From: Collins, Dana Tuesday, September 11, 2007 10:16 PM (GMF

To: McDatiel, Raymond Management Clarkson, Brian

Mahoney, Christopher

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Westlake, Lisa Hander J.

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Subject: MD Town Hall Meeting Survey Results

Attach: 886543f-att.doc;MD Town Hall Feedback - 9-07.doc

AI,

To date, 31 participants have responded to our survey requesting feedback on yesterday's MD Town Hait Meeting (a roughly 30% response rate).

## Some quick stats:

- 77% of respondents said that the meeting addressed the topics of greatest concern
- 94% of respondents found the criswers during the Q&A either informative or extremely informative

Attached is a transcript from the meeting. Also attached is a document coded MD Town Hall Feedback • 9-07.doc which summarizes the write-in comments related to these questions:

- Did you have questions following the meeting? If so, what are they?
- What topics discussed did you find most important to your area of the business?
- . What else would you like management to address at hiday's company-wide Town Hall Meetingt
- . How do you plan to relay the information from the meeting to your learn?

You may also access these results by clicking this link:

Please let me know If you have any questions about this information.

Thanks, Dana

MOODY'S-COGR-0052080



## Final Transcript

## **MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE: Managing Director's Town Hall Meeting**

September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

## **PRESENTATION**

(Poor audio made transcription difficult.)

Raymond

First of all, thank you all for joining this morning. The purpose of this town hall, there are actually a couple of purposes, but we wanted to have a meeting with the management team specifically so that we can speak as candidly as possible about what's going on in the subprime market, with the structured finance market, with our own business, and our role and position around that. I'm certainly happy to talk about what we are doing at Moody's in terms of trying to control messages, the messages we're trying to communicate, and then also talk about some of the broader themes and concerns and anxieties that are going on in the marketplace itself, sort of a roundup. So we can talk at a Moody's specific level and at a market level both.

We do have some prepared slides that we'll probably depart from these as

we go along because there are a number of messages that we just frankly

didn't want to write down. If you have questions, certainly with this

group, raise your hand. I'm happy to take questions as we go along.

We'll also do some Q&A at the end, so if you have questions that you

want to save, that's fine as well.

I'm going to kick this off with a couple of comments and then turn it over

to Brian. But there are really a couple of themes that I think are probably

most on your mind and you will, I'm sure, inform me if there are

additional issues.

First of all, in terms of some principals that we're trying to follow,

proactively participate in the discussion around what's going on in

subprime and this broader credit crunch. An important part of what we

have to do at this point is educate markets about what the ratings do and

don't do. Now I'm sure you've all seen literally almost on a daily basis

various critiques, criticism, observations about the credit rating agencies,

how we do what we're doing, whether we're doing a good job or a bad

job.

**Host: Raymond McDaniel** 

September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 3

And it has frankly been difficult for us to control a lot of that messaging.

We have had extensive outreach to the media, both the print and electronic

media. I think we've had very good success with our experts, people like

John Lanski and Mark Zandy. Chris Mahoney has been on at least the

radio several times. I don't know if he's been invited to be on TV, but I

think we've had very good outreach with our technical experts.

We've frankly been somewhat less successful in controlling messages

about Moody's and getting our point of view into the marketplace, and it's

not for lack of trying. We have reached out to all of the significant media:

New York Times, FT, Wall Street Journal, Bloomberg, Reuters, etc.

And right now, the message that we are communicating about, one, the

fact that we are independent and, two, that we are competent. It's not a

message they really want to hear. It's not the editorial theme that they

want to pursue. These stories are being written, in my opinion, largely

around the facts, and we are having trouble getting some balanced

commentary into the marketplace. That's the bad news.

The good news is, at a one-on-one level with regulatory authorities, with

staffers and senate and house, I think we've had much, much better

success. The regulatory meetings that I participated in last week in

Europe went well. They were not hostile. They were not accusatory. The

regulators were very much interested in our thoughts about solutions and

looking for market based solutions. And warning us that one of the

biggest challenges we face is whether or not this becomes a more purely

political issue.

And cautioning us saying, we need you, Moody's, we need you, the

ratings industry, to come up with your own solution, your own credible

answers to solving what's going on in the subprime market and with the

credit crunch because, if you don't, then it's going to move into the

political sphere, and there's going to be blunt instrument kind of reactions.

Overreaching regulation becomes or legislation becomes a risk. And the

regulators were saying, frankly we'd rather you come up with a solution

because it's going to be better than what the politicians can come up with.

And in effect, inviting us to give them the tools to help respond to a lot of

the accusations that are going on.

So among the things that we are doing is preparing a fairly detailed set of

analysis or diagnosis of the current situation in a frequently asked

questions format that will be made available for the regulatory authorities,

Host: Raymond McDaniel

Page 5

September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

particularly the Fenway Regulatory Authorities, and allow them to help us

with the political side of this equation. So I think that's the more effective

outreach that we have been doing to date, and a lot of what you're seeing

in the paper is the side of this that has been the less effective outreach.

Now why has it been less effective? Well, Brian will give you probably a

ten-minute harangue on why it's been less effective. He's thought about

this much more deeply than I have. But I think, at a summary level, we

have a number of either natural forces or situational forces that are not

operating in our favor.

First of all, we are an umpire in the market, and umpires, at best, are not

favored. They're considered a necessary evil to the game. Secondly, we

are really not a very large or powerful industry. Moody's is a profitable

company. It's a lucrative business, but it's not a large business, and the

ratings industry is not a large industry. And there are forces around us that

have motivation to find someone to blame. And so part of who is to blame

can be attributed to who can we get away with blaming and where are the

more powerful and less powerful players in the marketplace.

Why do folks need to blame someone? Well, if you're a hedge fund, for example, taking 2 and 20, and you're under-performing the S&P 500, you have to have some reason for explaining to people who have given you lots and lots of money why it was a bad idea that they gave you that money. You an either say, well, I wasn't very good at my job, or you can say, it's somebody else's fault. That's just an example of what I think

we're facing.

We also have, I think, a real challenge as far as communicating what our ratings are measuring. What they are meant to do. What our role and function in the market is oriented for, and what it isn't. You can see that much of the criticism about our rating has revolved around the rating, these high rating assignments on structured securities have failed to capture the changes in price movements. The market value of these transactions has plummeted and the rating agencies got it wrong because they assigned investment grade, in many cases high investment grade ratings.

We can talk about the fact that we are measuring credit losses and not market value losses. But it is an issue that broadly the market does not want to hear because the market doesn't have another alternative for

measuring value of these illiquid opaque instruments. So they default to

using ratings, even if we say it's not the best tool to use or it's not a good

tool to use, even if there isn't a better ... so that kind of criticism comes

up.

As far as what else we can do, we've been having those discussions. I'm

of the opinion right now that we are probably best off continuing to

emphasize the one-on-one with the regulatory authorities, with the major

buy side institutions, with the investment banks and sponsors of the

transactions that we rate to help look for solutions. Without those

solutions or the debate playing out ... I don't think that's a particularly

helpful place for the discussion to go on.

What does that mean? Frankly, I think it means we are going to continue

to have negative media. The subprime price is going to play out over

some period of time, at a minimum another six months or so. We are not

going to be able to control the fact that lots of mortgages have to reach

that. We're not going to be able to control the fact that housing prices are

in decline in many areas of the country. That people overreached, which

is a nice way of saying lied in their mortgage application. And that they

won't be able to either refinance or sell or afford their current mortgage,

so they've got some interesting problems that are not going to play out

quickly.

Looking at the subprime crisis specifically, I won't go through all of this,

this is a summary of what we've been communicating, again to regulatory

authorities. We had historically low rates. We had very easy credit

conditions for a number of years. We had official and market based

support for adjustable rate mortgages. It created what I think is an

overdone condition for the U.S. housing. This was a condition that was

supported by U.S. public policy in favor of home ownership. And as I

said, once housing prices started to fall, we got into a condition in which

people can't refi, can't sell, can't afford their current mortgage. That's

why this is going to play out over some period of time.

Now I'm going to stop my comments there, and I know you're going to

have questions that are more particular to what's the outlook for Moody's,

what are we doing about this, how are we managing expenses, how are we

thinking about hiring. All of those questions, I'm happy to talk about, but

I want to let Brian and then Gene, Linda, talk about some of the other

aspects around the current environment situation that we're facing, and

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 9

then happy to talk about some of these more specific questions related to

Moody's. So let me turn it over to Brian.

Brian

Thanks, Ray. A couple things: The first thing is that we're doing a big

town hall on Friday. It's extremely important for each of you to

understand what it is we're doing and how we're doing it because the

message is only going to get out from you. I'm going to be up here as a

talking head. Ray is going to be a talking head, and Linda. We'll be up

here talking about things. People are going to want to know what's going

on, so you have to satisfy yourselves what's going on, so ask whatever

questions you want. We'll try to answer them as best we possibly can.

Ray mentioned that there are different reasons for what's going on. I'm

big in this conspiracy theory, to be perfectly honest with you. Anybody

watch *Conspiracy Theory*, the movie? I can't believe people actually

admit that. That's really....

There's a lot to that. I was actually talking to Ray this morning about that,

and last night, and Saturday. Friday, I called him from Australia. The

question is – one of the questions everybody asks is why does everybody

hate us so much. I mean it's clear that they do. It's clear that we're hated

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 10

in the marketplace. I'm sure that people are very frustrated with respect to

what it is we do. I've got a number of theories.

Certainly none of them are ... short sellers, the people that are actually

shorting bonds. We know that. They're trying for desired outcomes.

There's the people that are shorting Moody's ... looking to sort of make

money by ... our stock price.

But the theory that I've come up with lately is the fact that it's perfect.

It's perfect to be able to blame us for everything. Part of what Ray said is

the fact that we're incredibly small. Ray actually mentioned the fact that

the entire rating industry revenues for a year don't even equal one

quarter's operating income for Goldman Sachs is very telling to me.

The other reason is that by blaming us, you don't have to blame anybody

else. If you take a look at the players in the marketplace, the politicians

can't blame the borrower because that's their constituent. The borrowers

did no wrong.

The investment bankers, well, you can't blame the investment bankers.

They're big. They're powerful. They know what's going on. They've

got clout, and they're also regulated.

You can't blame the mortgage brokers because, if you blame the brokers,

then that means the state regulators sort of were asleep at the switch, and

you certainly can't blame investors. Investors should be able to get

whatever yield they want, whatever rating they want with respect to that.

So we're very easy in the fact that no one controls us, which, by the way,

drives people insane.

Just so you know, I spend a lot of time talking to folks in the market. I

had a conversation with a big hedge fund a couple weeks ago. He came in

with a list of securities he wanted me to downgrade. He had a list in his

hand. He said, "I want you to look at these securities because they're

rated too high." I said, "How many have you shorted?" He said all of

them. It's true. It's the honest to God truth.

He said, "Do you want the list?" I said, "No, I don't want the list." I'm

not trying to make light of this, but at the end of the day, the good news is

it's all about money. That's what it's about. Everybody is trying to

control money and everybody wants to blame people.

If you invested in a hedge fund and you wound up taking it back, it's a lot

easier for the hedge fund managers to say, "I relied on the rating." And

we know that's not true. One of the things that we're looking to do, and I

don't mean to make light of any of this, I want you to understand exactly

what's going on in the market. It's all about money.

When Ray was talking about the misuse of ratings, they're doing it

intentionally. Now we feel as thought there are big steps that we have to

take, and I'll talk about that in just a minute, but one of the things that

we're doing is ... is actually working on a market value rating system or

symbol we can actually use. We're fairly certain that even if we get

something that works, they're not going to use it.

Bank financial strength ratings, for example. We carved that out 12, 13

years ago because we didn't feel as though the alphanumeric system we

had covered that, and people don't use it. I was involved in JDA. You

talked about people, I said, well do you focus on the bank financial

strength ratings? No. We use the alphanumeric.

We've talked to people about the fact that the ratings only represent credit

risk. It had nothing to do with market value risk whatsoever. They don't

care because it's easy to rely on.

Now it's a defensive move with respect to what we're doing. We feel as

though we have to have a product out there because one of the questions

that the regulators ask us, okay, you're on notice now that people are

misusing your rating system. What are you doing about? And so we feel

like we have to be able to provide that.

Now take a step back. Ray talked a little bit about what happens. At the

end of the day, I think that we did an okay job in identifying the risk, but

we didn't do a very good job of measuring the magnitude. I've been

saying that in private meetings. Obviously I'm not going to say that to the

press, but what happened was what we did, we talked about early on how

we actually sort of changed our ... level with respect to subprime

mortgages, 30% over three years. We saw the risk coming. We identified

the risk. We just missed the magnitude.

What's happening in the credit market completely swamped everything

that was done from an analytical standpoint. And three things happened:

Page 14

cheap credit, a decline in housing prices, and tightening credit. The only

thing that we sort of controlled a little bit was the cheap credit and sort of

the underwriting standards that sort of went lack. We should have done a

better job of monitoring that.

But the housing price decline and the tightening of credit completely

swamped everything else. If either one of those had remained, if housing

prices still went up, or if cheap credit, the tightening of underwriting

standards or loosening of underwriting standards was still around, there

wouldn't have been any problem because, at the end of the day, the bad

underwriting, the cheap credit, and housing prices were there in '03, '04,

'05. What happened was that the music stopped in '06.

What are we doing? We're doing what we think we should be doing, and

that's monitoring the ratings on a going forward basis. We spent a lot of

time in the last few months in defensive mode. That's defending our

position, defending the ratings, defending our process, defending what the

ratings mean. Now we have to sort of figure out what we're going to do.

We've got to get into the solutions mode.

I will tell you that we have had meetings with investors. We've had

meetings with issuers. We've had meetings with intermediaries,

regulators, and they all come up with the same question – What are you

going to do about this? How are you going to fix it? – because they don't

have any idea.

Interestingly enough, what issuers want to do, and they've told us

specifically is they want us to sort of tighten things up to a point where the

market still has confidence in the ratings and in the products, but don't

cost us any money. That's true. You guys have been at those meetings.

What investors want is they want total transparency. They want us to

impose total transparency on the marketplace. One of the things that

we've found that investors – there's no sort of uniform investor anymore.

We've got buy and hold investors. We've got marked to market investor,

and never between shall meet.

If we talk to the regulators and what Ray said was true, they all said,

"How are you going to fix it? What are you going to do?" One of the

things that we have to do, while we've done a lot of things with respect to

tweaking and changing our methodology and standards, we've got to be

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 16

more vocal and we have to be more decisive with respect to what we're

doing.

The market is looking for something very visual for us to do. They want

to see something. They want to see us take bold steps to cure the problem.

And just so you know, we're all working on that.

Some of the other things that we're actually doing, there's really a three-

pronged process. They said, "What are you doing?" The first thing I

talked about were change in methodology, and that's what we're doing.

We're certainly changing methodologies. We're on notice that a lot of

things that we relied on before just weren't true. The problem is, what are

you going to do. At the end of the day, we relied on reps and warrantees

that no loans were originated in violation of any state or federal law. We

know that's a lie. If none were originated in violation of any predatory

lending law, we know that's a lie. So what are you going to do about it?

We can't rely on what people tell us anymore, and so we've got to figure

out, do we rely on third party oversight? We have to have post-closing

audits. We've got to be very public about the things that we actually see.

The second thing is what I refer to as checks and balances. Ray didn't get

into this, but regulators want to know two things from the rating agency,

just two. They want to make sure that we're not corrupt, and they want to

make sure that we do our job as well as we can do our job. And so we

have to demonstrate not just inwardly, but outwardly, those two things.

Checks and balances, what we've talked about is how we've sort of

broken the company in two parts. We've got Moody's analytics. We've

got the ratings business. We have our credit function that now reports up

to the board of directors from the credit standpoint administratively to me,

and other things that we're actually doing, making sure that MDs aren't

involved in fee schedules. That analysts aren't involved in fee discussions

with respect to people.

We have to be very visible with respect to the things that we're actually

doing. They want to see that. They don't want us to just tell them about

our code of conduct.

Then the third thing that we've been talking about are new products that

actually address the risks that aren't covered in the ratings. The thing is

that we have to make pretty bold strokes for people to see what we're

actually doing because they don't like status quo. They want to see

something that they can say, okay, I see that. I mean some of the things

have been suggested, an oversight board. Shouldn't there be a rating

agency oversight board independent of what the rating agencies actually

do? Maybe. Maybe that's something we should consider.

I will say that some of the regulators talked about what are you doing as

an industry and, frankly, not a lot. They said, we don't want a Moody's

solution, just like we don't want an S&P solution or a Fitch solution.

What are the rating agencies doing as an industry, because actually at the

FSA in Tokyo, which, by the way, was just like testifying for two hours

except for the oath, it was. They said, we want to know what the industry

is doing.

Let's say that you do everything you're supposed to, but yet people just go

down the street, go to your competitors. What are you going to do about

that? And so what they're looking for is they're looking for a solution to

things that they kind of know. Nobody knows what we do and how we do

it. What they do know is they know accounting firms, and that's what

they're using. They're using that as a proxy for the ratings business, but

some of those things we're going to have to consider and think about on a

going forward basis.

I know we've only got an hour, and I know we want to have a lot of time

for questions. I'll leave you with this though is that we're in this together

in that how the rest of the company actually reacts will be a direct

reflection on how you actually deal.... And what I mean by that is ask

whatever it is you want to ask. We'll tell you whatever it is you need to

know because, at the end of the day, the analysts and the staff are going to

rely a lot more on what you're telling them than what we're telling them.

And so don't be shy about what it is you want to know. If you want to

know about hiring freezes, we'll tell you about hiring freezes. If you want

to know about expenses, you want to know what we're seeing towards the

end of the year, we're going to get into that.

If there are things that we don't cover that you want to know that are

going to cause people to have angst and worry about what's going on, ask

the question because what I don't want to have is everybody behind closed

doors talking about the stuff that we can provide answers to. You're all

managers. You'll need to run this like a business, and to the extent that

we can sort of belay fears and get people the information, that's what we

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 20

want to. It's okay to be nervous about the stuff you know, but the stuff

that you don't know that we can provide you information for, just ask the

question.

I didn't do any slides, did I?

Raymond

No, but we can skip ... covered the stuff ... so we'll skip ahead to—

We're going to go ahead. Just in the interest of time, we're going to go

ahead up to the communication update, and I think Linda is going to talk

to us about that. Then quickly, both communications and the regulatory

side, we will try to do quickly so we can leave time for Q&A. Linda, to

you.

Linda

After Gene speaks, I'm going to come back and talk a little bit also about

the investor perspective, but in terms of the communication perspective,

now that's fall and everybody is back from Labor Day, we think the right

thing to do is a proactive and assertive media strategy, so we're not just

sitting back and taking all this stuff as it happens. We're out there. We're

talking to everybody. We're highly visible, and we're working through a

number of different strategies.

The first tier is focus on key strategic media. What does that mean? Who

are the decision makers and who can really understand what we're trying

to say? And that's not such an easy thing to do. I've had people, when I

try to explain what this company does, say to me, "What's a bond?"

Those people are not going to be particularly helpful in getting our

message across. We have to be very careful about....

Special comments as news hooks – journalists are looking for new things

to write about, and we have to make sure that we are putting out there

things that are interesting and new for the media, so we have to keep

working on that, and I'll talk a bit more about that as we go forward here.

Continue reacting quickly to requests for information and commentary.

On Friday, we got a call from the Wall Street Journal, on Friday, that they

were contemplating writing a story about our ... what was going to be

examined in some of the regulatory hearings, and they wanted to get into

... compensation and average compensation. We spent a lot of time on

Friday going through what are the accurate numbers for this company

from our public filings to make sure that we have it right. Oftentimes we

have less than an hour to turn around very complicated points of view

from people who already have a position that they want to take and it has

to be done quickly and it has to be done well, and I think that the team is

doing a pretty good job. It's a tough road....

As we said, concentrate on ... media outlets in the next few weeks ... with

a second push in the fall. So in other words, we're going to do one wave

now. We're going to do another wave later because we think the market

may have ... factors, which happen in the next few weeks. So after things

settle down, we'll come back and we'll do it again. And we'll continue

distributing special comments and material to people so that they

understand what it is we're trying to do.

What are the special comments? You see here from illiquidity to liquidity,

the path towards credit market normalization, which will be published this

week. Chris and Pierre worked on that. Financial innovation in its ... and

then how fair is the blame on rating agencies the third week. So three very

proactive pieces that are well thought out that are interesting to read that

actually provide something for reporters....

We're going to do an op ed. piece targeted to the Financial Times because

it has the most sophisticated view of what's going on. We've got to make

sure that's written in clear language. Having trained as a journalist, some

of the things that we write are opaque. Some of the acronyms that we use

are very difficult ... we have to do a better job boiling down our message

to something that is completely understood.

And then frequently asked questions, as Ray talked about, we're working

on those to be written primarily for the regulators, and then to be used in

other forums as well as kind of....

The Financial Times, Julian Teskin interviewed Brian this week. We're

doing an op ed. contribution ... column, and then we're going to have Ray

and the view from the top, which is the Friday Q&A. You probably saw

David O'Reilly last week ... Barclays a couple weeks ago. This is a very

positive CEO forum that also is videotaped and it's on the FT Web site as

well.

With the Wall Street Journal, Serena Eng is going to interview Brian ...

mid September, and for the New York Times, which is perhaps one of the

more difficult media outlets, we will continue to send special comments to

Gretchen Morgenson. Again, this may be, as Woody Allen says, the

triumph hope over experience that we will keep at it. And we will invite

various people to talk with us on a continuing basis. And we will consider

an editorial and board meeting after the earnings, which will be October

24<sup>th</sup>. So those are the things that we have underway.

We keep at it. We stay focused. We stay energetic. We stay positive.

And we've just got to keep walking through this every day and we can't

let any one-day's press coverage have you overreact.

Broadcast and teleconferences with the media, we need to move more

effectively into TV. We are putting together a TV station in ... it will be

ready in mid October. That will provide us with the opportunity to have a

live feed onto CNBC, Bloomberg Television, and other TV outlets. We

have to think more about who is going to do that, what we're going do,

how we're going to handle it, but we will have the capability to do it.

Some of you have commented that the SEC is more aggressive in terms of

using television.... We need to think that through a little bit more. We'll

be doing that in the next few weeks.

You see here the capital markets initiative, which increased our presence

on ... Bloomberg, and.... We'll consider Ray and Brian for those pieces,

and you have seen very effective outreach, for example CNBC on Friday

... number came out. Mark Sandy participated very effectively with the

group there, and he and Don ... been very effective for us....

What are we doing also in terms of running the communication function?

We have put together, under my oversight ... ratings communications and

also corporate communications. It's very important that we're

coordinating globally as to what we're all doing and we all know what

each other are doing daily because it changes hour-to-hour and moment-

to-moment. We are looking for a new VP of ... Richard continue to do

what they're doing. Their teams continue to do what they're doing, but

we think we might need somebody who has clout and perhaps experience

with financial services.... Some of you will be looking to interview these

candidates as they come through, and we hope to get that done quickly.

We have a search firm doing that now. We're getting good response, and

you'll be hearing more about that.

Externally, we're doing a communications audit led by a group called

Selmen & Partners. This guy is well known in the media space and in the

top 25 reporters and editors. What do they think about what we're doing?

What do they think would be better? How could we handle this more

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 26

effectively? What's our positioning? What's our competitive positioning

and so on? That's the external piece.

On the internal piece, a number of you have been surveyed about what you

think about ratings communications, how is that working, how is it

working globally, what could we do better. We need your input.

Everybody in this room is part of the solution and have to drive what

we're doing going forward. We need your help with writing things. We

need your help ... observations and criticism. We need to know what

you're hearing, and we need to have a two-way discussion about what's

going on here.

Then on the next front, Gene is leading the regulatory piece, which fits in

with what we're doing in communications, putting together one overview

calendar of everything that's working together, so we can see what's

happening when. With that, I'll turn it over to Gene.

Thanks, Linda. I think fortunately for the group, Ray and Brian have

covered most of the messages in the regulatory section, so I can go

through this quickly. I thought I would at least lay out for you on one

piece of paper, and we just have ... one piece of paper.

Gene

Many of the observations, criticisms, misinformation that we're hearing,

as we meet with regulators, with politicians, and I think as Ray said,

meetings with regulators are generally very salient. They have some sense

of what we do, of our role in the financial markets. Politicians are a little

bit more challenging. Certainly one reason is there are a lot more of them

in the U.S. We have about 500 politicians that we could potentially be

dealing with in Washington whereas there may be five regulatory and

policy making authorities.

But these are some of the things that we're hearing: the role and meaning

of ratings, as Ray mentioned. There appears to be quite a lot of

misunderstanding about what our ratings do and don't do. Accuracy of

ratings, especially in the subprime area, didn't you get it wrong ...

questions about that? The ratings process and especially what they think

of as due diligence. Are you skeptical enough when you are receiving

information from issuers? What are you doing to verify that information,

etc.?

Lots of questions about monitoring: What is our process? Is it robust

enough? Do we have enough resources? Have our rating changes in the

subprime area been timely enough?

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 28

Transparency, which I think is a particularly difficult criticism because we

believe that we've made great strides in the last several years in increasing

the transparency of our methodology for rating actions, etc. I think it turns

out that maybe not enough people are reading what we publish, and some

regulators that we meet with are actually surprised that we publish our

methodology.

So one of the struggles I think we're going to have is thinking about how

do we take all of this information that we have really published to focus on

the technical experts and the practitioners in the market and how do we

transform these things or at least supplement them with communications

that all of the other constituents can understand, and that they'll actually

take the time to read it.

Conflicts of interest is another big theme. The issuer pays model

continues to be a subject of debate, although a very important point we've

been making is that as long as rating agencies get paid by somebody who

has a position in the capital markets that are going through conflict and the

real question the people should be thinking about is how we manage the

conflicts, not who pays us.

And there has been a lot of discussion about the so called iterative nature of structured finance, the fact that there may be some back and forth on structured finance transactions, as issuers or arrangers are presenting their transaction structures, and we're giving feedback on the rating implication, and doesn't this kind of interaction with an issuer compromise your independence. These are some of the issues that we're dealing with, and we are, as Linda mentioned, working on a set of FAQs that is targeted initially to regulators that will address all of these type questions we're getting.

Now I'll just very quickly go through with you the landscape and the key geographies in which we operate, so you can get a better understanding of what we're dealing with. Brian mentioned, we spent a lot of time in Washington meeting with the key congressional offices that deal with rating agencies and that's ... members of the senate banking committee and house. It's the members of the financial services committee, so those are the people who are the influencers, the decision makers who are going to be crafting whatever legislation may, over time, come at us.... We've been spending a lot of time meeting with the congressional offices and a lot of it is educational, again explaining our role, explaining what happens

in the subprime area, talking about what we are trying to do to enhance

our processes.

But importantly, also advising. We find that in a lot of meetings, people

ask us, what ideas do you have on how we can solve these problems. So

we are trying very hard to be in the role of an advisor as opposed to being

a target in a congressional hearing. I don't think we can completely

escape being a target, but hopefully ... a number of targets.

We've already participated in two hearings, and Warren Cornfield is no

worse for the wear, I'm happy to report. He represented Moody's in both

hearings. And there are probably going to be more hearings. There will

be a hearing in the house. I believe it will be conducted by the

subcommittee that's handling the subprime issues as opposed to the full

committee, which we think is ... subcommittee level. That hearing will

probably be end of September, early October, based on what we're

hearing at the moment.

And there will probably be another hearing in the senate in which rating

agencies will participate as witnesses. So those are very important

opportunities to get our messages across, but also to directly address some

of the ... that we're getting. And I think Warren would tell you, it's a

little bit difficult sometimes to get our messages across in the hearings

because often the members who are asking questions are happy to get their

sound byte into the press and then move onto the next issue without ever

focusing on the substance, so we're trying there.

And right now there is proposed legislation, both in the house and the

senate, relating to subprime. At this point, the proposed legislation deals

mainly with the mortgage lending process, as opposed to the securitization

process or anything that has to do with rating agencies. There will

probably be more legislative proposals that are offered by various

members of these committees over the next few months.

At the SEC, as we all know, the ink is barely dry on the rating agency

reformat, and the SEC has not yet approved ... NRSROs under the new

laws. That will be happening in late September. So the SEC is going

through the process of reviewing rating agency applications, and we're

still frankly talking with them on how to implement some of the rules with

some of the record keeping requirements. But on the other hand, they're

also focusing on the subprime issues, looking broadly at market

participants, including rating agencies. And I should note that the SEC

has always had infection authority over rating agencies ... previously registered as an NRSRO under the investment advisor ... so they can use the infection authority they have ... have discussions with us, etc.

There's also another group involved, the president's working group on financial markets ... potentially chaired by the heads of the SEC, the ... the major policy making agencies that deal with the financial markets. President Bush has now asked them to review the subprime issue and its affect on the financial markets, including the role of securitization and the role of rating agencies, so there may be some additional meetings and questions that we get in that regard.

In Europe, I guess over the last few weeks were a flurry of press reports about a special investigation that has been initiated in Europe. And as you note on the last bullet point on this chart, and I think we've put this in an internal communication, there is no special investigation, contrary to the implications in the press reports. What's happening in Europe is that the European Commission for 2006 provisionally endorsed a self-regulatory model for rating agencies based on the ... code. And although there's been an awful lot of attention on rating agencies, political as well as regulatory, at this point the European Commission, we believe, is

refraining from further action. They're going to let their established

processes work their course, so CESR, the Committee of European

Securities Regulators is in the process of conducting their second annual

review of rating agencies.

We've been working with them, responding to questions. They have

previously announced they would specifically focus on structured finance.

They published a survey back in June for any interested party to respond

to. And they've since extended the survey deadline twice. I think it's

expiring today, we hear because they've gotten very little in the way of

responses. So we'll see what the responses to the market survey are when

they're published on the CESR Web site.

We're going to be meeting with the CESR rating agency group in the

beginning of October, as will each other rating agency that they're

reviewing. And they're going to publish a report in April of 2008, and we

would guess that the European Commission would hope to wait until

CESR publishes their report before they decide what else they should be

doing.

There has been talk in parliament about rating agencies. We have some

national regulators who have gone on record criticizing rating agencies,

but I think, more importantly, expressing concerns about transparency in

the financial markets, and we were just sort of an add-on to the

transparency....

So in Europe, we are really waiting until the CESR process is finished.

We hope we will wait until then to see what the European Commission

and other policymakers think about rating agencies at that point in time.

Japan, the financial regulator there, the FSA, announced earlier this year

that they were considering greater oversight of rating agencies and that

they would observe the U.S. process. We still think that's what they're

doing. Certainly there's additional focus on subprime, a little more

political pressure than there had been. But we believe they are still

observing the U.S. SEC process and then deciding what....

I think that, as Ray said, the regulators tend – they don't want to overreact

and implement new regulation without thinking about what it means and

what the consequences will be. The politicians are a little bit harder ...

and we're still focusing on the one-on-one meetings, as Ray said, to try to

get our story across in a non-public way, and in a way in which people have a chance to ask questions and understand.

IOSCO is another key part of this. IOSCO, earlier in 2007, did what I think of as a desktop review of rating agency compliance with their code. They essentially took any rating agency that had a published code of conduct and compared it with the IOSCO code. And they issued a consultation report with largely favorable conclusions. Based on what we've heard, they will not issue a final report until they conduct their review of rating agency's role in structured finance, which again they have announced earlier in 2007. So this is not precipitated by the subprime issue, but it certainly is good timing in their view.

And they're doing that review in conjunction with the BIS, the taskforce on the global financial markets. They're starting their review in mid September. We're having the first meeting is in Washington, and each rating agency will make a brief presentation on the structured finance process and rating agency's role in structured finance. And we hope that the IOSCO process will be a cooperative one, as was the process ...

IOSCO code was developed. And I think a big objective in the IOSCO process is to think about whether any modifications to the IOSCO code

might be required to deal with the structured finance rating process as opposed to the fundamental process. So we hope we can participate in

that process, as they're thinking about all this.

involved in this.

Then another thing that's happening is the G-7 meeting in October in Washington. An important topic of discussion again will be the transparency of the financial markets, and they have indicated that they will include a discussion of rating agencies. So a lot of what we're doing right now is pursuing dialog with all of these interested parties. We have the securities and financial markets, regulators. We have the finance ministries in advance of the G-7 meeting. We have the legislators and politicians, which are a little bit more difficult to reign in, and importantly, our senior business line and executive management have been very

Members of our structured finance, senior management have been ...
looks very tired, but they've been to the SEC. They've been to
congressional offices. Brian was in Japan, Australia. Ray and Brian were
in Europe. ...Kreegler and Don Carter were at the Ontario Securities
Commission with me, as well as ... Michael Kane, whatever he is. He's
been traveling a lot. So we are getting the right people in front of these

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 37

parties so that we can explain things from a perspective of how we operate

our business and give them whatever information they might be interested

in, as they're asking their questions. So this is taking a significant

investment in senior management time, but it's certainly something we

have do.

And importantly, as Brian said, one of our main objectives is to participate

in ... solution, which we think we're making progress, but we certainly

have a lot of work left for us to do. Now I'm going to turn the podium

back over to Linda in our tag team. Should you tag me, Linda, before you

come up?

Investor relations update, Lisa Westlake is presently out in Singapore.

She and I and various other people are speaking with investors in Asia.

This week, we are hitting Singapore, Hong Kong where Jennifer will join

us. We're going to Soul, and then we're going to Japan where Kay will

join us, and we'll be speaking with literally dozens of investors.

We're interested in going to Asia because Asia investors tend to be longer-

term focused. They ask us hard questions like what are going to do in the

next three to five years, instead of what are you going to do in the next

Linda

three to five minutes. U.S. investors are primarily interested in the next

quarter. ...going to Canada, going to Europe, which we're going to do

again in the first week of October. It's very, very beneficial, and we've

had very good success in leading the efforts to get international investors

in our stock, which is very important to counteract the activity of the

shorts, which I'll talk about more in a minute.

Now how is the Street viewing Moody's right now? People usually find

these slides interesting. We have previews here from Goldman, Morgan

Stanley, and William Blaire. Goldman has a balanced view that in a

context, Peter Rapid says, of flowing new issue volume, uncertain credit

market environment, and decelerating earnings growth. They don't see

rush to own the shares, despite what they think is an attractive valuation

and a solid business model, so Peter is a little bit on the fence here.

The next major conference that we have is September 19<sup>th</sup>. It's the

Goldman conference here in New York where Ray will be doing a sort of

Q&A, fireside chat format with Peter Rapid. Now that date, September

19<sup>th</sup>, is very important. It follows the Fed meeting by one day. So Ray is

going to have to have support and interesting things to say about what is

Host: Raymond McDaniel

September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT Page 39

said and done the day before. So another example of how we have to be

prepared to ... very quickly.

Lisa Monaco from Morgan Stanley believes that we're well positioned,

but that she has underestimated the near term impact on rating agencies,

and she says that the next few quarters will be challenging, which I think

is exactly correct.

Then lastly, getting onto the more bullish side, John Metts with William

Blaire believes that this is an interesting valuation at this point. I like his

quote particularly that we believe this too shall pass, and the fundamental

story has not changed. And he sees that here an uncertainty provides an

opportunity to buy a premier global franchise at what we believe to be a

significant discount to intrinsic value.

So those are three different views. One is sort of a hold strategy. The

second is that the next few quarters are going to be choppy. And the third

is that the stock is on sale.

If you look at where people are in terms of sell, hold, buy, and strong buy,

people are generally moving to the right, which is good. JP Morgan kind

of moving back to the left to a hold strategy. You'll notice that Citibank is not on this chart. The Citibank analysts ... hedge fund, which is something we're seeing more often. He's now with Steinhard Partners and is coming to see us this week from that perspective. UBS seems to have let go of its analysts. They've restaffed coverage. Analysts now have to do more and more and more names to find people who are inexperienced and not know sometimes neither financials nor media companies. Our new analyst at Citibank actually has covered tech stocks, so for Ray and me and Lisa, this is a really interesting challenge because we need to send our ... people, bringing them up to speed on the.... We will be seeing new ratings coming out from Citi and from UBS relatively

What's the full year guidance? At this point, the consensus on the Street, again we're missing Citi and UBS here because they're kind of out of the picture right at this moment – \$2.58, you see that's within our guidance, which is good. The shaded area up there shows the range of guidance that we've put out. And this reflects the new guidance that we've put out as of August 1<sup>st</sup>. So you see the analysts are within our range, which is helpful. Previously, the analysts were ahead of us....

soon, and we're optimistic about that.

Now there's the stock price chart. This is challenging. It's troubling. It's

not where I'd like to be. It's something we think about every single day.

Right now this company has 31 million shares of stock shorted out of

266.9 million shares outstanding. That is an 11% short position. That's a

very difficult situation to deal with, and it's one that we're very, very well

aware of.

Lately, we started to see some investors come in, given the attractive stock

price. It would be helpful if more of the equity analysts ... on the stock

that they're looking for some visibility as to what's going to happen in the

near term, and that is really the challenge that we're faced with right

now....

Here's the five-year stock performance, you see, and the capitalization of

the company is now 12.4 billion shares. ...that we have added some

leverage to the balance sheet. You may have seen the 8-K filing; \$500

million ... we have brought back to the stock actively. We have a rather

sophisticated share repurchase program, which boils down to when it's

cheaper, we buy more, so we're working on that, and we've been thinking

about a number of other things that we need to do to ... help this situation,

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 42

but it's one that we deal with every single day, and just so you can all rest

assured, it's something that is a challenge ... one that we are working on.

With that, I'll turn it back over to Ray and happy to take any questions.

Raymond

Good. Your first question is what's the outlook for the rest of the year and what are we doing to manage...? The third quarter is interesting for a number of reasons, but on the financial side, the current market crunch didn't really get traction until August. And August is historically a light month anyway, so what we've got, even for the third quarter, is a lack of visibility. A lot of what happens to Q3 is going to come down to how bad, frankly, September is.

We're fine early in the quarter, meaning July, but then with a very light August, in fact, and a light August for comparison purposes year-on-year, we just don't have a lot of visibility, and it's going to depend on how much September drags down what we saw early in the quarter coming out of July.

You saw or you will recall when we did our earnings call at the end of July, we made some fairly significant revisions to our outlook for the full year. We assume significant slowdown in some of the areas of the

structured finance business, slowing activity in the leverage loan market

and high yield market. We will have to see whether those reductions were

sufficient. I do not expect right now that we're going to find that we were

too pessimistic, but we may have been on target or we may have still been

too optimistic. We won't know certainly until we get the September

numbers....

Don't expect a big recovery in the fourth quarter. As I said before, the

subprime mess is going to be an extended problem because of the resets

that have to occur over the peak period over the next six months. So we're

going to continue to have problems in the credit markets coming from the

subprime markets to the extent that that creates a contagion effective....

So I don't anticipate that we're going to have a strong fourth quarter, and

we did have a strong fourth quarter last year. So the question will be, did

we take down our numbers enough in July, and we don't know yet. That's

the honest answer.

As far as expense management, we have what I would call a soft hiring

freeze in place now. Meaning that there is no hiring without specific

approval from one of four people: Mark Almeida, Brian Clarkson, Linda

or myself. And depending on how well that works, we may or may not

have to go to a hard freeze.

What I encourage all of you to think about and do, if you are looking for

people, is to look inside the organization. And for those of you who are in

areas that are soft right now, think about whether you can make people

available in other areas where we have needs. That is the first line of

defense against us having to take more drastic action in keeping the

activities that need to occur occurring. So I very much need you to speak

with your friends in the room, as you have hiring needs or as you have

excess resource and capacity, so that we're making use of the people who

are already in the building to the best of our ability.

2008 I think is going to be challenging for us in part because the first half

of 2007 was the strongest we had in five years. So there's not a fix that I

think is available to us in the short run to put a lot of points on the board. I

don't expect to put a lot of points on the board in the fourth quarter, and I

think the first half of 2008 is going to be equally challenging. Again even

if the recovery starts to come through in early 2008, it's because the

comps are going to be very difficult, the year-on-year comps. I guess the

good news is, the second half of 2008 probably should be much more

promising ... so there's the silver lining.

As far as how we will react to that from an expense management

standpoint, the most honest answer I can give you is I don't know yet. We

have to try to make ... intelligent decisions about how much of a cyclical

short-term downturn this is or whether there are secular adjustments to the

business. There are some areas of the business, I mean for example the

subprime mortgage business. Until Wall Street figures out a new name

and a new coat of paint to put on subprime mortgages, you're probably not

going to see a lot of subprime mortgages.

And so we have some areas that are either going to be in a longer cycle or

secular downturn, but certainly not credit generally or a credit globally. I

mean even in the U.S., I don't expect to see the broad credit crunch ... a

long period of time. The nature of credit crunches that we've seen in the

past is that they are very painful, but fairly short lived. And then the

market gets back to work. I suspect we will see that again.

To the extent that is in fact the profile, we have a lot of motivation to

make sure that we have the talent inside the building that's ready for that,

that we are positioned to take advantage of market recovery that will

occur. We may have to make some adjustments at the margins in some

businesses that may not participate in that recovery. But again, I think

that's going to be at the margin.

We will manage expenses carefully. We have that obligation to do so.

You have that obligation to do so. And it may involve – it certainly will

involve non-personnel, non-compensation management, things like offsite

parties, travel, and entertainment. All of those things are the first things

we look at when we're managing our expenses. We are not going to be

having any offsite for the rest of this year. We are not going to be having

divisional or departmental holiday parties. We will try to protect the

Moody's corporate wide holiday party, so that people can be thanked,

frankly, in some sort of positive way for the hard work they've done in a

difficult environment, but we'll see.

We may have to, as I said, continue with a hiring freeze for some period of

time. We may have to allow attrition and not replace all of our turnover

positions. Depending on how bad things are, we may have to look at

whether we need to cut personnel, but there are a lot of things we're going

to look at before we get to that point, and we're going to watch what's

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

007/9:00 a.m. EDT Page 47

happening in the market, and not just what's happening today, but what

we think is going to be happening in 2008 so that we are not caught short

in a market recovery.

I'm not going to be caught short. That's just as bad as overspending in a

downturn. So we're going to be intelligent about this. I need your help

along the way because there is almost no visibility right now, and as you

talk to the structured teams, what's in the market, what's going to happen

the next six weeks. They're not stupid people, but they don't know. So

we're dealing with that kind of ... and we're just going to have to live

with it.

What other questions do you have?

The only thing I wanted to add is the goal is not to starve the businesses.

That is the goal in I've talked to a lot of the senior folks about what your

needs are. You have needs with respect to specific talents or skill sets.

Let us know. I mean it's a soft freeze. A good example is Russian banks.

We okayed hires for that because we don't have that skill set within the

company. What I am seeing is that not everybody is looking that hard yet

with respect to who is inside the company, who is outside the company.

It's always easier to go outside and everybody thinks they need everybody

they actually do. We need to break down the silos with respect to that....

You really need to do that, and I can't do this by myself, and neither can

the SMB or even GMB. You've got to talk to each other to figure out

what it is you actually need, whether or not we have it internal because

we've got a lot of skill sets internally. For example, language skill sets,

analytical skill sets. All you have to do is talk to people and figure out

what it is you actually need. Again, you want to make sure that when

you're talking to your staff that you're talking about things intelligently.

We want to be as efficient as we possibly can be.

I had a town hall in Tokyo and they asked me. They said, "Are we going

to be laying people off?" I was as honest as I possibly could be. I said

that's the last thing we want to do. And the reason it's the last thing we

want to do is that we've got a lot invested in the staff that we actually have

to actually let them go and then try to hire them back and try to train them

up again makes no sense whatsoever.

And I said, but that said, if 50% of our business goes away, we'll do

whatever we have to do. And I think they were fairly satisfied with that,

but you want to let people know we're trying very hard to make good,

intelligent decisions. I got a call from somebody who is fairly senior. He

says, can I still have an offsite. I said, sure, you can have an offsite if you

want. You can't have any analysts though. The thing is that everybody

has a budget. You have dollars you can actually spend. If you really think

the offsite is better than having analysts, you're probably not the guy I

want or the person I want running that business. ...things you should be

thinking about.

I was talking to Andrew, wherever Andrew is, about should we ... hire

people, should we be using headhunters? Get used to it. WE spend

millions of dollars on headhunters each year. I'd rather spend it on

analysts. If you're asking me how I want to run the business, I want every

dollar going to analytical capacity first. Cookie parties, holiday parties,

all that kind of other stuff, excess travel, I'd just assume set that aside until

you have things come back to normal. So just together, focus on what

we're actually doing to talk to each other. Some people actually do it very

well, and other people don't. And you have to figure out a solution to

them that makes sense.

What's most on your mind that we haven't addressed or haven't addressed

to your satisfaction?

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE Host: Raymond McDaniel

September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 50

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The fact that maybe we finally have to come together with an industry advocate. Historically we've tried to maintain independence and each of us seems to have a different agenda possibly on minor points. Have you moved forward and reached out to our industry colleagues yet?

Raymond

Yes. There has been some limited reach out. We need to probably do more. I think there are really two reasons why we have been so reluctant about this, this past.... One is it's a very small industry, and a small industry gets very different regulatory ... antitrust grouping, so even what you can do in a large fragmented industry as far as business associations is more difficult to do in a concentrated industry. So we're very cautious about that, probably too cautious historically in terms of balancing the various risks....

The second thing is our industry doesn't really agree with each other very much about many important topics. Standard & Poor's, Fitch, and Moody's probably argue about as many issues for confronting our industry as we agree. So it may not be the most effective business association.

Above that though, if we're going to have or volunteer or construct some kind of oversight board, an industry based oversight board, you've got to

**Host: Raymond McDaniel** September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 51

come together as an industry in terms of making that decision. This is

what Brian was talking about. We're getting a lot of commentary from

regulators, especially outside the U.S., I think, that that would be a good

idea. It demonstrates a bold move to have an oversight function like a –

think of like public accounting oversight and without the regulators or the

legislators having to actually do something. What they can do is bless

something we have done.

And so if we're going to go with that kind of a bold move, which we are

talking about ourselves internally, we've got to get the industry together

and have that kind of discussion because there's no way Moody's can

create an oversight board.... Yes. Nothing is off the table right now, and

even some things we've been very reluctant about in the past, I think we

have to go down that....

Other questions? Yes, Greg?

Greg

Actually, I was interested, Ray, to hear your belief that the first thing in

the minds of people in this room is the financial outlook for the remainder

of the year. Maybe a represent a subset of the group that doesn't speak

with a whole, but my thinking is there's a much greater concern about the

**Host: Raymond McDaniel** September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 52

franchise. Every one in this room is a long-term investor, for sure. This

slide speaks to the value of that. It's disheartening, for sure, every day to

be faced with what's going on in the press, to see what's gong on with the

stock price.

By far though, I think that the greater anxiety being felt by the people in

this room and certainly the greater anxiety being ... by the analysts is

what's going on with the ratings and what the outlook is and what the

unknowns are about the quality of the retains, specifically the severe

ratings transitions we're dealing with an rating transitions from a very

high level, and uncertainty about what's ahead on that, the ratings

accuracy. We've spoken to it obliquely, but it would be helpful if maybe

you or anyone could speak to what's going on as far as rating

methodology, management, what we should anticipate ahead.

Raymond

No. I'm happy to do that. We were talking on our way into this meeting

saying, our expectations, so the two things that would most be on people's

minds are what's the financial outlook and the expense management

outlook for the company, and then what is the business condition of the

company. And I will try to answer this question, but John may not like

Page 53

this. But I plan to send around to all of the MDs later this week the FAQ

document that we have created and are in the final stages of tweaking.

This FAQ document does not talk about the financial performance or

outlook of the company at all. It is focused on the professional practice of

the business, our position of the business, what we think we've done right,

what we think, not that we've done wrong, because John says we've done

nothing wrong, but what we can improve. I think is going to be, one, a

candid, and two, thoughtful piece that you can turn around and use in

conversation with analysts, issuers, investors, etc. ... a very complete, I

think very robust set of thoughts around the professional practice side of

the business....

That being said, our business position I think is still extremely strong, and

we may come out of this in a stronger position than we went into it. First

of all, people talk about, I mean one of the things that is most ... most

upsetting to me and probably to all of you is all of the speculation about

... the industry is corrupt. They've worked with the bankers. They assign

high ratings. They do it because they get paid more money, etc.

September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

accusation to make. There is not one in the media, and not just of us, of

anyone in the industry having actually engaged in a corrupt practice.

A couple of things: One, you notice no one, no one has a specific

What they assume is that it must be bad somewhere. We don't know

where, but it must be bad somewhere.

The reason they think that, I don't know. Maybe because they're all bad

and they assume that we must be because they are. They're not going to

find anything at Moody's in terms of corrupt or bad actions. I feel very

confident of that. Again, looking for silver lining, remember we had the

New York attorney general's office in here 18 months ago and what they

were looking at was residential mortgage backed securities, and they went

away. It's not as thought we haven't had the books and records and e-

mails and deal documents and all of that scrutinized. We have.

We also have, I think, a fairly sophisticated regulator in the SEC that

doesn't buy what it reads in the paper. These people understand us to a

level that is much better than what you see in the media, and so I don't

think we are going to be facing a situation where we have bad actions that

are going to become public or that cause us additional regulatory

heartache or anything of that....

September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT Page 55

And so that leaves the question of, okay, coming out of all of this, if we are not corrupt, have we demonstrated the proper independence? Can we make that visible? And are we competent? And the question around competence is this gets back in part to the market education piece. Are the ratings doing what we say they're doing, measuring credit loss effectively? I think what we're going to find is that we had a very unusual, unexpected performance vintage for a part of the structured finance market and that, because of the nature of structured security, they are homogeneous assets packaged together, put into limited operating vehicles. You know what? If there's a problem, they all are going to perform in the same direction at the same time and you can't avoid that.

That's why 2002, 2003, 2004 all I think materially outperformed in the mortgage backed area our expectations. You can look at it that way. We engaged in massive type 2 error for three years in a row in the mortgage

Not because the ratings are bad or good, but because the assets all move in

a herd.

backed securities area.

In structured finance, what happened? You look at the security by year, by vintage. You don't do that in corporate finance. Nobody talks about

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 56

the 2004 bonds issued in the corporate finance area or the financial

institutions area, and so what you're doing is disaggregating the structured

securities market into a much more fragmented or slight set of securities

than you had on the corporate side. Deployments in the structured finance

market is going to be much, much better if you look at it the way you look

at corporate bond ratings, which is what's outstanding. What are the

defaults for everything that's outstanding? If you take the last ten years

worth of residential mortgage backed securities and the issuance that's still

outstanding and you look at the problem area, performance isn't going to

look that different than what you see in the corporate area, but that's not

how people are looking at it right now, so that's one of the things we have

to deal with.

Our performance is going to, I believe, reveal to be much better than

market prices would imply currently, and yet the 2006 ... is going to be

worse than our expectations. It's going to create a lot of pain for us, as we

work through that. Brian, I don't know if you want to add anything to ...

question.

I think you were talking about specifically with respect to the ratings ...

basis. I think that was the other part of this question. And we've got a

Brian

separate monitoring team set up by Nick ... who is monitoring all the

ratings, all the '06 vintage on a going forward basis. Frankly we don't

know and the reason we don't know is because, as Ray said, we're in the

middle of reset.

We are talking to all the servicers to figure out what their plans are. I can

say that what we're hearing so far is not all that encouraging with respect

to what they plan on doing. If in fact they're going to perform worse than

we currently think, we will continue to downgrade securities. As Ray

said, they do move together.

What we found so far, and this may not bear out towards the end, but we

found out is that we have a barbell affect. You've got the '06 vintage that

I would still say the majority of the securities in the '06 vintage are

performing within expectations. What we are seeing is at the other end of

the barbell, we've seen some pretty horrific performers.

The best example is Long Beach where, if you take a look at their '05

vintage, which is tracking 4%, 5%, their '05 vintage, which you know is –

I don't know if the volume is with respect to this – tracking at about 4%

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 58

loss. Their '06 vintage is tracking at 16% to 17% loss. If you take a look

at the pool, they look pretty close if you look at all the pool factors.

There's a lot of fraud that's involved there, things that we didn't see. I

mean when we'd be able to do ... forward basis, we're going to talk.

We're taking a look at our methodologies and our approaches. We're sort

of retooling those to make sure that we capture a lot of the things that we

relied on in the past that we can't rely on, on a going forward basis.

But the take home is, if it's worth ... and the quick answer is we don't

know how it's going to be two to three years from now. We have to take a

look at the next six months to see how the resets are going to come in.

Now that doesn't mean the losses have to come in for us to take action. If

in fact we see that there's not going to be a lot of modification as the resets

come in and losses are coming in, we'll project that out and make

assumptions....

Raymond

It's actually quite interesting that we're being asked to figure out how

much everybody lied. That's really what we're being asked to do. I mean

if all of the information was truthful and comprehensive and complete, we

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 59

wouldn't have an issue here. And if all of the information was inaccurate,

there would be no information. There would be no securities market.

What we're really being asked to do is figure out how much lying is going

on and bake that into a credit ... which is a pretty challenging thing to do.

I'm not sure how you tackle that from a modeling standpoint.

Other questions? Yes.

W

...with regulators and with investors. How about issuers?

Raymond

I have not been focused on the communications initiative with issuers, but I think that that has been handled much more comprehensively directly at the group level. I don't know if ... or Claire or anybody wants to comment on that. But for example, the servicer survey, talking to all of the services in the market and arrangers, talking to the bankers, the issuers about what their expectations are for issuance, that level of conversation is certainly going on. I don't know if you mean something different like asking them how much they've been lying to us or something like that.

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 60

Yes. First of all, we have been doing some of that, even at a more

generalized level. One major rating advisor on the Street contacted Chris

and was looking for some ... feedback. And I think we will be taking that,

again probably working off of this FAQ document, and getting some more

macro points of view out into these guys' hands, again because to the

extent that we've got some ... out there, we want them to have the tools to

answer the criticisms.

This is actually why we drafted the FAQ was because we got an invitation

from some regulatory authorities in effect saying we think we can help on

some things, but we need the terminology and we need your points of

view if we're going to be able to help. I think that's very similar with

rating advisors and with some of the more influential banks ... but really

the intermediary community especially.

You just mentioned that people out there are looking for us to measure

when people are lying. Have we considered turning that into a business,

effectively measuring the incentive? It seems to me that this problem is

the incentive structure where people are incentivized to lie.

M

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 61

Brian

We think we can make a business out of measuring how much people lie for the incentives.

Raymond

No. Brian was saying, in effect we're going to have to, and whether that's part of the existing business, and obviously when we talk out in the market, we don't say gee we need the liars. But what we say is look it's the same thing we said.... We've got to be more skeptical. We've got to doubt what we're hearing more aggressively than we might be inclined to, but it is difficult to try to calibrate how much information is good information and how much is bad, especially if people – I mean it's one thing to say, they're only giving us the positive story. We understand that ... but if they're breaking the law, which they are doing, I mean they are violating reps and warrantees. There is a body of thought that lying to a rating agency in contemplation of a security ... is a violation of federal securities law. People are doing that, and so it is going to be a challenge.

I think the way it gets handled most practically is you recalibrate for how bad you think the information is and add credit enhancement to that, at least in the structured finance area. It's a practical solution to a conceptual or philosophical problem that it's not the most satisfying answer, but it may be the only answer available.

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 62

W

...include those incentives in our own ratings of the credit of the

underlying, I think one of the things that he's thinking about is exposing

some of those incentives on a going forward basis to say, we're rating this

and here are some of the incentives that are behind it at each point in the

process of creating that product. Is there a market for that? Is there

somebody out there who would want to know that, because we're in a

position of being able to see that along the way?

M

Yes. Please.

Raymond

The thing that I would add is, we've mentioned this before, the silver

lining is when you have this type of market disruption, there's always an

opportunity to do something different. What happens is, as long as things

are going extremely well, no one cares. You may or may not know, but

the last few years, we tried to put some products out into the marketplace

that sort of dealt with this issue, transaction government assessment for

structured finance when you take a look at the contracts themselves and

the protections that are there, and you sort of opine with respect to how

good they are, how safe they are, how many there are. No one cared.

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 63

We talked about trustee ratings. We thought that was something that

made sense. Are the trustees doing what they should do? Do they have a

fiduciary responsibility? No one cared.

And so what happened was, it was a slippery slope. As you see markets

that are robust, an example would be what happened recently in

commercial mortgages, or more importantly what happened with

subordinated traunches in residential mortgages in '04 and '05. What

happened in '04 and '05 with respect to subordinated traunches is that our

competition, Fitch and S&P, went nuts. Everything was investment grade.

It didn't really matter. It's all going into CBO.

We virtually rated, what, 20%, Michael?

Michael

Twenty-five.

Raymond

Twenty to twenty-five percent of that market. We tried to alert the

market. We said we're not rating it. This stuff isn't investment grade. No

one cared because the machine just kept going.

In commercial mortgages recently, we actually sort of increased our credit

enhancements. We lost 50% of our coverage with respect to that, and so

this is an opportunity for us to say, okay, what is it that we're going to

need to see on a going forward basis? What are the things, the checks and

balances that weren't in place that are in place now? Some of the things

that we're thinking about are things like third party oversight, a post-

closing audit. This is the time to make things stick.

The same thing happened after Enron. After Enron, we were able to sort

of take a fresh look at the marketplace and say these are the things that, on

a going forward basis, we're going to have to see ... rating. We have to be

very visible about it. We have to be very decisive about it. We have to be

very open about it.

In some cases, it may be that because of the lack of robustness or truth in

the information we're getting, we're going to have to say no. We can't

rate this until we start seeing these things. I think that's what the market

expects from us. Yes, there is an opportunity. We just have to figure out

how to get there and make sure that we're letting the regulators know this

is what we're doing. Yes. Things like transaction government

assessment, trustee rating, post-closing audit, getting due diligence

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 65

information in-house. We can actually say now we have to have that

without anybody sort of saying, we don't really care anymore. The

market....

W

My question is, given the stock price, given where it is right now, are we

concerned about a takeover?

Raymond

Linda.... We actually were – I at least was more concerned about a

takeover when we were up around \$18 billion, \$19 billion and the

market.... There was a lot more money available for takeovers in that

market. And the difference between the \$12 billion market cap and a \$19

billion market cap for the folks that would think about taking us over is

pocket change.

But one of the interesting correlations here has been that as our market cap

has come down, the ability to leverage has come down. And so someone

is still going to have to write a very sizeable check if they want to have a

takeover of Moody's, and we still have a very concentrated holding. Our

top ten investors hold about 50% of the stock, not quite, but almost 50% of

the stock.

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 66

That doesn't mean you can't persuade a couple big investors that they

want to sell, but they are certainly, I mean as our board would, I would

think our big investors would say, "Look. It's interesting that you want to

take Moody's over at 45, but we're going to look at where the stock has

traded over the last two years ... think about what the value, the intrinsic

value of this firm is, and you can add a premium onto that." That would

be my guess in terms of how both the board and large investors would

react. It's not a point in time. It's what do we think the intrinsic value is.

Where is it going to be two years from now?

Although not being a public company wouldn't be all bad.

M

We've always been very successful in any court, any legal battles we've

had where people have tried to sue us. In this present environment, is

there a new kind of argumentation being used in any potential lawsuits

that's different than the kind that we've faced in the past?

Raymond

Yes. Well the arguments on the structured finance side would be that

because the process is more iterative, and because frankly people think we

do some things we don't do ... advisory function, that just really doesn't

hold water, but because there's more interaction, we occupy a role that is

not as readily analogous to a publishing, financial publisher with the

traditional first amendment protection. That's the argument.

The response to that is it's still the same process. We are still putting

opinions about the future ... market, and those opinions are being made

available to the general public on matters of public interest, which is

exactly what the first amendment is designed to protect. So I think we still

have very good responses.

There have been some other things like are we an underwriter. Well,

that's an easier issue to tackle. You know, just under black letter wall.

What is the definition of an underwriter? And if you've got a named

underwriter in a transaction, you go looking for other parties who are not

named underwriter, and declare them underwriters, and there's significant

bodies of case law saying we don't do that. We always have underwriters

in the securities that Moody's rates, so a lot of the noise around this I think

is just that, noise. And then there's the component of our ability, which I

think is the more real component of this. Our ability demonstrates that

opinions issued to the public are maters of public interest are the same on

all sides of the business. That's the argument that we're going to have to

make. Is that a fair statement ... summary?

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 68

M

...issues.... What is this underwriter theory, which as Ray more politely

than I would have been, is basically ... from a securities law point of view,

but the other issue is a legitimate issue just because we've been so

fortunate to have virtually no ... in the area of structured finance ratings.

...supplied the same analysis they've applied in the public finance sector,

in the corporate sector for structured ratings. We think any differences are

legally insignificant and we believe they will, but it's just a matter of some

court will decide, hopefully not any time soon, but it hasn't been decided

yet.

Raymond

Hopefully we won't find out.

M

Hopefully we'll never find out.

Raymond

Others?

M

When do we expect going forward from regulatory authorities as far as at

the team MD level? Do we expect to have the SEC coming in and

interviewing lots of people or just what kind of involvement should we be

expecting?

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 69

Raymond

I guess I at least am not sure. Gene or John may have a little better idea on this, but the SEC can kind of do what it wants, and I would imagine that, for example in the subprime area, they're going to want to dig a lot deeper than they are in this sector right now just because of what's happening in subprime. So I would expect it will get down to team MDs and analysts, especially if they find anything interesting. Why was this deal rated this way compared to this deal? What were the differences? They're going to want to go to the person who actually knows what they're talking about. So I think in some areas, we will see that kind of reach down, but not everybody in the company. They just don't have the resources to do that, even if they wanted to.

Yes. Please.

W

I like that. I think as Ray said before, the SEC, the division of market regulation is ... SEC that has historically had purview over rating agencies and they will continue to have that purview under the new regulations.

And there are a few people within the division of market regulations who some of them have been there since the NRSO designation was first created in 1975. So they have individually a 30-year history of dealing with rating agencies. So there are people in the division of market

regulations who have a fairly good understanding of what we do. And, as Ray said, very importantly, they tend to ignore all the noise in the media,

whereas the politicians, for example, feed on what's in the media.

But in terms of inspection kinds of resources, today they really don't have any resource ... specialized in rating agencies. When we've had SEC

inspections in the past and we have had them from time-to-time, they've

been the generalized investment advisor inspection people from the

division of the Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations, and

the division of market regulations is working to hire a few people to

specialize in rating agencies. I don't know if they've gotten there yet. So

we can expect that, over time, their intent is to develop more expertise in

rating agencies ... we'll have to help them, as we've helped them in many

other areas in the past.

But I think it's important in terms of the review that the SEC ...

specifically said that their objective is not to second-guess ratings. It's to

look at the ratings process, the integrity of the process, how rating

agencies manage conflicts of interest. And as Ray said, that will

necessarily involve discussions with people, but it's not to say you rated

this a Baa and we think it should have been a Ba1. Why is that? It's

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 71

more, how did you undertake the process ... consistent in how you're

dealing with issuers, etc.

M I'm just answering every question that I think is meaningful. You joked a

little bit about maybe it wouldn't be so bad to be a private company. If

you think about the distraction, I guess, a necessary distraction that senior

management has to dedicate towards public reporting and all that kind of

stuff, and on one hand how supremely jealous people probably are terrific

performance financially. Yet, at the same time, those people have an ax to

grind with us are ... when they see that terrific performance, right, as far

as how they're getting just a little too much out of me. Is it feasible that it

would be one of the past? Like you said, maybe it was a bold move.

Maybe we have to do something different to remove ourselves from being

the punching bag for our industry at the moment because neither of our

competitors have transparent performance reporting. And again, it just

seems a possible likelihood or opportunity.

Raymond

Well, as far as a management buyout, unless someone is much wealthier

than I am, it's not that feasible. In terms of whether any of our large

shareholders might be interested in increasing their stake, that's a phone

call away. They don't need us to invite them to take a larger stake. They

just have to express their interest, and then it's a matter that the board has

an obligation to consider if they express that kind of interest.

So far, they have not expressed that kind of interest. I think they're

satisfied. I mean they're very stable large shareholders. But we haven't

gotten any inquiries about how about we take another ... company.

Besides, if we weren't public, then the senior management wouldn't have

all these jobs to do. We'd be unnecessary.

I want to thank you very much for your -- Yes. I will thank you for your

patience this morning and then let Brian talk to you. I do want to say

though, what you take out of this room and what you go and talk to your

teams about, your analysts, your support ... about is what Brian was

saying earlier today. You're really the main communication channel.

We'll do an all employee town hall meeting, but what they hear from you

... whether you are feeling positive or not positive, how you are

explaining our business position, all of that primarily what they think is

going to come from you. You're the best antidote to the media attention,

the negative media attention that we are getting because I don't think it's

likely we're going to start getting a lot of ... stories about Moody's

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 73

coming up and congratulating us on the great work we do. So you are our

main conduit for that and I very much appreciate what effort you can

make on that side.

Brian

First of all, tell it like it is. I don't think you have to shy away from telling

people the truth. Be as candid as you can. Where you don't know, tell

them you don't know. If the questions are something that should come up

and we should try and address as a team, let me know. Let someone else

know. And I think people will appreciate it. I certainly appreciate it when

I feel like I'm getting a straight story, and I imagine that's going to be true

throughout the organization. Brian, do you want to—

Yes. I just wanted to echo a couple things that Ray said. Most everyone

in this room has a benefit of experience, and I think the one take home

message that actually was, I think, in your presentation is that this too

shall pass. Chris, how long have you been with the company?

Can you give Chris the microphone?

And I think it's important. I don't want to downplay what's going on

now. It's very serious from a market standpoint. It's very serious from a

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT Page 74

company standpoint. Chris, how many crises have you seen since you've been at Moody's in 22 years? I'm serious.

Chris Probably ten.

Brian Name some of them.

M How many were...?

Chris Quite a few.

Brian Just give us a quick rundown on some of that.

Chris Well we downgraded all of the Money Center Banks twice, three times

really, which wasn't too popular. Chester destroyed the U.S. life

insurance industry, which wasn't too popular. We had, of course, JDA.

We had Enron, WorldCom, the telecom bubble, Virgin Energy, East Asia.

Oh my goodness. I forgot about East Asia. Yes. About every three years.

M (Inaudible.)

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE Host: Raymond McDaniel

September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 75

Chris

Yes. That was a little minor item.

Brian

Yes. The ... investigation, and that's downplaying it. The issue is that most of you in this room have a benefit of multi-crises at Moody's Investors Service. Most everyone else doesn't. Most of the people that report to you don't have that sort of experience. They haven't been through it. And this is real for them. And I can remember the Department of Justice investigation towards ... pled guilty to a single count of obstruction of justice. There were administrative assistants crying in the hallway because they thought that our company was done with because they don't know.

And I think it's very important not to be very cavalier about it. We can laugh about the fact that we've had lots of crises, but a lot of people that report to you have never been through this before. And I will tell you that in all the crises I've been through, this is the worst I've ever seen from a press standpoint. I've never seen press this bad before. And I realize the motivations are different. But at the end of the day, you have to take that into consideration when you're talking to your people. I will tell you, you should be candid, but you should also take it from the position this is the first time they've ever seen it, and for a lot of people it actually is.

Host: Raymond McDaniel September 10, 2007/9:00 a.m. EDT

Page 76

The other thing I want to say is that if there's something that we're

missing, if there's something that you're hearing in your meetings, and I

encourage you all to have meetings with your teams and listen to what

they have to say. If there's something that we're not conveying, if there's

something that we can communicate, let us know. We're happy to do that.

...suggested, outside of the structured finance group, if you want

somebody from ... talk about what happened in subprime or what's going

on, that makes perfect sense. The more information you have, the better

off you are. We've got to communicate. So if there's something we need

to be doing or something we should be telling people, whether it be inside,

outside, let somebody know because we'll get through it. We'll get

through it just like we've gotten through everything else that we've done.

We have to make sure that we restore confidence internally and externally.

And so we have to do this together. That's really all I have.

Thank you, all.

#### Moody's MD Town Hall Feedback - September 2007

## Did the meeting address the topics of greatest concern to you as an MD? If no, please elaborate:

- Franchise risk. Also how stresses are affecting competitors and what that means for us, both good and bad.
- Greg Bauer's question on ratings -- right question, weak answer. The premise of the question was valid as well: many Moody's associates will care more about ratings quality than about short-term financial impact, communication planning or regulatory mgmt.
- Generally, but Greg Bauer's question about "what's still to come" on rating actions should be addressed more proactively up front -- even if the answer is we don't know but we are working hard to stay on top of it. What can we expect in terms of additional rating actions in this area?
- Intermediary outreach.
- Multi-notch downgrades in Structured Finance (SIV's and others) what exactly were reasons for that and what are lessons? Doesn't an Aaa rating also imply a certain low migration risk?
- Perspective on rating transitions: '07SFG vs. historic SFG and CFG. Every time I see an Aaa downgrade, I wonder if our transition stats are way higher in this credit crunch than "normally".
- Really no discussion of why the structured group refused to change their ratings in the face of overwhelming evidence that they were wrong.
- JDA and now sub prime both illustrate that the market wants more out of our ratings than we are providing. They want assets which are rated the same to behave in broadly the same way. If an Aaa rated asset is trading at 80 cents to the dollar it can not be the same as an Aaa rated asset that always trades close to par. Are we intending to refine our methodology to incorporate elements of market risk in our ratings such as: how long has the asset class existed, how liquid is it and how much experience do we have with regard to its behavior under market stress?

#### Did you have questions following the meeting? If so, what are they?

- Are there lessons from Enron/WorldCom that we can point to about how we communicate our role in the capital markets?
- Would like more information on legal implications of the situation
- How much of the planned IT investment will go forward, how much can be deferred without crippling our ability to communicate, send bills etc? Also, what about the Rebranding?
- I think a key issue is how far we can go in accepting part of the blame for having missed something on the sub prime market and then for making massive (5 or more notches)downgradings while adjusting our methodologies constantly but without consultation. It would really help to be able to say that we accept the critic as fair on some isolated issues. After all we say we provide opinions, we don't say we always provide the "right" one.
- Competition
- Very bad transmission over the phone meant that many presentations could not be fully
  heard, and among the questions asked only those of Greg Bauer (when using microphone
  I believe) were understood. Linda Huber and Jeanne Dering were hardly audible as they
  may have been too far away from the microphone.
- How will EPIC wok this year? How likely is it for MD to be paid less than SVPs?

- Who is going to accept responsibility within Moody's for the lack of oversight of structured ratings group?
- In speaking with our largest investors, what have you heard in terms of their confidence in our franchise and their likelihood to hold their positions?
- Yes, mainly how to interpret some of the comments from the perspective of Moody's Analytics.
- Better discussion of the risks of a change in the "issuer pays" model, and how Moody's is addressing that risk.
- When building the expense budget for 2008, if expense reductions are deemed appropriate will all businesses be impacted equally as a percentage, or will budget assumptions be built with an eye towards contribution to revenue and forecasted growth?

## What topic(s) discussed at the meeting did you find most important to your area of the business?

- Expense outlook, What we are doing to "fight back", What we are doing about legal and regulatory issues.
- Plan for communicating to external and internal stakeholders; plan to mitigate op-inc impact by managing expense; commitment to protecting current headcount and cutting it only as "the last thing you want to do" (quoting B. Clarkson)
- expense related discussions and media out reach strategy
- Expense budget, Media strategy, Stock price, Sub prime: what went wrong
- Public relations initiative, financial outlook, legal issue, regulatory status
- Our preparedness to engage and present our views.
- What is our short term communication plan both internally and externally?
- What steps are we taking to address the wider issues relating to what the market expects from our ratings and rating agencies in general?
- Company outlook short and medium term
- Decisions and orientation regarding business operations: spending, hiring, the qualitative read on revenue performance, etc.
- Soft hiring freeze, expense reductions.
- Long-term outlook, hiring freeze
- Reception with Media vs. Regulators vs. Politicians, and our need to propose a solution.
- Regulators' will to control rating agencies
- That we will invest where there are opportunities. I appreciate the fact that we will think about the best course of action for our company rather than a knee jerk reaction to market developments. I am encouraged by the multi-phased plan to address the current challenges and senior management's open-mindedness on how we should react.
- Accuracy of the SFG ratings
- How this situation may provide the opportunity to change how we do our business.
- Regulatory issues
- Regulation related
- Plans for the future
- The discussion concerning the reaction of the regulators to the current situation and management's strategies for communicating with media, investors and Congress. Also the comments with respect to resource and expense management.
- Near-term actions (hiring freeze, layoffs, etc.) Moody's is taking because of the market downturn.
- Media outreach

- I would like to see more specific discussion about how we might address the perceived conflict in structured finance ratings-- what specific steps might be possible for us?
- Need for very conservative expense management.
- The overall view of how Moody's as a company is responding to the sub prime crisis was probably more important than any business unit specific topic.
- Discussion of the regulatory environment. Explanation of rationale for expense reduction.
- Generally, I thought the most important topics were:
  - 1. The active management outreach to the press and regulators, and the latters' responses.
  - 2. The outlook for MCO
  - 3. The perspectives comparing this to past "crises" for the firm.

# What else would you like senior management to address at Friday's company-wide Town Hall Meeting?

- Very little discussion on non-US markets.
- Exercise price of options.
- In the context of the soft hiring freeze, what analysts should expect as regards promotions and raises.
- Needs a positive, non-reactive, upbeat component, both for internal and external
  consumption: something like "we are in the investor protection business, that business
  rests on faultless ethics and world-class analytics. We are proud of our track record in the
  markets we have served over the last 100 years..." It sounds basic but it needs saying; the
  reason to say it inside Moody's is to create the echo outside -- the main audience is
  outside.
- Recognizing that our ratings are credit ratings and nothing more, what really went wrong with Moody's sub prime ratings leading to massive downgrades and potential more downgrades to come? We heard 2 answers yesterday: 1. people lied, and 2. there was an unprecedented sequence of events in the mortgage markets. As for #1, it seems to me that we had blinders on and never questioned the information we were given. Specifically, why would a rational borrower with full information sign up for a floating rate loan that they couldn't possibly repay, and why would an ethical and responsible lender offer such a loan? As for #2, it is our job to think of the worst case scenarios and model them; why didn't we envision that credit would tighten after being loose, and housing prices would fall after rising, after all most economic events are cyclical and bubbles inevitably burst. Combined, these errors make us look either incompetent at credit analysis, or like we sold our soul to the devil for revenue, or a little bit of both. Moody's franchise value is based on staying AHEAD OF THE PACK on credit analysis and instead we are in the middle of the pack. I would like more candor from senior management about our errors and how we will address them in the future.
- More information on regulatory status
- I think the management should try to boost a bit the morale -- saying again that although we're not perfect; our company makes a worthwhile contribution to capital markets.
- The issue of staff retention came up in the Q/A, but it would be useful for senior management to discuss the soft hiring freeze, budget constraints and staff retention directly (it is helpful for people to hear that staff reduction would only be an absolute last resort and that senior management understands the value of our personnel, etc.).
- Do we feel that the reason that aspects of the press are being so critical is not because we are not communicating with them well enough but that they are just not satisfied with our response?

- Maybe how the corporation intend to respond the to the challenge raised by the regulators for providing solutions (in committee, senior management, working groups etc)
- Who can talk about our involvement in Sub-prime, etc? Is it limited to just a few, and the rest should refrain from any comment to the press, or should many more be authorized and trained to deliver our message to many constituents. A game plan for analyst/MD participation (or not) in delivering the message would be helpful.
- How we intend to communicate our views to key intermediaries (and by extension the issuer community).
- Appreciation for the efforts of the analysts especially in the areas that have been hardest hit by the crisis.
- Give more detail on hiring policy, i.e. preference of internal hirings, what is policy for areas which still exhibit significant growth in new rating mandates (emerging markets).
- Please ensure that speakers have microphone on their tie/dress so it can be hear more clearly.
- Emphasis that senior management believes that the analysts in these areas did their best in rating the transactions and that they believe that the accusations in the press about conflicts of interest are baseless
- More comparison of this "crisis" to other challenges in the company's history
- Better discussion of the risks of a change in the "issuer pays" model, and how Moody's is addressing that risk. Also would be good to specifically discuss staffing issues.
- Downgrade of triple A rated CDO tranches
- Compensation, effects of low stock price on keeping people

#### How do you plan to relay the information from Monday's meeting to your team?

- Share some of the points from today's presentation at our group's next team meeting.
- one on one discussions
- I gave a basically upbeat summary at my weekly staff meeting.
- staff meetings and one-on-one meetings
- Team meeting.
- In-person meeting with the whole team followed up by one-on-ones where relevant.
- Nothing to relay.
- During regular team briefings. Informal discussion group on all topics raised
- I will address each team staff meeting this week and stress the long term fundamental strength of the franchise and encourage all to ask me questions
- Appropriate content will be relayed at team meetings.
- Has already been added as an agenda item in my team meeting set for 9/11. Will specifically encourage everyone to attend Friday Town hall.
- Meetings and one-on-one
- We are meeting tomorrow 9/10 to relay the information and to give our analysts time to think up the questions they would like to ask on Friday.
- implore them to participate in the town hall meeting and reinforce thoughts at our next team meeting
- Holding small meetings (3-4 person a time) with all the team members. This will give more opportunity to ask questions.
- Via team meeting after they have heard Friday's meeting.
- Ray is personally meeting with my team tomorrow (coincidental).
- I have regular team meetings where I will relay the information (but will wait for Friday's townhall)
- We will likely have a team meeting to discuss some of the points made