

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
Washington, D.C. 20549  
**FORM 10-K/A**

(Mark One)

- AMENDMENT NO. 1 TO ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2014**  
**OR**  
 **TRANSITION REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934 For the transition period from \_\_\_\_\_ to \_\_\_\_\_**

Commission file number: 000-21467

**PACIFIC ETHANOL, INC.**  
(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

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

**41-2170618**  
(I.R.S. Employer Identification No.)

**400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2060, Sacramento, California**  
(Address of principal executive offices)

**95814**  
(Zip Code)

Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (916) 403-2123

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(b) of the Act:**

<u>Title of Class</u>	<u>Name of Exchange on Which Registered</u>
Common Stock, \$0.001 par value	The Nasdaq Stock Market LLC (Nasdaq Capital Market)

**Securities registered pursuant to Section 12(g) of the Act: None**

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is a well-known seasoned issuer, as defined in Rule 405 of the Securities Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if the registrant is not required to file reports pursuant to Section 13 or Section 15(d) of the Act. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant (1) has filed all reports required to be filed by Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to file such reports), and (2) has been subject to such filing requirements for the past 90 days. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant has submitted electronically and posted on its corporate Website, if any, every Interactive Data File required to be submitted and posted pursuant to Rule 405 of Regulation S-T during the preceding 12 months (or for such shorter period that the registrant was required to submit and post such files. Yes  No

Indicate by check mark if disclosure of delinquent filers in response to Item 405 of Regulation S-K is not contained herein, and will not be contained, to the best of registrant's knowledge, in definitive proxy or information statements incorporated by reference in Part III of this Form 10-K or any amendment to this Form 10-K.

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, or a non-accelerated filer, or a smaller reporting company. See the definitions of "large accelerated filer," "accelerated filer" and "smaller reporting company" in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act. (Check one):

Large accelerated filer

Accelerated filer

Non-accelerated filer  (Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Smaller reporting company

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Act). Yes  No

The aggregate market value of the voting common equity held by nonaffiliates of the registrant computed by reference to the closing sale price of such stock, was approximately \$315 million as of June 30, 2014, the last business day of the registrant's most recently completed second fiscal quarter. The registrant has no non-voting common equity.

The number of shares of the registrant's common stock, \$0.001 par value, outstanding as of March 13, 2015 was 24,511,200. The number of shares of the registrant's common stock, \$0.001 par value, outstanding as of April 13, 2015 was 24,658,394.

**DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE: None.**

**TABLE OF CONTENTS**

	<b>PAGE</b>
<b>PART I</b>	
Item 1A. Risk Factors.	1
<b>PART III</b>	
Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters	19
<b>PART IV</b>	
Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules.	22
Index to Exhibits	23
Signature	
Exhibits Filed with this Report	

---

## EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Amendment No. 1 (this “Amendment No. 1”) on Form 10-K/A amends the Annual Report on Form 10-K of Pacific Ethanol, Inc. (“we,” “us,” or “our”) for the year ended December 31, 2014 filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 16, 2015 (the “Original Report”).

The purposes of this Amendment No. 1 are to:

- correct the number of shares of our common stock, \$0.001 par value (“Common Stock”), outstanding as of March 13, 2015, as stated on the cover page to the Original Report; the number of shares of Common Stock outstanding as of March 13, 2015 was 24,511,200; we have also stated on the cover page of this Amendment No. 1 the number of shares of our Common Stock outstanding as of April 13, 2015, the filing date of this Amendment No. 1;
- update our Part I, Item 1A, Risk Factors section in the Original Report to harmonize our disclosure with certain risk factors set forth in our Amendment No. 1 to Registration Statement on Form S-4/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on April 2, 2015; and
- update our Part III, Item 7, Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters section to reflect the correct number of shares of our Common Stock outstanding as of March 13, 2015, the filing date of the Original Report.

This Amendment No. 1 hereby modifies and updates the cover page; Part I, Item 1A; Part III, Item 7; and, solely for purposes of this Amendment No. 1, Part IV, Item 15 of the Original Report.

Except for the modifications and updates described above, we do not hereby modify or update in this Amendment No. 1 any disclosure in the Original Report, and all modifications and updates described above should be read together with the Original Report, as so modified and updated, and our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission. Except as expressly set forth herein, this Amendment No. 1 does not reflect any events occurring after the filing of our Original Report.

This Amendment No. 1 together with the Original Report constitutes our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the year ended December 31, 2014.

## PART I

### Item 1A. Risk Factors.

*Before deciding to purchase, hold or sell our common stock, you should carefully consider the risks described below in addition to the other information contained in this report and in our other filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission, including subsequent reports on Forms 10-Q and 8-K. The risks and uncertainties described below are not the only ones we face. Additional risks and uncertainties not presently known to us or that we currently deem immaterial may also affect our business. If any of these known or unknown risks or uncertainties actually occurs with material adverse effects on Pacific Ethanol, our business, financial condition, results of operations and/or liquidity could be seriously harmed. In that event, the market price for our common stock will likely decline, and you may lose all or part of your investment.*

#### **Risks Related to the Merger with Aventine**

***The pendency of the merger with Aventine could have an adverse effect on the price of our common stock, business, financial condition, results of operations or business prospects.***

While we are not aware of any significant adverse effects to date, the pendency of the merger with Aventine could disrupt our business in the following ways, among others:

- our customers and other third-party business partners may seek to terminate and/or renegotiate their relationships with us as a result of the merger, whether pursuant to the terms of their existing agreements with us or otherwise;
- the attention of our management may be directed toward the completion of the merger and related matters and may be diverted from our day-to-day business operations, including from other opportunities that might otherwise be beneficial to us; and
- current and prospective employees may experience uncertainty regarding their future roles with the combined company, which might adversely affect our ability to retain, recruit and motivate key personnel.

Should they occur, any of these matters could adversely affect our stock price, or harm our financial condition, results of operations or business prospects.

***Failure to complete the merger could adversely affect our stock price and future business and financial results.***

Completion of the merger is subject to a number of conditions, including among other things, the receipt of approval of the Pacific Ethanol and Aventine stockholders. There is no assurance that the parties will receive the necessary approvals or satisfy the other conditions to the completion of the merger. Failure to complete the proposed merger will prevent us and Aventine from realizing the anticipated benefits of the merger. We will also remain liable for significant transaction costs, including legal, accounting and financial advisory fees, unless provided otherwise by the merger agreement. In addition, the market price of our common stock may reflect various market assumptions as to whether the merger will occur. Consequently, the failure to complete the merger could result in a significant change in the market price of our common stock.

***Obtaining required approvals necessary to satisfy the conditions to the completion of the merger may delay or prevent completion of the merger.***

To complete the merger, our stockholders must approve the issuance of shares of our common stock and non-voting common stock and the amendment of our Certificate of Incorporation and holders of at least 66-2/3% of our Series B Cumulative Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock, or Series B Preferred Stock, must agree not to treat the merger as a liquidation, dissolution or winding up within the meaning of the Series B Certificate of Designations, each as contemplated by the merger agreement, and Aventine stockholders must adopt the merger agreement and approve the merger. In addition, the completion of the merger is conditioned upon the receipt of certain governmental authorizations, consents, orders or other approvals. On February 18, 2014, the Federal Trade Commission granted early termination of the waiting period under the Hart-Scott-Rodino Act. Pacific Ethanol and Aventine intend to pursue all required approvals in accordance with the merger agreement. No assurance can be given that the required approvals will be obtained and, even if all such approvals are obtained, no assurance can be given as to the terms, conditions and timing of the approvals or that they will satisfy the terms of the merger agreement.

***Termination of the merger agreement could negatively impact us.***

If the merger agreement is terminated, there may be various consequences. For example, our business may be impacted adversely by the failure to pursue other beneficial opportunities due to the focus of management on the merger, without realizing any of the anticipated benefits of completing the merger. Additionally, if the merger agreement is terminated, the market price of our common stock could decline to the extent that the current market prices reflect a market assumption that the merger will be completed. If the merger agreement is terminated under certain circumstances, we may be required to pay to Aventine a termination fee of \$5,982,000 or an expense reimbursement amount of up to \$1,994,000.

***The market price of our common stock after the merger may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting our shares.***

Upon completion of the merger, holders of Aventine common stock will become holders of our common stock and/or non-voting common stock. Our business differs in important respects from that of Aventine, and, accordingly, the results of operations of the combined company and the market price of our common stock after the completion of the merger may be affected by factors different from those currently affecting our operations.

***The issuance of shares of our common stock to Aventine stockholders in the merger will substantially dilute the interest in Pacific Ethanol held by our stockholders prior to the merger.***

If the merger is completed, it is estimated that we will issue up to approximately 17,755,300 shares of our common stock and non-voting common stock upon the closing of the merger, assuming no exercise or conversion of outstanding options and warrants. Based on the number of shares of Pacific Ethanol and Aventine common stock issued and outstanding on the Pacific Ethanol and Aventine record dates, Aventine stockholders before the merger will own, in the aggregate, approximately 42% of the aggregate number of shares of our common stock and non-voting common stock issued and outstanding immediately after the merger. The issuance of shares of our common stock and/or non-voting common stock to Aventine stockholders in the merger will cause a 42% reduction in the relative percentage interest of our current stockholders in the earnings, voting rights, liquidation value and book and market value of Pacific Ethanol. It is expected that Pacific Ethanol stockholders before the merger will hold approximately 58% of the total Pacific Ethanol common stock and non-voting common stock issued and outstanding immediately following the completion of the merger. Thus, Pacific Ethanol's stockholders before the merger will experience dilution in the amount of 42% as a result of the merger.

## **Risks Related to the Combined Company if the Merger is Completed**

***The failure to integrate successfully the businesses of Pacific Ethanol and Aventine in the expected timeframe would adversely affect the combined company's future results following the completion of the merger.***

The success of the merger will depend, in large part, on the ability of the combined company following the completion of the merger to realize the anticipated benefits from combining our business with the business of Aventine. To realize these anticipated benefits, the combined company must successfully integrate the businesses of Pacific Ethanol and Aventine. This integration will be complex and time-consuming.

The failure to integrate successfully and to manage successfully the challenges presented by the integration process may result in the combined company's failure to achieve some or all of the anticipated benefits of the merger.

Potential difficulties that may be encountered in the integration process include the following:

- lost sales and customers as a result of customers of either of the two companies deciding not to do business with the combined company;
- complexities associated with managing the larger, more complex, combined business;
- integrating personnel from the two companies;
- potential unknown liabilities and unforeseen expenses, delays or regulatory conditions associated with the merger; and
- performance shortfalls at one or both of the companies as a result of the diversion of management's attention caused by completing the merger and integrating the companies' operations.

***The combined company's future results will suffer if the combined company does not effectively manage its expanded operations following the merger.***

Following the merger, the size of the combined company's business will be significantly larger than the current businesses of Pacific Ethanol and Aventine. The combined company's future success depends, in part, upon its ability to manage this expanded business, which will pose substantial challenges for the combined company's management, including challenges related to the management and monitoring of new operations and associated increased costs and complexity. We cannot assure you that the combined company will be successful or that the combined company will realize the expected operating efficiencies, annual net operating synergies, revenue enhancements and other benefits currently anticipated to result from the merger.

***Aventine is currently engaged in litigation regarding the Aurora Cooperative Elevator Company's option to purchase the Aurora West Facility.***

Among other legal claims, the Aurora Cooperative Elevator Company, or the Aurora Coop, has filed legal claims against Aventine asserting that it has the right, pursuant to an agreement between Aventine and the Aurora Coop, dated March 23, 2010, to exercise an option to acquire the 84 acres of land upon which Aventine's Aurora, Nebraska 110 million gallon ethanol production facility, or the Aurora West Facility, is located, together with the Aurora West Facility and all related improvements, for a purchase price of \$16,500 per acre (or \$1,386,000 in the aggregate). The Aurora Coop asserts that its contractual right to exercise this option arose on July 1, 2012 due to Aventine's alleged failure to complete construction of the Aurora West Facility as of such date. Aventine disputes the allegations and claims asserted by the Aurora Coop, and Aventine denies the validity and effectiveness of the Aurora Coop's exercise of its option to purchase the land on which the Aurora West Facility is located. Aventine has asserted in its legal filings that it has satisfied its contractual obligations with respect to the completion of the plant as of the required date. Aventine has advised that it will continue to vigorously defend against any assertion that the Aurora Coop has any right to repurchase the land or any improvements on the land. The action is currently pending in the United States District Court, Nebraska. If Aventine is unsuccessful in defending this litigation, a number of outcomes may occur, including, without limitation, the conveyance of the land on which the Aurora West Facility is located (together with the Aurora West Facility and all related improvements) to the Aurora Coop for a purchase price that is substantially below the fair market value of the land and the facility, which Aventine believes would be an inequitable resolution of this claim, together with an unspecified amount of damages to the Aurora Coop related to the income the Aurora Coop alleges that it could have generated if the land had been conveyed as of an earlier date. An adverse outcome in Aventine's defense of this litigation, could materially adversely affect the combined company's business, financial condition, and results of operations.

***Aventine is attempting to establish a rail connection in conjunction with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company.***

Aventine has advised that it is using its commercially reasonable efforts to complete all necessary arrangements, including engineering, design and contracting with the Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railroad Company, or BNSF, as promptly as practicable, in order to establish a new connection through the rail facilities of Aventine's affiliate, Nebraska Energy, L.L.C., or NELLC, to the inner rail loop track belonging to Aventine's Aurora West Facility along with the associated "diamond switch" crossing the exterior track loop, or the Exterior Track Loop, along a path that lies entirely on land owned by NELLC or Aventine's subsidiary, Aventine Renewable Energy – Aurora West, LLC, such that the Aurora West Facility will be able to ship ethanol by rail in unit trains and single cars. However, there are no guarantees that Aventine will be able to complete the rail connection on a certain schedule (or at all). If such connection is not obtained it could have an adverse effect on the combined company's future results following the completion of the merger.

***Aventine is currently engaged in litigation matters that may prevent the combined company from crossing the Exterior Track Loop and could require the combined company to purchase grain for the Aurora West Facility exclusively from the Aurora Coop.***

Among other legal claims, the Aurora Coop has filed legal claims against Aventine alleging that Aventine (and two of its subsidiaries) is in breach of the parties' grain and marketing and master development agreements, or the Aurora Coop Grain Agreements. Aventine denies that it is in breach of the Aurora Coop Grain Agreements and maintains in a counterclaim that the Aurora Coop has breached the parties' grain supply agreement, or the Grain Supply Agreement, and the marketing agreement, or the Marketing Agreement. As a result, Aventine issued notice of termination of the Grain Supply Agreement and the Marketing Agreement. The Aurora Coop seeks a judicial order declaring that Aventine is in breach of the Aurora Coop Grain Agreements and further declaring that Aventine's termination of the Grain Supply Agreement and Marketing Agreement is ineffective. If Aventine is unsuccessful in this matter, the Grain Supply Agreement will not be terminated and, as a result, the combined company could be required to purchase grain for the Aurora West Facility exclusively from the Aurora Coop at a price higher than it otherwise may be able to negotiate. The inability to purchase corn for the Aurora West Facility on market terms could have a material adverse impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the combined company. On the other hand, if Aventine is successful in this matter, the Grain Supply Agreement and Marketing Agreement may be terminated. The termination of the Grain Supply Agreement, however, may trigger a termination provision in the parties' Double Track Loop Easement and Use Agreement, thus terminating an easement allowing Aventine the use of the Exterior Track Loop, or the Easement Agreement.

The Aurora Coop has also filed a suit against Aventine seeking a judicial declaration that Aventine's right to use the Exterior Track Loop is terminated if the Grain Supply Agreement, which is the subject of the litigation referred to above, is terminated. As discussed above, Aventine has issued notice of termination of the Grain Supply Agreement. Aventine disputes the Aurora Coop's assertion that its easement rights to use the Exterior Track Loop have been terminated or extinguished. The easement would allow Aventine to use the Exterior Track Loop and to access the BNSF line by crossing the Exterior Track Loop, but Aventine's use of the easement is currently blocked pending the resolution of these matters. If, as a result of the above discussed matters, it is determined that the Grain Supply Agreement is terminated and that such termination triggers a termination of the Easement Agreement, the combined company will be prevented from using the Exterior Track Loop and accessing the BNSF line by crossing the Exterior Track Loop under the terms of the easement.

However, Aventine recently constructed a diamond switch on adjoining land owned by Aventine's affiliate, NELLC. This diamond switch allows Aventine to move rail cars between the Aurora West Facility and the BNSF line by crossing the Exterior Track Loop on land owned by NELLC and, therefore, obviates the need for the easement granted under the Easement Agreement. The Aurora Coop sought a temporary restraining order to block Aventine's construction and use of the diamond switch, which was denied by the Court, and the Aurora Coop is seeking to amend the above case to challenge Aventine's construction and use of the diamond switch. If the Aurora Coop is permitted to bring such a claim and if Aventine is unsuccessful in defending this matter and if the Easement Agreement is terminated as a result of the proceedings surrounding the Grain Supply Agreement (as discussed above), Aventine would not be able to use the diamond switch or the easement, and thus would be unable to use the railroad to transport its products between the Aurora West Facility and the BNSF line. If Aventine is unable to use railroad transportation to access the BNSF line from the Aurora West Facility, it would be forced to use other means of transportation, such as truck transport, which would not be as effective and cost efficient as railroad transportation. Aventine's inability to use railroad transportation could have a materially adverse impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the combined company. If, on the other hand, Aventine is successful in defending the action regarding the diamond switch but the Easement Agreement is terminated as a result of the proceedings surrounding the Grain Supply Agreement (as discussed above), the combined company's ability to cross or use a portion of the Exterior Track Loop may nonetheless be limited by the courts. For example, even if the combined company is able to transfer single rail cars across between the Aurora West Facility and the BNSF line, it may be unable to transfer unit trains (i.e., trains comprised of 100 or more rail cars). Any significant restrictions on the combined company's use of the diamond switch to cross the Exterior Track Loop could have a material adverse impact on the financial condition or results of operations of the combined company inasmuch as the combined company may not be able to capture the cost advantages and efficiencies of shipping products in the larger conveyance format.

***An affiliate of Aventine is currently engaged in a dispute in connection with its storage of surplus beet sugar and amounts allegedly owed by such affiliate.***

In 2013, Aventine Renewable Energy, Inc., a wholly owned affiliate of Aventine, or ARE, Inc., purchased surplus beet sugar through a U.S. Department of Agriculture program for Aventine's operations. The Western Sugar Cooperative, or Western Sugar, among other entities, warehoused this surplus sugar. ARE, Inc. paid for the warehousing of this sugar from inception of the relationship. Western Sugar, however, subsequently asserted that certain penalty rates for the storage of this product should have applied despite the lack of an agreement to such rates by ARE, Inc. Aventine and ARE, Inc. had been attempting to resolve the matter short of formal litigation. On February 27, 2015, Western Sugar filed an action in the United States District Court, District of Colorado, seeking payment of the penalty storage fees as "expectation damages," in the amount of approximately \$8.6 million. Aventine considers these claims to be without merit and will aggressively defend against them. ARE, Inc. and Aventine's inability to successfully defend this matter could have a material adverse effect on the combined company's future results following the completion of the merger.

***The loss of key personnel could have a material adverse effect on the combined company's business, financial condition or results of operations.***

The success of the merger will depend in part on the combined company's ability to retain key Pacific Ethanol and Aventine employees who continue employment with the combined company after the merger is completed. It is possible that these employees might decide not to remain with the combined company after the merger is completed. If these key employees terminate their employment, the combined company's business activities might be adversely affected, management's attention might be diverted from integrating Pacific Ethanol and Aventine to recruiting suitable replacements and the combined company's business, financial condition or results of operations could be adversely affected. In addition, the combined company might not be able to locate suitable replacements for any such key employees who leave the combined company or offer employment to potential replacements on reasonable terms.

***The success of the combined company will also depend on relationships with third parties and pre-existing customers of Pacific Ethanol and Aventine, which relationships may be affected by customer preferences or public attitudes about the merger. Any adverse changes in these relationships could adversely affect the combined company's business, financial condition or results of operations.***

The combined company's success will depend on the ability to maintain and renew business relationships, including relationships with preexisting customers of both Pacific Ethanol and Aventine, and to establish new business relationships. There can be no assurance that the business of the combined company will be able to maintain preexisting customer contracts and other business relationships, or enter into or maintain new customer contracts and other business relationships, on acceptable terms, if at all. The failure to maintain important business relationships could have a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of the combined company.

***The combined company will incur significant transaction and merger-related costs in connection with the merger.***

Pacific Ethanol and Aventine expect to incur significant costs associated with completing the merger and combining the operations of the two companies. Although the exact amount of these costs is not yet known, Pacific Ethanol and Aventine estimate that these costs will be approximately \$2.4 million in the aggregate. In addition, there may be unanticipated costs associated with the integration. Although Pacific Ethanol and Aventine expect that the elimination of duplicative costs and other efficiencies may offset incremental transaction and merger-related costs over time, these benefits may not be achieved in the near term or at all.

***The combined company will record goodwill that could become impaired and adversely affect the combined company's operating results.***

The merger will be accounted for as an acquisition by Pacific Ethanol in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States. Under the acquisition method of accounting, the assets and liabilities of Aventine will be recorded, as of completion, at their respective fair values and added to ours. The reported financial condition and results of operations of Pacific Ethanol issued after completion of the merger will reflect Aventine balances and results after completion of the merger, but will not be restated retroactively to reflect the historical financial position or results of operations of Aventine for periods prior to the merger. Following completion of the merger, the earnings of the combined company will reflect acquisition accounting adjustments.

Under the acquisition method of accounting, the total purchase price will be allocated to Aventine's tangible assets and liabilities and identifiable intangible assets based on their fair values as of the date of completion of the merger. The excess of the purchase price over those fair values will be recorded as goodwill. We expect that the merger will result in the creation of goodwill based upon the application of the acquisition method of accounting. To the extent the value of goodwill or intangibles becomes impaired, the combined company may be required to incur material charges relating to such impairment. Such a potential impairment charge could have a material impact on the combined company's operating results.

***The combined company's ability to utilize net operating loss carryforwards and certain other tax attributes may be limited.***

Federal and state income tax laws impose restrictions on the utilization of net operating loss, or NOL, and tax credit carryforwards in the event that an "ownership change" occurs for tax purposes, as defined by Section 382 of the Internal Revenue Code. In general, an ownership change occurs when stockholders owning 5% or more of a "loss corporation" (a corporation entitled to use NOL or other loss carryovers) have increased their ownership of stock in such corporation by more than 50 percentage points during any three-year period. The annual base limitation under Section 382 of the Code is calculated by multiplying the loss corporation's value at the time of the ownership change by the greater of the long-term tax-exempt rate determined by the Internal Revenue Service in the month of the ownership change or the two preceding months.

As of December 31, 2014, Pacific Ethanol and Aventine had \$28.3 million and \$63.5 million, respectively, of NOLs that are currently limited in their annual use. As a result of the merger, it is possible that either or both Pacific Ethanol and Aventine will be deemed to have undergone an "ownership change" for purposes of Section 382 of the Code. Accordingly, the combined company's ability to utilize Pacific Ethanol's and Aventine's net operating loss carryforwards may be substantially limited. These limitations could in turn result in increased future tax payments for the combined company, which could have a material adverse effect on the business, financial condition or results of operations of the combined company.

***The combined company's indebtedness following the merger will be greater than Pacific Ethanol's existing indebtedness. Therefore, it may be more difficult for the combined company to pay or refinance its debts and the combined company may need to divert its cash flow from operations to debt service payments. The additional indebtedness could limit the combined company's ability to pursue other strategic opportunities and increase its vulnerability to adverse economic and industry conditions.***

In connection with the merger, the combined company will also be responsible for Aventine's outstanding debt. Our total indebtedness as of December 31, 2014 was approximately \$34.5 million. Our pro forma total consolidated indebtedness as of December 31, 2014, after giving effect to the merger, would have been approximately \$192.2 million (all of which would be non-current). The combined company's debt service obligations with respect to this increased indebtedness could have an adverse impact on its earnings and cash flows, which after the merger would include the earnings and cash flows of Aventine, for as long as the indebtedness is outstanding.

The combined company's increased indebtedness could also have important consequences to holders of our common stock. For example, it could:

- make it more difficult for the combined company to pay or refinance its debts as they become due during adverse economic and industry conditions because any decrease in revenues could cause the combined company to not have sufficient cash flows from operations to make its scheduled debt payments;
- limit the combined company's flexibility to pursue other strategic opportunities or react to changes in its business and the industry in which it operates and, consequently, place the combined company at a competitive disadvantage to its competitors with less debt; or
- require a substantial portion of the combined company's cash flows from operations to be used for debt service payments, thereby reducing the availability of its cash flow to fund working capital, capital expenditures, acquisitions, dividend payments and other general corporate purposes.

Based upon current levels of operations, we expect the combined company to be able to generate sufficient cash on a consolidated basis to make all of the principal and interest payments when such payments are due under its existing credit facilities, indentures and other instruments governing their outstanding indebtedness, and the indebtedness of Aventine that may remain outstanding after the merger, but there can be no assurance that the combined company will be able to repay or refinance such borrowings and obligations.

***The merger may not be accretive, and may be dilutive, to our earnings per share, which may negatively affect the market price of our common stock.***

Although the merger is expected to be accretive to earnings per share, the merger may not be accretive, and may be dilutive, to our earnings per share. The expectation that the merger will be accretive is based on preliminary estimates that may materially change. All of the risk factors applicable to the ethanol industry and our business as a marketer and producer of ethanol are also be applicable to Aventine's business and will be applicable to the combined company after the merger. In addition, future events and conditions could decrease or delay any accretion, result in dilution or cause greater dilution than may be expected, including:

- adverse changes in market conditions;
- commodity prices for corn, ethanol, gasoline and crude oil;
- production levels;
- operating results;
- competitive conditions;

- laws and regulations affecting the ethanol business;
- capital expenditure obligations; and
- general economic conditions.

Any dilution of, or decrease or delay of any accretion to, our earnings per share could cause the price of our common stock to decline.

***Business issues currently faced by one company may be imputed to the operations of the other company or the combined company.***

To the extent that either we or Aventine currently has or is perceived by customers to have operational challenges, those challenges may raise concerns by existing customers of the other company following the merger which may limit or impede our future ability to maintain relationships with those customers.

***Resales of shares of our common stock to be issued upon closing of the merger, or a perception that a substantial number of such shares merger will be resold into the market, may cause the market price of our common stock and the value of your investment to decline significantly.***

We currently estimate that we will issue up to an aggregate of approximately 17,755,300 shares of our common stock and non-voting common stock upon the closing of the merger, assuming no exercise or conversion of Aventine's outstanding options and warrants. A majority of the newly issued shares are subject to stockholders agreements entered into by us and certain stockholders of Aventine prohibiting the sale of our shares issued in connection with the merger for various periods of time. The issuance of these new shares of our common stock and non-voting common stock, and the sale of these new shares of common stock (including shares of common stock issuable upon conversion of shares of non-voting common stock issued in the merger) by current Aventine stockholders (i) after the merger, for those Aventine stockholders not subject to the stockholders agreements, or (ii) after applicable restrictive periods have passed for those Aventine stockholders subject to the stockholders agreements, or the perception that these sales could occur, could have the effect of depressing the market price for shares of our common stock. In addition, the issuance of shares of our common stock upon exercise of our outstanding options and warrants or upon conversion of our Series B Preferred Stock could also have the effect of depressing the market price for shares of our common stock.

#### **Risks Related to our Business**

***We have incurred significant losses and negative operating cash flow in the past and we may incur losses and negative operating cash flow in the future, which may hamper our operations and impede us from expanding our business.***

We have incurred significant losses and negative operating cash flow in the past. For 2013 and 2012, we incurred consolidated net losses of approximately \$1.2 million and \$43.4 million, respectively, and in 2012 incurred negative operating cash flow of \$20.8 million. We may incur losses and negative operating cash flow in the future. We expect to rely on cash on hand and cash, if any, generated from our operations and from future financing activities to fund all of the cash requirements of our business. Continued losses and negative operating cash flow may hamper our operations and impede us from expanding our business.

***Our results of operations and our ability to operate at a profit is largely dependent on managing the costs of corn and natural gas and the prices of ethanol, WDG and other ethanol co-products, all of which are subject to significant volatility and uncertainty.***

Our results of operations are highly impacted by commodity prices, including the cost of corn and natural gas that we must purchase, and the prices of ethanol, WDG and other ethanol co-products that we sell. Prices and supplies are subject to and determined by market and other forces over which we have no control, such as weather, domestic and global demand, supply shortages, export prices and various governmental policies in the United States and around the world.

As a result of price volatility of corn, natural gas, ethanol, WDG and other ethanol co-products, our results of operations may fluctuate substantially. In addition, increases in corn or natural gas prices or decreases in ethanol, WDG or other ethanol co-product prices may make it unprofitable to operate. In fact, some of our marketing activities will likely be unprofitable in a market of generally declining ethanol prices due to the nature of our business. For example, to satisfy customer demands, we maintain certain quantities of ethanol inventory for subsequent resale. Moreover, we procure much of our inventory outside the context of a marketing arrangement and therefore must buy ethanol at a price established at the time of purchase and sell ethanol at an index price established later at the time of sale that is generally reflective of movements in the market price of ethanol. As a result, our margins for ethanol sold in these transactions generally decline and may turn negative as the market price of ethanol declines.

No assurance can be given that corn or natural gas can be purchased at, or near, current or any particular prices or that ethanol, WDG or other ethanol co-products will sell at, or near, current or any particular prices. Consequently, our results of operations and financial position may be adversely affected by increases in the price of corn or natural gas or decreases in the price of ethanol, WDG or other ethanol co-products.

Over the past several years, the spread between ethanol and corn prices has fluctuated significantly. Fluctuations are likely to continue to occur. A sustained narrow spread, whether as a result of sustained high or increased corn prices or sustained low or decreased ethanol prices, would adversely affect our results of operations and financial position. Further, combined revenues from sales of ethanol, WDG and other ethanol co-products could decline below the marginal cost of production, which may force us to suspend production of ethanol, WDG and ethanol co-products at some or all of the Pacific Ethanol Plants.

***Increased ethanol production may cause a decline in ethanol prices or prevent ethanol prices from rising, and may have other negative effects, adversely impacting our results of operations, cash flows and financial condition.***

We believe that the most significant factor influencing the price of ethanol has been the substantial increase in ethanol production in recent years. According to the RFA, domestic ethanol production capacity has increased from an annualized rate of 1.5 billion gallons per year in January 1999 to 14.5 billion gallons in 2014. In addition, due to significantly improved ethanol production margins, we anticipate that owners of idle ethanol production facilities, many of which were idled due to poor production margins, will restart operations, thereby resulting in more abundant ethanol supplies and inventories. Any increase in the demand for ethanol may not be commensurate with increases in the supply of ethanol, thus leading to lower ethanol prices. Also, demand for ethanol could be impaired due to a number of factors, including regulatory developments and reduced United States gasoline consumption. Reduced gasoline consumption has occurred in the past and could occur in the future as a result of increased gasoline or oil prices or other factors such as increased automobile fuel efficiency. Any of these outcomes could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, cash flows and financial condition.

***The market price of ethanol is volatile and subject to large fluctuations, which may cause our profitability or losses to fluctuate significantly.***

The market price of ethanol is volatile and subject to large fluctuations. The market price of ethanol is dependent upon many factors, including the supply of ethanol and the price of gasoline, which is in turn dependent upon the price of petroleum which is highly volatile and difficult to forecast. For example, ethanol prices, as reported by the CBOT, ranged from \$1.50 to \$3.52 per gallon during 2014 and corn prices, as reported by the CBOT, ranged from \$3.21 to \$5.16 per bushel during 2014. Fluctuations in the market price of ethanol may cause our profitability or losses to fluctuate significantly.

***Some of our marketing activities will likely be unprofitable in a market of generally declining ethanol prices due to the nature of our business.***

Some of our marketing activities will likely be unprofitable in a market of generally declining ethanol prices due to the nature of our business. For example, to satisfy customer demands, we maintain certain quantities of ethanol inventory for subsequent resale. Moreover, we procure much of our inventory outside the context of a marketing arrangement and therefore must buy ethanol at a price established at the time of purchase and sell ethanol at an index price established later at the time of sale that is generally reflective of movements in the market price of ethanol. As a result, our margins for ethanol sold in these transactions generally decline and may turn negative as the market price of ethanol declines.

***Disruptions in ethanol production infrastructure may adversely affect our business, results of operations and financial condition.***

Our business depends on the continuing availability of rail, road, port, storage and distribution infrastructure. In particular, due to limited storage capacity at the Pacific Ethanol Plants and other considerations related to production efficiencies, the Pacific Ethanol Plants depend on just-in-time delivery of corn. The production of ethanol also requires a significant and uninterrupted supply of other raw materials and energy, primarily water, electricity and natural gas. The prices of electricity and natural gas have fluctuated significantly in the past and may fluctuate significantly in the future. Local water, electricity and gas utilities may not be able to reliably supply the water, electricity and natural gas that the Pacific Ethanol Plants will need or may not be able to supply those resources on acceptable terms. Any disruptions in the ethanol production infrastructure, whether caused by labor difficulties, earthquakes, storms, other natural disasters or human error or malfeasance or other reasons, could prevent timely deliveries of corn or other raw materials and energy and may require the Pacific Ethanol Plants to halt production which could have a material adverse effect on our business, results of operations and financial condition.

***We and the Pacific Ethanol Plants may engage in hedging transactions and other risk mitigation strategies that could harm our results of operations.***

In an attempt to partially offset the effects of volatility of ethanol prices and corn and natural gas costs, the Pacific Ethanol Plants may enter into contracts to fix the price of a portion of their ethanol production or purchase a portion of their corn or natural gas requirements on a forward basis. In addition, we may engage in other hedging transactions involving exchange-traded futures contracts for corn, natural gas and unleaded gasoline from time to time. The financial statement impact of these activities is dependent upon, among other things, the prices involved and our ability to sell sufficient products to use all of the corn and natural gas for which forward commitments have been made. Hedging arrangements also expose us to the risk of financial loss in situations where the other party to the hedging contract defaults on its contract or, in the case of exchange-traded contracts, where there is a change in the expected differential between the underlying price in the hedging agreement and the actual prices paid or received by us. As a result, our results of operations and financial condition may be adversely affected by fluctuations in the price of corn, natural gas, ethanol and unleaded gasoline.

***Operational difficulties at the Pacific Ethanol Plants could negatively impact sales volumes and could cause us to incur substantial losses.***

Operations at the Pacific Ethanol Plants are subject to labor disruptions, unscheduled downtimes and other operational hazards inherent in the ethanol production industry, including equipment failures, fires, explosions, abnormal pressures, blowouts, pipeline ruptures, transportation accidents and natural disasters. Some of these operational hazards may cause personal injury or loss of life, severe damage to or destruction of property and equipment or environmental damage, and may result in suspension of operations and the imposition of civil or criminal penalties. Insurance obtained by the Pacific Ethanol Plants may not be adequate to fully cover the potential operational hazards described above or the Pacific Ethanol Plants may not be able to renew this insurance on commercially reasonable terms or at all.

Moreover, the production facilities at the Pacific Ethanol Plants may not operate as planned or expected. All of these facilities are designed to operate at or above a specified production capacity. The operation of these facilities is and will be, however, subject to various uncertainties. As a result, these facilities may not produce ethanol and its co-products at expected levels. In the event any of these facilities do not run at their expected capacity levels, our business, results of operations and financial condition may be materially and adversely affected.

***The United States ethanol industry is highly dependent upon certain federal and state legislation and regulation and any changes in legislation or regulation could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations, cash flows and financial condition.***

The EPA has implemented the national RFS pursuant to the Energy Policy Act of 2005 and the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007. The national RFS program sets annual quotas for the quantity of renewable fuels (such as ethanol) that must be blended into motor fuels consumed in the United States. The domestic market for ethanol is significantly impacted by federal mandates under the national RFS program for volumes of renewable fuels (such as ethanol) required to be blended with gasoline. Future demand for ethanol will be largely dependent upon incentives to blend ethanol into motor fuels, including the relative price of gasoline versus ethanol, the relative octane value of ethanol, constraints in the ability of vehicles to use higher ethanol blends, the national RFS, and other applicable environmental requirements. Any significant increase in production capacity above the national RFS minimum requirements may have an adverse impact on ethanol prices.

Legislation aimed at reducing or eliminating the renewable fuel use required by the national RFS has been introduced in the United States Congress. On February 4, 2015, the *RFS Elimination Act (H.R. 703)* was introduced in the House of Representatives. The bill would fully repeal the national RFS. Also introduced on February 4, 2015, was the *RFS Reform Act (H.R. 704)*, which prohibits corn-based ethanol from meeting the national RFS requirements, caps the amount of ethanol that can be blended into conventional gasoline at 10%, and requires the EPA to set requirements for cellulosic biofuels at actual production levels. On February 3, 2015, a bill (*H.R. 21*) was introduced in the House of Representatives to vacate the waiver issued by EPA allowing the use of 15% ethanol blends in certain light-duty vehicles. On February 26, 2015, the *Corn Ethanol Mandate Elimination Act of 2015* was introduced in the Senate. The bill would eliminate corn ethanol as qualifying as a renewable fuel under the national RFS. All of these bills were assigned to a congressional committee, which will consider them before possibly sending any of them on to the House of Representatives or the Senate as a whole. Our operations could be adversely impacted if the RFS Elimination Act, the RFS Reform Act, the Corn Ethanol Mandate Elimination Act or other legislation is enacted that reduces or eliminates the national RFS volume requirements or that reduces or eliminates corn ethanol as qualifying as a renewable fuel under the national RFS.

Under the provisions of the Clean Air Act, as amended by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007, the EPA has limited authority to waive or reduce the mandated national RFS requirements, which authority is subject to consultation with the Secretaries of Agriculture and Energy, and based on a determination that there is inadequate domestic renewable fuel supply or implementation of the applicable requirements would severely harm the economy or environment of a state, region or the United States. On November 15, 2013, the EPA released its Notice of Proposed Rulemaking for the national RFS for 2014. The EPA proposed to reduce the RVO for 2014 for key categories of biofuel covered by the national RFS below the 2014 volumes specified in 2007 by the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 and below the RVO for 2013. However, the EPA withdrew its proposal on December 9, 2014, and announced that it would not finalize the RVO for 2014 until 2015. The EPA has indicated that its previous 2014 draft proposal for a total of 15.2 billion gallons for all renewable fuels, including 13.0 billion gallons for conventional renewable fuels in 2014, will not be the final regulation and that it expects to issue the final RVO for 2014 in the second quarter of 2015. In addition, the EPA announced that it would propose the RVO for 2015 and 2016 simultaneously in 2015. Our operations could be adversely impacted if the EPA finalizes RVO levels that are below the levels specified in the national RFS.

***Future demand for ethanol is uncertain and may be affected by changes to federal mandates, public perception, consumer acceptance and overall consumer demand for transportation fuel, any of which could negatively affect demand for ethanol and our results of operations.***

Although many trade groups, academics and governmental agencies have supported ethanol as a fuel additive that promotes a cleaner environment, others have criticized ethanol production as consuming considerably more energy and emitting more greenhouse gases than other biofuels and potentially depleting water resources. Some studies have suggested that corn-based ethanol is less efficient than ethanol produced from other feedstock and that it negatively impacts consumers by causing increased prices for dairy, meat and other food generated from livestock that consume corn. Additionally, ethanol critics contend that corn supplies are redirected from international food markets to domestic fuel markets. If negative views of corn-based ethanol production gain acceptance, support for existing measures promoting use and domestic production of corn-based ethanol could decline, leading to reduction or repeal of federal mandates, which would adversely affect the demand for ethanol. These views could also negatively impact public perception of the ethanol industry and acceptance of ethanol as an alternative fuel.

There are limited markets for ethanol beyond those established by federal mandates. Discretionary blending and E85 blending are important secondary markets. Discretionary blending is often determined by the price of ethanol versus the price of gasoline. In periods when discretionary blending is financially unattractive, the demand for ethanol may be reduced. Also, the demand for ethanol is affected by the overall demand for transportation fuel, which peaked in 2007 and has declined steadily since then. Demand for transportation fuel is affected by the number of miles traveled by consumers and the fuel economy of vehicles. Market acceptance of E15 may partially offset the effects of decreases in transportation fuel demand. A reduction in the demand for ethanol and ethanol co-products may depress the value of our products, erode our margins and reduce our ability to generate revenue or to operate profitably. Consumer acceptance of E15 and E85 fuels is needed before ethanol can achieve any significant growth in market share relative to other transportation fuels.

***The ethanol production and marketing industry is extremely competitive. Many of our significant competitors have greater production and financial resources and one or more of these competitors could use their greater resources to gain market share at our expense. In addition, a number of Kinergy's suppliers may circumvent the marketing services we provide, causing our sales and profitability to decline.***

The ethanol production and marketing industry is extremely competitive. Many of our significant competitors in the ethanol production and marketing industry, including Archer Daniels Midland Company and Valero Energy Corporation, have substantially greater production and/or financial resources. As a result, our competitors may be able to compete more aggressively and sustain that competition over a longer period of time. Successful competition will require a continued high level of investment in marketing and customer service and support. Our limited resources relative to many significant competitors may cause us to fail to anticipate or respond adequately to new developments and other competitive pressures. This failure could reduce our competitiveness and cause a decline in market share, sales and profitability. Even if sufficient funds are available, we may not be able to make the modifications and improvements necessary to compete successfully.

We also face increasing competition from international suppliers. Currently, international suppliers produce ethanol primarily from sugar cane and have cost structures that are generally substantially lower than the cost structures of the Pacific Ethanol Plants. Any increase in domestic or foreign competition could cause the Pacific Ethanol Plants to reduce their prices and take other steps to compete effectively, which could adversely affect their and our results of operations and financial condition.

In addition, some of our suppliers are potential competitors and, especially if the price of ethanol reaches historically high levels, they may seek to capture additional profits by circumventing our marketing services in favor of selling directly to our customers. If one or more of our major suppliers, or numerous smaller suppliers, circumvent our marketing services, our sales and profitability may decline.

***If Kinergy fails to satisfy its financial covenants under its credit facility, it may experience a loss or reduction of that facility, which would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.***

We are substantially dependent on Kinergy's credit facility to help finance its operations. Kinergy must satisfy monthly financial covenants under its credit facility, including covenants regarding its earnings before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortization (EBITDA) and fixed-charge coverage ratios. Kinergy will be in default under its credit facility if it fails to satisfy any financial covenant. A default may result in the loss or reduction of the credit facility. The loss of Kinergy's credit facility, or a significant reduction in Kinergy's borrowing capacity under the facility, would result in Kinergy's inability to finance a significant portion of its business and would have a material adverse effect on our financial condition and results of operations.

***The high concentration of our sales within the ethanol production and marketing industry could result in a significant reduction in sales and negatively affect our profitability if demand for ethanol declines.***

We expect to be completely focused on the production and marketing of ethanol and its co-products for the foreseeable future. We may be unable to shift our business focus away from the production and marketing of ethanol to other renewable fuels or competing products. Accordingly, an industry shift away from ethanol or the emergence of new competing products may reduce the demand for ethanol. A downturn in the demand for ethanol would likely materially and adversely affect our sales and profitability.

***In addition to ethanol produced by the Pacific Ethanol Plants, we also depend on one third-party supplier for a significant portion of the ethanol we sell. If this supplier does not continue to supply us with ethanol in adequate amounts, we may be unable to satisfy the demands of our customers and our sales, profitability and relationships with our customers will be adversely affected.***

In addition to the ethanol produced by the Pacific Ethanol Plants, we also depend, and expect to continue to depend for the foreseeable future, on one third-party supplier for a significant portion of the total amount of ethanol that we sell. During 2014, 2013 and 2012, one supplier provided in excess of 10% of the total volume of ethanol we sold, accounting for an aggregate of approximately \$134.6 million, \$145.2 million and \$109.9 million in net sales, representing 12%, 16% and 13% of our net sales, respectively, for those periods. This third-party supplier is located in the Midwest. The delivery of ethanol from this supplier is therefore subject to delays resulting from inclement weather and other conditions. If this supplier is unable or declines for any reason to continue to supply us with ethanol in adequate amounts, we may be unable to replace that supplier and source other supplies of ethanol in a timely manner, or at all, to satisfy the demands of our customers. If this occurs, our sales, profitability and our relationships with our customers will be adversely affected.

***We may be adversely affected by environmental, health and safety laws, regulations and liabilities.***

We are subject to various federal, state and local environmental laws and regulations, including those relating to the discharge of materials into the air, water and ground, the generation, storage, handling, use, transportation and disposal of hazardous materials and wastes, and the health and safety of our employees. In addition, some of these laws and regulations require us to operate under permits that are subject to renewal or modification. These laws, regulations and permits can often require expensive pollution control equipment or operational changes to limit actual or potential impacts to the environment. A violation of these laws and regulations or permit conditions can result in substantial fines, natural resource damages, criminal sanctions, permit revocations and/or facility shutdowns. In addition, we have made, and expect to make, significant capital expenditures on an ongoing basis to comply with increasingly stringent environmental laws, regulations and permits.

We may be liable for the investigation and cleanup of environmental contamination at each of the Pacific Ethanol Plants and at off-site locations where we arrange for the disposal of hazardous substances or wastes. If these substances or wastes have been or are disposed of or released at sites that undergo investigation and/or remediation by regulatory agencies, we may be responsible under the Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Act of 1980, or other environmental laws for all or part of the costs of investigation and/or remediation, and for damages to natural resources. We may also be subject to related claims by private parties alleging property damage and personal injury due to exposure to hazardous or other materials at or from those properties. Some of these matters may require us to expend significant amounts for investigation, cleanup or other costs.

In addition, new laws, new interpretations of existing laws, increased governmental enforcement of environmental laws or other developments could require us to make significant additional expenditures. Continued government and public emphasis on environmental issues can be expected to result in increased future investments for environmental controls at the Pacific Ethanol Plants. Present and future environmental laws and regulations, and interpretations of those laws and regulations, applicable to our operations, more vigorous enforcement policies and discovery of currently unknown conditions may require substantial expenditures that could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

The hazards and risks associated with producing and transporting our products (including fires, natural disasters, explosions and abnormal pressures and blowouts) may also result in personal injury claims or damage to property and third parties. As protection against operating hazards, we maintain insurance coverage against some, but not all, potential losses. However, we could sustain losses for uninsurable or uninsured risks, or in amounts in excess of existing insurance coverage. Events that result in significant personal injury or damage to our property or third parties or other losses that are not fully covered by insurance could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations and financial condition.

***If we are unable to attract and retain key personnel, our ability to operate effectively may be impaired.***

Our ability to operate our business and implement strategies depends, in part, on the efforts of our executive officers and other key employees. Our future success will depend on, among other factors, our ability to retain our current key personnel and attract and retain qualified future key personnel, particularly executive management. Failure to attract or retain key personnel could have a material adverse effect on our business and results of operations.

***We depend on a small number of customers for the majority of our sales. A reduction in business from any of these customers could cause a significant decline in our overall sales and profitability.***

The majority of our sales are generated from a small number of customers. During 2014, 2013 and 2012, four customers accounted for an aggregate of approximately \$659 million, \$521 million and \$410 million in net sales, representing 59%, 58% and 51% of our net sales, respectively, for those periods. We expect that we will continue to depend for the foreseeable future upon a small number of customers for a significant portion of our sales. Our agreements with these customers generally do not require them to purchase any specified amount of ethanol or dollar amount of sales or to make any purchases whatsoever. Therefore, in any future period, our sales generated from these customers, individually or in the aggregate, may not equal or exceed historical levels. If sales to any of these customers cease or decline, we may be unable to replace these sales with sales to either existing or new customers in a timely manner, or at all. A cessation or reduction of sales to one or more of these customers could cause a significant decline in our overall sales and profitability.

***Our lack of long-term ethanol orders and commitments by our customers could lead to a rapid decline in our sales and profitability.***

We cannot rely on long-term ethanol orders or commitments by our customers for protection from the negative financial effects of a decline in the demand for ethanol or a decline in the demand for our marketing services. The limited certainty of ethanol orders can make it difficult for us to forecast our sales and allocate our resources in a manner consistent with our actual sales. Moreover, our expense levels are based in part on our expectations of future sales and, if our expectations regarding future sales are inaccurate, we may be unable to reduce costs in a timely manner to adjust for sales shortfalls. Furthermore, because we depend on a small number of customers for a significant portion of our sales, the magnitude of the ramifications of these risks is greater than if our sales were less concentrated. As a result of our lack of long-term ethanol orders and commitments, we may experience a rapid decline in our sales and profitability.

***There are limitations on our ability to receive distributions from our subsidiaries.***

We conduct most of our operations through subsidiaries and are dependent upon dividends or other intercompany transfers of funds from our subsidiaries to generate free cash flow. Moreover, some of our subsidiaries are limited in their ability to pay dividends or make distributions to us by the terms of their financing arrangements.

## Risks Related to Ownership of our Common Stock

*Our stock price is highly volatile, which could result in substantial losses for investors purchasing shares of our common stock and in litigation against us.*

The market price of our common stock has fluctuated significantly in the past and may continue to fluctuate significantly in the future. The market price of our common stock may continue to fluctuate in response to one or more of the following factors, many of which are beyond our control:

- fluctuations in the market prices of ethanol and its co-products, including WDG and corn oil;
- the cost of key inputs to the production of ethanol, including corn and natural gas;
- the volume and timing of the receipt of orders for ethanol from major customers;
- competitive pricing pressures;
- our ability to timely and cost-effectively produce, sell and deliver ethanol;
- the announcement, introduction and market acceptance of one or more alternatives to ethanol;
- losses resulting from adjustments to the fair values of our outstanding warrants to purchase our common stock;
- changes in market valuations of companies similar to us;
- stock market price and volume fluctuations generally;
- the possibility that the anticipated benefits from our pending acquisition of Aventine cannot be fully realized in a timely manner or at all, or that integrating future acquired operations will be more difficult, disruptive or costly than anticipated;
- regulatory developments or increased enforcement;
- fluctuations in our quarterly or annual operating results;
- additions or departures of key personnel;
- our inability to obtain any necessary financing;
- our financing activities and future sales of our common stock or other securities; and
- our ability to maintain contracts that are critical to our operations.

Furthermore, we believe that the economic conditions in California and other Western states, as well as the United States as a whole, could have a negative impact on our results of operations. Demand for ethanol could also be adversely affected by a slow-down in the overall demand for oxygenate and gasoline additive products. The levels of our ethanol production and purchases for resale will be based upon forecasted demand. Accordingly, any inaccuracy in forecasting anticipated revenues and expenses could adversely affect our business. The failure to receive anticipated orders or to complete delivery in any quarterly period could adversely affect our results of operations for that period. Quarterly results are not necessarily indicative of future performance for any particular period, and we may not experience revenue growth or profitability on a quarterly or an annual basis.

The price at which you purchase shares of our common stock may not be indicative of the price that will prevail in the trading market. You may be unable to sell your shares of common stock at or above your purchase price, which may result in substantial losses to you and which may include the complete loss of your investment. In the past, securities class action litigation has often been brought against a company following periods of high stock price volatility. We may be the target of similar litigation in the future. Securities litigation could result in substantial costs and divert management's attention and our resources away from our business.

Any of the risks described above could have a material adverse effect on our results of operations or the price of our common stock, or both.

***We may incur significant non-cash expenses in future periods due to adjustments to the fair values of our outstanding warrants. These non-cash expenses may materially and adversely affect our reported net income or losses and cause our stock price to decline.***

From 2010 through 2013, we issued in various financing transactions warrants to purchase shares of our common stock. The warrants were initially recorded at their fair values, which are adjusted quarterly, generally resulting in non-cash expenses or income if the market price of our common stock increases or decreases, respectively, during the period. For example, due to the substantial increase in the market price of our common stock in the first quarter of 2014 and because the exercise prices of these warrants were, as of March 31, 2014, well below the market price of our common stock, the fair values of the warrants and the related non-cash expenses were significantly higher in the first quarter of 2014 than in prior quarterly periods, which resulted in an unusually large non-cash expense for the quarter. These fair value adjustments will continue in future periods until all of our warrants are exercised or expire. We may incur additional significant non-cash expenses in future periods due to adjustments to the fair values of our outstanding warrants resulting from increases in the market price of our common stock during those periods. These non-cash expenses may materially and adversely affect our reported net income or losses and cause our stock price to decline.

***The conversion or exercise of our outstanding derivative securities or the issuance of shares of our common stock in lieu of accrued and unpaid dividends on our Series B Preferred Stock could substantially dilute your investment, reduce your voting power, and, if the resulting shares of common stock are resold into the market, or if a perception exists that a substantial number of shares may be issued and then resold into the market, the market price of our common stock and the value of your investment could decline significantly.***

Our Series B Preferred Stock, which is convertible into our common stock, and outstanding options to acquire our common stock issued to employees, directors and others, and warrants to purchase our common stock, allow the holders of these derivative securities an opportunity to profit from a rise in the market price of our common stock. In addition, we may elect to issue shares of our common stock in lieu of accrued and unpaid cash dividends on our Series B Preferred Stock. We have issued common stock in respect of our derivative securities and accrued and unpaid dividends on our Series B Preferred Stock in the past and may do so in the future. If the prices at which our derivative securities are converted or exercised, or at which shares of common stock in lieu of accrued and unpaid dividends on our Series B Preferred Stock are issued, are lower than the price at which you made your investment, immediate dilution of the value of your investment will occur. Our issuance of shares of common stock under these circumstances will also reduce your voting power. In addition, sales of a substantial number of shares of common stock resulting from any of these issuances, or even the perception that these sales could occur, could adversely affect the market price of our common stock. As a result, you could experience a significant decline in the value of your investment as a result of both the actual and potential issuance of shares of our common stock.

### PART III

#### Item 12. Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management and Related Stockholder Matters.

##### Security Ownership of Certain Beneficial Owners and Management

The following table sets forth information with respect to the beneficial ownership of our voting securities as of March 13, 2015, the date of the table, by:

- each of our executive officers;
- each of our directors;
- all of our executive officers and directors as a group; and
- each person known by us to beneficially own more than 5% of the outstanding shares of any class of our capital stock.

Beneficial ownership is determined in accordance with the rules of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and includes voting or investment power with respect to the securities. To our knowledge, except as indicated by footnote, and subject to community property laws where applicable, the persons named in the table below have sole voting and investment power with respect to all shares of common stock shown as beneficially owned by them. Shares of common stock underlying derivative securities, if any, that currently are exercisable or convertible or are scheduled to become exercisable or convertible for or into shares of common stock within 60 days after the date of the table are deemed to be outstanding in calculating the percentage ownership of each listed person or group but are not deemed to be outstanding as to any other person or group. Except as indicated by footnote, percentage of beneficial ownership is based on 24,511,200 shares of common stock and 926,942 shares of Series B Preferred Stock outstanding as of the date of the table.

Name and Address of Beneficial Owner <sup>(1)</sup>	Title of Class	Amount and Nature of Beneficial Ownership	Percent of Class
William L. Jones	Common	40,950 <sup>(2)</sup>	*
	Series B Preferred	12,820	1.38%
Neil M. Koehler	Common	586,408 <sup>(3)</sup>	2.37%
	Series B Preferred	256,410	27.66%
Bryon T. McGregor	Common	76,006 <sup>(4)</sup>	*
Christopher W. Wright	Common	73,336 <sup>(5)</sup>	*
Terry L. Stone	Common	17,888 <sup>(6)</sup>	*
John L. Prince	Common	17,887 <sup>(7)</sup>	*
Douglas L. Kieta	Common	29,719	*
Larry D. Layne	Common	6,382	*
Michael D. Kandris	Common	59,089 <sup>(8)</sup>	*
Paul P. Koehler	Common	51,144 <sup>(9)</sup>	*
	Series B Preferred	12,820	1.38%
James R. Sneed	Common	22,102 <sup>(10)</sup>	*
Frank P. Greinke	Common	58,319 <sup>(11)</sup>	*
	Series B Preferred	85,180	9.19%
Lyles United, LLC	Common	380,413 <sup>(12)</sup>	1.53%
	Series B Preferred	512,820	55.32%
Black Rock, Inc.	Common	1,476,583 <sup>(13)</sup>	6.02%
Vertex One Asset Management, Inc.	Common	1,418,380 <sup>(14)</sup>	5.79%
Gregg L. Engles	Common	1,321,285 <sup>(15)</sup>	5.39%
All executive officers and directors as a group (11 persons)	Common	980,911 <sup>(16)</sup>	3.94%
	Series B Preferred	282,050	30.43%

\* Less than 1.00%

- (1) Messrs. Jones, Koehler, Stone, Prince, Kieta, Layne and Kandris are directors of Pacific Ethanol. Messrs. N. Koehler, McGregor, Kandris, P. Koehler, Wright and Sneed are executive officers of Pacific Ethanol. The address of each of these persons is c/o Pacific Ethanol, Inc., 400 Capitol Mall, Suite 2060, Sacramento, California 95814.
- (2) Amount represents 31,512 shares of common stock held by William L. Jones and Maurine Jones, husband and wife, as community property, 477 shares of common stock underlying options issued to Mr. Jones, 184 shares of common stock underlying a warrant issued to Mr. Jones and 8,777 shares of common stock underlying our Series B Preferred Stock held by Mr. Jones.
- (3) Amount represents 328,611 shares of common stock held directly, 3,663 shares of common stock underlying a warrant, 175,554 shares of common stock underlying our Series B Preferred Stock and 78,580 shares of common stock underlying options.
- (4) Includes 22,667 shares of common stock underlying options.
- (5) Includes 22,667 shares of common stock underlying options.
- (6) Includes 143 shares of common stock underlying options.
- (7) Includes 143 shares of common stock underlying options.
- (8) Includes 20,952 shares of common stock underlying options.
- (9) Amount represents 35,326 shares of common stock held directly, 184 shares of common stock underlying a warrant, 8,777 shares of common stock underlying our Series B Preferred Stock and 6,857 shares of common stock underlying options.
- (10) Includes 6,803 shares of common stock underlying options.
- (11) Amount represents shares of common stock underlying our Series B Preferred Stock. The shares are beneficially owned by Frank P. Greinke, as trustee under the Greinke Personal Living Trust Dated April 20, 1999. The address of Frank P. Greinke is P.O. Box 4159, 1800 W. Katella, Suite 400, Orange, California 92863.

- (12) Amount represents 29,305 shares of common stock underlying a warrant and 351,108 shares of common stock underlying our Series B Preferred Stock. In addition, Lyles Diversified, Inc. holds 5,333 shares of common stock and The Lyles Foundation holds 3,488 shares of common stock. The address of Lyles United, LLC is P.O. Box 4376, Fresno, California 93744-4376.
- (13) The information with respect to the holdings of BlackRock, Inc. is based solely on the Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 2, 2015 by BlackRock, Inc. as the reporting person which indicates that BlackRock, Inc. is acting as a parent holding company or control person for the following subsidiaries: BlackRock Advisors, LLC; BlackRock Asset Management Canada Limited; BlackRock Fund Advisors; BlackRock Institutional Trust Company, N.A.; and BlackRock Investment Management, LLC. As reported in the Schedule 13G, BlackRock, Inc. holds sole voting power over 1,439,036 shares and holds sole dispositive power and beneficial ownership of 1,476,583 shares. The address for BlackRock, Inc. is 55 East 52<sup>nd</sup> Street, New York, New York, 10022.
- (14) The information with respect to the holdings of Vertex One Asset Management, Inc. is based solely on the Schedule 13G filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 4, 2015 by Vertex One Asset Management, Inc., John Thiessen and Vertex Fund as the reporting persons. As reported in the Schedule 13G, an aggregate of 1,418,380 shares beneficially owned by Vertex One Asset Management, Inc. and Mr. Thiessen are held by persons in respect of which Vertex One Asset Management, Inc. acts as fund manager. Mr. Thiessen is the principal of Vertex One Asset Management, Inc. with discretionary control over the assets of such persons. Each of Vertex One Asset Management, Inc. and Mr. Thiessen are reported as holding shared voting and dispositive power over 1,418,380 shares. As further reported in the Schedule 13G, Vertex Fund holds shared voting and dispositive power over 1,072,232 shares, all of which are beneficially owned by Vertex Fund. According to the Schedule 13G, the reporting persons made the single, joint filing because they may be deemed to constitute a “group” within the meaning of Section 13(d)(3) of the Exchange Act, but each reporting person disclaims the existence of a “group” and, except as noted, disclaims beneficial ownership of all shares other than any shares reported as being directly owned by it or him, as the case may be. The address for each of Vertex One Asset Management, Inc., John Thiessen and Vertex Fund is c/o Vertex One Asset Management, Inc., 1177 W. Hastings St. #1920, Vancouver, BC V6E 2K3, Canada.
- (15) The information with respect to the holdings of Gregg L. Engles is based solely on the Schedule 13G/A filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on February 2, 2015 by Gregg L. Engles as the reporting person. As reported in the Schedule 13G/A, Mr. Engles holds sole voting and dispositive power over 1,318,500 shares and holds shared voting and dispositive power over an additional 2,785 shares owned by his spouse and as to which Mr. Engles disclaims beneficial ownership. The address for Gregg L. Engles is 2750 Burbank Street, Dallas, Texas 75235.
- (16) Amount represents 624,483 shares of common stock held directly, 159,289 shares of common stock underlying options, 4,031 shares of common stock underlying warrants and 193,108 shares of common stock underlying our Series B Preferred Stock.

#### Equity Compensation Plan Information

The following table provides information about our common stock that may be issued upon the exercise of options, warrants and rights under all of our existing equity compensation plans as of December 31, 2014.

<b>Plan Category</b>	<b>Number of Securities to be Issued Upon Exercise of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights</b>	<b>Weighted-Average Exercise Price of Outstanding Options, Warrants and Rights</b>	<b>Number of Securities Remaining Available for Future Issuance Under Equity Compensation Plans<sup>(1)</sup></b>
Equity Compensation Plans Approved by Security Holders:			
2004 Plan <sup>(1)</sup>	763	\$ 867.23	–
2006 Plan	240,713	\$ 4.18	739,430

(1) Our 2004 Stock Option Plan was terminated effective September 7, 2006, except to the extent of then-outstanding options.

## PART IV

### Item 15. Exhibits, Financial Statement Schedules.

#### (a)(1) Financial Statements

See Item 8 of the registrant's Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission on March 16, 2015.

#### (a)(2) Financial Statement Schedules

None.

#### (a)(3) Exhibits

Reference is made to the exhibits listed on the Index to Exhibits.

## INDEX TO EXHIBITS

Exhibit Number	Description*	Where Located				
		Form	File Number	Exhibit Number	Filing Date	Filed Herewith
2.1	Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Loans and Units in New PE Holdco LLC dated March 27, 2013 among the Registrant, Cooperatieve Centrale Raiffeisen-Boerenleenbank B.A., “Rabobank Nederland”, New York Branch and Series G of Special Assets Equity Holdings Series, LLC	S-1	333-189713	2.15	6/28/2013	
2.2	Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Loans and Units in New PE Holdco LLC dated June 21, 2013 among the Registrant, NordkapAG and NKPacific, LLC	8-K	000-21467	10.3	06/26/2013	
2.3	Form of Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Units in New PE Holdco LLC dated December 6, 2013 between the Registrant and each of CIFC Funding 2007-III Asset-V LLC and CIFC Funding 2007-IV Asset-IV LLC	10-K	000-21467	2.13	03/31/2014	
2.4	Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Units in New PE Holdco LLC dated December 10, 2013 between the Registrant and Armory Fund L.P.	10-K	000-21467	2.14	03/31/2014	
2.5	Form of Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Units in New PE Holdco LLC dated December 14, 2013 between the Registrant and each of Mariner Partners, L.P. and Dee River Holdings, Inc.	10-K	000-21467	2.15	03/31/2014	
2.6	Agreement and Plan of Merger dated as of December 30, 2014 by and among Pacific Ethanol, Inc., AVR Merger Sub, Inc. and Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc.	8-K	000-21467	2.1	12/31/2014	
2.7	Amendment No. 1 to Agreement and Plan of Merger dated March 31, 2015 by and among Pacific Ethanol, Inc., Aventine Renewable Energy Holdings, Inc. and AVR Merger Sub, Inc.	8-K	000-21467	2.1	04/02/2015	
3.1	Certificate of Incorporation	10-Q	000-21467	3.1	08/07/2013	
3.2	Certificate of Designations, Powers, Preferences and Rights of the Series A Cumulative Redeemable Convertible Preferred Stock	10-Q	000-21467	3.2	08/07/2013	
3.3	Certificate of Designations, Powers, Preferences and Rights of the Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock	10-Q	000-21467	3.3	08/07/2013	
3.4	Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation dated June 10, 2010	10-Q	000-21467	3.4	08/07/2013	
3.5	Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation dated June 8, 2011	10-Q	000-21467	3.5	08/07/2013	

Exhibit Number	Description*	Where Located				
		Form	File Number	Exhibit Number	Filing Date	Filed Herewith
3.6	Certificate of Amendment to Certificate of Incorporation dated May 14, 2013	10-Q	000-21467	3.6	08/07/2013	
3.7	Amended and Restated Bylaws	10-Q	000-21467	3.1	11/12/2014	
10.1	2004 Stock Option Plan#	S-8	333-123538	4.1	03/24/2005	
10.2	First Amendment to 2004 Stock Option Plan#	8-K	000-21467	10.3	02/01/2006	
10.3	2006 Stock Incentive Plan, as amended#	S-8	333-196876	4.1	06/18/2014	
10.4	Form of Employee Restricted Stock Agreement#	8-K	000-21467	10.2	10/10/2006	
10.5	Form of Non-Employee Director Restricted Stock Agreement#	8-K	000-21467	10.3	10/10/2006	
10.6	Amended and Restated Executive Employment Agreement dated December 11, 2007 between the Registrant and Neil M. Koehler#	8-K	000-21467	10.3	12/17/2007	
10.7	Amended and Restated Executive Employment Agreement dated December 11, 2007 between the Registrant and Christopher W. Wright#	8-K	000-21467	10.5	12/17/2007	
10.8	Amended and Restated Executive Employment Agreement dated November 25, 2009 between the Registrant and Bryon T. McGregor#	8-K	000-21467	10.1	11/27/2009	
10.9	Executive Employment Agreement dated January 6, 2013 between the Registrant and Michael D. Kandris#	8-K	000-21467	10.1	01/10/2013	
10.10	Amended and Restated Executive Employment Agreement dated October 1, 2012 between the Registrant and Paul P. Kohler#	10-K	000-21467	10.11	03/31/2014	
10.11	Employment Agreement dated November 12, 2012 between the Registrant and James R. Sneed#	10-K	000-21467	10.12	03/31/2014	
10.12	Pacific Ethanol, Inc. 2014 Short-Term Incentive Plan Description#	8-K	000-21467	10.1	06/13/2014	
10.13	Kinergy Marketing LLC 2014 Short-Term Incentive Plan Description#	8-K	000-21467	10.2	06/13/2014	
10.14	Form of Indemnity Agreement between the Registrant and each of its Executive Officers and Directors#	10-K	000-21467	10.46	03/31/2010	
10.15	Warrant dated March 27, 2008 issued by the Registrant to Lyles United, LLC	8-K	000-21467	10.3	03/27/2008	

Exhibit Number	Description*	Where Located				
		Form	File Number	Exhibit Number	Filing Date	Filed Herewith
10.16	Registration Rights Agreement dated March 27, 2008 between the Registrant and Lyles United, LLC	8-K	000-21467	10.4	03/27/2008	
10.17	Letter Agreement dated March 27, 2008 between the Registrant and Lyles United, LLC	8-K	000-21467	10.5	03/27/2008	
10.18	Form of Warrant dated May 22, 2008 issued by the Registrant	8-K	000-21467	10.2	05/23/2008	
10.19	Letter Agreement dated May 22, 2008 among the Registrant, Neil M. Koehler, Bill Jones, Paul P. Koehler and Thomas D. Koehler#	8-K	000-21467	10.3	05/23/2008	
10.20	Form of Warrant dated May 23, 2008 issued by the Registrant	8-K	000-21467	10.5	05/23/2008	
10.21	Amended and Restated Loan and Security Agreement dated May 4, 2012 among Kinergy Marketing LLC, Pacific Ag. Products, LLC, the parties thereto from time to time as Lenders, Wells Fargo Bank, National Association and Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC	8-K	000-21467	10.1	05/08/2012	
10.22	Amended and Restated Guarantee dated May 4, 2012 by the Registrant in favor of Wells Fargo Capital Finance, LLC for and on behalf of Lenders	8-K	000-21467	10.2	05/08/2012	
10.23	Second Amended and Restated Asset Management Agreement dated June 30, 2011 among the Registrant, Pacific Ethanol Holding Co. LLC, Pacific Ethanol Madera LLC, Pacific Ethanol Columbia, LLC, Pacific Ethanol Stockton LLC and Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley, LLC	8-K	000-21467	10.1	07/06/2011	
10.24	Form of Amended and Restated Ethanol Marketing Agreement	8-K	000-21467	10.2	07/06/2011	
10.25	Form of Amended and Restated Corn Procurement and Handling Agreement	8-K	000-21467	10.4	07/06/2011	
10.26	Form of Amended and Restated Distillers Grains Marketing Agreement	8-K	000-21467	10.5	07/06/2011	
10.27	Limited Liability Company Agreement of New PE Holdco LLC	10-K	000-21467	10.34	03/31/2011	
10.28	Form of Warrants dated January 7, 2011 issued by the Registrant	8-K	000-21467	10.3	01/07/2011	

Exhibit Number	Description*	Where Located				
		Form	File Number	Exhibit Number	Filing Date	Filed Herewith
10.29	Form of Warrants dated December 13, 2011 issued by the Registrant	8-K/A	000-21467	10.2	12/12/2011	
10.30	Form of Series I Warrants and Series II Warrants issued by the Registrant on July 3, 2012 (the forms of Series I Warrants and Series II Warrants are identical in all respects other than the exercise price and term applicable to each of such series of Warrants)	8-K	000-21467	10.1	06/28/2012	
10.31	Form of Warrants dated September 26, 2012 issued by the Registrant	8-K	000-21467	10.1	09/21/2012	
10.32	Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated October 29, 2012 among Pacific Ethanol Holding Co. LLC, Pacific Ethanol Madera LLC, Pacific Ethanol Columbia, LLC, Pacific Ethanol Stockton LLC, Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley, LLC, the Lenders referred to therein, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. and Amarillo National Bank	10-Q	000-21467	10.6	11/14/2012	
10.33	First Amendment to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated January 4, 2013 among Pacific Ethanol Holding Co. LLC, Pacific Ethanol Madera LLC, Pacific Ethanol Columbia, LLC, Pacific Ethanol Stockton LLC, Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley, LLC, the Lenders referred to therein, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. and the other parties identified therein	S-1	333-189713	10.44	06/28/2013	
10.34	Third Amendment to Second Amended and Restated Credit Agreement dated April 1, 2014 among Pacific Ethanol Holding Co. LLC, Pacific Ethanol Madera LLC, Pacific Ethanol Columbia, LLC, Pacific Ethanol Stockton LLC, Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley, LLC, the Lenders referred to therein, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A. and the other parties identified therein	8-K	000-21467	10.2	04/01/2014	
10.35	Lender Assignment Agreement dated June 9, 2014 between Pacific Ethanol, Inc. and CWD OC 522 Master Fund, Ltd.	8-K	000-21467	10.1	06/10/2014	
10.36	Lender Assignment Agreement dated June 9, 2014 between Pacific Ethanol, Inc. and Candlewood Special Situations Master Fund, Ltd.	8-K	000-21467	10.2	06/10/2014	

Exhibit Number	Description*	Where Located				
		Form	File Number	Exhibit Number	Filing Date	Filed Herewith
10.37	Agreement for Purchase and Sale of Loans and Assignment of Commitment dated June 9, 2014 between Pacific Ethanol, Inc. and Candlewood Credit Value Master Fund II, L.P.	8-K	000-21467	10.3	06/10/2014	
10.38	Credit Agreement dated October 29, 2012 among Pacific Ethanol Holding Co. LLC, Pacific Ethanol Madera LLC, Pacific Ethanol Columbia, LLC, Pacific Ethanol Stockton LLC, Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley, LLC, the Lenders referred to therein, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Credit Suisse Loan Funding LLC and Amarillo National Bank	10-Q	000-21467	10.7	11/14/2012	
10.39	First Amendment to Credit Agreement dated January 4, 2013, among Pacific Ethanol Holding Co. LLC, Pacific Ethanol Madera LLC, Pacific Ethanol Columbia, LLC, Pacific Ethanol Stockton LLC, Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley, LLC, the Lenders referred to therein, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Credit Suisse Loan Funding LLC and the other parties identified therein	S-1	333-189713	10.46	06/28/2013	
10.40	Second Amendment to Credit Agreement dated April 1, 2014 among Pacific Ethanol Holding Co. LLC, Pacific Ethanol Madera LLC, Pacific Ethanol Columbia, LLC, Pacific Ethanol Stockton LLC, Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley, LLC, the Lenders referred to therein, Wells Fargo Bank, N.A., Amarillo National Bank and the other parties identified therein	8-K	000-21467	10.1	04/01/2014	
10.41	Intercreditor Agreement dated October 29, 2012 among Pacific Ethanol Holding Co. LLC, Pacific Ethanol Madera LLC, Pacific Ethanol Columbia, LLC, Pacific Ethanol Stockton LLC, Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley, LLC and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.	10-Q	000-21467	10.8	11/14/2012	
10.42	First Amendment to Intercreditor Agreement and Consent dated April 1, 2014 among Pacific Ethanol Holding Co. LLC, Pacific Ethanol Madera LLC, Pacific Ethanol Columbia, LLC, Pacific Ethanol Stockton LLC, Pacific Ethanol Magic Valley, LLC and Wells Fargo Bank, N.A.	8-K	000-21467	10.3	04/01/2014	

Exhibit Number	Description*	Where Located				
		Form	File Number	Exhibit Number	Filing Date	Filed Herewith
10.43	Form of Amendment Agreement dated March 28, 2013 among the Registrant and the investors identified therein	8-K	000-21467	10.6	03/28/2013	
10.44	Securities Purchase Agreement dated March 28, 2013 between the Registrant and the investors identified therein	8-K	000-21467	10.1	03/28/2013	
10.4	Form of Series A Notes issued on March 28, 2013 and Series B Notes issued on June 20, 2013	8-K	000-21467	10.2	03/28/2013	
10.46	Form of Series A Warrants and Series B Warrants issued on March 28, 2013	8-K	000-21467	10.3	03/28/2013	
10.47	Form of Base Indenture between the Registrant and U.S. Bank, National Association	8-K	000-21467	10.4	03/28/2013	
10.48	Form of First Supplemental Indenture and Second Supplemental Indenture	8-K	000-21467	10.5	03/28/2013	
10.49	Letter Agreement dated December 16, 2013 among the Registrant and the holders of the Registrant's Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock	8-K	000-21467	10.1	12/16/2013	
10.50	Letter Agreement dated May 23, 2014 among the Registrant and the holders of the Registrant's Series B Cumulative Convertible Preferred Stock	8-K	000-21467	10.1	05/28/2014	
10.51	Stockholders Agreement dated December 30, 2014 between Pacific Ethanol, Inc. and the parties identified therein	8-K	000-21467	10.1	12/31/2014	
10.52	Stockholders Agreement dated December 30, 2014 between Pacific Ethanol, Inc. and Credit Suisse Securities (USA) LLC	8-K	000-21467	10.2	12/31/2014	
21.1	Subsidiaries of the Registrant	10-K	000-21467	21.1	03/16/2015	
23.1	Consent of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm	10-K	000-21467	23.1	03/16/2015	
31.1	Certification Required by Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	10-K	000-21467	31.1	03/16/2015	
31.2	Certification Required by Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	10-K	000-21467	31.2	03/16/2015	

Exhibit Number	Description*	Where Located				
		Form	File Number	Exhibit Number	Filing Date	Filed Herewith
31.3	Certification Required by Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002					X
31.4	Certification Required by Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002					X
32.1	Certification of Chief Executive Officer and Chief Financial Officer Pursuant to 18 U.S.C. Section 1350, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 906 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002	10-K	000-21467	32.1	03/16/2015	
99.1	List of Companies Included in Hay Group Survey Data	10-K	000-21467	99.1	03/16/2015	
101.INS	XBRL Instance Document	10-K	000-21467	101.INS	03/16/2015	
101.SCH	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Schema	10-K	000-21467	101.SCH	03/16/2015	
101.CAL	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Calculation Linkbase	10-K	000-21467	101.CAL	03/16/2015	
101.DEF	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Definition Linkbase	10-K	000-21467	101.DEF	03/16/2015	
101.LAB	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Label Linkbase	10-K	000-21467	101.LAB	03/16/2015	
101.PRE	XBRL Taxonomy Extension Presentation Linkbase	10-K	000-21467	101.PRE	03/16/2015	

(#) A contract, compensatory plan or arrangement to which a director or executive officer is a party or in which one or more directors or executive officers are eligible to participate.

(\*) Certain of the agreements filed as exhibits contain representations and warranties made by the parties thereto. The assertions embodied in such representations and warranties are not necessarily assertions of fact, but a mechanism for the parties to allocate risk. Accordingly, investors should not rely on the representations and warranties as characterizations of the actual state of facts or for any other purpose at the time they were made or otherwise.

**SIGNATURE**

Pursuant to the requirements of Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, thereunto duly authorized on this 13<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2015.

PACIFIC ETHANOL, INC.

/s/ NEIL M. KOEHLER

Neil M. Koehler

President and Chief Executive Officer

**EXHIBITS FILED WITH THIS REPORT**

<b><u>Exhibit Number</u></b>	<b><u>Description</u></b>
31.3	Certification Required by Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002
31.4	Certification Required by Rule 13a-14(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended, as Adopted Pursuant to Section 302 of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002

CERTIFICATION

I, Neil M. Koehler, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Amendment No. 1 to Annual Report on Form 10-K/A of Pacific Ethanol, Inc.;
2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;
3. [Intentionally omitted];
4. [Intentionally omitted]; and
5. [Intentionally omitted].

Date: April 13, 2015

/s/ NEIL M. KOEHLER  
Neil M. Koehler  
President and Chief Executive Officer  
(Principal Executive Officer)

CERTIFICATION

I, Bryon T. McGregor, certify that:

1. I have reviewed this Amendment No. 1 to Annual Report on Form 10-K/A of Pacific Ethanol, Inc.;

2. Based on my knowledge, this report does not contain any untrue statement of a material fact or omit to state a material fact necessary to make the statements made, in light of the circumstances under which such statements were made, not misleading with respect to the period covered by this report;

3. [Intentionally omitted];

4. [Intentionally omitted]; and

5. [Intentionally omitted].

Date: April 13, 2015

/s/ BRYON T. MCGREGOR  
Bryon T. McGregor  
Chief Financial Officer  
(Principal Financial and Accounting Officer)