

KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN
Form 10-K
February 08, 2012
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UNITED STATES
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549
Form 10-K

✓ ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 13 OR 15(d) OF THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF
1934

For the fiscal year ended December 31, 2011

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: 1-4717

KANSAS CITY SOUTHERN

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

Delaware

44-0663509

(State or other jurisdiction of
incorporation or organization)

(I.R.S. Employer
Identification No.)

427 West 12th Street,

64105

Kansas City, Missouri

(Zip Code)

(Address of principal executive offices)

816.983.1303

(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

None

(Former name, former address and former fiscal year, if changed since last report)

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

Title of Each Class

Name of Each Exchange on Which Registered

Preferred Stock, Par Value \$25 Per Share, 4%, Noncumulative

New York Stock Exchange

Common Stock, \$.01 Per Share Par Value

New York Stock Exchange

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 Exchange 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 Web site, 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 pursuant 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.

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Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a large accelerated filer, an accelerated filer, 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 Smaller reporting company

(Do not check if a smaller reporting company)

Indicate by check mark whether the registrant is a shell company (as defined in Rule 12b-2 of the Exchange Act).

Yes No

The aggregate market value of common stock held by non-affiliates of the registrant was \$6.40 billion at June 30, 2011. There were 109,934,820 shares of \$.01 par common stock outstanding at February 1, 2012.

DOCUMENTS INCORPORATED BY REFERENCE

Kansas City Southern's Definitive Proxy Statement for the 2012 Annual Meeting of Stockholders which will be filed no later than 120 days after December 31, 2011, is incorporated by reference in Parts III.

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Item 1. Business

COMPANY OVERVIEW

Kansas City Southern, a Delaware corporation, is a holding company with domestic and international rail operations in North America that are strategically focused on the growing north/south freight corridor connecting key commercial and industrial markets in the central United States with major industrial cities in Mexico. As used herein, “KCS” or the “Company” may refer to Kansas City Southern or, as the context requires, to one or more subsidiaries of Kansas City Southern. KCS and its subsidiaries had approximately 6,140 employees on December 31, 2011.

The Kansas City Southern Railway Company (“KCSR”), which was founded in 1887, is a U.S. Class I railroad. KCSR serves a ten-state region in the midwest and southeast regions of the United States and has the shortest north/south rail route between Kansas City, Missouri and several key ports along the Gulf of Mexico in Alabama, Louisiana, Mississippi, and Texas.

KCS controls and owns all of the stock of Kansas City Southern de México, S.A. de C.V. (“KCSM”). Through its 50-year concession from the Mexican government (the “Concession”), which could expire in 2047 unless extended, KCSM operates a key commercial corridor of the Mexican railroad system and has as its core route the most strategic portion of the shortest, most direct rail passageway between Mexico City and Laredo, Texas. KCSM serves most of Mexico’s principal industrial cities and three of its major seaports. KCSM’s rail lines provide exclusive rail access to the United States and Mexico border crossing at Nuevo Laredo, Tamaulipas, the largest rail freight interchange point between the United States and Mexico. Under the Concession, KCSM has the right to control and operate the southern half of the rail bridge at Laredo, Texas, which spans the Rio Grande River between the United States and Mexico. KCSM provides exclusive rail access to the Port of Lazaro Cardenas on the Pacific Ocean. The Mexican government is developing the port at Lazaro Cardenas principally to serve Mexican markets and as an alternative to the U.S. west coast ports. KCSM is the sole provider of rail service to this port, which provides an alternate route for Asian and South American traffic bound for North America.

The Company wholly owns Mexrail, Inc. (“Mexrail”) which, in turn, wholly owns The Texas Mexican Railway Company (“Tex-Mex”). Tex-Mex owns a 157-mile rail line extending from Laredo, Texas to the port city of Corpus Christi, Texas, which connects the operations of KCSR with KCSM. Through its ownership of Mexrail, the Company owns the northern half of the rail bridge at Laredo, Texas. Laredo is a principal international gateway through which more than half of all rail and truck traffic between the United States and Mexico crosses the border. The Company also controls the southern half of this bridge through its ownership of KCSM.

The KCS coordinated rail network (KCSR, KCSM and Tex-Mex) comprises approximately 6,200 route miles extending from the midwest and southeast portions of the United States south into Mexico and connects with all other Class I railroads, providing shippers with an effective alternative to other railroad routes and giving direct access to Mexico and the southeast and southwest United States through alternate interchange hubs.

Panama Canal Railway Company (“PCRC”), an unconsolidated joint venture company owned equally by KCS and Mi-Jack Products, Inc. (“Mi-Jack”), was awarded a concession from the Republic of Panama to reconstruct and operate the Panama Canal Railway, a 47-mile railroad located adjacent to the Panama Canal that provides international container shipping companies with a railway transportation option in lieu of the Panama Canal. The concession was awarded in 1998 for an initial term of 25 years with an automatic renewal for an additional 25 year term. The Panama Canal Railway is a north-south railroad traversing the Isthmus of Panama between the Atlantic and Pacific Oceans. PCRC’s wholly-owned subsidiary, Panarail Tourism Company (“Panarail”), operates and promotes commuter and tourist passenger service over the Panama Canal Railway.

Other subsidiaries and affiliates of KCS include the following:

Meridian Speedway, LLC (“MSLLC”), a seventy-one percent-owned consolidated affiliate that owns the former KCSR rail line between Meridian, Mississippi and Shreveport, Louisiana, which is the portion of the KCSR rail line between Dallas, Texas and Meridian known as the “Meridian Speedway.” Norfolk Southern Corporation (“NS”) through its wholly-owned subsidiary, The Alabama Great Southern Railroad Company, owns the remaining twenty-nine percent of MSLLC. Ultimately KCS will own seventy percent and NS will own thirty percent of MSLLC upon the contribution of additional capital by NS to MSLLC;

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Pabtex, Inc., a wholly-owned and consolidated owner of a bulk materials handling facility with deep-water access to the Gulf of Mexico at Port Arthur, Texas that stores and transfers petroleum coke from rail cars to ships, primarily for export;

Trans-Serve, Inc. (doing business as Superior Tie and Timber), a wholly-owned and consolidated operator of a railroad wood-tie treatment facility;

- TransFin Insurance, Ltd., a wholly-owned and consolidated captive insurance company providing property, general liability and certain other insurance coverage to KCS and its subsidiaries and affiliates;

Southern Capital Corporation, LLC (“Southern Capital”), a fifty percent-owned unconsolidated affiliate that leases locomotives and other equipment;

Ferrocarril y Terminal del Valle de México, S.A. de C.V. (“FTVM”), a twenty-five percent-owned unconsolidated affiliate that provides railroad services as well as ancillary services in the greater Mexico City area; and

PTC-220, LLC (“PTC-220”), a fourteen percent-owned unconsolidated affiliate that holds the licenses to large blocks of radio spectrum and other assets for the deployment of positive train control.

MARKETS SERVED

2011 Revenues
Business Mix

Chemical and petroleum. This sector includes products such as petroleum, rubber, plastics and miscellaneous chemicals. KCS transports these products to markets in the midwest, southeast and northeast United States and throughout Mexico through interchanges with other rail carriers. The products within the chemicals and plastics channels are used in the automotive, housing and packaging industries as well as in the production of other chemicals and plastic products. KCS hauls petroleum products across its network and as petroleum refineries have continued to increase their refining capacity, they have coordinated with KCS to develop additional long-term storage opportunities which complement a fluid freight railroad operation.

Industrial and consumer products. KCS serves paper mills directly and indirectly through its various short-line connections. KCS’s rail lines run through the heart of the southeast United States timber-producing region. Forest products made from trees in this region are generally less expensive than those from other regions due to lower production costs. As a result, southern yellow pine products from the southeast are increasingly being used instead of western producers that have experienced capacity reductions because of environmental and public policy considerations.

This sector also includes metals and ores such as iron, steel, zinc and copper. The majority of metals, minerals and ores mined, and steel produced in Mexico are consumed within Mexico. The volume of Mexican steel exports fluctuates based on global market prices. Higher-end finished products such as steel coils are used by Mexican manufacturers in automobiles, household appliances and other consumer goods which are imported to the United States through Nuevo Laredo and through the seaports served by KCS’s rail network. KCS also transports steel coils from U.S. based mini-mills in Mississippi and Alabama to Texas and Mexico for appliance and automotive applications.

Agriculture and minerals. The agriculture and minerals sector consists primarily of grain and food products. Shipper demand for agriculture products is affected by competition among sources of grain and grain products, as well as price fluctuations in international markets for key commodities. In the United States, KCS’s rail lines receive and originate shipments of grain and grain products for delivery to feed mills serving the poultry industry. KCS currently serves feed mills along its rail lines throughout the midwest and southeast United States, and through its marketing

agreements, KCS has access to sources of

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corn and other grain in the Midwest. United States export grain shipments and Mexico import grain shipments include primarily corn, wheat, and soybeans transported to Mexico via Laredo and to the Gulf of Mexico. Over the long term, export grain shipments to Mexico are expected to increase as a result of Mexico's reliance on grain imports and KCS's coordinated rail network is well positioned to meet these increases in demand. Food products consist mainly of soybean meal, grain meal, oils, canned goods, corn syrup and sugar. Other shipments consist of a variety of products including ores, minerals, clay and glass used across North America.

Coal. KCS hauls unit trains (trains transporting a single commodity from one source to one destination) of coal for nine electric generating plants in the central United States. The coal originates from the Powder River Basin in Wyoming and is interchanged to KCS at Kansas City, Missouri. Coal mined in the midwest United States is transported in non-unit trains to industrial consumers such as paper mills, steel mills, and cement companies.

Petroleum coke is also included in the coal sector, which KCS transports from refineries in the United States to cement companies in Mexico as well as to vessels for international distribution through the Pabtex export terminal located in Port Arthur, Texas.

Intermodal. The intermodal freight business consists primarily of hauling freight containers or truck trailers on behalf of steamship lines, motor carriers, and intermodal marketing companies with rail carriers serving as long-distance haulers. KCS serves and supports the U.S. and Mexican markets, as well as cross border traffic between the U.S. and Mexico. In light of the importance of trade between Asia and North America, the Company believes the Port of Lazaro Cardenas continues to be a strategically beneficial location for ocean carriers, manufacturers and retailers. The Company also provides premium service to customers over its line from Dallas through the Meridian Speedway — a critical link in creating the most direct route between the southwest and southeast/northeast U.S.

Automotive. KCS provides rail transportation to every facet of the automotive industry supply chain, including automotive manufacturers, assembly plants and distribution centers throughout North America. Several U.S. automakers have moved assembly plants into central Mexico to take advantage of access to lower costs, which has driven a shift in production and distribution patterns from the U.S. to Mexico. In addition, KCS transports finished vehicles imported and exported to and from Asia through a distribution facility at the Port of Lazaro Cardenas. As the automotive industry shifts production and distribution patterns, KCS is poised to serve the automotive industry's evolving transportation requirements.

GOVERNMENT REGULATION

The Company's United States operations are subject to federal, state and local laws and regulations generally applicable to all businesses. Rail operations are also subject to the regulatory jurisdiction of the Surface Transportation Board ("STB") of the U.S. Department of Transportation ("DOT"), the Federal Railroad Administration of the DOT, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration ("OSHA"), as well as other federal and state regulatory agencies. The STB has jurisdiction over disputes and complaints involving certain rates, routes and services, the sale or abandonment of rail lines, applications for line extensions and construction, and consolidation or merger with, or acquisition of control of, rail common carriers. DOT and OSHA each has jurisdiction under several federal statutes over a number of safety and health aspects of rail operations, including the transportation of hazardous materials. In 2008, the President of the United States signed the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 into law, which, among other things, revises hours of service for train and certain other employees and mandates implementation of positive train control at certain locations by the end of 2015. Positive train control is a technology designed to help prevent train-to-train collisions, overspeed derailments, incursions into rail work zones, and entry into main line track if a switch is misaligned at certain locations, including main line track where toxic inhalation hazard or poison inhalation hazard movements occur or where passenger operations occur. In addition, the Rail Safety Improvement Act of 2008 addresses safety at rail crossings, increases the number of safety related employees of the Federal Railroad Administration, and increases fines that may be levied against railroads for safety violations. State agencies regulate some aspects of rail operations with respect to health and safety in areas not otherwise regulated by federal law. KCS's subsidiaries are subject to extensive federal, state and local environmental regulations. These laws cover discharges to water, air emissions, toxic substances, and the generation, handling, storage, transportation and disposal of waste and hazardous materials. These regulations have the effect of increasing the costs, risks and liabilities associated with rail operations. Environmental risks are also inherent in rail operations, which frequently involve

transporting chemicals and other hazardous materials.

Primary regulatory jurisdiction for the Company's Mexican operations is overseen by the Mexican Secretaría de Comunicaciones y Transportes ("Secretary of Communications and Transportation" or "SCT"). The SCT establishes

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regulations concerning railway safety and operations, and is responsible for resolving disputes between railways and between railways and customers. In addition, KCSM must register its maximum rates with the SCT and make regular reports to the SCT on investment and traffic volumes. See Note 1 to the Consolidated Financial Statements in Item 8 of this Form 10-K “Description of the Business — The KCSM Concession.”

The Mexican operations are subject to Mexican federal and state laws and regulations relating to the protection of the environment through the establishment of standards for water discharge, water supply, emissions, noise pollution, hazardous substances and transportation and handling of hazardous and solid waste. The Mexican government may bring administrative and criminal proceedings and impose economic sanctions against companies that violate environmental laws, and temporarily or even permanently close non-complying facilities.

Noncompliance with applicable legal provisions may result in the imposition of fines, temporary or permanent shutdown of operations or other injunctive relief, criminal prosecution or the termination of the Concession. KCS believes that facilities which it operates are in compliance with applicable environmental laws, regulations and agency agreements. KCS maintains environmental provisions which are believed by management to be appropriate with respect to known and existing environmental contamination of its properties which KCS may be responsible to remedy. In addition, KCS’s subsidiaries are party to contracts and other legally binding obligations by which previous owners of certain facilities now owned by KCS are responsible to remedy contamination of such sites remaining from their previous ownership. There are currently no material legal or administrative proceedings pending against the Company with respect to any environmental matters and management does not believe that continued compliance with environmental laws will have any material adverse effect on the Company’s consolidated financial statements. KCS cannot predict the effect, if any, that unidentified environmental matters or the adoption of additional or more stringent environmental laws and regulations would have on the Company’s consolidated financial statements.

COMPETITION

The Company competes against other railroads, many of which are much larger and have significantly greater financial and other resources. The railroad industry is dominated by a few very large carriers. The larger western railroads (BNSF Railway Company and Union Pacific Railroad Company), in particular, are significant competitors of KCS because of their substantial resources and competitive routes.

In November 2005, Ferrocarril Mexicano, S.A. de C.V. (“Ferromex”) acquired control of and merged with Ferrosur S.A. de C.V. (“Ferrosur”). In March 2011, the Comisión Federal de Competencia (Mexican Antitrust Commission or “COFECO”) approved the merger between Ferromex and Ferrosur. These merged operations are much larger than KCSM, serving most of the major ports and cities in Mexico and together own fifty percent of FTVM, which serves industries located within Mexico City.

The ongoing impact of past and future rail consolidation is uncertain. However, KCS believes that its investments and strategic alliances continue to competitively position the Company to attract additional rail traffic throughout its rail network.

The Company is subject to competition from motor carriers, barge lines and other maritime shipping, which compete across certain routes in KCS’s operating areas. In the past, truck carriers have generally eroded the railroad industry’s share of total transportation revenues. Intermodal traffic and certain other traffic face highly price sensitive competition, particularly from motor carriers. However, rail carriers, including KCS, have placed an emphasis on competing in the intermodal marketplace and working with motor carriers to provide end-to-end transportation of products.

While deregulation of U.S. freight rates has enhanced the ability of railroads to compete with each other and with alternative modes of transportation, this increased competition has generally resulted in downward pressure on freight rates since deregulation. Competition with other railroads and other modes of transportation is generally based on the rates charged, the quality and reliability of the service provided and the quality of the carrier’s equipment for certain commodities.

RAIL SECURITY

The Company and its rail subsidiaries have made a concentrated, multi-disciplinary effort since the terrorist attacks on the United States on September 11, 2001, to continue securing the Company’s assets and personnel against the risk of terrorism and other security risks. Many of the specific measures the Company utilizes for these efforts are required to

be kept confidential through arrangements with government agencies, such as the Department of Homeland Security (“DHS”), or through jointly-developed and implemented strategies and plans with connecting carriers. To protect the confidentiality and sensitivity of the

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efforts the Company has made to safeguard against terrorism and other security incidents, the following paragraphs will provide only a general overview of some of these efforts. KCSR and KCSM utilize a security plan based on an industry wide security plan developed by Association of American Railroads (“AAR”) members which focuses on comprehensive risk assessments in five areas — hazardous materials; train operations; critical physical assets; military traffic; and information technology and communications. The security plan is kept confidential, with access to the plan tightly limited to members of management with direct security and anti-terrorism implementation responsibilities. KCSR and KCSM participate with other AAR members in periodic drills under the industry plan to test and refine its various provisions.

The Company’s security activities range from periodically mailing each employee a security awareness brochure (which is also posted under the “Employees” tab on the Company’s internet website, www.kcsouthern.com) to its ongoing implementation of security plans for rail facilities in areas labeled by the DHS as High Threat Urban Areas (“HTUAs”). The Company’s other activities to bolster security against terrorism include, but are not limited to, the following:

- Conferring regularly with other railroads’ security personnel and with industry experts on security issues;
- Routing shipments of certain chemicals, which might be toxic if inhaled, pursuant to federal regulations;
- Initiating a series of over 20 voluntary action items agreed to between AAR and DHS as enhancing security in the rail industry;
- Conducting constant security training as part of the scheduled training for operating employees and managers;
- Developing a multi-layered security model using high-speed digital imaging, system velocity, covert and overt security filters to mitigate the risk of illicit activity; and
- Implementation of a Tactical Intelligence Center by KCSM, training core members in new technology helping to prevent, detect, deter and respond to illicit activities.

In addition, the Company employs a Director of Homeland Security to oversee the ongoing and increasingly complex security efforts of the Company in both the United States and Mexico. The Company identified and retained an individual to fill the position who has an extensive law enforcement background, including being formerly employed as an analyst with the Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) for 12 years. This member of management remains a member of the FBI’s Joint Terrorism Task Force and is a valuable asset to the Company in developing and implementing anti-terrorism and other security initiatives.

While the risk of theft and vandalism is higher in Mexico, KCSM remains among the safest methods of transportation for freight shipments in Mexico. KCSM’s record in rail safety is due in large part to the implementation of a multi-layered, safety and security process throughout the KCSM network. In addition to having its own internal system, the process is connected to, and supported by a high level of federal, state and local law enforcement. A primary focus of this effort involves maintaining train velocity, which reduces the likelihood for incidents to occur.

RAILWAY LABOR ACT

Labor relations in the U.S. railroad industry are subject to extensive governmental regulation under the Railway Labor Act (“RLA”). Under the RLA, national labor agreements are renegotiated on an industry-wide scale when they become open for modification, but their terms remain in effect until new agreements are reached or the RLA’s procedures (which include mediation, cooling-off periods, and the possibility of presidential intervention) are exhausted. Contract negotiations with the various unions generally take place over an extended period of time and the Company rarely experiences work stoppages during negotiations. Wages, health and welfare benefits, work rules and other issues have traditionally been addressed during these negotiations.

COLLECTIVE BARGAINING

Approximately 80% of KCSR employees are covered by collective bargaining agreements. KCSR participates in industry-wide bargaining as a member of the National Carriers’ Conference Committee. Long-term settlement agreements were reached during 2007 and 2008 covering all of KCSR’s unionized work force through June 30, 2010. These agreements continue in effect until new agreements are reached. Labor negotiations in the rail industry are governed by the RLA, which bars strikes or other self-help until exhaustion of mandatory procedures. Contract negotiations with the various unions generally take place over an extended period of time and have not historically resulted in any strike, boycott, or other disruption in the Company’s business operations.

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The nation's largest freight railroads, including KCSR, have been in national (multi-employer) bargaining with the rail unions since January 2010. In September 2011, the railroads ratified the agreement with the largest union, the United Transportation Union, which represents about one third of the KCSR employees covered by this bargaining agreement. On November 5, 2011, a Presidential Emergency Board ("PEB") appointed by President Obama issued recommendations to resolve the disputes between the U.S. railroads and the 12 unions that had not yet reached agreements. As of December 31, 2011, tentative agreements were reached with 11 of those 12 unions. As of the date of this filing, these agreements have been ratified and will be in effect through 2015.

On February 2, 2012, the railroad industry reached a tentative agreement with the remaining union. The union will commence ratification of this tentative agreement by its members.

KCSM union employees are covered by one labor agreement, which was signed on June 23, 1997, between KCSM and the Sindicato de Trabajadores Ferrocarrileros de la República Mexicana (Mexican Railroad Union), for a term of 50 years, for the purpose of regulating the relationship between the parties. Approximately 80% of KCSM employees are covered by this labor agreement. The compensation terms under this labor agreement are subject to renegotiation on an annual basis and all other benefits are subject to negotiation every two years. In October 2011, compensation terms and all other benefits covering the period from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2012 and the period from July 1, 2011 through June 30, 2013, respectively, were finalized between KCSM and the Mexican Railroad Union. The union labor negotiation with the Mexican Railroad Union has not historically resulted in any strike, boycott, or other disruption in KCSM's business operations.

EXECUTIVE OFFICERS OF KCS AND SUBSIDIARIES

All executive officers are elected annually and serve at the discretion of the Board of Directors. All of the executive officers have employment agreements with KCS and/or its subsidiaries. The mailing address of the principal executive officers other than Mr. Zozaya is 427 W. 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64105. Mr. Zozaya's mailing address is Montes Urales No. 625, Col. Lomas de Chapultepec, C.P. 11000, Mexico D.F.

Michael R. Haverty — Executive Chairman of the Board — 67 — Served in this capacity since August 1, 2010. Mr. Haverty has been a director of KCS since May 1995 and has served as Chairman of the Board of KCS since January 1, 2001. From July 12, 2000 until July 31, 2010, Mr. Haverty served as Chief Executive Officer of KCS. Mr. Haverty served as President of KCS from July 2000 to June 2006. Mr. Haverty served as Executive Vice President of KCS from May 1995 until July 2000, and as President and Chief Executive Officer of KCSR from 1995 to 2005 and as a director of KCSR since 1995. He has served as Chairman of the Board of KCSR since 1999. Since April 1, 2005, Mr. Haverty has served as Chairman of the Board of KCSM. Mr. Haverty has served as a director of the PCRC since 1996 and as Co-Chairman of the Board of Directors of that company since 1999. Mr. Haverty has served as Co-Chairman of Panarail since 2000.

David L. Starling — President and Chief Executive Officer — 62 — Served in this capacity since August 1, 2010. Mr. Starling has been a director of KCS since May 6, 2010. He served as President and Chief Operating Officer of KCS from July 1, 2008 through August 1, 2010. Mr. Starling has also served as a Director, President and Chief Executive Officer of KCSR since July 1, 2008. He has also served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of KCSM since September 2009. Mr. Starling has served as Vice Chairman of the Board of Directors of PCRC and Panarail since July 2008. Prior to joining KCS, Mr. Starling served as President and Director General of PCRC from 1999 through June 2008.

David R. Ebbrecht — Executive Vice President Operations - 45 - Served in this capacity since March 2011. Mr. Ebbrecht served as Senior Vice President of Operations of KCSR from August 2009 until March 2011. He served as Vice President of Transportation of KCSR from March 2008 until August 2009. From January 2007 until March 2008, Mr. Ebbrecht served as Assistant Vice President in various departments for KCSR including logistics, business development and operations. He joined KCSR in January 2001. Prior to joining KCSR, Mr. Ebbrecht served in various leadership positions at CSX Corporation, Inc.

Warren K. Erdman — Executive Vice President — Administration and Corporate Affairs — 53 — Served in this capacity since April 2010. Mr. Erdman served as Executive Vice President — Corporate Affairs from October 2007 until April 2010. He served as Senior Vice President — Corporate Affairs of KCS and KCSR from January 2006 to September 2007.

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Mr. Erdman served as Vice President — Corporate Affairs of KCS from April 15, 1997 to December 31, 2005 and as Vice President — Corporate Affairs of KCSR from May 1997 to December 31, 2005. Prior to joining KCS, Mr. Erdman served as Chief of Staff to United States Senator Kit Bond of Missouri from 1987 to 1997.

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Patrick J. Ottensmeyer — Executive Vice President Sales and Marketing — 54 — Served in this capacity since October 16, 2008. Mr. Ottensmeyer joined KCS in May 2006 as Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer. Prior to joining KCS, Mr. Ottensmeyer served as Chief Financial Officer of Intranasal Therapeutics, Inc. from 2001 to May 2006. From 2000 to 2001, he served as Corporate Vice President Finance and Treasurer for Dade-Behring Holdings, Inc. From 1993 to 1999, Mr. Ottensmeyer served as Vice President Finance and Treasurer at Burlington Northern Santa Fe Corporation and BNSF Railway and their predecessor companies.

Michael W. Upchurch — Executive Vice President and Chief Financial Officer — 51 — Served in this capacity since October 16, 2008. Mr. Upchurch joined KCS in March 2008 as Senior Vice President Purchasing and Financial Management. Prior to joining KCS, Mr. Upchurch served as Senior Vice President Finance of Red Development LLC, from December 2007 through February 2008. From September 2006 through December 2007, Mr. Upchurch worked as an independent consultant providing financial consulting services. From 1990 through September 2006, Mr. Upchurch served in various senior financial leadership positions at Sprint Nextel Corporation and its predecessor, Sprint Corporation, including Senior Vice President Financial Operations, Senior Vice President Finance Sprint Business Solutions and Senior Vice President Finance Long Distance Division.

José Guillermo Zozaya Delano — President and Executive Representative — KCSM — 59 — Has served in this position since April 20, 2006. Mr. Zozaya has 35 years of experience in law and government relations, most recently as the legal and government relations director for ExxonMobil México, S.A. de C.V., where he spent nine years prior to joining KCSM.

John E. Derry — Senior Vice President Human Resources — 44 — Served in this capacity since July 2008. He served as Vice President of Human Resources from February 2008 until July 2008. Mr. Derry joined KCS from YRC Worldwide, Inc. where he served in various Human Resource functions from January 2004 to February 2008. From September 2006 to February 2008, Mr. Derry served as Vice President of Human Resources for Yellow Transportation. Prior to joining YRC Worldwide, Inc. Mr. Derry spent 17 years with General Mills Inc. in various operations, labor relations and human resource roles.

Mary K. Stadler — Senior Vice President and Chief Accounting Officer — 52 — Served in this capacity since March 2, 2009. From April 1990 through August 2008, Ms. Stadler served in various finance leadership positions at Sprint Nextel Corporation and its predecessor, Sprint Corporation, including Vice President — Finance Operations and most recently served as its Vice President — Assistant Controller.

William J. Wochner — Senior Vice President and Chief Legal Officer — 64 — Served in this capacity since February 2007. He served as Vice President and Interim General Counsel from December 2006 to January 2007. From September 2006 to December 2006, Mr. Wochner served as Vice President and Associate General Counsel. From March 2005 to September 2006, Mr. Wochner served as Vice President Sales and Marketing/Contracts for KCSR. From February 1993 to March 2005, Mr. Wochner served as Vice President and General Solicitor of KCSR.

There are no arrangements or understandings between the executive officers and any other person pursuant to which the executive officer was or is to be selected as an officer of KCS, except with respect to the executive officers who have entered into employment agreements designating the position(s) to be held by the executive officer.

None of the above officers is related to another, or to any of the directors of KCS, by family.

AVAILABLE INFORMATION

KCS's website (www.kcsouthern.com) provides at no cost KCS's Annual Reports on Form 10-K, Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, and Current Reports on Form 8-K, and amendments to those reports, as soon as reasonably practicable after the electronic filing of these reports is made with the Securities and Exchange Commission. In addition, KCS's corporate governance guidelines, ethics and legal compliance policy, and the charters of the Audit Committee, the Finance Committee, the Nominating and Corporate Governance Committee and the Compensation and Organization Committee of the Board of Directors are available on KCS's website. These guidelines, policies and charters are available in print without charge to any stockholder requesting them. Written requests for these materials may be made to the Corporate Secretary, P.O. Box 219335, Kansas City, Missouri 64121-9335 (or if by express delivery to 427 West 12th Street, Kansas City, Missouri 64105). From time to time, KCS publicly designates material information by posting it on the website, kcsouthern.com/investors, in lieu of press releases.

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See Item 8, Financial Statements and Supplementary Data — Note 1 “Description of the Business” and Note 18 “Geographic Information” for more information on the description and general development of the Company’s business and financial information about geographic areas.

Item 1A. Risk Factors

Risks Related to an Investment in KCS’s Common Stock

The price of KCS’s common stock may fluctuate significantly, which may make it difficult for investors to resell common stock when they want to or at prices they find attractive.

The price of KCS’s common stock on the New York Stock Exchange (“NYSE”), listed under the ticker symbol “KSU”, constantly changes. The Company expects that the market price of its common stock will continue to fluctuate.

The Company’s stock price can fluctuate as a result of a variety of factors, many of which are beyond KCS’s control.

These factors include, but are not limited to:

- quarterly variations in operating results;
- operating results that vary from the expectations of management, securities analysts, ratings agencies and investors;
- changes in expectations as to future financial performance, including financial estimates by management, securities analysts, ratings agencies and investors;
- developments generally affecting the railroad industry;
- announcements by KCS or its competitors of significant contracts, acquisitions, joint marketing relationships, joint ventures or capital commitments;
- the assertion or resolution of significant claims or proceedings involving KCS;
- KCS’s dividend policy and limitations on the payment of dividends;
- future sales of KCS’s equity or equity-linked securities;
- the issuance of common stock in payment of dividends on preferred stock or upon conversion of preferred stock or convertible debt; and

• general domestic and international economic conditions including the availability of short- and long-term financing.

In addition, from time to time the stock market in general has experienced extreme volatility that has often been unrelated to the operating performance of a particular company. These broad market fluctuations may adversely affect the market price of KCS’s common stock.

KCS’s ability to pay cash dividends on its common stock is currently limited to the “Available Basket Amount” as defined in the KCSR Credit Agreement.

KCS has agreed, and may agree in the future, to limitations on its ability to pay cash dividends on its common stock.

In addition, to maintain its credit ratings, the Company may be limited in its ability to pay cash dividends on its common stock so that it can maintain an appropriate level of liquidity or debt.

Sales of substantial amounts of KCS’s common stock in the public market could adversely affect the prevailing market price of the common stock.

As of December 31, 2011, there were 6,414,464 shares of common stock issued or reserved for issuance under the 1991 Amended and Restated Stock Option and Performance Award Plan, the 2008 Stock Option and Performance Award Plan and the 2009 Employee Stock Purchase Plan, and 1,863,360 shares of common stock held by executive officers and directors outside those plans. Sales of common stock by employees upon exercise of their options, sales by executive officers and directors subject to compliance with Rule 144 under the Securities Act, and sales of common stock that may be issued upon conversion of the outstanding preferred stock, or the perception that such sales could occur, may adversely affect the market price of KCS’ common stock.

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KCS has provisions in its charter and bylaws that could deter, delay or prevent a third party from acquiring a controlling interest in KCS and that could deprive an investor of an opportunity to obtain a takeover premium for shares of KCS's common stock.

KCS has provisions in its charter and bylaws that may delay or prevent unsolicited takeover bids from third parties, including provisions providing for a classified board and supermajority stockholder approval requirements in order to increase the size of the board of directors, abolish cumulative voting, abolish the classification of the Board, or affect certain merger, consolidation or sale transactions. The bylaws provide that a stockholder must give the Company advance written notice of its intent to nominate a director or raise a matter at an annual meeting. These provisions may deprive KCS's stockholders of an opportunity to sell their shares at a premium over prevailing market prices.

Risks Related to KCS's Business

KCS competes against other railroads and other transportation providers.

The Company's domestic and international operations are subject to competition from other railroads, particularly Union Pacific Railroad Company ("UP") and BNSF Railway Company ("BNSF") in the United States and Ferromex and Ferrosur in Mexico, as well as from truck carriers, barge lines, and other maritime shippers. Many of KCS's rail competitors are much larger and have significantly greater financial and other resources than KCS, which may enable rail competitors to reduce rates and make KCS's freight services less competitive. KCS's ability to respond to competitive pressures by matching rate reductions and decreasing rates without adversely affecting gross margins and operating results will depend on, among other things, the ability to reduce operating costs. KCS's failure to respond to competitive pressures, and particularly rate competition, in a timely manner could have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

The railroad industry is dominated by a few large carriers. These larger railroads could attempt to use their size and pricing power to block other railroads' access to efficient gateways and routing options that are currently and have historically been available. In addition, if there is future consolidation in the railroad industry in the United States or Mexico, there can be no assurance that it will not have an adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

Trucking, maritime, and barge competitors, while able to provide rate and service competition to the railroad industry, are able to use public rights-of-way, require substantially smaller capital investment and maintenance expenditures than railroads and allow for more frequent and flexible scheduling. Continuing competitive pressures, any reduction in margins due to competitive pressures, future improvements that increase the quality of alternative modes of transportation in the locations in which the Company operates, or legislation or regulations that provide motor carriers with additional advantages, such as increased size of vehicles and reduced weight restrictions, could result in downward pressure on freight rates, which in turn could have a material adverse effect on the Company's consolidated financial statements.

A central part of KCS's growth strategy is based upon the conversion of truck traffic to rail. There can be no assurance the Company will succeed in its efforts to convert traffic from truck to rail transport or that the customers already converted will be retained. If the railroad industry in general is unable to preserve its competitive advantages vis-à-vis the trucking industry, projected revenue growth could be adversely affected. Additionally, revenue growth could be affected by, among other factors, an expansion in the availability, or an improvement in the quality, of the trucking services offered by carriers resulting from regulatory and administrative interpretations and implementation of certain provisions of the North American Free Trade Agreement ("NAFTA"), and