Environmental liabilities are recorded when our liability is probable and the costs are reasonably estimable. In many cases, investigations are not at a stage where we are able to determine whether we are liable or, if liability is probable, to reasonably estimate the loss, or certain components thereof. Accordingly, as investigation and remediation of these sites proceed and as we receive new information, we expect that we will adjust our accruals to reflect the new information. Future adjustments could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations in a given period, but we cannot reliably predict the amounts of such future adjustments. At December 31, 2003, our reserves for environmental matters totaled approximately \$41 million.

Environmental liabilities are recorded when our liability is probable and the costs are reasonably estimable, but generally not later than the completion of the feasibility study or our recommendation of a remedy or commitment to an appropriate plan of action. The accruals are reviewed periodically and, as investigations and remediations proceed, adjustments are made as necessary. Accruals for losses from environmental remediation obligations do not take into account the effects of inflation, and anticipated expenditures are not discounted to their present value. The accruals are not reduced by possible recoveries from insurance carriers or other third parties, but do reflect allocations among PRPs at Federal Superfund sites or similar state-managed sites after an assessment is made of the likelihood that such parties will fulfill their obligations at such sites and after appropriate cost-sharing or other agreements are entered. Our measurement of environmental liabilities is based on currently available facts, present laws and regulations, and current technology. Such estimates take into consideration our prior experience in site investigation and remediation, the data concerning cleanup costs available from other companies and regulatory authorities, and the professional judgment of our environmental experts in consultation with outside environmental specialists, when necessary. Estimates of our liability are further subject to additional uncertainties regarding the nature and extent of site contamination, the range of remediation alternatives available. evolving remediation standards, imprecise engineering evaluations and estimates of appropriate cleanup technology, methodology and cost, the extent of corrective actions that may be required, and the participation, number and financial condition of other PRPs, as well as the extent of their responsibility for the remediation.

Based on currently available information, we do not believe that there is a reasonable possibility that a loss exceeding the amount already accrued for any of the matters with which we are currently associated (either individually or in the aggregate) will be an amount that would be material to a decision to buy or sell our securities. Future developments, administrative actions or liabilities relating to environmental matters, however, could have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

Retirement Benefits

We have defined benefit pension plans and defined contribution plans covering substantially all of our employees. We have not made contributions to the U.S. defined benefit pension plan in more than seven years. We are not required to make a contribution to the U.S. defined benefit pension plan for 2004, and, based upon current actuarial analyses and forecasts, we do not expect to be required to make cash contributions to the U.S. defined benefit pension plan for at least the next several years.

We account for our defined benefit pension plans in accordance with SFAS 87, which requires that amounts recognized in financial statements be determined on an actuarial basis, rather than as contributions are made to the plan. A significant element in determining our pension (expense) income in accordance with SFAS 87 is the expected investment return on plan assets. In establishing the expected return on plan investments, which is reviewed annually in the fourth guarter, we take into consideration input from our third party pension plan asset managers and actuaries regarding the types of securities the plan investments are invested in, how those investments have performed historically, and expectations for how those investments will perform in the future. For 2003, in light of the declines in the equity markets in 2000 through 2002, which comprise a significant portion of our pension plan investments, we lowered our expected return on pension plan investments to 8.75%, from a 9% expected return on pension plan investments which was used in 2002. This assumed rate is applied to the market value of plan assets at the end of the previous year. This produces the expected return on plan assets that is included in annual pension (expense) income for the current year. While the actual return on pension plan investments for 2003 was 13.1%, our expected return on pension plan investments for 2004 remains at 8.75%. The effect of increasing, or lowering, the expected return on pension plan investments by 0.25% results in additional annual income, or expense, of approximately \$4 million. The cumulative difference between this expected return and the actual return on plan assets is deferred and amortized into pension income or expense over future periods. The expected return on plan assets can vary significantly from year-to-year since the calculation is dependent on