

SOUTHERN CO  
Form S-3ASR  
November 08, 2006

As filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on November 8, 2006.

Registration Nos. 333-  
333-  
333-

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

**FORM S-3**  
**REGISTRATION STATEMENT**  
**UNDER**  
**THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933**

**The Southern Company**  
**Southern Company Capital**  
**Trust VII**  
**Southern Company Capital**  
**Trust VIII**  
*(Exact name of each*  
*registrant as specified in its*  
*charter)*

**Delaware**  
**Delaware**  
**Delaware**  
*(State or other jurisdiction of*  
*incorporation or*  
*organization)*

**58-0690070**  
**58-6442702**  
**To be applied for**  
*(I.R.S. Employer*  
*Identification No.)*

**30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., N.W.**  
**Atlanta, Georgia 30308**  
**(404) 506-5000**

(Address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of each registrant's principal executive offices)

**PATRICIA L. ROBERTS, Assistant Secretary**  
**THE SOUTHERN COMPANY**  
**30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., N.W.**  
**Atlanta, Georgia 30308**  
**(404) 506-5000**

(Name, address, including zip code, and telephone number, including area code, of agent for service of each registrant)

The Commission is requested to mail signed copies of all orders, notices and communications to:

**THOMAS A. FANNING**  
**Executive Vice President,**  
**Treasurer and Chief Financial**  
**Officer**  
**THE SOUTHERN COMPANY**  
**30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., N.W.**  
**Atlanta, Georgia 30308**

**MELISSA K. CAEN**  
**Vice President and Associate**  
**General Counsel**  
**SOUTHERN COMPANY**  
**SERVICES, INC.**  
**30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., N.W.**  
**Atlanta, Georgia 30308**

**TIFT H. SHEPHERD**  
**TROUTMAN SANDERS LLP**  
**600 Peachtree Street, N.E.**  
**Suite 5200**  
**Atlanta, Georgia 30308-2216**

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

**CALCULATION OF REGISTRATION FEE**

| <b>Title of</b>                 | <b>Amount</b>        | <b>Proposed</b>    | <b>Proposed</b>  | <b>Amount</b>       |
|---------------------------------|----------------------|--------------------|------------------|---------------------|
| <b>Each Class of Securities</b> | <b>to be</b>         | <b>Maximum</b>     | <b>Maximum</b>   | <b>of</b>           |
| <b>to be Registered</b>         | <b>Registered(1)</b> | <b>Offering</b>    | <b>Aggregate</b> | <b>Registration</b> |
|                                 |                      | <b>Price</b>       | <b>Offering</b>  | <b>Fee(2)</b>       |
|                                 |                      | <b>Per Unit(1)</b> | <b>Price(1)</b>  |                     |

Common Stock of The Southern Company ( Common Stock )

Senior Notes and Junior Subordinated Notes  
(collectively, Debt Securities ) of The Southern Company

Preferred Securities of Southern Company Capital  
Trust VII and Southern Company Capital Trust VIII,  
severally ( Preferred Securities )

Guarantees of Preferred Securities of Southern Company  
Capital Trust VII and Southern Company Capital  
Trust VIII by The Southern Company(3)(4)

- (1) Such indeterminate amount or number of Common Stock, Debt Securities and Preferred Securities as may from time to time be issued at indeterminate prices. Junior Subordinated Notes may be issued and sold to Southern Company Capital Trust VII and Southern Company Capital Trust VIII, in which event such Junior Subordinated Notes may later be distributed to the holders of Preferred Securities upon a dissolution of Southern Company Capital Trust VII and Southern Company Capital Trust VIII and the distribution of assets thereof.
  - (2) In accordance with Rules 456(b) and 457(r), the registrant is deferring payment of all the registration fee.
  - (3) Includes the obligations of The Southern Company under the respective Trust Agreements, the Subordinated Note Indenture, the related series of Junior Subordinated Notes, the respective Guarantees and the respective Agreements as to Expenses and Liabilities, which include The Southern Company's covenant to pay any indebtedness, expenses or liabilities of the Trusts (other than obligations pursuant to the terms of the Preferred Securities or other similar interests), all as described in this registration statement.
  - (4) No separate consideration will be received for any such Guarantees.
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**PROSPECTUS**

**The Southern Company  
Common Stock  
Senior Notes  
Junior Subordinated Notes**

**Southern Company Capital Trust VII  
Southern Company Capital Trust VIII  
Trust Preferred Securities  
Fully And Unconditionally Guaranteed, As Described Herein, By  
The Southern Company**

We will provide the specific terms of these securities in supplements to this Prospectus. You should read this Prospectus and the applicable Prospectus Supplement carefully before you invest.

**See Risk Factors on page 2 for information on certain risks related to the purchase of these securities.**

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

November 8, 2006

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## ABOUT THIS PROSPECTUS

This Prospectus is part of a registration statement filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission (the Commission ) using a shelf registration process under the Securities Act of 1933, as amended (the 1933 Act ). Under the shelf process, The Southern Company (the Company ) may sell, in one or more transactions,

common stock (the Common Stock )

senior notes (the Senior Notes )

junior subordinated notes (the Junior Subordinated Notes )

and Southern Company Capital Trust VII and Southern Company Capital Trust VIII (individually, a Trust and collectively, the Trusts ) may sell

trust preferred securities or capital securities (the Preferred Securities )

in one or more offerings. The Preferred Securities will be guaranteed by the Company, to the extent described in this Prospectus. This Prospectus provides a general description of those securities. Each time the Company or a Trust sells securities, the Company and/or a Trust will provide a prospectus supplement that will contain specific information about the terms of that offering ( Prospectus Supplement ). The Prospectus Supplement may also add, update or change information contained in this Prospectus. You should read this Prospectus and the applicable Prospectus Supplement together with additional information under the heading Available Information.

## RISK FACTORS

Investing in the Company's securities involves risk. Please see the risk factors described in the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005, along with the disclosures related to risk factors contained in the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2006, June 30, 2006 and September 30, 2006, which are all incorporated by reference in this Prospectus. Before making an investment decision, you should carefully consider these risks as well as other information contained or incorporated by reference in this Prospectus. The risks and uncertainties described are not the only ones facing the Company. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to the Company or that the Company currently deems immaterial may also impair its business operations, its financial results and the value of its securities.

## AVAILABLE INFORMATION

The Company and the Trusts have filed with the Commission a combined registration statement on Form S-3 (the Registration Statement, which term encompasses any amendments of and exhibits to the Registration Statement) under the 1933 Act. As permitted by the rules and regulations of the Commission, this Prospectus does not contain all of the information set forth in the Registration Statement and the exhibits and schedules to the Registration Statement, to which reference is made.

The Company is subject to the informational requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended (the 1934 Act ), and in accordance with the 1934 Act files reports, proxy statements and other information with the Commission. Such reports, proxy statements and other information can be inspected and copied at the Public Reference Room of the Commission at 100 F Street, N.E., Room 1580, Washington, D.C. 20549. Information on the operation of the Public Reference Room may be obtained by calling the Commission at 1-800-SEC-0330. The

Commission maintains a Web site that contains reports, proxy and information statements and other information regarding registrants including the Company that file electronically at <http://www.sec.gov>. In addition, reports and other material concerning the Company can be inspected at the offices of the New York Stock Exchange, 20 Broad Street, New York, New York 10005, on which exchange the common stock of the Company is listed.

No separate financial statements of any Trust are included in this Prospectus. The Company considers that such statements would not be material to holders of the Preferred Securities because each Trust has no independent operations and exists for the sole purpose of investing the proceeds of the sale of its Trust Securities (as defined below) in Junior Subordinated Notes.

## INCORPORATION OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS BY REFERENCE

The following documents have been filed with the Commission pursuant to the 1934 Act and are incorporated in this Prospectus by reference and made a part of this Prospectus:

(a) the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2005;

(b) the Company's Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q for the quarters ended March 31, 2006, June 30, 2006 and September 30, 2006; and

(c) the Company's Current Reports on Form 8-K dated January 4, 2006, February 20, 2006, March 16, 2006, March 17, 2006, June 15, 2006, June 27, 2006, October 17, 2006, October 18, 2006 and October 27, 2006.

All documents filed by the Company with the Commission pursuant to Section 13(a), 13(c), 14 or 15(d) of the 1934 Act subsequent to the date of this Prospectus and prior to the termination of this offering shall be deemed to be incorporated in this Prospectus by reference and made a part of this Prospectus from the date of filing of such documents; provided, however, that the Company is not incorporating any information furnished under Items 2.02 or 7.01 of any Current Report on Form 8-K unless specifically stated otherwise. Any statement contained in a document incorporated or deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Prospectus shall be deemed to be modified or superseded for purposes of this Prospectus to the extent that a statement contained in this Prospectus or in any other subsequently filed document which also is or is deemed to be incorporated by reference in this Prospectus modifies or supersedes such statement. Any statement so modified or superseded shall not be deemed, except as so modified or superseded, to constitute a part of this Prospectus.

**The Company will provide without charge to each person to whom this Prospectus is delivered, on the written or oral request of any such person, a copy of any or all documents incorporated in this Prospectus by reference (other than the exhibits to such documents unless such exhibits are specifically incorporated by reference). Such requests should be directed to Patricia L. Roberts, Assistant Secretary, The Southern Company, 30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30308, telephone (404) 506-5000.**

## THE SOUTHERN COMPANY

The Company was incorporated under the laws of Delaware on November 9, 1945. The Company is domesticated under the laws of Georgia and is qualified to do business as a foreign corporation under the laws of Alabama. The principal executive offices of the Company are located at 30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30308, and the telephone number is (404) 506-5000.

The Company owns all the outstanding common stock of Alabama Power Company ( Alabama Power ), Georgia Power Company ( Georgia Power ), Gulf Power Company and Mississippi Power Company, each of which is an operating public utility company. The retail operating companies supply electric service in the states of Alabama, Georgia, Florida and Mississippi. Effective July 1, 2006, Savannah Electric and Power Company, which was an operating public utility company and a wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company, was merged with and into Georgia Power. In addition, the Company owns all of the common stock of Southern Power Company ( Southern Power ), which is also an operating public utility company. Southern Power constructs, owns and manages the Company's competitive generation assets and sells electricity at market-based rates in the wholesale market.

The Company also owns all the outstanding common stock or membership interests of Southern Communications Services, Inc. ( SouthernLINC Wireless ), Southern Nuclear Operating Company, Inc. ( Southern Nuclear ), Southern Company Services, Inc. ( SCS ), Southern Telecom, Inc. ( Southern Telecom ), Southern Company Holdings, Inc.



( Southern Holdings ) and other direct and indirect subsidiaries. SouthernLINC Wireless provides digital wireless communications services to the retail operating companies and also markets these services to the public within the Southeast. Southern Nuclear provides services to Alabama Power's and Georgia Power's nuclear plants. SCS is the system service company providing, at cost, specialized services to the Company and its subsidiary companies. Southern Telecom provides wholesale fiber optic solutions to telecommunication providers in the Southeast. Southern Holdings is an intermediate holding subsidiary for the Company's investments in synthetic fuels and leveraged leases and various other energy-related businesses.

Alabama Power and Georgia Power each own 50% of the outstanding common stock of Southern Electric Generating Company ( SEGCO ). SEGCO is an operating public utility company that owns electric generating units. Alabama Power and Georgia Power are each entitled to one-half of SEGCO's capacity and energy.

**CERTAIN RATIOS**

The following table sets forth the Ratios of Earnings to Fixed Charges and Earnings to Fixed Charges Plus Preferred Dividend Requirements (Pre-Income Tax Basis) for the periods indicated.

|   | <b>Year Ended December 31,</b> |             |             |             |             | <b>Nine<br/>Months<br/>Ended<br/>September<br/>30,<br/>2006(1)</b> |
|---|--------------------------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|--|
|   | <b>2001</b>                    | <b>2002</b> | <b>2003</b> | <b>2004</b> | <b>2005</b> |  |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges(2)   | 3.25                           | 3.72        | 4.07        | 4.13        | 3.89        | 4.31   |
| Ratio of Earnings to Fixed Charges Plus Preferred Dividend Requirements (Pre-Income Tax Basis)(3) | 3.14                           | 3.60        | 3.90        | 3.90        | 3.69        | 4.07   |

- (1) Due to seasonal variations in the demand for energy, operating results for the nine months ended September 30, 2006 do not necessarily indicate operating results for the entire year.
- (2) This ratio is computed as follows: (i) Earnings have been calculated by adding to Earnings Before Income Taxes Interest expense, net of amounts capitalized, Interest expense to affiliate trusts, Distributions on mandatorily redeemable preferred securities and the debt portion of allowance for funds used during construction; and (ii) Fixed Charges consist of Interest expense, net of amounts capitalized, Interest expense to affiliate trusts, Distributions on mandatorily redeemable preferred securities and the debt portion of allowance for funds used during construction.
- (3) In computing this ratio, Preferred Dividend Requirements represent the before tax earnings necessary to pay such dividends, computed at the effective tax rates for the applicable periods.

**THE TRUSTS**

Each Trust is a statutory trust created under Delaware law pursuant to the filing of a certificate of trust with the Delaware Secretary of State on September 28, 1998, and amendment thereto on November 6, 2006, with respect to Southern Company Capital Trust VII and June 16, 1999, and amendment thereto on November 6, 2006, with respect to Southern Company Capital Trust VIII. Each Trust's business is defined in an amended and restated trust agreement, executed by Southern Company Capital Funding, Inc., the Company, as Depositor, and the Delaware Trustee of each Trust. This trust agreement of each Trust will be further amended and restated in its entirety by the Company, as Depositor, and the trustees named therein in connection with the issuance of Preferred Securities substantially in the form filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus forms a part (the Trust Agreement). Each Trust Agreement will be qualified as an indenture under the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended (the 1939 Act). The Company will own all the common securities (the Common Securities and, together with the Preferred Securities, the Trust Securities) of each Trust. The Trust Securities represent undivided beneficial interests in the assets of the respective Trusts. Each Trust exists for the exclusive purposes of (i) issuing its Trust Securities representing undivided beneficial interests in the assets of such Trust, (ii) investing the gross proceeds of its Trust Securities in a related series of Junior Subordinated Notes, and (iii) engaging in only those other activities necessary, appropriate, convenient or incidental to these purposes. The payment of periodic cash distributions on the Preferred Securities of each Trust and payments on liquidation and redemption with respect to the Preferred Securities of each Trust, in each case to the extent each Trust has funds legally and immediately available for these purposes, will be

guaranteed by the Company (individually, a Guarantee and collectively, the Guarantees ) to the extent set forth under Description of the Guarantees.

Each Trust's business and affairs will be conducted by its trustees, which shall be appointed by the Company as the holder of the Common Securities: two employees of the Company as Administrative Trustees; a Property Trustee; and The Bank of New York (Delaware) as Delaware Trustee (collectively, the Securities Trustees ). The Property Trustee of each Trust will act as the indenture trustee with respect to such Trust for purposes of compliance with the provisions of the 1939 Act.

The principal place of business of each Trust shall be c/o the Company, 30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30308, telephone (404) 506-5000, Attn: Assistant Secretary.

Reference is made to the Prospectus Supplement relating to the Preferred Securities of a Trust for further information concerning such Trust.

## **ACCOUNTING TREATMENT OF THE TRUSTS**

For financial reporting purposes, each Trust is a variable interest entity. The Company does not meet the definition of primary beneficiary and, therefore, accounts for its investment in each Trust under the equity method in accordance with Financial Accounting Standards Board Interpretation No. 46R, Consolidation of Variable Interest Entities. The Junior Subordinated Notes payable to each Trust will be presented as a separate line item in the Company's balance sheet. Interest related to the Junior Subordinated Notes will be reflected as a separate line item on the Company's income statement and appropriate disclosures concerning the Preferred Securities, the Guarantees and the Junior Subordinated Notes will be included in the notes to the Company's financial statements.

## **USE OF PROCEEDS**

Each Trust will invest the proceeds received from the sale of the Preferred Securities in Junior Subordinated Notes. Except as may be otherwise described in an applicable Prospectus Supplement, the net proceeds received by the Company from such investment and any proceeds received from the sale of the Common Stock or the Senior Notes or other sales of the Junior Subordinated Notes will be used to pay scheduled maturities and/or refundings of its securities, to repay short-term indebtedness to the extent outstanding and for other general corporate purposes.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE COMMON STOCK**

The authorized capital stock of the Company currently consists of 1,000,000,000 shares of common stock, par value \$5 per share. As of September 30, 2006, there were 742,740,228 shares of common stock issued and outstanding.

All shares of common stock of the Company participate equally with respect to dividends and rank equally upon liquidation. Each holder is entitled to one vote for each share held and to cumulative voting at elections of directors. The vote of two-thirds of the outstanding common stock is required to authorize or create preferred stock or to effect certain changes in the charter provisions affecting the common stock. No stockholder is entitled to preemptive rights.

The shares of Common Stock offered hereby will be fully paid and nonassessable by the Company and, therefore, will not be subject to further calls or assessment by the Company.

Certain business combination transactions, including mergers, sales of assets or securities having a fair market value of \$100,000,000 or more, liquidations, dissolutions, reclassifications or recapitalizations, between the Company or any of its subsidiaries and any beneficial owner of more than 5% of the outstanding voting stock of the Company or any affiliate of such owner must be approved the holders of 75% of the outstanding voting stock and a majority of the outstanding voting stock held by persons other than such beneficial owner, unless approved by a majority of the Disinterested Directors (generally directors not affiliated with such beneficial owner) or certain minimum price and procedural requirements are met. These provisions may have the effect of delaying, deferring or preventing a change in control of the Company.

The transfer agent and registrar for the common stock is SCS, 30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., Atlanta, Georgia, 30308.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE SENIOR NOTES**

Set forth below is a description of the general terms of the Senior Notes. The following description does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the Senior Note Indenture to be entered into between the Company and the trustee named in the Senior Note Indenture (the Senior Note Indenture Trustee), as to be supplemented by a supplemental indenture to the Senior Note Indenture establishing the Senior Notes of each series (the Senior Note Indenture, as so supplemented, is referred to as the Senior Note Indenture), the forms of which

are filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus forms a part. The terms of the Senior Notes will include those stated in the Senior Note Indenture and those made a part of the Senior Note Indenture by reference to the 1939 Act. Certain capitalized terms used in this Prospectus are defined in the Senior Note Indenture.

## General

The Senior Notes will be issued as unsecured senior debt securities under the Senior Note Indenture and will rank equally with all other unsecured and unsubordinated debt of the Company. The Senior Notes will be effectively subordinated to all secured debt of the Company. The Company had no secured debt outstanding at September 30, 2006. Since the Company is a holding company, the right of the Company and, hence, the right of creditors of the Company (including holders of Senior Notes) to participate in any distribution of the assets of any subsidiary of the Company, whether upon liquidation, reorganization or otherwise, is subject to prior claims of creditors of each subsidiary. The Senior Note Indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of Senior Notes that may be issued under the Senior Note Indenture and provides that Senior Notes may be issued from time to time in one or more series pursuant to an indenture supplemental to the Senior Note Indenture. The Senior Note Indenture gives the Company the ability to reopen a previous issue of Senior Notes and issue additional Senior Notes of such series, unless otherwise provided.

Reference is made to the Prospectus Supplement that will accompany this Prospectus for the following terms of the series of Senior Notes being offered by such Prospectus Supplement: (i) the title of such Senior Notes; (ii) any limit on the aggregate principal amount of such Senior Notes; (iii) the date or dates on which the principal of such Senior Notes is payable; (iv) the rate or rates at which such Senior Notes shall bear interest, if any, or any method by which such rate or rates will be determined, the date or dates from which such interest will accrue, the interest payment dates on which such interest shall be payable, and the regular record date for the interest payable on any interest payment date; (v) the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on such Senior Notes shall be payable; (vi) the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions on which such Senior Notes may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the option of the Company or at the option of the holder prior to their maturity; (vii) the obligation, if any, of the Company to redeem or purchase such Senior Notes; (viii) the date or dates, if any, after which such Senior Notes may be converted or exchanged at the option of the holder into or for shares of Common Stock of the Company and the terms for any such conversion or exchange; (ix) the denominations in which such Senior Notes shall be issuable; (x) if other than the principal amount of such Senior Notes, the portion of the principal amount of such Senior Notes which shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity of such Senior Notes; (xi) any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or covenants of the Company as provided in the Senior Note Indenture pertaining to such Senior Notes; (xii) whether such Senior Notes shall be issued in whole or in part in the form of a Global Security; and (xiii) any other terms of such Senior Notes.

The Senior Note Indenture does not contain provisions that afford holders of Senior Notes protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving the Company.

## Events of Default

The Senior Note Indenture provides that any one or more of the following described events with respect to the Senior Notes of any series, which has occurred and is continuing, constitutes an Event of Default with respect to the Senior Notes of such series:

- (a) failure for 30 days to pay interest on the Senior Notes of such series, when due on an interest payment date other than at maturity or upon earlier redemption; or
- (b) failure to pay principal or premium, if any, or interest on the Senior Notes of such series when due at maturity or upon earlier redemption; or

(c) failure for three Business Days to deposit any sinking fund payment when due by the terms of a Senior Note of such series; or

(d) failure to observe or perform any other covenant or warranty of the Company in the Senior Note Indenture (other than a covenant or warranty which has expressly been included in the Senior Note Indenture solely for the benefit of one or more series of Senior Notes other than such series) for 90 days after written notice to the Company from the Senior Note Indenture Trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding Senior Notes of such series; or

(e) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the Company.

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Senior Notes of any series have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Senior Note Indenture Trustee with respect to the Senior Notes of such series. If a Senior Note Indenture Event of Default occurs and is continuing with respect to the Senior Notes of any series, then the Senior Note Indenture Trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Senior Notes of such series may declare the principal amount of the Senior Notes due and payable immediately by notice in writing to the Company (and to the Senior Note Indenture Trustee if given by the holders), and upon any such declaration such principal amount shall become immediately due and payable. At any time after such a declaration of acceleration with respect to the Senior Notes of any series has been made and before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained as provided in Article Five of the Senior Note Indenture, the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Senior Notes of such series may rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences if the default has been cured or waived and the Company has paid or deposited with the Senior Note Indenture Trustee a sum sufficient to pay all matured installments of interest and principal due otherwise than by acceleration and all sums paid or advanced by the Senior Note Indenture Trustee, including reasonable compensation and expenses of the Senior Note Indenture Trustee.

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Senior Notes of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all the Senior Notes of such series, waive any past default with respect to such series, except (i) a default in the payment of principal or interest or (ii) a default in respect of a covenant or provision which under Article Nine of the Senior Note Indenture cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Senior Note of such series affected.

### **Registration and Transfer**

The Company shall not be required to (i) issue, register the transfer of or exchange Senior Notes of any series during a period of 15 days immediately preceding the date notice is given identifying the Senior Notes of such series called for redemption, or (ii) issue, register the transfer of or exchange any Senior Notes so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any Senior Note being redeemed in part.

### **Payment and Paying Agent**

Unless otherwise indicated in an applicable Prospectus Supplement, payment of principal of any Senior Notes will be made only against surrender to the Paying Agent of such Senior Notes. Principal of and interest on Senior Notes will be payable, subject to any applicable laws and regulations, at the office of such Paying Agent or Paying Agents as the Company may designate from time to time, except that, at the option of the Company, payment of any interest may be made by wire transfer or by check mailed to the address of the person entitled to an interest payment as such address shall appear in the Security Register with respect to the Senior Notes. Payment of interest on Senior Notes on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name the Senior Notes (or predecessor security) are registered at the close of business on the record date for such interest payment.

Unless otherwise indicated in an applicable Prospectus Supplement, the Senior Note Indenture Trustee will act as Paying Agent with respect to the Senior Notes. The Company may at any time designate additional Paying Agents or rescind the designation of any Paying Agents or approve a change in the office through which any Paying Agent acts.

All moneys paid by the Company to a Paying Agent for the payment of the principal of or interest on the Senior Notes of any series which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal or interest shall have become due and payable will be repaid to the Company, and the holder of such Senior Notes will from that time forward look only to the Company for payment of such principal and interest.



**Modification**

The Senior Note Indenture contains provisions permitting the Company and the Senior Note Indenture Trustee, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Senior Notes of each series that is affected, to modify the Senior Note Indenture or the rights of the holders of the Senior Notes of such series; provided, that no such modification may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding

Senior Note that is affected, (i) change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of principal of or interest on, any Senior Note, or reduce the principal amount of any Senior Note or the rate of interest on any Senior Note or any premium payable upon the redemption of any Senior Note, or change the method of calculating the rate of interest of any Senior Note, or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after the stated maturity of any Senior Note (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date), or (ii) reduce the percentage of principal amount of the outstanding Senior Notes of any series, the consent of whose holders is required for any such supplemental indenture, or the consent of whose holders is required for any waiver (of compliance with certain provisions of the Senior Note Indenture or certain defaults under the Senior Note Indenture and their consequences) provided for in the Senior Note Indenture, or (iii) modify any of the provisions of the Senior Note Indenture relating to supplemental indentures, waiver of past defaults, or waiver of certain covenants, except to increase any such percentage or to provide that certain other provisions of the Senior Note Indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Senior Note that is affected.

In addition, the Company and the Senior Note Indenture Trustee may execute, without the consent of any holders of Senior Notes, any supplemental indenture for certain other usual purposes, including the creation of any new series of senior notes.

### **Consolidation, Merger and Sale**

The Company shall not consolidate with or merge into any other corporation or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any person, unless (1) such other corporation or person is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state in the United States or the District of Columbia and such other corporation or person expressly assumes, by supplemental indenture executed and delivered to the Senior Note Indenture Trustee, the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest on all the Senior Notes and the performance of every covenant of the Senior Note Indenture on the part of the Company to be performed or observed; (2) immediately after giving effect to such transactions, no Event of Default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default, shall have happened and be continuing; and (3) the Company has delivered to the Senior Note Indenture Trustee an officers' certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that such transaction complies with the provisions of the Senior Note Indenture governing consolidation, merger, conveyance, transfer or lease and that all conditions precedent to the transaction have been complied with.

### **Information Concerning the Senior Note Indenture Trustee**

The Senior Note Indenture Trustee, prior to an Event of Default with respect to Senior Notes of any series, undertakes to perform, with respect to Senior Notes of such series, only such duties as are specifically set forth in the Senior Note Indenture and, in case an Event of Default with respect to Senior Notes of any series has occurred and is continuing, shall exercise, with respect to Senior Notes of such series, the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to such provision, the Senior Note Indenture Trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by the Senior Note Indenture at the request of any holder of Senior Notes of any series, unless offered reasonable indemnity by such holder against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by the Senior Note Indenture Trustee. The Senior Note Indenture Trustee is not required to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of its duties if the Senior Note Indenture Trustee reasonably believes that repayment or adequate indemnity is not reasonably assured to it.

The Company and certain of its subsidiaries may maintain deposit accounts and banking relationships with the Senior Note Indenture Trustee. The Senior Note Indenture Trustee and certain of its affiliates may also serve as trustee under other indentures pursuant to which securities of the Company and certain subsidiaries of the Company are

outstanding.

**Governing Law**

The Senior Note Indenture and the Senior Notes will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York.

## Miscellaneous

The Company will have the right at all times to assign any of its rights or obligations under the Senior Note Indenture to a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company; provided, that, in the event of any such assignment, the Company will remain primarily liable for all such obligations. Subject to the foregoing, the Senior Note Indenture will be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties to the Senior Note Indenture and their respective successors and assigns.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE JUNIOR SUBORDINATED NOTES

Set forth below is a description of the general terms of the Junior Subordinated Notes. The following description does not purport to be complete and is subject to, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the Subordinated Note Indenture to be entered into between the Company and the trustee as named in the Subordinated Note Indenture (the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee ), as to be supplemented by a supplemental indenture to the Subordinated Note Indenture establishing the Junior Subordinated Notes of each series (the Subordinated Note Indenture, as so supplemented, is referred to as the Subordinated Note Indenture ), the forms of which are filed as exhibits to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus forms a part. The terms of the Junior Subordinated Notes will include those stated in the Subordinated Note Indenture and those made a part of the Subordinated Note Indenture by reference to the 1939 Act. Certain capitalized terms used in this Prospectus are defined in the Subordinated Note Indenture.

### General

The Junior Subordinated Notes will be issued as unsecured junior subordinated debt securities under the Subordinated Note Indenture. The Subordinated Note Indenture does not limit the aggregate principal amount of Junior Subordinated Notes that may be issued under the Subordinated Note Indenture and provides that Junior Subordinated Notes may be issued from time to time in one or more series pursuant to an indenture supplemental to the Subordinated Note Indenture. The Subordinated Note Indenture gives the Company the ability to reopen a previous issue of Junior Subordinated Notes and issue additional Junior Subordinated Notes of such series, unless otherwise provided.

Reference is made to the Prospectus Supplement that will accompany this Prospectus for the following terms of the series of Junior Subordinated Notes being offered by such Prospectus Supplement: (i) the title of such Junior Subordinated Notes; (ii) any limit on the aggregate principal amount of such Junior Subordinated Notes; (iii) the date or dates on which the principal of such Junior Subordinated Notes is payable; (iv) the rate or rates at which such Junior Subordinated Notes shall bear interest, if any, or any method by which such rate or rates will be determined, the date or dates from which such interest will accrue, the interest payment dates on which such interest shall be payable, and the regular record date for the interest payable on any interest payment date; (v) the place or places where the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest, if any, on such Junior Subordinated Notes shall be payable; (vi) the period or periods within which, the price or prices at which and the terms and conditions on which such Junior Subordinated Notes may be redeemed, in whole or in part, at the option of the Company or at the option of the holder prior to their maturity; (vii) the obligation, if any, of the Company to redeem or purchase such Junior Subordinated Notes; (viii) the date or dates, if any, after which such Junior Subordinated Notes may be converted or exchanged at the option of the holder into or for shares of Common Stock of the Company and the terms for any such conversion or exchange; (ix) the denominations in which such Junior Subordinated Notes shall be issuable; (x) if other than the principal amount of the Junior Subordinated Notes, the portion of the principal amount of such Junior Subordinated Notes which shall be payable upon declaration of acceleration of the maturity of such Junior Subordinated Notes; (xi) any deletions from, modifications of or additions to the Events of Default or covenants of the Company as provided in the Subordinated Note Indenture pertaining to such Junior Subordinated Notes; (xii) whether such Junior

Subordinated Notes shall be issued in whole or in part in the form of a Global Security; (xiii) the right, if any, of the Company to extend the interest payment periods of such Junior Subordinated Notes; and (xiv) any other terms of such Junior Subordinated Notes. The terms of each series of Junior Subordinated Notes issued to a Trust will correspond to those of the related Preferred Securities of such Trust as described in the Prospectus Supplement relating to such Preferred Securities.

The Subordinated Note Indenture does not contain provisions that afford holders of Junior Subordinated Notes protection in the event of a highly leveraged transaction involving the Company.

### **Subordination**

The Junior Subordinated Notes are subordinated and junior in right of payment to all Senior Indebtedness (as defined below) of the Company. No payment of principal of (including redemption payments, if any), or premium, if any, or interest on (including Additional Interest (as defined below)) the Junior Subordinated Notes may be made if (a) any Senior Indebtedness is not paid when due and any applicable grace period with respect to such default has ended with such default not being cured or waived or otherwise ceasing to exist, or (b) the maturity of any Senior Indebtedness has been accelerated because of a default, or (c) notice has been given of the exercise of an option to require repayment, mandatory payment or prepayment or otherwise. Upon any payment or distribution of assets of the Company to creditors upon any liquidation, dissolution, winding-up, reorganization, assignment for the benefit of creditors, marshalling of assets or liabilities, or any bankruptcy, insolvency or similar proceedings of the Company, the holders of Senior Indebtedness shall be entitled to receive payment in full of all amounts due or to become due on or in respect of all Senior Indebtedness before the holders of the Junior Subordinated Notes are entitled to receive or retain any payment or distribution. Subject to the prior payment of all Senior Indebtedness, the rights of the holders of the Junior Subordinated Notes will be subrogated to the rights of the holders of Senior Indebtedness to receive payments and distributions applicable to such Senior Indebtedness until all amounts owing on the Junior Subordinated Notes are paid in full.

The term **Senior Indebtedness** means, with respect to the Company, (i) any payment due in respect of indebtedness of the Company, whether outstanding at the date of execution of the Subordinated Note Indenture or incurred, created or assumed after such date, (a) in respect of money borrowed (including any financial derivative, hedging or futures contract or similar instrument) and (b) evidenced by securities, debentures, bonds, notes or other similar instruments issued by the Company that, by their terms, are senior or senior subordinated debt securities including, without limitation, all such obligations under its indentures with various trustees; (ii) all capital lease obligations; (iii) all obligations issued or assumed as the deferred purchase price of property, all conditional sale obligations and all obligations of the Company under any title retention agreement (but excluding trade accounts payable arising in the ordinary course of business and long-term purchase obligations); (iv) all obligations for the reimbursement of any letter of credit, banker's acceptance, security purchase facility or similar credit transaction; (v) all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (i) through (iv) above of other persons the payment of which the Company is responsible or liable as obligor, guarantor or otherwise; and (vi) all obligations of the type referred to in clauses (i) through (v) above of other persons secured by any lien on any property or asset of the Company (whether or not such obligation is assumed by the Company), except for (1) any such indebtedness that is by its terms subordinated to or that ranks equally with the Junior Subordinated Notes and (2) any unsecured indebtedness between or among the Company or its affiliates. Such Senior Indebtedness shall continue to be Senior Indebtedness and be entitled to the benefits of the subordination provisions contained in the Subordinated Note Indenture irrespective of any amendment, modification or waiver of any term of such Senior Indebtedness.

The Subordinated Note Indenture does not limit the aggregate amount of Senior Indebtedness that may be issued by the Company. As of September 30, 2006, Senior Indebtedness of the Company aggregated approximately \$578,000,000. Since the Company is a holding company, the right of the Company and, hence, the right of creditors of the Company (including holders of Junior Subordinated Notes) to participate in any distribution of the assets of any subsidiary of the Company, whether upon liquidation, reorganization or otherwise, is subject to prior claims of creditors of each subsidiary.

### **Additional Interest**

Additional Interest is defined in the Subordinated Note Indenture as (i) such additional amounts as may be required so that the net amounts received and retained by a holder of Junior Subordinated Notes (if the holder is a Trust) after paying taxes, duties, assessments or governmental charges of whatever nature (other than withholding taxes) imposed by the United States or any other taxing authority will not be less than the amounts the holder would have received had no such taxes, duties, assessments or other governmental charges been imposed; and (ii) any

interest due and not paid on an interest payment date, together with interest on such interest due from such interest payment date to the date of payment, compounded quarterly, on each interest payment date.

### **Certain Covenants**

The Company covenants in the Subordinated Note Indenture, for the benefit of the holders of each series of Junior Subordinated Notes, that, (i) if at such time the Company shall have given notice of its election to extend an interest payment period for such series of Junior Subordinated Notes and such extension shall be continuing, (ii) if at such time the Company shall be in default with respect to its payment or other obligations under the Guarantee with respect to the Trust Securities, if any, related to such series of Junior Subordinated Notes, or (iii) if at such time an Event of Default under the Subordinated Note Indenture with respect to such series of Junior Subordinated Notes shall have occurred and be continuing, (a) the Company shall not declare or pay any dividend or make any distributions with respect to, or redeem, purchase, acquire or make a liquidation payment with respect to, any of its capital stock, and (b) the Company shall not make any payment of interest, principal or premium, if any, on or repay, repurchase or redeem any debt securities (including guarantees other than the Guarantees) issued by the Company which rank equally with or junior to the Junior Subordinated Notes. None of the foregoing, however, shall restrict (i) any of the actions described in the preceding sentence resulting from any reclassification of the Company's capital stock or the exchange or conversion of one class or series of the Company's capital stock for another class or series of the Company's capital stock, (ii) the purchase of fractional interests in shares of the Company's capital stock pursuant to the conversion or exchange provisions of such capital stock or the security being converted or exchanged, (iii) dividends, payments or distributions payable in shares of capital stock, (iv) redemptions, purchases or other acquisitions of shares of capital stock in connection with any employment contract, incentive plan, benefit plan or other similar arrangement of the Company or any of its subsidiaries or in connection with a dividend reinvestment or stock purchase plan, or (v) any declaration of a dividend in connection with implementation of any stockholders' rights plan, or the issuance of rights, stock or other property under any such plan, or the redemption, repurchase or other acquisition of any such rights pursuant thereto.

The Subordinated Note Indenture further provides that, for so long as the Trust Securities of any Trust remain outstanding, the Company covenants (i) to directly or indirectly maintain 100% ownership of the Common Securities of such Trust; provided, however, that any permitted successor of the Company under the Subordinated Note Indenture may succeed to the Company's ownership of such Common Securities, and (ii) to use its reasonable efforts to cause such Trust (a) to remain a statutory trust, except in connection with the distribution of Junior Subordinated Notes to the holders of Trust Securities in liquidation of such Trust, the redemption of all of the Trust Securities of such Trust, or certain mergers, consolidations or amalgamations, each as permitted by the related Trust Agreement, and (b) to otherwise continue to be classified as a grantor trust for United States federal income tax purposes.

### **Events of Default**

The Subordinated Note Indenture provides that any one or more of the following described events with respect to the Junior Subordinated Notes of any series, which has occurred and is continuing, constitutes an "Event of Default" with respect to the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series:

(a) failure for 30 days to pay interest on the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series, including any Additional Interest (as defined in clause (ii) of the definition of Additional Interest in the Subordinated Note Indenture) on such unpaid interest, when due on an interest payment date other than at maturity or upon earlier redemption; provided, however, that a valid extension of the interest payment period by the Company shall not constitute a default in the payment of interest for this purpose; or



(b) failure for 30 days to pay Additional Interest (as defined in clause (i) of the definition of Additional Interest in the Subordinated Note Indenture); or

(c) failure to pay principal or premium, if any, or interest, including Additional Interest (as defined in clause (ii) of the definition of Additional Interest in the Subordinated Note Indenture), on the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series when due at maturity or upon earlier redemption; or

(d) failure for three Business Days to deposit any sinking fund payment when due by the terms of a Junior Subordinated Note of such series; or

(e) failure to observe or perform any other covenant or warranty of the Company in the Subordinated Note Indenture (other than a covenant or warranty which has expressly been included in the Subordinated Note Indenture solely for the benefit of one or more series of Junior Subordinated Notes other than such series) for 90 days after written notice to the Company from the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee or the holders of at least 25% in principal amount of the outstanding Junior Subordinated Notes of such series; or

(f) certain events of bankruptcy, insolvency or reorganization of the Company.

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Junior Subordinated Notes of any series have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee with respect to the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series. If a Subordinated Note Indenture Event of Default occurs and is continuing with respect to the Junior Subordinated Notes of any series, then the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee or the holders of not less than 25% in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series may declare the principal amount of the Junior Subordinated Notes due and payable immediately by notice in writing to the Company (and to the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee if given by the holders), and upon any such declaration such principal amount shall become immediately due and payable. At any time after such a declaration of acceleration with respect to the Junior Subordinated Notes of any series has been made and before a judgment or decree for payment of the money due has been obtained as provided in Article Five of the Subordinated Note Indenture, the holders of not less than a majority in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series may rescind and annul such declaration and its consequences if the default has been cured or waived and the Company has paid or deposited with the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee a sum sufficient to pay all matured installments of interest (including any Additional Interest) and principal due otherwise than by acceleration and all sums paid or advanced by the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee, including reasonable compensation and expenses of the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee.

A holder of Preferred Securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against the Company, without first instituting a legal proceeding against the Property Trustee or any other person or entity, for enforcement of payment to such holder of principal of or interest on the Junior Subordinated Notes of the related series having a principal amount equal to the aggregate stated liquidation amount of the Preferred Securities of such holder on or after the due dates specified in the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series.

The holders of not less than a majority in aggregate outstanding principal amount of the Junior Subordinated Notes of any series may, on behalf of the holders of all the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series, waive any past default with respect to such series, except (i) a default in the payment of principal or interest or (ii) a default in respect of a covenant or provision which under Article Nine of the Subordinated Note Indenture cannot be modified or amended without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Junior Subordinated Note of such series affected.

### **Registration and Transfer**

The Company shall not be required to (i) issue, register the transfer of or exchange Junior Subordinated Notes of any series during a period of 15 days immediately preceding the date notice is given identifying the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series called for redemption, or (ii) issue, register the transfer of or exchange any Junior Subordinated Notes so selected for redemption, in whole or in part, except the unredeemed portion of any Junior Subordinated Note being redeemed in part.

**Payment and Paying Agent**

Unless otherwise indicated in an applicable Prospectus Supplement, payment of principal of any Junior Subordinated Notes will be made only against surrender to the Paying Agent of such Junior Subordinated Notes. Principal of and interest on Junior Subordinated Notes will be payable, subject to any applicable laws and regulations, at the office of such Paying Agent or Paying Agents as the Company may designate from time to time, except that, at the option of the Company, payment of any interest may be made by wire transfer or by check mailed

to the address of the person entitled to an interest payment as such address shall appear in the Security Register with respect to the Junior Subordinated Notes. Payment of interest on Junior Subordinated Notes on any interest payment date will be made to the person in whose name the Junior Subordinated Notes (or predecessor security) are registered at the close of business on the record date for such interest payment.

Unless otherwise indicated in an applicable Prospectus Supplement, the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee will act as Paying Agent with respect to the Junior Subordinated Notes. The Company may at any time designate additional Paying Agents or rescind the designation of any Paying Agents or approve a change in the office through which any Paying Agent acts.

All moneys paid by the Company to a Paying Agent for the payment of the principal of or interest on the Junior Subordinated Notes of any series which remain unclaimed at the end of two years after such principal or interest shall have become due and payable will be repaid to the Company, and the holder of such Junior Subordinated Notes will from that time forward look only to the Company for payment of such principal and interest.

### **Modification**

The Subordinated Note Indenture contains provisions permitting the Company and the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee, with the consent of the holders of not less than a majority in principal amount of the outstanding Junior Subordinated Notes of each series that is affected, to modify the Subordinated Note Indenture or the rights of the holders of the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series; provided, that no such modification may, without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Junior Subordinated Note that is affected, (i) change the stated maturity of the principal of, or any installment of principal of or interest on, any Junior Subordinated Note, or reduce the principal amount of any Junior Subordinated Note or the rate of interest (including Additional Interest) of any Junior Subordinated Note or any premium payable upon the redemption of any Junior Subordinated Note, or change the method of calculating the rate of interest on any Junior Subordinated Note, or impair the right to institute suit for the enforcement of any such payment on or after the stated maturity of any Junior Subordinated Note (or, in the case of redemption, on or after the redemption date), or (ii) reduce the percentage of principal amount of the outstanding Junior Subordinated Notes of any series, the consent of whose holders is required for any such supplemental indenture, or the consent of whose holders is required for any waiver (of compliance with certain provisions of the Subordinated Note Indenture or certain defaults under the Subordinated Note Indenture and their consequences) provided for in the Subordinated Note Indenture, or (iii) modify any of the provisions of the Subordinated Note Indenture relating to supplemental indentures, waiver of past defaults, or waiver of certain covenants, except to increase any such percentage or to provide that certain other provisions of the Subordinated Note Indenture cannot be modified or waived without the consent of the holder of each outstanding Junior Subordinated Note that is affected, or (iv) modify the provisions of the Subordinated Note Indenture with respect to the subordination of the Junior Subordinated Notes in a manner adverse to such holder.

In addition, the Company and the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee may execute, without the consent of any holders of Junior Subordinated Notes, any supplemental indenture for certain other usual purposes, including the creation of any new series of Junior Subordinated Notes.

### **Consolidation, Merger and Sale**

The Company shall not consolidate with or merge into any other corporation or convey, transfer or lease its properties and assets substantially as an entirety to any person, unless (1) such other corporation or person is a corporation organized and existing under the laws of the United States, any state of the United States or the District of Columbia and such other corporation or person expressly assumes, by supplemental indenture executed and delivered to the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee, the payment of the principal of (and premium, if any) and interest (including

Additional Interest) on all the Junior Subordinated Notes and the performance of every covenant of the Subordinated Note Indenture on the part of the Company to be performed or observed; (2) immediately after giving effect to such transactions, no Event of Default, and no event which, after notice or lapse of time or both, would become an Event of Default, shall have happened and be continuing; and (3) the Company has delivered to the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee an officers certificate and an opinion of counsel, each stating that such

transaction complies with the provisions of the Subordinated Note Indenture governing consolidation, merger, conveyance, transfer or lease and that all conditions precedent to the transaction have been complied with.

### **Information Concerning the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee**

The Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee, prior to an Event of Default with respect to Junior Subordinated Notes of any series, undertakes to perform, with respect to Junior Subordinated Notes of such series, only such duties as are specifically set forth in the Subordinated Note Indenture and, in case an Event of Default with respect to Junior Subordinated Notes of any series has occurred and is continuing, shall exercise, with respect to Junior Subordinated Notes of such series, the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to such provision, the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by the Subordinated Note Indenture at the request of any holder of Junior Subordinated Notes of any series, unless offered reasonable indemnity by such holder against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee. The Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee is not required to expend or risk its own funds or otherwise incur any financial liability in the performance of its duties if the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee reasonably believes that repayment or adequate indemnity is not reasonably assured to it.

The Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee may serve as Senior Note Indenture Trustee, as Property Trustee and as Guarantee Trustee under the Trust Agreement relating to the Preferred Securities of a Trust. The Company and certain of its subsidiaries may maintain deposit accounts and banking relationships with the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee. The Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee and certain of its affiliates may also serve as trustee under other indentures pursuant to which securities of the Company and certain subsidiaries of the Company are outstanding.

### **Governing Law**

The Subordinated Note Indenture and the Junior Subordinated Notes will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York.

### **Miscellaneous**

The Company will have the right at all times to assign any of its rights or obligations under the Subordinated Note Indenture to a direct or indirect wholly-owned subsidiary of the Company; provided, that, in the event of any such assignment, the Company will remain primarily liable for all such obligations. Subject to the foregoing, the Subordinated Note Indenture will be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties to the Subordinated Note Indenture and their respective successors and assigns.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED SECURITIES**

Each Trust may issue only one series of Preferred Securities having terms described in the Prospectus Supplement relating to such Trust. The Trust Agreement of each Trust will authorize the Administrative Trustees, on behalf of the Trust, to issue the Preferred Securities of such Trust. The Preferred Securities of each Trust will have such terms, including distributions, redemption, voting, liquidation rights and such other preferred, deferral or other special rights or such restrictions as shall be set forth in the Trust Agreement of such Trust. Reference is made to the Prospectus Supplement relating to the Preferred Securities of a Trust for specific terms, including (i) the distinctive designation of such Preferred Securities; (ii) the number of Preferred Securities issued by such Trust; (iii) the annual distribution rate (or method of determining such rate) for Preferred Securities of such Trust and the date or dates on which such distributions shall be payable; (iv) whether distributions on such Preferred Securities shall be cumulative and, in the case of Preferred Securities having cumulative distribution rights, the date or dates, or method of determining the date

or dates, from which distributions on such Preferred Securities shall be cumulative; (v) the amount or amounts that shall be paid out of the assets of such Trust to the holders of the Preferred Securities of such Trust upon voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding-up or termination of such Trust; (vi) the obligation, if any, of such Trust to purchase or redeem such Preferred Securities and the price or prices at which, the period or periods within which, and the terms and conditions upon which such Preferred Securities shall be

purchased or redeemed, in whole or in part, pursuant to such obligation; (vii) the date or dates, if any, after which such Preferred Securities may be converted or exchanged at the option of the holder into or for shares of Common Stock of the Company and the terms for any such conversion or exchange; (viii) the voting rights, if any, of such Preferred Securities in addition to those required by law, including the number of votes per Preferred Security and any requirement for the approval by the holders of Preferred Securities as a condition to specified action or amendments to the Trust Agreement of such Trust; (ix) the rights, if any, to defer distributions on the Preferred Securities by extending the interest payment period on the related Junior Subordinated Notes; and (x) any other relative rights, preferences, privileges, limitations or restrictions of such Preferred Securities not inconsistent with the Trust Agreement of such Trust or applicable law. All Preferred Securities offered by this Prospectus will be guaranteed by the Company to the extent set forth under Description of the Guarantees. Any material United States federal income tax considerations applicable to an offering of Preferred Securities will be described in the Prospectus Supplement relating to the Preferred Securities.

### **DESCRIPTION OF THE GUARANTEES**

Set forth below is a summary of information concerning the Guarantees that will be executed and delivered by the Company for the benefit of the holders of Preferred Securities of the respective Trusts from time to time. Each Guarantee will be qualified as an indenture under the 1939 Act. The Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee may act as indenture trustee under each Guarantee (the Guarantee Trustee) for purposes of the 1939 Act. The terms of the respective Guarantees will be those set forth in such Guarantee and those made part of such Guarantee by the 1939 Act. The following summary does not purport to be complete and is subject in all respects to the provisions of, and is qualified in its entirety by reference to, the Guarantees, the form of which is filed as an exhibit to the Registration Statement of which this Prospectus forms a part, and the 1939 Act. Each Guarantee will be held by the Guarantee Trustee for the benefit of holders of the Preferred Securities to which it relates.

#### **General**

Pursuant to each Guarantee, the Company will irrevocably and unconditionally agree, to the extent set forth in the Guarantee, to pay in full, to the holders of the related Preferred Securities, the Guarantee Payments (as defined below), to the extent not paid by, or on behalf of, the related Trust, regardless of any defense, right of set-off or counterclaim that the Company may have or assert against any person. The following payments or distributions with respect to the Preferred Securities of any Trust to the extent not paid or made by, or on behalf of, such Trust will be subject to the Guarantee related to the Preferred Securities (without duplication): (i) any accrued and unpaid distributions required to be paid on the Preferred Securities of such Trust but if and only if and to the extent that such Trust has funds legally and immediately available for these distributions, (ii) the redemption price, including all accrued and unpaid distributions to the date of redemption (the Redemption Price), with respect to any Preferred Securities called for redemption by such Trust, but if and only to the extent such Trust has funds legally and immediately available to pay such Redemption Price, and (iii) upon a dissolution, winding-up or termination of such Trust (other than in connection with the distribution of Junior Subordinated Notes to the holders of Trust Securities of such Trust or the redemption of all of the Preferred Securities of such Trust), the lesser of (a) the aggregate of the liquidation amount and all accrued and unpaid distributions on the Preferred Securities of such Trust to the date of payment, to the extent such Trust has funds legally and immediately available for such purpose, and (b) the amount of assets of such Trust remaining available for distribution to holders of Preferred Securities of such Trust in liquidation of such Trust (the Guarantee Payments). The Company's obligation to make a Guarantee Payment may be satisfied by direct payment of the required amounts by the Company to the holders of the related Preferred Securities or by causing the related Trust to pay such amounts to such holders.

Each Guarantee will be a guarantee of the Guarantee Payments with respect to the related Preferred Securities from the time of issuance of such Preferred Securities, but will not apply to the payment of distributions and other payments



on such Preferred Securities when the related Trust does not have sufficient funds legally and immediately available to make such distributions or other payments. **If the Company does not make interest payments on the Junior Subordinated Notes held by the Property Trustee under any Trust, such Trust will not make distributions on its Preferred Securities.**

## **Subordination**

The Company's obligations under each Guarantee to make the Guarantee Payments will constitute an unsecured obligation of the Company and will rank (i) subordinate and junior in right of payment to all other liabilities of the Company, including the Junior Subordinated Notes, except those obligations or liabilities made equal to or subordinate by their terms, (ii) equal to the most senior preferred or preference stock now issued by the Company or issued at a later date by the Company and with any guarantee now entered into by the Company or entered into at a later date by the Company in respect of any preferred or preference securities of any affiliate of the Company, and (iii) senior to all common stock of the Company. The terms of the Preferred Securities will provide that each holder of Preferred Securities by acceptance of Preferred Securities agrees to the subordination provisions and other terms of the Guarantee related to the Preferred Securities.

Each Guarantee will constitute a guarantee of payment and not of collection (that is, the guaranteed party may institute a legal proceeding directly against the guarantor to enforce its rights under the guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against any other person or entity).

## **Amendments and Assignment**

Except with respect to any changes that do not materially and adversely affect the rights of holders of the related Preferred Securities (in which case no consent will be required), each Guarantee may be amended only with the prior approval of the holders of not less than 66<sup>2</sup>/<sub>3</sub>% in liquidation amount of such outstanding Preferred Securities. The manner of obtaining any such approval of holders of the Preferred Securities will be as set forth in an accompanying Prospectus Supplement. All guarantees and agreements contained in each Guarantee shall bind the successors, assigns, receivers, trustees and representatives of the Company and shall inure to the benefit of the holders of the related Preferred Securities then outstanding.

## **Termination**

Each Guarantee will terminate and be of no further force and effect as to the related Preferred Securities upon full payment of the Redemption Price of all such Preferred Securities, upon distribution of Junior Subordinated Notes to the holders of such Preferred Securities, or upon full payment of the amounts payable upon liquidation of the related Trust. Each Guarantee will continue to be effective or will be reinstated, as the case may be, if at any time any holder of the related Preferred Securities must restore payment of any sums paid with respect to such Preferred Securities or under such Guarantee.

## **Events of Default**

An event of default under each Guarantee will occur upon the failure by the Company to perform any of its payment obligations under such Guarantee. The holders of a majority in liquidation amount of the Preferred Securities to which any Guarantee relates have the right to direct the time, method and place of conducting any proceeding for any remedy available to the Guarantee Trustee in respect of such Guarantee or to direct the exercise of any trust or power conferred upon the Guarantee Trustee under such Guarantee. Any holder of the related Preferred Securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against the Company to enforce its rights under such Guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the Guarantee Trustee or any other person or entity. The holders of a majority in liquidation amount of Preferred Securities of any series may, by vote, on behalf of the holders of all the Preferred Securities of such series, waive any past event of default and its consequences.

## **Information Concerning the Guarantee Trustee**

The Guarantee Trustee, prior to the occurrence of any event of default with respect to any Guarantee and after the curing or waiving of all events of default with respect to such Guarantee, undertakes to perform only such duties as are specifically set forth in such Guarantee and, in case an event of default has occurred, shall exercise the same degree of care as a prudent individual would exercise in the conduct of his or her own affairs. Subject to such provisions, the Guarantee Trustee is under no obligation to exercise any of the powers vested in it by any Guarantee at the request of any holder of the related Preferred Securities, unless offered reasonable indemnity against the costs, expenses and liabilities which might be incurred by the Guarantee Trustee.

The Guarantee Trustee may also serve as Property Trustee and as Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee. The Company and certain of its subsidiaries may maintain deposit accounts and banking relationships with the Guarantee Trustee. The Guarantee Trustee and certain of its affiliates may serve as trustee under other indentures pursuant to which securities of the Company and certain subsidiaries of the Company are outstanding.

### **Governing Law**

Each Guarantee will be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the internal laws of the State of New York.

### **The Agreements as to Expenses and Liabilities**

Pursuant to an Agreement as to Expenses and Liabilities to be entered into by the Company under each Trust Agreement, the Company will irrevocably and unconditionally guarantee to each person or entity to whom each Trust becomes indebted or liable the full payment of any indebtedness, expenses or liabilities of such Trust, other than obligations of such Trust to pay to the holders of the related Preferred Securities or other similar interests in such Trust the amounts due such holders pursuant to the terms of such Preferred Securities or such other similar interests, as the case may be.

### **RELATIONSHIP AMONG THE PREFERRED SECURITIES, THE JUNIOR SUBORDINATED NOTES AND THE GUARANTEES**

As long as payments of interest and other payments are made when due on each series of Junior Subordinated Notes issued to a Trust, such payments will be sufficient to cover distributions and payments due on the related Trust Securities of such Trust primarily because (i) the aggregate principal amount of each series of Junior Subordinated Notes will be equal to the sum of the aggregate stated liquidation amount of the related Trust Securities; (ii) the interest rate and interest and other payment dates on each series of Junior Subordinated Notes will match the distribution rate and distribution and other payment dates for the related Preferred Securities; (iii) the Company shall pay for all costs and expenses of each Trust pursuant to the Agreements as to Expenses and Liabilities; and (iv) each Trust Agreement provides that the Securities Trustees under each Trust Agreement shall not cause or permit the Trust to, among other things, engage in any activity that is not consistent with the purposes of the Trust.

Payments of distributions (to the extent funds for such purpose are legally and immediately available) and other payments due on the Preferred Securities (to the extent funds for such purpose are legally and immediately available) will be guaranteed by the Company as and to the extent set forth under Description of the Guarantees. If the Company does not make interest payments on any series of Junior Subordinated Notes, it is not expected that the related Trust will have sufficient funds to pay distributions on its Preferred Securities. Each Guarantee is a guarantee from the time of its issuance, but does not apply to any payment of distributions unless and until the related Trust has sufficient funds legally and immediately available for the payment of such distributions.

If the Company fails to make interest or other payments on any series of Junior Subordinated Notes when due (taking into account any extension period as described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement), the Trust Agreement provides a mechanism that allows the holders of the related Preferred Securities to appoint a substitute Property Trustee. Such holders may also direct the Property Trustee to enforce its rights under the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series, including proceeding directly against the Company to enforce such Junior Subordinated Notes. If the Property Trustee fails to enforce its rights under any series of Junior Subordinated Notes, to the fullest extent permitted by applicable law, any holder of related Preferred Securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against the Company to enforce the Property Trustee's rights under such series of Junior Subordinated Notes without first instituting any legal proceeding against the Property Trustee or any other person or entity. Notwithstanding the foregoing, a holder of Preferred Securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against the Company, without first

instituting a legal proceeding against the Property Trustee or any other person or entity, for enforcement of payment to such holder of principal of or interest on Junior Subordinated Notes of the related series having a principal amount equal to the aggregate stated liquidation amount of the Preferred Securities of such holder on or after the due dates specified in the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series.

If the Company fails to make payments under any Guarantee, such Guarantee provides a mechanism that allows the holders of the Preferred Securities to which such Guarantee relates to direct the Guarantee Trustee to enforce its rights under such Guarantee. In addition, any holder of Preferred Securities may institute a legal proceeding directly against the Company to enforce the Guarantee Trustee's rights under the related Guarantee without first instituting a legal proceeding against the Guarantee Trustee or any other person or entity.

Each Guarantee, the Subordinated Note Indenture, the Junior Subordinated Notes of the related series, the related Trust Agreement and the related Agreement as to Expenses and Liabilities, as described above, constitute a full and unconditional guarantee by the Company of the payments due on the related series of Preferred Securities.

Upon any voluntary or involuntary dissolution, winding-up or termination of any Trust, unless Junior Subordinated Notes of the related series are distributed in connection with such action, the holders of Preferred Securities of such Trust will be entitled to receive, out of assets legally available for distribution to holders, a liquidation distribution in cash as described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement. Upon any voluntary or involuntary liquidation or bankruptcy of the Company, the Property Trustee, as holder of the related series of Junior Subordinated Notes, would be a subordinated creditor of the Company, subordinated in right of payment to all Senior Indebtedness, but entitled to receive payment in full of principal and interest, before any stockholders of the Company receive payments or distributions. Because the Company is guarantor under each Guarantee and has agreed to pay for all costs, expenses and liabilities of each Trust (other than the Trust's obligations to holders of the Preferred Securities) pursuant to the related Agreement as to Expenses and Liabilities, the positions of a holder of Preferred Securities and a holder of Junior Subordinated Notes of the related series relative to other creditors and to stockholders of the Company in the event of liquidation or bankruptcy of the Company would be substantially the same.

Since the Company is a holding company, the right of the Company and, hence, the right of creditors of the Company (including holders of Junior Subordinated Notes) to participate in any distribution of the assets of any subsidiary of the Company, whether upon liquidation, reorganization or otherwise, is subject to prior claims of creditors of each subsidiary.

A default or event of default under any Senior Indebtedness would not constitute a default or Event of Default under the Subordinated Note Indenture. However, in the event of payment defaults under, or acceleration of, Senior Indebtedness, the subordination provisions of the Junior Subordinated Notes provide that no payments may be made in respect of the Junior Subordinated Notes until such Senior Indebtedness has been paid in full or any payment default of Senior Indebtedness has been cured or waived. Failure to make required payments on the Junior Subordinated Notes of any series would constitute an Event of Default under the Subordinated Note Indenture with respect to the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series except that failure to make interest payments on the Junior Subordinated Notes of such series will not be an Event of Default during an extension period as described in the applicable Prospectus Supplement.

## **PLAN OF DISTRIBUTION**

The Company may sell the Common Stock, the Senior Notes and the Junior Subordinated Notes and the Trusts may sell the Preferred Securities in one or more of the following ways from time to time: (i) to underwriters for resale to the public or to institutional investors; (ii) directly to institutional investors; or (iii) through agents to the public or to institutional investors. The Prospectus Supplement with respect to Common Stock and each series of Senior Notes, Junior Subordinated Notes or Preferred Securities will set forth the terms of the offering of such Common Stock, Senior Notes, Junior Subordinated Notes or Preferred Securities, including the name or names of any underwriters or agents, the purchase price of such Common Stock, Senior Notes, Junior Subordinated Notes or Preferred Securities and the proceeds to the Company or the applicable Trust from such sale, any underwriting discounts or agency fees and other items constituting underwriters' or agents' compensation, any initial public offering price, any discounts or

concessions allowed or reallocated or paid to dealers and any securities exchange on which such Common Stock, Senior Notes, Junior Subordinated Notes or Preferred Securities may be listed.

If underwriters participate in the sale, such Common Stock, Senior Notes, Junior Subordinated Notes or Preferred Securities will be acquired by the underwriters for their own account and may be resold from time to time

in one or more transactions, including negotiated transactions, at a fixed public offering price or at varying prices determined at the time of sale.

Unless otherwise set forth in the Prospectus Supplement, the obligations of the underwriters to purchase any series of Common Stock, Senior Notes, Junior Subordinated Notes or Preferred Securities will be subject to certain conditions precedent and the underwriters will be obligated to purchase all of such series of Common Stock, Senior Notes, Junior Subordinated Notes or Preferred Securities, if any are purchased.

Underwriters and agents may be entitled under agreements entered into with the Company and/or the applicable Trust to indemnification against certain civil liabilities, including liabilities under the 1933 Act. Underwriters and agents and their affiliates may engage in transactions with, or perform services for, the Company in the ordinary course of business.

Each series of Common Stock, Senior Notes, Junior Subordinated Notes or Preferred Securities will be a new issue of securities and will have no established trading market. Any underwriters to whom Common Stock, Senior Notes, Junior Subordinated Notes or Preferred Securities are sold for public offering and sale may make a market in such Common Stock, Senior Notes, Junior Subordinated Notes or Preferred Securities, but such underwriters will not be obligated to do so and may discontinue any market making at any time without notice. The Common Stock, Senior Notes, Junior Subordinated Notes or Preferred Securities may or may not be listed on a national securities exchange.

#### **LEGAL MATTERS**

Certain matters of Delaware law relating to the validity of the Preferred Securities will be passed upon on behalf of the Company and the Trusts by Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A., Wilmington, Delaware, special Delaware counsel to the Company and the Trusts. The validity of the Common Stock, the Senior Notes, the Junior Subordinated Notes, the Guarantees and certain matters relating to such securities will be passed upon on behalf of the Company by Troutman Sanders LLP, Atlanta, Georgia. Certain legal matters will be passed upon for the underwriters by Dewey Ballantine LLP, New York, New York. From time to time, Dewey Ballantine LLP acts as counsel to affiliates of the Company for some matters.

#### **EXPERTS**

The consolidated financial statements, the related consolidated financial statement schedule and management's report on the effectiveness of internal control over financial reporting incorporated in this prospectus by reference from the Company's Annual Report on Form 10-K have been audited by Deloitte & Touche LLP, an independent registered public accounting firm, as stated in their reports, which are incorporated herein by reference and have been so incorporated in reliance upon the reports of such firm given upon their authority as experts in accounting and auditing.



**PART II****INFORMATION NOT REQUIRED IN PROSPECTUS****Item 14. *Other Expenses of Issuance and Distribution.***

The estimated expenses of issuance and distribution, other than underwriting discounts and commissions, to be borne by Southern are as follows:

|   |           |                      |
|---|-----------|----------------------|
| Securities and Exchange Commission registration fee               | \$        | *                    |
| Fees and expenses of trustees and/or Transfer Agent and Registrar |           | 25,000**             |
| Listing fees of New York Stock Exchange                           |           | ***                  |
| Printing and engraving expenses                                   |           | 100,000**            |
| Rating Agency fees  |           | 775,000**            |
| Services of Southern Company Services, Inc.                       |           | 100,000**            |
| Fees and expenses of counsel                                      |           | 480,000**            |
| Blue sky fees and expenses  |           | 25,000**             |
| Fees of accountants   |           | 180,000**            |
| Miscellaneous expenses  |           | 95,000**             |
| <b>Total</b>  | <b>\$</b> | <b>1,780,000****</b> |

\* Under Rules 456(b) and 457(r) under the Securities Act, the Commission registration fee will be paid at the time of any particular offering of securities under this Registration Statement and is therefore not currently determinable.

\*\* Because an indeterminate amount of securities is covered by this Registration Statement, the expenses in connection with the issuance and distribution of the securities is therefore not currently determinable. The amounts shown are estimates of expenses for the amount of securities which the registrants are currently authorized to issue, but do not limit the amount of securities that may be offered.

\*\*\* The listing fee is based upon the principal amount or number of securities listed, if any, and is therefore not currently determinable.

\*\*\*\* Each Prospectus Supplement will reflect estimated expenses of the Company based upon the amount of the related offering.

**Item 15. *Indemnification of Directors and Officers.***

Section 145 of Title 8 of the Delaware Code gives a corporation power to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative (other than an action by or in the right of the corporation) by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise, against expenses (including attorneys' fees), judgments, fines and amounts paid in settlement actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with such action, suit or proceeding if the person acted in

good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation, and, with respect to any criminal action or proceedings, had no reasonable cause to believe the person's conduct was unlawful. The same section also gives a corporation power to indemnify any person who was or is a party or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed action or suit by or in the right of the corporation to procure a judgment in its favor by reason of the fact that the person is or was a director, officer, employee or agent of the corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the corporation as a director, officer, employee or agent of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust or other enterprise against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection with the defense or settlement of such action or suit if the person acted in good faith and in a manner the person reasonably believed to be in or not opposed to the best interests of the corporation and except that no indemnification shall be made in respect of any claim, issue or matter as to which such person shall have been adjudged to be liable to the corporation unless and only to the extent that the Court of Chancery or the court in which such action or suit was

brought shall determine upon application that, despite the adjudication of liability but in view of all the circumstances of the case, such person is fairly and reasonably entitled to indemnity for such expenses which the Court of Chancery or such other court shall deem proper. Also, the section states that, to the extent that a present or former director or officer of a corporation has been successful on the merits or otherwise in defense of any such action, suit or proceeding, or in defense of any claim, issue or matter therein, the person shall be indemnified against expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by the person in connection therewith.

The By-Laws of the Company provide in substance that no present or future director or officer of the Company shall be liable for any act, omission, step or conduct taken or had in good faith which is required, authorized or approved by order issued pursuant to the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935, the Federal Power Act, or any state statute regulating the Company or its subsidiaries by reason of their being public utility companies or public utility holding companies, or any amendment to any thereof. In the event that such provisions are found by a court not to constitute a valid defense, each such director and officer shall be reimbursed for, or indemnified against, all expenses and liabilities incurred by him or her or imposed on him or her in connection with, or arising out of, any such action, suit or proceeding based on any act, omission, step or conduct taken or had in good faith as in such By-Laws described.

The By-Laws of the Company further provide as follows:

Each person who is or was a director or officer of the Corporation and who was or is a party or was or is threatened to be made a party to any threatened, pending or completed claim, action, suit or proceeding, whether civil, criminal, administrative or investigative, by reason of the fact that he is or was a director or officer of the Corporation, or is or was serving at the request of the Corporation as a director, officer, employee, agent or trustee of another corporation, partnership, joint venture, trust, employee benefit plan or other enterprise, shall be indemnified by the Corporation as a matter of right against any and all expenses (including attorneys' fees) actually and reasonably incurred by him and against any and all claims, judgments, fines, penalties, liabilities and amounts paid in settlement actually incurred by him in defense of such claim, action, suit or proceeding, including appeals, to the full extent permitted by applicable law. The indemnification provided by this Section shall inure to the benefit of the heirs, executors and administrators of such person.

Expenses (including attorneys' fees) incurred by a director or officer of the Corporation with respect to the defense of any such claim, action, suit or proceeding may be advanced by the Corporation prior to the final disposition of such claim, action, suit or proceeding, as authorized by the Board of Directors in the specific case, upon receipt of an undertaking by or on behalf of such person to repay such amount unless it shall ultimately be determined that such person is entitled to be indemnified by the Corporation under this Section or otherwise; provided, however, that the advancement of such expenses shall not be deemed to be indemnification unless and until it shall ultimately be determined that such person is entitled to be indemnified by the Corporation.

The Company has an insurance policy covering its liabilities and expenses which might arise in connection with its lawful indemnification of its directors and officers for certain of their liabilities and expenses and also covering its officers and directors against certain other liabilities and expenses.

#### **Item 16. Exhibits and Financial Statement Schedules**

##### **Exhibit Number**

- 1.1 Form of Underwriting Agreement relating to Common Stock.\*
- 1.2 Form of Underwriting Agreement relating to Senior Notes.\*

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- 1.3 Form of Underwriting Agreement relating to Junior Subordinated Notes.\*
- 1.4 Form of Underwriting Agreement relating to Preferred Securities.\*
- 4.1 Form of Senior Note Indenture relating to the Senior Notes.
- 4.2 Form of Supplemental Indenture to Senior Note Indenture to be used in connection with the issuance of Senior Notes.\*
- 4.3 Form of Subordinated Note Indenture relating to the Junior Subordinated Notes.
- 4.4 Form of Supplemental Indenture to Subordinated Note Indenture to be used in connection with the issuance of Junior Subordinated Notes.\*

**Exhibit  
Number**

- 4.5 Composite Certificate of Incorporation of The Southern Company, reflecting all amendments thereto through January 5, 1994. (Designated in Registration No. 33-3546 as Exhibit 4(a), in Certificate of Notification, File No. 70-7341, as Exhibit A and in Certificate of Notification, File No. 70-8181, as Exhibit A).
- 4.6 By-laws of Southern Company as amended effective February 17, 2003, and as presently in effect. (Designated in Southern Company's Form 10-Q for the quarter ended June 30, 2003, File No. 1-3526, as Exhibit 3(a)1).
- 4.7-A Certificate of Trust of Southern Company Capital Trust VII (Designated in Registration No. 333-64871 as Exhibit 4.5-C).
- 4.7-B Certificate of Trust of Southern Company Capital Trust VIII.
- 4.8-A Amendment to Certificate of Trust of Southern Company Capital Trust VII.
- 4.8-B Amendment to Certificate of Trust of Southern Company Capital Trust VIII.
- 4.9-A Amended and Restated Trust Agreement of Southern Company Capital Trust VII.
- 4.9-B Amended and Restated Trust Agreement of Southern Company Capital Trust VIII.
- 4.10-A Form of Second Amended and Restated Trust Agreement of Southern Company Capital Trust VII to be entered into in connection with the issuance of Preferred Securities.
- 4.10-B Form of Second Amended and Restated Trust Agreement of Southern Company Capital Trust VIII to be entered into in connection with the issuance of Preferred Securities.
- 4.11-A Form of Preferred Security of Southern Company Capital Trust VII (included in Exhibit 4.10-A above).
- 4.11-B Form of Preferred Security of Southern Company Capital Trust VIII (included in Exhibit 4.10-B above).
- 4.12 Form of Certificate of Common Stock of The Southern Company (Designated in Registration No. 333-101349, as Exhibit 4.3).
- 4.13 Form of Senior Note (included in Exhibit 4.2 above).
- 4.14 Form of Junior Subordinated Note (included in Exhibit 4.4 above).
- 4.15-A Form of Guarantee relating to Southern Company Capital Trust VII.
- 4.15-B Form of Guarantee relating to Southern Company Capital Trust VIII.
- 4.16-A Form of Agreement as to Expenses and Liabilities relating to Southern Company Capital Trust VII (included in Exhibit 4.10-A above).
- 4.16-B Form of Agreement as to Expenses and Liabilities relating to Southern Company Capital Trust VIII (included in Exhibit 4.10-B above).
- 5.1 Opinion of Troutman Sanders LLP.
- 5.2-A Opinion of Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A. relating to Southern Company Capital Trust VII.
- 5.2-B Opinion of Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A. relating to Southern Company Capital Trust VIII.
- 12.1 Computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges.
- 12.2 Computation of ratio of earnings to fixed charges plus preferred dividend requirements (pre-income tax basis).
- 23.1 Consent of Deloitte & Touche LLP.
- 23.2 Consent of Troutman Sanders LLP (included in Exhibit 5.1 above).
- 23.3 Consent of Richards, Layton & Finger, P.A. (included in Exhibits 5.2-A and 5.2-B above).
- 24.1 Powers of Attorney and Resolution.
- 25.1 Statement of Eligibility under Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Senior Note Indenture Trustee.\*\*
- 25.2

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- Statement of Eligibility under Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Subordinated Note Indenture Trustee.\*\*
- 25.3 Statement of Eligibility under Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Property Trustee, relating to Southern Company Capital Trust VII.\*\*
- 25.4 Statement of Eligibility under Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Property Trustee, relating to Southern Company Capital Trust VIII.\*\*
- 25.5 Statement of Eligibility under Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Guarantee Trustee, relating to Southern Company Capital Trust VII.\*\*
- 25.6 Statement of Eligibility under Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, of the Guarantee Trustee, relating to Southern Company Capital Trust VIII.\*\*
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Exhibits listed above which have heretofore been filed with the Commission and which were designated as noted above are hereby incorporated herein by reference and made a part hereof with the same effect as if filed herewith.

\* To be subsequently filed or incorporated by reference.

\*\* To be filed separately pursuant to the Trust Indenture Act of 1939, as amended, Section 305(b)(2).

**Item 17. Undertakings.**

(a) Undertaking related to Rule 415 offering:

The undersigned registrants hereby undertake:

(1) To file, during any period in which offers or sales are being made, a post-effective amendment to this registration statement:

(i) To include any prospectus required by Section 10(a)(3) of the Securities Act of 1933;

(ii) To reflect in the prospectus any facts or events arising after the effective date of the registration statement (or the most recent post-effective amendment thereof) which, individually or in the aggregate, represent a fundamental change in the information set forth in the registration statement. Notwithstanding the foregoing, any increase or decrease in volume of securities offered (if the total dollar value of securities offered would not exceed that which was registered) and any deviation from the low or high end of the estimated maximum offering range may be reflected in the form of prospectus filed with the Commission pursuant to Rule 424(b) if, in the aggregate, the changes in volume and price represent no more than 20 percent change in the maximum aggregate offering price set forth in the Calculation of Registration Fee table in the effective registration statement.

(iii) To include any material information with respect to the plan of distribution not previously disclosed in the registration statement or any material change to such information in the registration statement;

*Provided, however,* paragraphs (a)(1)(i), (a)(1)(ii) and (a)(i)(iii) of this section do not apply if the registration statement is on Form S-3 or Form F-3 and the information required to be included in a post-effective amendment by those paragraphs is contained in reports filed with or furnished to the Commission by the registrant pursuant to section 13 or section 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 that are incorporated by reference in the registration statement, or is contained in a form of prospectus filed pursuant to Rule 424(b) that is part of the registration statement.

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

(3) To remove from registration by means of a post-effective amendment any of the securities being registered which remain unsold at the termination of the offering.

(4) That, for the purpose of determining liability under the Securities Act of 1933 to any purchaser:

(A) Each prospectus filed by the registrant pursuant to Rule 424(b)(3) shall be deemed to be part of the registration statement as of the date the filed prospectus was deemed part of and included in the registration statement; and

(B) Each prospectus required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424(b)(2), (b)(5), or (b)(7) as part of a registration statement in reliance on Rule 430B relating to an offering made pursuant to Rule 415(a)(1)(i), (vii), or (x) for the purpose of providing the information required by section 10(a) of the Securities Act of 1933 shall be deemed to be part of and included in the registration statement as of the earlier of the date such form of prospectus is first used after effectiveness or the date of the first contract of sale of securities in the offering described in the prospectus. As provided in



Rule 430B, for liability purposes of the issuer and any person that is at that date an underwriter, such date shall be deemed to be a new effective date of the registration statement relating to the securities in the registration statement to which that prospectus relates, and the offering of such securities at that time shall be deemed to be the initial *bona fide* offering thereof.

*Provided, however,* that no statement made in a registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement or made in a document incorporated or deemed incorporated by reference into the registration statement or prospectus that is part of the registration statement will, as to a purchaser with a time of contract of sale prior to such effective date, supersede or modify any statement that was made in the registration statement or prospectus that was part of the registration statement or made in any such document immediately prior to such effective date.

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

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

(i) Any preliminary prospectus or prospectus of the undersigned registrants relating to the offering required to be filed pursuant to Rule 424;

(ii) Any free writing prospectus relating to the offering prepared by or on behalf of the undersigned registrants or used or referred to by the undersigned registrants;

(iii) The portion of any other free writing prospectus relating to the offering containing material information about the undersigned registrants or their securities provided by or on behalf of the undersigned registrants; and

(iv) Any other communication that is an offer in the offering made by the undersigned registrants to the purchaser.

(b) Undertaking related to filings incorporating subsequent Securities Exchange Act of 1934 documents by reference:

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

(c) Undertaking related to the registration statement becoming effective upon filing:

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

governed by the final adjudication of such issue.

(d) The undersigned registrants hereby undertake to file an application for the purpose of determining the eligibility of the trustee to act under subsection (a) of Section 310 of the Trust Indenture Act in accordance with the rules and regulations prescribed by the Commission under Section 305(b)(2) of the Act.

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**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, The Southern Company certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Atlanta, State of Georgia, on the 8th day of November, 2006.

The Southern Company

By: /s/ David M. Ratcliffe  
David M. Ratcliffe  
*Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer*

By: /s/ Wayne Boston  
Wayne Boston  
*Attorney-in-Fact*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, this registration statement has been signed by the following directors and officers of The Southern Company in the capacities and on the date indicated:

| <b>Signature</b>       | <b>Title</b>  | <b>Date</b> |
|------------------------|---|-------------|
| David M. Ratcliffe     | Chairman, President, Chief Executive Officer and Director (Principal Executive Officer)       |             |
| Thomas A. Fanning      | Executive Vice President, Chief Financial Officer and Treasurer (Principal Financial Officer) |             |
| W. Ron Hinson          | Comptroller and Chief Accounting Officer (Principal Accounting Officer)                       |             |
| Juanita Powell Baranco | Directors   |             |
| Dorrit J. Bern         |   |             |
| Francis S. Blake       |   |             |
| Thomas F. Chapman      |   |             |
| Donald M. James        |   |             |
| Zack T. Pate           |   |             |
| J. Neal Purcell        |   |             |
| William G. Smith, Jr.  |   |             |

Gerald J. St. Pé

/s/ Wayne Boston

November 8, 2006

Wayne Boston  
*Attorney-in-Fact*

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Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, Southern Company Capital Trust VII certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Atlanta, State of Georgia, on the 8th day of November, 2006.

Southern Company Capital Trust VII

By: The Southern Company

Depositor

By: David M. Ratcliffe  
*Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer*

By: /s/ Wayne Boston

Wayne Boston  
*Attorney-in-fact*

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Act of 1933, Southern Company Capital Trust VIII certifies that it has reasonable grounds to believe that it meets all of the requirements for filing on Form S-3 and has duly caused this registration statement to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized, in the City of Atlanta, State of Georgia, on the 8th day of November, 2006.

Southern Company Capital Trust VIII

By: The Southern Company

Depositor

By: David M. Ratcliffe  
*Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer*

By: /s/ Wayne Boston

Wayne Boston  
*Attorney-in-fact*