

**FRONTIER-VERIZON MERGER APPLICATION****RISK FACTORS  
AS PUBLISHED IN S.E.C. FORM S-4**

You should carefully consider the following risks, together with the other information contained in this proxy statement/prospectus and the annexes hereto. The risks described below are not the only risks facing Frontier and the combined company. Additional risks and uncertainties not currently known or that are currently deemed to be immaterial may also materially and adversely affect the combined company's business operations or the price of the combined company's common stock following completion of the merger.

*Risks Relating to the Spin-Off and the Merger*

**The calculation of the merger consideration will not be adjusted in the event the value of the Spinco business or assets declines before the merger is completed. As a result, at the time Frontier stockholders vote on the merger, they will not know the value of the Spinco business or assets which will be acquired in the merger. The value of the Spinco business and assets may have an effect on the value of Frontier common stock following completion of the merger.**

The calculation of the number of shares of Frontier common stock to be issued to Verizon stockholders pursuant to the merger agreement will not be adjusted in the event the value of the Spinco business declines, including as a result of the loss of access lines. If the value of the Spinco business declines after Frontier stockholders approve the merger proposals, the market price of the common stock of the combined company following completion of the merger may be less than Frontier stockholders anticipated when they voted to approve the merger proposals. Conversely, any decline in the Frontier average price as a result of a decrease in the price of Frontier common stock during the Frontier average price calculation period will, subject to the collar, increase the aggregate number of shares of Frontier common stock to be issued pursuant to the merger agreement. Further, any amounts paid, payable or forgone by Verizon pursuant to orders or settlements that are issued or entered into in order to obtain governmental approvals in the Spinco territory that are required to complete the merger or the spin-off will increase the aggregate number of shares of Frontier common stock to be issued pursuant to the merger agreement, all as described in "The Transactions—Calculation of Merger Consideration." While Frontier will not be required to consummate the merger upon the occurrence of any event or circumstance that has, or would reasonably be expected to have, individually or in the aggregate, a material adverse effect on Spinco or the Spinco business, neither Verizon nor Frontier will be permitted to terminate the merger agreement because of any changes in the value of the Spinco business or because of an increase in the number of shares of Frontier common stock to be issued to Verizon stockholders due to amounts paid, payable or forgone in connection with government approvals as described above, in each case that do not rise to the level of a material adverse effect on Spinco or the Spinco business. Frontier will also not be permitted to terminate the merger agreement because of any changes in the market price of Frontier common stock.

**Frontier's effort to combine Frontier's business and the Spinco business may not be successful.**

The acquisition of the Spinco business is the largest and most significant acquisition Frontier has undertaken. Frontier management will be required to devote a significant amount of time and attention to the process of integrating the operations of Frontier's business and the Spinco business, which may decrease the time they will have to serve existing customers, attract new customers and develop new services or strategies. Frontier expects that the Spinco business will be operating on an independent basis, separate from Verizon's other businesses and operations, immediately prior to the closing of the merger (other than with respect to the portion operated in West Virginia, which is expected to be ready for integration into Frontier's existing business at the closing of the merger) and will not require significant post-closing integration for Frontier to continue the operations of the Spinco business immediately after the merger. However, the size and complexity of the Spinco business and the process of using Frontier's existing common support functions and systems to manage the Spinco business after the merger, if not managed successfully by Frontier management, may result in interruptions of the business activities of the

combined company that could have a material adverse effect on the combined company's business, financial condition and results of operations. In addition, Frontier management will be required to devote a significant amount of time and attention before completion of the merger to the process of migrating the systems and processes supporting the operations of the Spinco business in West Virginia from systems owned and operated by Verizon to those owned and operated by Frontier. The size, complexity and timing of this migration, if not managed successfully by Frontier management, may result in interruptions of Frontier's business activities.

**The combined company may not realize the growth opportunities and cost synergies that are anticipated from the merger.**

The success of the merger will depend, in part, on the ability of the combined company to realize anticipated growth opportunities and cost synergies. The combined company's success in realizing these growth opportunities and cost synergies, and the timing of this realization, depends on the successful integration of Frontier's business and operations and the Spinco business and operations. Even if the combined company is able to integrate the Frontier and Spinco businesses and operations successfully, this integration may not result in the realization of the full benefits of the growth opportunities and cost synergies that Frontier currently expects from this integration within the anticipated time frame or at all. For example, the combined company may be unable to eliminate duplicative costs, or the benefits from the merger may be offset by costs incurred or delays in integrating the companies.

**After the close of the transaction, sales of Frontier common stock may negatively affect its market price.**

The market price of Frontier common stock could decline as a result of sales of a large number of shares of Frontier common stock in the market after the completion of the merger or the perception that these sales could occur. To the extent permitted under the tax sharing agreement, any effort by the combined company to obtain additional capital by selling equity securities in the future will be made more difficult by such sales, or the possibility that such sales may occur. See "The Transaction Agreements—Additional Agreements Between Frontier, Verizon and their Affiliates—The Tax Sharing Agreement."

Depending on the trading prices of Frontier common stock prior to the closing of the merger and before accounting for the elimination of fractional shares and any number of shares that may be issued as a result of amounts paid, payable or forgone by Verizon pursuant to orders or settlements that are issued or entered into in order to obtain governmental approvals in the Spinco territory that are required to complete the merger or the spin-off, Verizon stockholders will collectively own between approximately 66% and 71% of the combined company's outstanding equity immediately following the closing of the merger. Certain Verizon stockholders (such as certain index funds and institutional investors with specific investment guidelines that do not cover Frontier common stock) who receive shares of Frontier common stock pursuant to the merger agreement may be required to sell their shares of Frontier common stock immediately after the merger, which may negatively affect the price of the combined company's common stock.

**If the assets contributed to Spinco by Verizon are insufficient to operate the Spinco business, it could adversely affect the combined company's business, financial condition and results of operations.**

Pursuant to the distribution agreement, Verizon will contribute to Spinco defined assets and liabilities of its local exchange business and related landline activities in the Spinco territory, including Internet access and long distance services and broadband video provided to designated customers in the Spinco territory. The merger agreement provides that all the contributions will be made so that the Spinco business (other than the portion conducted in West Virginia) is segregated from Verizon's other businesses at least 60 days prior to the closing of the spin-off and merger. See "The Transaction Agreements—The Distribution Agreement—Preliminary Transactions." However, the contributed assets may not be sufficient to operate all aspects of the Spinco business and the combined company may have to use assets or resources from Frontier's existing business or acquire additional assets in order to operate the Spinco business, which could adversely affect the combined company's business, financial condition and results of

operations.

Pursuant to the distribution agreement, the combined company has certain rights to cause Verizon to transfer to it any assets required to be contributed to Spinco under that agreement that were not contributed as required. If Verizon were unable or unwilling to transfer those assets to the combined company, or if Verizon and the combined company were to disagree about whether those assets were required to be contributed to Spinco under the distribution agreement, the combined company might not be able to obtain those assets or similar assets from others without significant costs or at all.

**The combined company's business, financial condition and results of operations may be adversely affected following the merger if it is not able to obtain consents to assign certain Verizon contracts to Spinco.**

Certain wholesale, large business, Internet service provider and other customer contracts that are required to be assigned to Spinco by Verizon require the consent of the customer party to the contract to effect this assignment.

Verizon and the combined company may be unable to obtain these consents on terms favorable to the combined company or at all, which could have a material adverse impact on the combined company's business, financial condition and results of operations following the merger.

**Regulatory agencies may delay approval of the spin-off and the merger, fail to approve them, or approve them in a manner that may diminish the anticipated benefits of the merger.**

Completion of the spin-off and the merger is conditioned upon the receipt of certain government consents, approvals, orders and authorizations. See "The Transaction Agreements—The Merger Agreement—Conditions to the Completion of the Merger." While Frontier and Verizon intend to pursue vigorously all required governmental approvals and do not know of any reason why they would not be able to obtain the necessary approvals in a timely manner, the requirement to receive these approvals before the spin-off and merger could delay the completion of the spin-off and merger, possibly for a significant period of time after Frontier stockholders have approved the merger proposals. Any delay in the completion of the spin-off and the merger could diminish the anticipated benefits of the spin-off and the merger or result in additional transaction costs, loss of revenues or other effects associated with uncertainty about the transaction. Any uncertainty over the ability of the companies to complete the spin-off and the merger could make it more difficult for Frontier to maintain or to pursue particular business strategies. In addition, until the spin-off and the merger are completed, the attention of Frontier management may be diverted from ongoing business concerns and regular business responsibilities to the extent management is focused on obtaining regulatory approvals.

Further, governmental agencies may decline to grant required approvals, or they may impose conditions on their approval of the spin-off and the merger that could have an adverse effect on the combined company's business, financial condition and results of operations. Any amounts paid, payable or forgone by Verizon pursuant to orders or settlements that are issued or entered into in order to obtain governmental approvals in the Spinco territory that are required to complete the merger or the spin-off will increase the aggregate number of shares of Frontier common stock to be issued pursuant to the merger agreement, and any such increase could be significant, all as described in "The Transactions—Calculation of Merger Consideration."

**The merger agreement contains provisions that may discourage other companies from trying to acquire Frontier.**

The merger agreement contains provisions that may discourage a third party from submitting a business combination proposal to Frontier prior to the closing of the merger that might result in greater value to Frontier stockholders than the merger. The merger agreement generally prohibits Frontier from soliciting any acquisition proposal, and Frontier may not terminate the merger agreement in order to accept an alternative business combination proposal that might result in greater value to Frontier stockholders than the merger. Further, even if the Frontier board withdraws or modifies its recommendation of the merger, it will still be required to submit the merger to a vote of its stockholders. In addition, before the Frontier

board may withdraw or modify its recommendation, Verizon has the opportunity to offer to modify the terms of the merger in response to any competing acquisition proposals that may be made. If the merger agreement is terminated by Frontier or Verizon in certain circumstances, Frontier may be obligated to pay a termination fee of \$80 million to Verizon, which would represent an additional cost for a potential third party seeking a business combination with Frontier.

**Failure to complete the merger could adversely affect the market price of Frontier common stock as well as Frontier's business, financial condition and results of operations.**

If the merger is not completed for any reason, the price of Frontier common stock may decline to the extent that the market price of Frontier common stock reflects positive market assumptions that the merger will be completed and the related benefits will be realized. Frontier may also be subject to additional risks if the merger is not completed, including:

- the requirement in the merger agreement that, under certain circumstances, Frontier pay Verizon a termination fee of \$80 million;
- substantial costs related to the merger, such as legal, accounting, filing, financial advisory and financial printing fees, which must be paid regardless of whether the merger is completed; and
- potential disruption to the business of Frontier and distraction of its workforce and management team.

**If the spin-off does not qualify as a tax-free spin-off under Section 355 of the Internal Revenue Code, referred to as the Code, including as a result of subsequent acquisitions of stock of Verizon or Frontier, then Verizon or Verizon stockholders may be required to pay substantial U.S. federal income taxes, and Frontier may be obligated to indemnify Verizon for such taxes imposed on Verizon.**

The spin-off and merger are conditioned upon Verizon's receipt of a private letter ruling from the IRS to the effect that the spin-off and certain related transactions will qualify as tax-free to Verizon, Spinco and the Verizon stockholders for U.S. federal income tax purposes, referred to as the IRS ruling. A private letter ruling from the IRS generally is binding on the IRS. However, the IRS ruling will not rule that the spin-off satisfies every requirement for a tax-free spin-off, and the parties will rely solely on the opinion of counsel described below for comfort that such additional requirements are satisfied.

The spin-off and merger are also conditioned upon Verizon's receipt of an opinion of Debevoise & Plimpton LLP, referred to as Debevoise, counsel to Verizon, to the effect that the spin-off and certain related transactions will qualify as tax-free to Verizon, Spinco and the stockholders of Verizon. The opinion will rely on the IRS ruling as to matters covered by it.

Both the IRS ruling and the opinion of counsel will be based on, among other things, certain representations and assumptions as to factual matters made by Verizon, Spinco and Frontier. The failure of any factual representation or assumption to be true, correct and complete in all material respects could adversely affect the validity of the IRS ruling or the opinion of counsel. An opinion of counsel represents counsel's best legal judgment, is not binding on the IRS or the courts, and the IRS or the courts may not agree with the opinion. In addition, the IRS ruling and the opinion will be based on current law, and cannot be relied upon if current law changes with retroactive effect.

The spin-off will be taxable to Verizon pursuant to Section 355(e) of the Code if there is a 50% or more change in ownership of either Verizon or Spinco, directly or indirectly, as part of a plan or series of related transactions that include the spin-off. Because Verizon stockholders will collectively own more than 50% of the Frontier common stock following the merger, the merger alone will not cause the spin-off to be taxable to Verizon under Section 355(e). However, Section 355(e) might apply if other acquisitions of stock of Verizon before or after the merger, or of Frontier after the merger, are considered to be part of a plan or series of related transactions that include the spin-off. If Section 355(e) applied, Verizon might recognize a very substantial amount of taxable gain.

Under the tax sharing agreement, in certain circumstances, and subject to certain limitations, Frontier is required to indemnify Verizon against taxes on the spin-off that arise as a result of actions or failures to act by Frontier, or as a result of changes in ownership of the stock of Frontier after the merger. See "Risk

Factors—Risks Relating to the Spin-Off and the Merger—Frontier will be unable to take certain actions after the merger because such actions could jeopardize the tax-free status of the spin-off or the merger, and such restrictions could be significant” and “The Transaction Agreements—Additional Agreements Between Frontier, Verizon and Their Affiliates—The Tax Sharing Agreement.” In some cases, however, Verizon might recognize gain on the spin-off without being entitled to an indemnification payment under the tax sharing agreement.

See “Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Spin-Off and the Merger.”

**If the merger does not qualify as a tax-free reorganization under Section 368 of the Code, Frontier and the stockholders of Verizon may be required to pay substantial U.S. federal income taxes.**

The obligations of Verizon and Frontier to consummate the merger are conditioned, respectively, on Verizon’s receipt of an opinion of Debevoise, counsel to Verizon, and Frontier’s receipt of an opinion of Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP, referred to as Cravath, counsel to Frontier, in each case to the effect that the merger will qualify as a tax-free reorganization under Section 368(a) of the Code, and that no gain or loss will be recognized as a result of the merger by Spinco or by Spinco stockholders (except for cash in lieu of fractional shares). These opinions will be based upon, among other things, certain representations and assumptions as to factual matters made by Verizon, Spinco and Frontier. The failure of any factual representation or assumption to be true, correct and complete in all material respects could adversely affect the validity of the opinions. An opinion of counsel represents counsel’s best legal judgment, is not binding on the IRS or the courts, and the IRS or the courts may not agree with the opinion. In addition, the opinions will be based on current law, and cannot be relied upon if current law changes with retroactive effect. If the merger were taxable, Spinco stockholders would recognize taxable gain or loss on their receipt of Frontier stock in the merger, and Spinco would be considered to have made a taxable sale of its assets to Frontier.

**Frontier will be unable to take certain actions after the merger because such actions could jeopardize the tax-free status of the spin-off or the merger, and such restrictions could be significant.**

The tax sharing agreement prohibits Frontier from taking actions that could reasonably be expected to cause the spin-off to be taxable or to jeopardize the conclusions of the IRS ruling or opinions of counsel received by Verizon or Frontier. In particular, for two years after the spin-off, Frontier may not:

- enter into any agreement, understanding or arrangement or engage in any substantial negotiations with respect to any transaction involving the acquisition, issuance, repurchase or change of ownership of Frontier capital stock, or options or other rights in respect of Frontier capital stock, subject to certain exceptions relating to employee compensation arrangements, stock splits, open market stock repurchases and stockholder rights plans;
- permit certain wholly owned subsidiaries owned by Spinco at the time of the spin-off to cease the active conduct of the Spinco business to the extent it was conducted immediately prior to the spin-off; or
- voluntarily dissolve, liquidate, merge or consolidate with any other person, unless Frontier survives and the transaction otherwise complies with the restrictions in the tax sharing agreement.

The tax sharing agreement further restricts Frontier from prepaying, or modifying the terms of, the Spinco debt securities, if any.

Nevertheless, Frontier is permitted to take any of the actions described above if it obtains Verizon’s consent, or if it obtains a supplemental IRS private letter ruling (or an opinion of counsel that is reasonably acceptable to Verizon) to the effect that the action will not affect the tax-free status of the spin-off or the merger. However, the receipt by Frontier of any such consent, opinion or ruling does not relieve Frontier of any obligation it has to indemnify Verizon for an action it takes that causes the spin-off to be taxable to Verizon.

Because of these restrictions, for two years after the merger, Frontier may be limited in the amount of capital stock that it can issue to make acquisitions or to raise additional capital. Also, Frontier’s indemnity obligation to Verizon may discourage, delay or prevent a third party from acquiring control of Frontier during this two-year period in a transaction that stockholders of Frontier might consider favorable. See

“The Transaction Agreements—The Merger Agreement,” “The Transaction Agreements—Additional Agreements Between Frontier, Verizon and Their Affiliates—The Tax Sharing Agreement” and “Material United States Federal Income Tax Consequences of the Spin-Off and the Merger.”

**Investors holding shares of Frontier common stock immediately prior to the merger will, in the aggregate, have a significantly reduced ownership and voting interest after the merger and will exercise less influence over management.**

After the merger’s completion, Frontier stockholders will, in the aggregate, own a significantly smaller percentage of the combined company than they will collectively own of Frontier immediately prior to the merger. Depending on the trading prices of Frontier common stock prior to the closing of the merger and before accounting for the elimination of fractional shares and adjustments for any amounts paid, payable or forgone by Verizon pursuant to orders or settlements that are issued or entered into in order to obtain governmental approvals in the Spingo territory that are required to complete the merger and the spin-off, Frontier stockholders will collectively own between approximately 29% and 34% of the combined company’s outstanding equity immediately following the closing of the merger. Consequently, Frontier stockholders, collectively, will be able to exercise less influence over the management and policies of the combined company than they would be able to exercise over the management and policies of Frontier immediately prior to the merger. Moreover, the number of shares of Frontier common stock to be issued to Verizon stockholders pursuant to the merger agreement is subject to increase by any amounts paid, payable or forgone by Verizon pursuant to orders or settlements that are issued or entered into in order to obtain government approvals in the Spingo territory that are required to complete the merger or the spin-off, and any such increase may be significant. In addition, Verizon will have the right to initially designate three of the twelve members of the board of directors of the combined company.

**The pendency of the merger could adversely affect the business and operations of Frontier and the Spingo business.**

In connection with the pending merger, some customers of each of Frontier and the Spingo business may delay or defer decisions or may end their relationships with the relevant company, which could negatively affect the revenues, earnings and cash flows of Frontier and the Spingo business, regardless of whether the merger is completed. Similarly, current and prospective employees of Frontier and the Spingo business may experience uncertainty about their future roles with the combined company following the merger, which may materially adversely affect the ability of each of Frontier and the Spingo business to attract and retain key personnel during the pendency of the merger.

*Risks Related to the Combined Company’s Business Following the Merger*

**The combined company will likely face further reductions in access lines, switched access minutes of use, long distance revenues and federal and state subsidy revenues, which could adversely affect it.**

The businesses that will make up the combined company have experienced declining access lines, switched access minutes of use, long distance revenues, federal and state subsidies and related revenues because of economic conditions, increasing competition, changing consumer behavior (such as wireless displacement of wireline use, e-mail use, instant messaging and increasing use of Voice over Internet Protocol, referred to as VoIP), technology changes and regulatory constraints. For example, Frontier’s access lines declined 7% in 2008, and 6% in 2007 (excluding the access lines added through Frontier’s acquisitions of Commonwealth and GVN). In addition, Frontier’s switched access minutes of use declined 9% in 2008 and 8% in 2007 (excluding the switched access minutes added through Frontier’s acquisitions of Commonwealth and GVN). The Spingo business’s access lines declined 10% in 2008, and 8% in 2007. In addition, the Spingo business’s switched access minutes of use declined 11% in 2008 and 11% in 2007. These factors, among others, are likely to cause the combined company’s local network service, switched network access, long distance and subsidy revenues to continue to decline, and these factors may cause the combined company’s cash generated by operations to decrease.

**The combined company will face intense competition, which could adversely affect it.**

The communications industry is extremely competitive and competition is increasing. The traditional dividing lines between local, long distance, wireless, cable and Internet service providers are becoming increasingly blurred. Through mergers and various service expansion strategies, service providers are striving to provide integrated solutions both within and across geographic markets. The combined company's competitors will include competitive local exchange carriers and other providers (or potential providers) of services, such as Internet service providers, wireless companies, VoIP providers and cable companies that may provide services competitive with the services that the combined company will offer or will intend to introduce. Competition will continue to be intense following the merger, and Frontier cannot assure you that the combined company will be able to compete effectively. Frontier also believes that wireless and cable telephony providers have increased their penetration of various services in Frontier's and Spinco's markets. Frontier expects the combined company to continue to lose access lines at least in the near term and that competition with respect to all the products and services of the combined company will increase.

Frontier expects competition to intensify as a result of the entrance of new competitors, penetration of existing competitors into new markets, changing consumer behavior and the development of new technologies, products and services that can be used in substitution for the combined company's products and services. Frontier cannot predict which of the many possible future technologies, products or services will be important in order to maintain the combined company's competitive position or what expenditures will be required to develop and provide these technologies, products or services. The combined company's ability to compete successfully will depend on the success and cost of capital expenditure investments in the Spinco territory as well as the cost of marketing efforts and on the combined company's ability to anticipate and respond to various competitive factors affecting the industry, including a changing regulatory environment that may affect the combined company and its competitors differently, new services that may be introduced (including wireless broadband offerings), changes in consumer preferences, demographic trends, economic conditions and pricing strategies by competitors. Increasing competition may reduce the combined company's revenues and increase the combined company's marketing and other costs as well as require the combined company to increase its capital expenditures and thereby decrease its cash flow.

**Some of the combined company's future competitors will have superior resources, which may place the combined company at a cost and price disadvantage.**

Some of the companies that will be competitors of the combined company will have market presence, engineering, technical and marketing capabilities and financial, personnel and other resources substantially greater than those of the combined company. In addition, some of these future competitors will be able to raise capital at a lower cost than the combined company. Consequently, some of these competitors may be able to develop and expand their communications and network infrastructures more quickly, adapt more swiftly to new or emerging technologies and changes in customer requirements, take advantage of acquisition and other opportunities more readily and devote greater resources to the marketing and sale of their products and services than the combined company. Additionally, the greater brand name recognition of some future competitors may require the combined company to price its services at lower levels in order to retain or obtain customers. Finally, the cost advantages of some of these competitors may give them the ability to reduce their prices for an extended period of time if they so choose.

**The combined company may be unable to grow its revenues and cash flows despite the initiatives Frontier has implemented and intends to continue after the merger.**

The combined company must produce adequate revenues and cash flows that, when combined with funds available under Frontier's revolving credit facility, which will continue to be the combined company's revolving credit facility (subject to any permitted refinancing or replacement thereof by Frontier), will be sufficient to service the combined company's debt, fund its capital expenditures, pay its taxes, fund its pension and other employee benefit obligations and pay dividends pursuant to its dividend policy. Frontier has implemented and will continue to implement several growth initiatives that will affect the combined company, including increasing marketing promotions and related expenditures and launching new products and services with a focus on areas that are growing or demonstrate meaningful demand such

as wireline and wireless high-speed Internet, referred to as HSI, satellite video products and the "Frontier Peace of Mind" suite of products, including computer technical support. Frontier cannot assure you that these initiatives will improve the combined company's financial position or its results of operations.

**Weak economic conditions may decrease demand for the combined company's services.**

The combined company could be sensitive to the ongoing recession if current economic conditions or their effects continue following the merger. Downturns in the economy and competition in the combined company's markets could cause some of the combined company's customers to reduce or eliminate their purchases of the combined company's basic and enhanced services, HSI and video services and make it difficult for the combined company to obtain new customers. In addition, if current economic conditions continue, they could cause the combined company's customers to delay or discontinue payment for its services.

**Disruption in the combined company's networks and infrastructure may cause the combined company to lose customers and incur additional expenses.**

To attract and retain customers, the combined company will need to provide customers with reliable service over its networks. Some of the risks to the combined company's networks and infrastructure include physical damage to access lines, security breaches, capacity limitations, power surges or outages, software defects and disruptions beyond its control, such as natural disasters and acts of terrorism. From time to time in the ordinary course of business, the combined company could experience short disruptions in its service due to factors such as cable damage, inclement weather and service failures of the combined company's third-party service providers. The combined company could experience more significant disruptions in the future. The combined company could also face disruptions due to capacity limitations if changes in the combined company's customers' usage patterns for its HSI services result in a significant increase in capacity utilization, such as through increased usage of video or peer-to-peer file sharing applications. Disruptions may cause interruptions in service or reduced capacity for customers, either of which could cause the combined company to lose customers and incur additional expenses, and thereby adversely affect its business, revenues and cash flows.

**The combined company's business will be sensitive to the creditworthiness of its wholesale customers.**

The combined company will have substantial business relationships with other telecommunications carriers for whom it will provide service. While bankruptcies of these carriers have not had a material adverse effect on Frontier or the Spinco business in recent years, future bankruptcies in their industry could result in the loss of significant customers by the combined company, as well as more price competition and uncollectible accounts receivable. Such bankruptcies may be more likely in the future if current economic conditions continue into 2010 or beyond. As a result, the combined company's revenues and results of operations could be materially and adversely affected.

**A significant portion of the combined company's workforce will be represented by labor unions and will therefore be subject to collective bargaining agreements, and if the combined company is unable to enter into new agreements or renew existing agreements before they expire, the combined company workers subject to collective bargaining agreements could engage in strikes or other labor actions that could materially disrupt the combined company's ability to provide services to its customers.**

As of June 30, 2009, Frontier had approximately 5,400 active employees. Approximately 2,800, or 52%, of these employees were represented by unions and were therefore subject to collective bargaining agreements. Of the union-represented employees, approximately 1,000, or 36%, were subject to collective bargaining agreements that expire in 2009 and approximately 300, or 11%, were subject to collective bargaining agreements that expire in 2010.

As of July 31, 2009, assuming the contribution had taken place as of that date, Spinco would have had approximately 10,000 active employees. Approximately 7,400, or 74%, of these employees were



represented by unions and were therefore subject to collective bargaining agreements. Of the union-represented employees, approximately 300, or less than 4%, were subject to collective bargaining agreements that expire in 2009 and approximately 3,300, or 44%, were subject to collective bargaining agreements that expire in 2010.

Frontier cannot predict the outcome of negotiations for the collective bargaining agreements of the combined company. If the combined company is unable to reach new agreements or renew existing agreements, employees subject to collective bargaining agreements may engage in strikes, work slowdowns or other labor actions, which could materially disrupt the combined company's ability to provide services. New labor agreements or the renewal of existing agreements may impose significant new costs on the combined company, which could adversely affect its financial condition and results of operations in the future.

**The combined company may complete a significant strategic transaction that may not achieve intended results or could increase the number of its outstanding shares or amount of outstanding debt or result in a change of control.**

The combined company will evaluate and may in the future enter into additional strategic transactions. Any such transaction could happen at any time following the closing of the merger, could be material to the combined company's business and could take any number of forms, including, for example, an acquisition, merger or a sale of all or substantially all of the combined company's assets.

Evaluating potential transactions and integrating completed ones may divert the attention of the combined company's management from ordinary operating matters. The success of these potential transactions will depend, in part, on the combined company's ability to realize the anticipated growth opportunities and cost synergies through the successful integration of the businesses the combined company acquires with its existing business. Even if the combined company is successful in integrating the acquired businesses, Frontier cannot assure you that these integrations will result in the realization of the full benefit of any anticipated growth opportunities or cost synergies or that these benefits will be realized within the expected time frames. In addition, acquired businesses may have unanticipated liabilities or contingencies.

If the combined company completes an acquisition, investment or other strategic transaction, the combined company may require additional financing that could result in an increase in the number of its outstanding shares or the aggregate amount of its debt, although there are restrictions on the ability of the combined company to issue additional shares of stock for these purposes for two years after the merger. See "Risk Factors—Risks Relating to the Spin-Off and the Merger—Frontier will be unable to take certain actions after the merger because such actions could jeopardize the tax-free status of the spin-off or the merger, and such restrictions could be significant" and "The Transaction Agreements—Additional Agreements Between Frontier, Verizon and Their Affiliates—Tax Sharing Agreement." The number of shares of the combined company's common stock or the aggregate principal amount of its debt that it may issue may be significant. A strategic transaction may result in a change in control of the combined company or otherwise materially and adversely affect its business.

**If the recent severe contraction in the global financial markets and current economic conditions continue into 2010, this economic scenario may have an impact on the combined company's business and financial condition.**

If the diminished availability of credit and liquidity due to the recent severe contraction in the global financial markets and current economic conditions continues into 2010, this economic scenario may affect the financial health of the combined company's customers, vendors and partners, which in turn may negatively affect the combined company's revenues, operating expenses and cash flows. In addition, although Frontier believes, based on information available to Frontier, that the financial institutions that have outstanding commitments under Frontier's revolving credit facility (which will continue to be the revolving credit facility of the combined company, subject to any permitted refinancing or replacement thereof by Frontier) will be able to fulfill their commitments to the combined company, if the current economic environment and the recent severe contraction in the global financial markets continue until 2010, this could change in the future.

The combined company will have significant debt maturities in 2011, when approximately \$870 million of the combined company's debt, representing a portion of Frontier's debt outstanding prior to the merger, will mature. Historically, Frontier has refinanced its debt obligations well in advance of scheduled maturities. Given the current credit environment, the combined company's ability to access the capital markets may be restricted and its cost of borrowing may be materially higher than Frontier's financing costs have been historically.

As a result of negative investment returns arising from a contraction in the global financial markets and ongoing payment of benefits, Frontier's pension plan assets have declined from \$822.2 million at December 31, 2007, to \$578.1 million at June 30, 2009, a decrease of \$244.1 million, or 30%. This decrease consisted of a decline in asset value of \$148.0 million, or 18%, and benefits paid of \$96.1 million, or 12%. As a result of the continued accrual of pension benefits under the applicable pension plan and the continued negative investment returns arising from the continued contraction of the global financial markets, Frontier expects that Frontier's pension expenses will increase in 2009. Frontier will be required to make a cash contribution to its pension plan beginning in 2011, although pension asset volatility could require Frontier to make a cash contribution no earlier than 2010. Once the merger is consummated, the combined company will maintain Frontier's pension plan and will be responsible for contributions to fund the plan's liabilities, and may be required to continue making these cash contributions in respect of liabilities under Frontier's pension plan. The combined company will also, upon consummation of the merger, maintain pension plans that assume the Spinco business's pension plan liabilities for active employees. The applicable Verizon pension plans will transfer assets to the pension plans of the combined company pursuant to applicable law and the terms of the employee matters agreement entered into among Verizon, Spinco and Frontier, referred to as the employee matters agreement. Following the merger, the combined company will be responsible for making any required contributions to the new pension plans to fund liabilities of the plans, and the ongoing pension expenses of the Spinco business may require the combined company to make cash contributions in respect of the Spinco business's pension plan liabilities.

**Substantial debt and debt service obligations may adversely affect the combined company.**

Frontier has a significant amount of indebtedness, which amounted to approximately \$4.9 billion as of June 30, 2009. The Spinco business will have indebtedness in the amount of approximately \$3.4 billion at the closing of the merger. After the merger, the combined company may also obtain additional long-term debt and working capital lines of credit to meet future financing needs, subject to certain restrictions under the terms of Frontier's existing indebtedness, which would increase its total debt.

The potential significant negative consequences on the combined company's financial condition and results of operations that could result from its substantial debt include:

- limitations on the combined company's ability to obtain additional debt or equity financing;
- instances in which the combined company is unable to meet the financial covenants contained in its debt agreements or to generate cash sufficient to make required debt payments, which circumstances would have the potential of accelerating the maturity of some or all of the combined company's outstanding indebtedness;
- the allocation of a substantial portion of the combined company's cash flow from operations to service the combined company's debt, thus reducing the amount of the combined company's cash flow available for other purposes, including operating costs, capital expenditures and dividends that could improve the combined company's competitive position, results of operations or stock price;
- requiring the combined company to sell debt or equity securities or to sell some of its core assets, possibly on unfavorable terms, to meet payment obligations;
- compromising the combined company's flexibility to plan for, or react to, competitive challenges in its business and the communications industry; and
- the possibility of the combined company being put at a competitive disadvantage with competitors who do not have as much debt as the combined company, and competitors who may be in a more favorable position to access additional

**The combined company will require substantial capital to upgrade and enhance its operations.**

Verizon's historical capital expenditures in connection with the Spinco business have been significantly lower than Frontier's level of capital expenditures. Replacing or upgrading the combined company's infrastructure will require significant capital expenditures, including any expected or unexpected expenditures necessary to make replacements or upgrades to the existing infrastructure of the Spinco business. If this capital is not available when needed, the combined company's business will be adversely affected. Responding to increases in competition, offering new services, and improving the capabilities of, or reducing the maintenance costs associated with, the combined company's plant may cause the combined company's capital expenditures to increase in the future. In addition, the combined company's anticipated annual dividend of \$0.75 per share will utilize a significant portion of the combined company's cash generated by operations and therefore could limit the combined company's ability to increase capital expenditures significantly. While Frontier believes that the combined company's anticipated cash flows will be adequate to maintain this dividend policy while allowing for capital spending and other purposes, any material reduction in cash generated by operations and any increases in capital expenditures, interest expense or cash taxes would reduce the amount of cash available for further capital expenditures and payment of dividends. Accelerated losses of access lines, the effects of increased competition, lower subsidy and access revenues and the other factors described above may reduce the combined company's cash generated by operations and may require the combined company to increase capital expenditures.

#### *Risks Related to Regulation*

#### **Changes in federal or state regulations may reduce the access charge revenues the combined company will receive.**

A significant portion of Frontier's revenues (approximately \$285 million, or 13%, in 2008) and a significant portion of Verizon's Separate Telephone Operations' revenues (approximately \$212 million, or 5%, in 2008) are derived from access charges paid by other carriers for services Frontier and the Spinco business provide in originating and terminating intrastate and interstate long distance traffic. As a result, Frontier expects a significant portion of the combined company's revenues to continue to be derived from access charges paid by these carriers for services that the combined company will provide in originating and terminating this traffic. The amount of access charge revenues that Frontier and the Spinco business receive (and, after the closing, the combined company will receive) for these services is regulated by the Federal Communications Commission, referred to as the FCC, and state regulatory agencies.

The FCC is considering proposals that may significantly change interstate, intrastate and local intercarrier compensation. When and how these proposed changes will be addressed are unknown and, accordingly, Frontier cannot predict the impact of future changes on the combined company's results of operations. However, future reductions in the combined company's access revenues will directly affect the combined company's profitability and cash flows as those regulatory revenues do not have substantial associated variable expenses.

Certain states also have open proceedings to address reform to access charges and other intercarrier compensation. Frontier cannot predict when or how these matters will be decided or the effect on the combined company's subsidy or access revenues. In addition, Frontier has been approached by, and is currently involved in formal state proceedings with, various carriers seeking reductions in intrastate access rates in certain states. Certain of those claims have led to formal complaints to the applicable state regulatory agencies. A material reduction in the access revenues the combined company will receive would adversely affect its financial results.

#### **The combined company will be reliant on support funds provided under federal and state laws.**

A portion of Frontier's revenues (approximately \$120 million in the aggregate, or 5.4%, in 2008) and a portion of Verizon's Separate Telephone Operations' revenues (approximately \$235 million in the aggregate, or 5.4%, in 2008) are derived from federal and state subsidies for rural and high cost support, commonly referred to as universal service fund subsidies, including the Federal High Cost Loop Fund, federal interstate access support, federal interstate common line support, federal local switching support fund, various state funds and surcharges billed to customers. The FCC and state regulatory agencies are

currently considering a number of proposals for changing the manner in which eligibility for federal and state subsidies is determined as well as the amounts of such subsidies. Although the FCC issued an order on May 1, 2008 to cap the amounts that competitive eligible telecommunications carriers, referred to as CETCs, may receive from the high cost Federal Universal Service Fund, referred to as the USF, this CETC cap may only remain in place until the FCC takes additional steps. In November 2008, the FCC issued a Further Notice of Proposed Rulemaking seeking comment on several different alternatives, some of which could significantly reduce the amount of federal high cost universal service support that the combined company would receive. Frontier cannot predict if or when the FCC will take additional actions or the effect of any such actions on the combined company's subsidy revenues.

Federal subsidies representing interstate access support, rural high cost loop support and local switching support represented approximately \$74 million, or 3%, of Frontier's revenues in 2008 and approximately \$125 million, or 3%, of Verizon's Separate Telephone Operations' revenues in 2008. Frontier currently expects that as a result of both an increase in the national average cost per loop and a decrease in Frontier's and the Spinco business's cost structure, there will be a decrease in the subsidy revenues Frontier and the Spinco business will earn in 2009 through the Federal High Cost Loop Fund. The amount of federal interstate access support funds received may also decline as that fund is also subject to a national cap and the amounts allocated among carriers within that cap can vary from year to year. State subsidies represented approximately \$9 million, or less than 1%, of Frontier's revenues in 2008 and approximately \$25 million, or less than 1%, of Verizon's Separate Telephone Operations' revenues in 2008. Approximately \$37 million, or 2%, of Frontier's 2008 revenues, and approximately \$85 million, or 2%, of Verizon's Separate Telephone Operations' 2008 revenues, represents a surcharge to customers (local, long distance and interconnection) to recover universal service fund contribution fees which are remitted to the FCC and recorded as an expense in "other operating expenses."

**The combined company and its industry will likely remain highly regulated, and the combined company will likely incur substantial compliance costs that could constrain its ability to compete in its target markets.**

As an incumbent local exchange carrier, the combined company will be subject to significant regulation from federal, state and local authorities. This regulation will restrict the combined company's ability to change its rates, especially on its basic services and its access rates, and will impose substantial compliance costs on the combined company. Regulation will constrain the combined company's ability to compete and, in some jurisdictions, it may restrict how the combined company is able to expand its service offerings. In addition, changes to the regulations that govern the combined company may have an adverse effect upon its business by reducing the allowable fees that it may charge, imposing additional compliance costs or otherwise changing the nature of its operations and the competition in its industry.

Pending FCC rulemakings and state regulatory proceedings, including those relating to intercarrier compensation and universal service, could have a substantial adverse impact on the combined company's operations.

*Risks Related to Technology*

**In the future, as competition intensifies within the combined company's markets, the combined company may be unable to meet the technological needs or expectations of its customers, and may lose customers as a result.**

The communications industry is subject to significant changes in technology. If the combined company does not replace or upgrade technology and equipment, it will be unable to compete effectively because it will not be able to meet the needs or expectations of its customers. Replacing or upgrading the combined infrastructure could result in significant capital expenditures.

In addition, rapidly changing technology in the communications industry may influence the combined company's customers to consider other service providers. For example, the combined company may be unable to retain customers who decide to replace their wireline telephone service with wireless telephone service. In addition, VoIP technology, which operates on broadband technology, now provides the

combined company's competitors with a low-cost alternative to provide voice services to the combined company's customers, and wireless broadband technologies may permit the combined company's competitors to offer broadband data services to the combined company's customers throughout most or all of its service areas.