence Discussions with Audit Committees), as adopted by the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board in Rule 3600T, and has discussed with PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP that firm's independence from the Company.

The Audit Committee has reviewed and discussed the consolidated financial statements with management and PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP. Based on this review and these discussions, the representation of management that the consolidated financial statements were prepared in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles and the report of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP to the Audit Committee, the Audit Committee recommended that the Board of Directors include the audited consolidated financial statements in our annual report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2007 to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

The Audit Committee also reviews with management and the independent registered public accounting firm the results of that firm's review of the unaudited financial statements that are included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q.

#### **Audit Committee Pre-Approval Policy**

The Audit Committee has adopted a written policy for the provision of audit services and permitted non-audit services by our independent registered public accounting firm. Our chief financial officer has primary responsibility to the Audit Committee for administration and enforcement of this policy and for reporting non-compliance. Under the policy, the chief financial officer is responsible for presenting to the Audit Committee an annual budget and plan for audit services and for any proposed audit-related, tax or other non-audit services to be performed by the independent registered public accounting firm. The presentation must be in sufficient detail to

define clearly the services included. Any services included within the budget and plan that the Audit Committee approves require no further Committee approval for that budget year. All other audit and permissible non-audit engagements of the independent registered public accounting firm must be approved in advance by the Audit Committee. The pre-approval requirements do not prohibit the delivery of permissible non-audit services that were not recognized as non-audit services at the time of the engagement so long as (1) all such services are less than 5% of revenues paid to the independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year and (2) the services are approved by the Audit Committee prior to completion of the audit.

### **Fees Billed by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP**

The Audit Committee reviews the fees charged by our independent registered public accounting firm. During the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP billed us the approximate fees set forth below in connection with services rendered by that firm to us.

	<u>2007</u>	<u>2006</u>
Audit Fees	\$2,926,000	\$3,463,000
Audit-Related Fees	40,000	86,000
Tax Fees	383,000	658,000
All Other Fees	<u>6,000</u>	<u>5,000</u>
Total fees	<u>\$3,355,000</u>	<u>\$4,212,000</u>

*Audit Fees.* Audit fees include professional services rendered by PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP for the audit of our annual financial statements, including its assessment of our internal control over financial reporting, and the reviews of the financial statements included in our quarterly reports on Form 10-Q. This category also includes fees for audits provided in connection with statutory filings or services that generally only the principal auditor reasonably can provide to a client, implementation of new financial and accounting reporting standards and consents and assistance with review of documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

*Audit-Related Fees.* Audit-related fees include reviews of our employee benefit plans, due diligence related to mergers and acquisitions, audits in connection with acquisitions, and consultation on certain financial accounting and reporting standards. For 2007 and 2006, amounts billed to us were primarily related to employee benefit plan audits.

*Tax Fees.* Tax fees include original and amended tax returns, studies supporting tax return amounts as may be required by Internal Revenue Service regulations, claims for refunds, assistance with tax audits and other work directly affecting or supporting the payment of taxes (“compliance”), and planning, research and advice supporting our efforts to maximize the tax efficiency of its operations (“planning”). For the fiscal years ended December 31, 2007 and December 31, 2006, payments for compliance totaled \$353,000 and \$460,000, respectively, and payments for planning were \$30,000 and \$198,000, respectively.

*All Other Fees.* All other fees consist of a licensing fee for software that provides access to authoritative guidance dealing with financial reporting rules and regulations.

#### THE AUDIT COMMITTEE

J. Alfred Broaddus, Jr., Chairman  
 Seymour S. Preston III, Vice Chairman  
 John Sherman, Jr.  
 Charles E. Stewart  
 Harriett Tee Taggart

February 26, 2008

**PROPOSAL NO. 2**  
**APPROVAL OF THE ALBEMARLE CORPORATION 2008 INCENTIVE PLAN**

The Board proposes that the shareholders approve the Albemarle Corporation 2008 Incentive Plan (the “2008 Plan”), adopted by the Board on February 27, 2008, subject to the approval of our shareholders. The 2008 Plan permits the grant of (a) options to purchase shares of Common Stock from us, (b) stock appreciation rights (“SARs”), (c) restricted stock and restricted stock units, (d) performance units and performance shares, and (e) cash-based and other stock-based awards.

We have provided stock-based compensation opportunities for our executives and key employees through the 2003 Plan. If the shareholders approve the 2008 Plan, the Executive Compensation Committee has indicated that it does not intend thereafter to approve additional grants or awards under the 2003 Plan and shares of Common Stock remaining unused under the 2003 Plan will be cancelled.

The Board believes that a significant percentage of an executive’s compensation should be based on the attainment of pre-established performance goals and objectives. The 2008 Plan is intended to further that result.

The Board believes that the 2008 Plan will benefit us by (a) assisting it in recruiting and retaining employees with ability and initiative, (b) providing greater incentive for our employees and (c) enabling such employees to participate in our future success and to associate their interests with ours and our shareholders and, in turn, to create additional shareholder value.

The following summary of the material features of the 2008 Plan is qualified in its entirety by reference to the 2008 Plan, a copy of which is attached as an annex to the electronic copy of this Proxy Statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and may be accessed from the Securities and Exchange Commission’s website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

**Administration**

The Executive Compensation Committee will administer the 2008 Plan. The Executive Compensation Committee will have the authority to select the individuals who will participate in the 2008 Plan (“Participants”) and to grant options, SARs, restricted stock and restricted stock units, performance shares and performance units and cash-based and other stock-based awards upon such terms (not inconsistent with the terms of the 2008 Plan) as the Executive Compensation Committee considers appropriate. In addition, the Executive Compensation Committee will have complete authority to interpret all provisions of the 2008 Plan, to prescribe the form of notices or agreements evidencing awards under the 2008 Plan, to adopt, amend and rescind rules and regulations pertaining to the administration of the 2008 Plan and to make all other determinations necessary or advisable for the administration of the 2008 Plan, including revising the terms of the Plan as they apply to non-U.S. employees, to comply with local law.

The Executive Compensation Committee may delegate its authority to administer the 2008 Plan to one of our officers. The Executive Compensation Committee, however, may not delegate its authority with respect to individuals who are subject to Section 16 of the Exchange Act. As used in this summary, the term “Administrator” means the Executive Compensation Committee and any delegate, as appropriate.

**Eligibility**

Any employee of us or an affiliate is eligible to participate in the 2008 Plan if the Administrator, in its sole discretion, determines that such person has contributed significantly or can be expected to contribute significantly to the profits or growth of us or our affiliates. We are not able to estimate the number of individuals that the Administrator will select to participate in the 2008 Plan or the type or size of awards that the Administrator will approve. Therefore, the benefits to be allocated to any individual or to various groups of individuals are not presently determinable.

**Awards**

*Options.* Options granted under the 2008 Plan may be incentive stock options (“ISOs”) or nonqualified stock options. An option entitles the Participant to purchase shares of Common Stock from us at the option price. The option price will be fixed by the Administrator at the time the option is granted, but the price cannot be less than the per share fair market value on the date of grant (or, with respect to ISOs, in the case of a holder of more than 10 percent of our outstanding voting securities, 110 percent of the per share fair market value). The option price may be paid in cash, a cash equivalent acceptable to the Administrator, with shares of Common Stock, by a cashless broker-

assisted exercise, or a combination thereof, or any other method accepted by the Executive Compensation Committee.

Options may be exercised in whole or in part at such times and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Administrator, provided that an option shall be exercisable after a period of time specified by the Administrator which may not be less than three years (except that options may become partially exercisable after a period of at least one year so long as the entire option grant does not become exercisable in less than three years). The maximum period in which an option may be exercised will be fixed by the Administrator at the time the option is granted but cannot exceed 10 years (five years for ISOs granted to a holder of more than 10 percent of our outstanding voting securities). No employee may be granted ISOs (under the 2008 Plan or any other of our plans) that are first exercisable in a calendar year for Common Stock having an aggregate fair market value (determined as of the date the option is granted) exceeding \$100,000.

*SARs.* Under the 2008 Plan, SARs generally entitle the Participant to receive with respect to each share of Common Stock encompassed by the exercise of the SAR, the excess of the fair market value of a share of Common Stock on the date of exercise over the initial value of the SAR. The initial value of the SAR is the fair market value of a share of Common Stock on the date of grant.

SARs may be exercised at such times and subject to such conditions as may be prescribed by the Administrator, provided that an SAR shall be exercisable after a period of time specified by the Administrator which may not be less than three years (except that SARs may become partially exercisable after a period of at least one year so long as the entire SAR grant does not become exercisable in less than three years). The maximum period in which an SAR may be exercised will be fixed by the Administrator at the time the SAR is granted. The amount payable upon the exercise of an SAR may, in the Administrator's discretion, be settled in cash, Common Stock, or a combination of cash and Common Stock or any other manner approved by the Administrator.

*Restricted Stock and Restricted Stock Units.* The 2008 Plan also permits the grant of restricted stock and restricted stock units. Restricted stock units are similar to restricted stock except that no shares are actually granted on the grant date of the award. An award of restricted stock or restricted stock units will be forfeitable or otherwise restricted until conditions established at the time of the award are satisfied. These conditions may include, for example, a requirement that the Participant complete a specified period of service or the attainment of certain performance objectives. Any restrictions imposed on an award of restricted stock or restricted stock units will be prescribed by the Administrator; restricted stock and restricted stock units shall vest over a period of at least three years (except that such stock and units may partially vest after a period of at least one year so long as the entire award does not fully vest earlier than three years after grant). Restricted stock and restricted stock units may, in the Administrator's discretion, be settled in cash, Common Stock, or a combination of cash and Common Stock or any other manner approved by the Administrator.

*Performance Units and Performance Shares.* The 2008 Plan also provides for the award of performance units and performance shares. A performance share award entitles a Participant to receive a payment equal to the fair market value of a specific number of shares of Common Stock. A performance unit award is similar to a performance share award except that a performance unit award is not necessarily tied to the value of Common Stock. The Administrator will prescribe the conditions that must be satisfied before an award of performance units or performance shares is earned. These conditions may include, for example, a requirement that the Participant complete a specified period of service or the attainment of certain performance objectives which, under the terms of the 2008 Plan, must be for a period of at least one year except in the event of a participant's death, disability or retirement, or a change in control of Albemarle. To the extent that performance units or performance shares are earned, the obligation may be settled in cash, Common Stock or a combination of cash and Common Stock.

*Cash-Based and Other Stock-Based Awards.* The 2008 Plan also allows the Administrator to make cash-based and other stock and equity-based awards to Participants on such terms and conditions as the Administrator prescribes. To the extent that any cash-based and other stock and equity-based awards are granted, they may, in the Administrator's discretion, be settled in cash or Common Stock.

## **Transferability**

In general, options, SARs, restricted stock and restricted stock units, and performance shares and performance units will be nontransferable except by will or the laws of descent and distribution. If provided in the agreement governing the grant, options that are not ISOs may be transferred by the Participant and exercisable by

the transferees provided that no award may be transferred for value (in accordance with General Instruction A.1.(a)(5) to Form S-8).

### **Performance Objectives**

The Executive Compensation Committee may prescribe that (a) an option or SAR is exercisable, (b) an award of restricted stock or restricted stock units is vested or transferable or both, (c) that performance units or performance shares are earned, or (d) that payment under a cash-based or other stock-based award is earned only upon the attainment of certain performance objectives. Such performance objectives may be based on one or more of our, our affiliates' or a business unit's (a) net earnings or net income (before or after taxes); (b) earnings per share (basic or diluted); (c) net sales or revenue growth; (d) net operating profit; (e) return measures (including, but not limited to, return on assets, capital, invested capital, equity, sales, or revenue); (f) cash flow (including, but not limited to, operating cash flow, free cash flow, cash flow return on equity, and cash flow return on investment); (g) earnings before or after taxes, interest, depreciation, and/or amortization; (h) gross or operating margins; (i) productivity ratios; (j) share price (including, but not limited to, growth measures and total shareholder return); (k) expense targets; (l) margins; (m) operating efficiency; (n) market share; (o) customer satisfaction; (p) working capital targets; (q) economic value added or EVA® (net operating profit after tax minus the sum of capital multiplied by the cost of capital); (r) health, safety and environmental performance; and (s) corporate advocacy metrics.

### **Change in Control**

The 2008 Plan provides that in the event of a change in control of Albemarle, any of the following may occur, in accordance with the applicable award agreement: (i) replacement awards of equal value to the award being replaced shall be provided to participants; (ii) outstanding options and SARs will become exercisable, outstanding awards of restricted stock and restricted stock units will become transferable and nonforfeitable, and each performance unit and performance share will be earned and converted into cash, Common Stock, or a combination of cash and Common Stock; or (iii) all outstanding awards will be cancelled and terminated and a payment of cash made or shares of stock delivered to participants, equal in value to the cancelled award.

### **Share Authorization**

The maximum aggregate number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued under the 2008 Plan is 3.0 million shares. This limitation will be adjusted as the Executive Compensation Committee determines is appropriate in the event of a change in the number of outstanding shares of Common Stock by reason of a stock dividend, stock split, combination, reclassification, recapitalization or other similar event. The terms of outstanding awards and the limitations on individual grants also will be adjusted as the Executive Compensation Committee determines is appropriate to reflect such changes.

### **Individual Limitations**

No individual may be granted or awarded in any calendar year options covering more than 200,000 shares of Common Stock in the aggregate. In addition, no individual in any calendar year may be awarded, in the aggregate, options, SARs, restricted stock and restricted stock units, performance shares and performance units or cash-based or other stock-based awards covering more than 200,000 shares of Common Stock.

### **Amendment and Termination**

No option, SAR, restricted stock or restricted stock unit award, performance share or performance unit award or cash-based or other stock-based award may be granted under the 2008 Plan after April 30, 2018. The Board may, without further action by shareholders, terminate the 2008 Plan in whole or in part. The Board also may amend the 2008 Plan, except that no material amendment of the Plan or an amendment that increases the number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued under the 2008 Plan will become effective and no option or SAR will be repriced, replaced or regranted through cancellation until it is approved by shareholders. Any amendment of the 2008 Plan must comply with the rules of the NYSE.

### **Federal Income Tax Consequences**

We have been advised by counsel regarding the federal income tax consequences of the 2008 Plan. No income is recognized by a Participant at the time an option or SAR is granted. If the option is an ISO, no income will be recognized upon the Participant's exercise of the option (except that the alternative minimum tax may apply). Income is recognized by a Participant when he disposes of shares acquired under an ISO. The exercise of a

nonqualified stock option or SAR generally is a taxable event that requires the Participant to recognize, as ordinary income, the difference between the shares' fair market value and the option price. If a Participant disposes of shares acquired under an ISO before two years after the ISO was granted, or before one year after the ISO was exercised, this is a "disqualifying disposition" and the Participant will recognize ordinary income equal to the excess of the amount received for the shares over the option price.

Income is recognized on account of the award of restricted stock and performance shares when the shares first become transferable or are no longer subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture unless the Participant makes an election to recognize income currently under Section 83(b) of the Code. At that time the Participant recognizes income equal to the fair market value of the Common Stock.

A Participant will recognize ordinary income equal to any cash that is paid and the fair market value of Common Stock (on the date that the shares are first transferable and not subject to a substantial risk of forfeiture) that is received in settlement of an award of performance units or restricted stock units, and payment of a cash-based award.

We generally will be entitled to claim a federal income tax deduction on account of the exercise of a nonqualified stock option or SAR or upon the taxability to the recipient of restricted stock and performance shares, the settlement of a performance unit or restricted stock unit, and the payment of a cash-based or other stock-based award (subject to tax limitations on our deductions in any year that certain remuneration paid to certain executives exceeds \$1 million). The amount of the deduction is equal to the ordinary income recognized by the Participant. We will not be entitled to a federal income tax deduction on account of the grant or the exercise of an ISO unless the Participant has made a "disqualifying disposition" of the shares acquired on exercise of the ISO, in which case we will be entitled to a deduction at the same time and in the same amount as the Participant's recognition of ordinary income.

#### **Vote Required**

The approval of the 2008 Incentive Plan requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of Common Stock cast on the 2008 Incentive Plan, provided that the total vote cast on the 2008 Incentive Plan represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the proposal to approve the 2008 Incentive Plan, provided that the total vote cast on the proposal to approve the 2008 Incentive Plan represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock.

**The Board recommends that shareholders vote "FOR" the Albemarle Corporation 2008 Incentive Plan.**

### **PROPOSAL NO. 3 APPROVAL OF 2008 STOCK COMPENSATION PLAN FOR NON-EMPLOYEE DIRECTORS OF ALBEMARLE CORPORATION**

The Board of Directors proposes that the shareholders approve the 2008 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors of Albemarle Corporation (the "2008 Directors Plan"), adopted by the Board of Directors on February 27, 2007, subject to the approval of our shareholders. The 2008 Directors Plan permits the grant of shares of Common Stock to each of our non-employee Directors. If the 2008 Directors Plan is approved by the shareholders, it will replace the 2006 Directors Plan.

The Board of Directors believes that the 2008 Directors Plan will benefit us by (1) providing greater incentive for our directors and (2) enabling such directors to participate in our future success and to associate their interests with ours and those of our shareholders and, in turn, to create additional shareholder value.

The following summary of the material features of the 2008 Directors Plan is qualified in its entirety by reference to the 2008 Directors Plan, a copy of which is attached as an annex to the electronic copy of this Proxy Statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission and may be accessed from the Securities and Exchange Commission's website at <http://www.sec.gov>.

#### **Administration**

The Corporate Governance and Social Responsibility Committee (the "CGSRC") will administer the 2008 Directors Plan. The CGSRC will interpret all provisions of the 2008 Directors Plan, establish administrative regulations to further the purpose of the 2008 Directors Plan and take any other action necessary for the proper

operation of the 2008 Directors Plan. All decisions and acts of the CGSRC shall be final and binding upon all participants in the 2008 Directors Plan.

### **Eligibility**

Each non-employee who is a director on the effective date of the 2008 Directors Plan or who thereafter becomes a director shall be a participant in the 2008 Directors Plan (a “participant”) until the non-employee director is no longer serving as a non-employee director. The Board of Directors currently includes nine non-employee directors.

### **Grant of Shares**

Beginning at the Meeting and on the date of each annual meeting of shareholders thereafter, we will grant to each participant that number of restricted shares of Common Stock equal to the annual retainer fee (which is initially \$68,000) divided by the closing share price on the New York Stock Exchange on the date of grant. For fiscal 2008 only, the number of shares issued to each participant at the Meeting will be reduced by the number of shares previously received by such participant in fiscal 2008. The shares granted under the 2008 Directors’ Plan will vest on such date as is determined by the CGSRC; with respect to the 2008 grant, such shares will vest on the one year anniversary of the Meeting. If an individual becomes a participant after January 1<sup>st</sup> of a given year, such participant will receive a *pro rata* number of shares based on the number of days remaining in the year, valued at the closing share price on the NYSE on the later of the date the individual becomes a director and the date of that year’s annual meeting of shareholders. The Board will have the authority to increase the amount of shares of Common Stock issued to each participant during a calendar year, but in no event will more than 2,000 shares be issued to a participant during any calendar year. In the event of a change in capital, shares of capital stock, or any special distribution to our shareholders, the Board will make equitable adjustments in the number of shares of Common Stock that have been, or thereafter may be, granted to participants.

### **Share Authorization**

The maximum aggregate number of shares of Common Stock that may be issued under the 2008 Directors Plan is 100,000 shares.

### **Amendment and Termination**

The Board may amend, suspend or terminate the 2008 Directors Plan, but no such amendment shall, (1) increase the number of shares of Common Stock that may be granted to any participant, except as previously described in “Grant of Shares” above, or (2) increase the total number of shares of Common Stock that may be granted under the 2008 Directors Plan; *provided, however*, that the 2008 Directors Plan may not be amended more than once every six months other than to comply with changes in the Code or any rules or regulations promulgated thereunder. Any amendment of the 2008 Directors Plan must comply with the rules of the NYSE.

### **Federal Income Tax Consequences**

With respect to shares of Common Stock granted under the 2008 Directors Plan, when such shares of Common Stock become vested, each participant must recognize ordinary income in an amount equal to the fair market value of the shares of Common Stock received. We will receive a deduction for the same amount at that time.

The tax treatment upon disposition of shares of Common Stock acquired under the 2008 Directors Plan will depend on how long the shares of Common Stock have been held. There will be no tax consequences to us upon the disposition of shares of Common Stock acquired under the 2008 Directors Plan.

## Other Information

The following table sets forth the anticipated annual benefits to be received by non-employee directors under the 2008 Directors Plan:

### *New Plan Benefits*

#### 2008 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors of Albemarle Corporation

	<u>Dollar Value<sup>(1)</sup></u>	<u>Number of Shares<sup>(2)</sup></u>
Each Individual Non-Employee Director	\$ 68,000	1,648
Non-Executive Director Group (9 persons) <sup>(3)</sup>	\$ 612,000	14,832

<sup>1</sup> These values are based on \$41.25 per share, the closing price of Common Stock on the NYSE on December 31, 2007.

<sup>2</sup> Assumes that we grant to each participant 1,648 shares of Common Stock (\$68,000 worth of shares of Common Stock) on the date of the annual meeting of shareholders each calendar year.

<sup>3</sup> Assumes no change in the number of non-employee directors and that each non-employee director remains in office.

## Vote Required

The approval of the 2008 Directors Plan requires the affirmative vote of the holders of a majority of the shares of Common Stock cast on the 2008 Directors Plan, provided that the total vote cast on the 2008 Directors Plan represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock. Abstentions and broker non-votes will have no effect on the proposal to approve the 2008 Directors Plan, provided that the total vote cast on the proposal to approve the 2008 Directors Plan represents over 50% of the outstanding shares of Common Stock.

**The Board recommends that shareholders vote “FOR” the 2008 Stock Compensation Plan for Non-Employee Directors of Albemarle Corporation.**

### **PROPOSAL NO. 4 RATIFICATION OF APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT REGISTERED PUBLIC ACCOUNTING FIRM**

The Audit Committee has appointed PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008. A representative of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP is expected to be present at the Meeting with an opportunity to make a statement and to be available to respond to appropriate questions.

PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP’s principal function is to audit the consolidated financial statements of the Company and its subsidiaries and, in connection with that audit, to review certain related filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission and to conduct limited reviews of the financial statements included in our quarterly reports.

**The Board of Directors and Audit Committee recommend that shareholders vote “FOR” ratification of the appointment of PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP as our independent registered public accounting firm for the fiscal year ending December 31, 2008.**

Appointment of our independent registered public accounting firm is not required to be submitted to a vote of the shareholders of the Company for ratification. Under the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 and the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission promulgated thereunder, the Audit Committee is solely responsible for the appointment, compensation and oversight of the work of our independent registered public accounting firm.

## SHAREHOLDER PROPOSALS

Under the regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission, any shareholder desiring to make a proposal to be acted upon at the 2009 annual meeting of shareholders must present such proposal to our Secretary at our principal office at 451 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801 not later than November 21, 2008, in order for the proposal to be considered for inclusion in our Proxy Statement. We anticipate holding the 2009 annual meeting on Wednesday May 13, 2009.

Our bylaws provide that a shareholder entitled to vote for the election of directors may nominate persons for election to the Board of Directors by delivering written notice to our Secretary. With respect to an election to be held at an annual meeting of shareholders, such notice generally must be delivered not later than the close of business on the ninetieth day nor earlier than the close of business on the one-hundred twentieth day prior to the first anniversary of the preceding year's annual meeting. With respect to an election to be held at a special meeting of shareholders, such notice must be delivered not earlier than the close of business on the one-hundred twentieth day prior to such special meeting, and not later than the close of business on the later of the ninetieth day prior to such special meeting or the tenth day following the day on which public announcement is made of the date of the special meeting and of the nominees proposed by the Board of Directors to be elected at such special meeting.

The shareholder's notice must include

- as to each person whom the shareholder proposes to nominate for election as a director:
  - all information relating to such person that is required to be disclosed in solicitations of proxies for election of directors in an election contest or is otherwise required pursuant to Regulation 14A under the Exchange Act; and
  - such person's written consent to being named in the Proxy Statement as a nominee and to serving as such a director if elected; and
- as to the shareholder giving the notice and the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the nomination is made:
  - the name and address of such shareholder, as they appear on our books, and of such beneficial owner;
  - the class and number of shares of our capital stock that are owned beneficially and of record by such shareholder and such beneficial owner;
  - a representation that the shareholder is a holder of record of our Common Stock entitled to vote at such meeting and intends to appear in person or by proxy at the meeting to propose such nomination; and
  - a representation whether the shareholder or the beneficial owner, if any, intends or is part of a group that intends (1) to deliver a proxy statement and/or form of proxy to holders of at least the percentage of our outstanding capital stock required to elect the nominee and/or (2) otherwise to solicit proxies from shareholders in support of such nomination.

The Secretary must receive written notice of a shareholder proposal to be acted upon at the 2009 annual meeting not later than the close of business on January 30, 2009, nor earlier than the close of business on December 31, 2008.

In order for a shareholder to bring other business before a shareholder meeting, timely notice must be received by us within the time limits described in the immediately preceding paragraph. The shareholder's notice must contain:

- as to each matter:
  - a brief description of the business desired to be brought before the meeting;
  - the text of the proposal or business (including the text of any resolutions proposed for consideration and in the event that such business includes a proposal to amend our bylaws, the language of the proposed amendment);
  - the reasons for conducting such business at the meeting;
  - any material interest in such business of such shareholder and for the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the proposal is made; and

- as to the shareholder giving the notice and the beneficial owner, if any, on whose behalf the proposal is made, the information described above with respect to the shareholder proposing such business.

The requirements found in our bylaws are separate from and in addition to the requirements of the Securities and Exchange Commission that a shareholder must meet to have a proposal included in our Proxy Statement.

## **CERTAIN MATTERS RELATING TO PROXY MATERIALS AND ANNUAL REPORTS**

### **Electronic Access of Proxy Materials and Annual Reports**

This Proxy Statement and our Annual Report on Form 10-K are available on our Internet website at [http://www.albemarle.com/Investor\\_information/Financial\\_information/Annual\\_reports/](http://www.albemarle.com/Investor_information/Financial_information/Annual_reports/). Shareholders can elect to access future proxy statements and annual reports over the Internet instead of receiving paper copies in the mail. Providing these documents over the Internet will reduce our printing and postage costs and the number of paper documents shareholders would otherwise receive. We will notify shareholders who consent to accessing these documents over the Internet when such documents will be available. Once given, a shareholder's consent will remain in effect until such shareholder revokes it by notifying us otherwise at Secretary, Albemarle Corporation, 451 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801. Shareholders of record voting by mail can choose this option by marking the appropriate box on the proxy card included with this Proxy Statement and shareholders of record voting by telephone or over the Internet can choose this option by following the instructions provided by telephone or over the Internet, as applicable. Beneficial owners whose shares are held in street name should refer to the information provided by the institution that holds such beneficial owner's shares and follow the instructions on how to elect to access future proxy statements and annual reports over the Internet, if this option is provided by such institution. Paper copies of these documents may be requested by writing us at Investor Relations, Albemarle Corporation, 451 Florida Street, Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70801 or by telephoning (225) 388-7402.

### **“Householding” of Proxy Materials and Annual Reports for Record Owners**

The Securities and Exchange Commission rules permit us, with your permission, to deliver a single proxy statement and annual report to any household at which two or more shareholders of record reside at the same address. Each shareholder will continue to receive a separate proxy card. This procedure, known as “householding,” reduces the volume of duplicate information you receive and helps to reduce our expenses. Shareholders of record voting by mail can choose this option by marking the appropriate box on the proxy card included with this Proxy Statement and shareholders of record voting by telephone or over the Internet can choose this option by following the instructions provided by telephone or over the Internet, as applicable. Once given, a shareholder's consent will remain in effect until such shareholder revokes it by notifying our Secretary as described above. If you revoke your consent, we will begin sending you individual copies of future mailings of these documents within 30 days after we receive your revocation notice. Shareholders of record who elect to participate in householding may also request a separate copy of future proxy statements and annual reports by contacting our investor relations department as described above.

### **Separate Copies for Beneficial Owners**

Institutions that hold shares in street name for two or more beneficial owners with the same address are permitted to deliver a single proxy statement and annual report to that address. Any such beneficial owner can request a separate copy of this Proxy Statement or the Annual Report on Form 10-K by contacting our investor relations department as described above. Beneficial owners with the same address who receive more than one proxy statement and Annual Report on Form 10-K may request delivery of a single proxy statement and Annual Report on Form 10-K by contacting our investor relations department as described above.

## **OTHER MATTERS**

The Board of Directors is not aware of any matters to be presented for action at the Meeting other than as set forth in this Proxy Statement. However, if any other matters properly come before the Meeting, or any adjournment or postponement thereof, the person or persons voting the proxies will vote them in accordance with their best judgment.

By Order of the Board of Directors

Luther C. Kissam, IV, *Secretary*