

AGL Resources utility business performed well despite warmer-thannormal temperatures and conservation by customers. Earnings before interest and taxes increased \$7 million versus the year-ago period, driven by a \$6 million decrease in operating expenses. This can be attributed to last year's workforce and facilities restructuring programs. Also, operation and maintenance expenses per customer throughout AGL's distribution segment decreased 9% over the first six months of 2006. However, these results were offset by a lackluster performance at SouthStar, which markets natural gas and related services to retail customers on an unregulated basis, where results were also impacted by lower customer usage and higher bad debt expense.

Virginia Natural Gas (VNG) has accepted a modified performance-based rate plan. As part of the deal, VNG will freeze its base rates for five years; construct a pipeline to connect its northern and southern systems, which is expected to cost about \$48 million to \$60 million; and will be allowed to file for a permanent weather normalization plan. Also, Chat-

tanooga Gas filed for a \$5.8 million rate increase with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority to cover rising costs of financing its operations and lower consumption of natural gas. The proposal includes a plan to better align its interest with customers, by adjusting rates annually based on actual consumption versus an assumed level. We think Chattanooga will receive some, if not all, of the rate increase, which should provide a boost to earnings.

AGL's expansion of its Jefferson Island storage facility has hit a road block. In early August, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources terminated the company's mineral lease due to the timing of leasehold payments and a lack of mining activity on the site for six months. Even so, the company remains committed to resolving these issues and getting the project completed, which will increase working gas capacity, along with revenues. This neutrally ranked stock has

worthwhile total return potential, thanks partly to dividend growth prospects. The good-quality shares are safe and steady, but not overly enticing. Evan I. Blatter Šeptember 15, 2006

.37 (A) Fiscal year ends December 31st. Ended

.28

.29

.31

September 30th prior to 2002.

ANNUAL RATES

of change (per sh)

Revenues "Cash Flow"

Earnings Dividends

Cal-

endar

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

Cal-

endar

2003

2004

2005

2006

2007

Cal-

endar

2002

2003

2004

2005

Book Value

352.5 651.0

908.0

047.0

Mar.31

98

1.00

1.14

1.41

1.30

.27

.28

.31

.37

970

Past

10 Yrs.

1.0% 5.0% 6.5% 1.5%

5.5%

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) A

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

EARNINGS PER SHARE A B

Jun.30 Sep.30

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C=

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

166.3

262.0

387.0

405

465

.31

.19

.27

.29

.28

.29

.31

186.6

294.0

430.0

436.0

.29

.33

.30

.25

.37

480

Past Est'd '03-'05

278.3

625.0

993.0

882

900

Dec.31

.54

.64

.85

.72

.28

.29

.37

5 Yrs. 7.0% 7.0% 13.5% 2.0% to '09-'11

7.5% 5.0% 4.5%

6.0%

Full

Year

983.7

1832.0

2718.0

2770

2815

Full

Year

2.08

2.28

2.48

2.65

2.70

Full

1.08

1.11

1.15

1.30

(B) Diluted earnings per share. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses): '95, d\$0.83; '99, \$0.39; '00,

\$0.13; '01, \$0.13; '03, d\$0.07. Next earnings report due late Oct. (C) Dividends historically paid early March,

available (D) Includes intangibles. In 2005: \$422 million,

\$5.43/share. (E) In millions, adjusted for stock split. Company's Financial Strength B++ Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 70 Earnings Predictability 75