

# ALGONQUIN POWER & UTILITIES CORP.

Notes to the Consolidated Financial Statements

December 31, 2012 and 2011

(in thousands of Canadian dollars except as noted and amounts per share)

## 1. Significant accounting policies (continued)

### (i) Property, plant and equipment (continued)

Contributions in aid of construction represent amounts contributed by customers and governments and developers for the cost of utility capital assets. It also includes amounts initially recorded as advances in aid of construction (note 1(o)) but where the advance repayment period has expired. These contributions are recorded as a reduction in the cost of utility assets and are amortized at the rate of the related asset as a reduction to depreciation expense.

In accordance with regulator-approved accounting policies, when depreciable property, plant and equipment of Liberty Utilities are replaced or retired, the original cost plus any removal costs incurred (net of salvage) are charged to accumulated depreciation with no gain or loss reflected in results of operations. Gains and losses will be charged to results of operation in the future through adjustments to depreciation expense. In the absence of regulator-approved accounting policies, gains and losses on the disposition of property, plant and equipment are charged to earnings as incurred.

### (j) Intangibles

The fair value of power sales contracts acquired in business combinations are amortized on a straight-line basis over the remaining term of the contract. These periods range from 6 to 25 years from date of acquisition.

Customer relationships acquired in business combinations are amortized on a straight-line basis over their estimated life of 40 years.

### (k) Goodwill

Goodwill represents the excess of the purchase price of an acquired business over the fair value of the net assets acquired. Goodwill is not included in the rate-base on which regulated utilities are allowed to earn a return and is not amortized.

The Company annually assesses qualitative factors to determine whether it is more likely than not that the fair value of a reporting unit is less than its carrying amount. If it is more likely than not that a reporting unit's fair value is less than its carrying amount, the Company calculates the fair value of the reporting unit. The carrying amount of the reporting unit's goodwill is considered not recoverable if the carrying amount of the reporting unit as a whole exceeds the reporting unit's fair value. An impairment charge is recorded for any excess of the carrying value of the goodwill over the implied fair value. Goodwill is tested for impairment between annual tests if an event occurs or circumstances change that would more likely than not reduce the fair value of a reporting unit below its carrying amount.