

and 564,000 gas customers in NE, IA, KS, CO and WY. Electric revenue breakdown: res'l, 31%; comm'l, 35%; ind'l, 12%; wholesale, 13%; other, 9%. Generating sources: coal, 38%; purchased, 62%. Mines coal & has a gas & oil E&P business. Acq'd Wickford

in '05; oil mktg. in '06. Fuel costs: 45% of revs. '11 depr. rate: 3.6% Has 2,000 empls. Chairman, President & CEO: David R. Emery. Inc.: SD. Address: P.O. Box 1400, 625 Ninth St., Rapid City, SD 57701. Tel.: 605-721-1700. Internet: www.blackhillscorp.com

149 174 160 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 -5.5% 2.0% -4.0% -.5% Revenues 2.0% 'Cash Flow" 6.0% 7.0% Earnings -4.0% 3.0% 7.5% 2.5% 4.0% 2.0% 2.0% **Book Value** 

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA -.5

956

ŇĂ

-.1

1025

NA

+.3

Cal-		TERLY RE			Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	437.9	257.4	225.8	348.5	1269.6
2010	442.3	271.3	264.4	329.3	1307.3
2011	400.8	260.7	249.5	361.2	1272.2
2012	365.9	280	275	364.1	1285
2013	420	295	290	385	1390
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.94	.64	d.10	.84	2.32
2010	.81	d.22	.22	.85	1.66
2011	.73	.09	d.29	.44	1.01
2012	.80	.35	.40	.65	2.20
2013	.70	.40	.45	.65	2.20
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.35	.35	.35	.35	1.40
2009	.355	.355	.355	.355	1.42
2010	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2011	.365	.365	.365	.365	1.46
2012	.37	.37			

One of Black Hills' utility subsidiaries received a rate order in Wyoming. The state commission granted Cheyenne Light, Fuel & Power tariff hikes of \$2.7 million (2.7%) for electricity and \$1.6 million (4.9%) for gas, based on a return of 9.6% on a common-equity ratio of 54%. New rates took effect at the start of July.

Another regulatory matter is pending in the state. The company is asking the commission for permission to build 132 megawatts of gas-fired generating capacity at an estimated cost of \$237 million. The targeted in-service date is in 2014. A ruling is expected by yearend.

Another utility subsidiary filed a general rate case. Black Hills Energy asked the Colorado regulators for a \$1.0 million (4.9%) gas base rate increase, based on a 10.25% return on equity. When a decision will be announced is not known.

As always, mark-to-market gains or losses will affect the company's earnings. These items arise from interest-rate swaps. Because they are ongoing each quarter, we include them in our earnings presentation, but because they are impossible to predict, we don't assume any in

estimates. (Management excludes them from its earnings guidance.) Mark-to-market items hurt 2011 profits by \$0.68 a share (primarily in the third quarter), but added \$0.18 a share to March-quarter 2012 results. That's why our \$2.20-a-share earnings estimate for the full year is above Black Hills' targeted range of \$1.90-\$2.10. We estimate the same level of profits next year. Rate relief is a positive factor, but low natural gas prices are hurting the company's gas exploration and production subsidiary

Black Hills raised \$166.3 million from the sale of its energy marketing business in the first quarter. These funds will enable the company to avoid an equity issuance this year. Black Hills recorded a \$0.12-a-share loss from discontinued operations in the period.

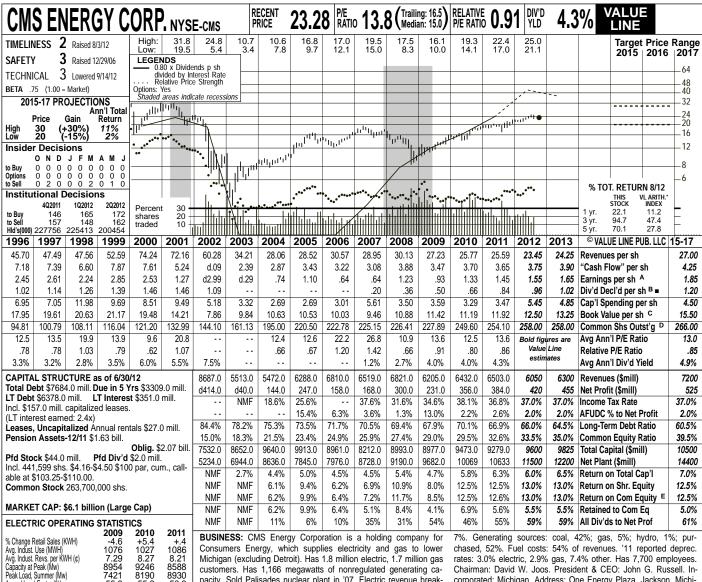
This stock's dividend yield is fractionally above the utility average. However, we project only modest dividend growth over the 3- to 5-year period, and with the share price already near the midpoint of our 2015-2017 Target Price Range, total return potential is unspectacular. Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 3, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '05, (99¢); '08, (\$1.55); '09, (28¢); '10, 10¢; gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '03, 30¢; '04, 2¢; '05, (7¢); '06, 21¢; '07, (4¢); '08, \$4.12; '09, 7¢;

'11, 23¢; '12, (12¢). '11 EPS don't add due to chg. in shs. Next egs. due early Nov. (B) Div'ds paid in early Mar., Jun., Sept. and Dec. ■ Div'd spec.; in CO in '12: 9.8%-10.2%; earn. on avg. reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd chgs. In '11: com. eq., '11: 3.5%. Reg. Climate: Above Avg

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 90 Price Growth Persistence 30 **Earnings Predictability** 35

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Consumers Energy, which supplies electricity and gas to lower Michigan (excluding Detroit). Has 1.8 million electric, 1.7 million gas customers. Has 1,166 megawatts of nonregulated generating capacity. Sold Palisades nuclear plant in '07. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 42%; commercial, 31%; industrial, 20%; other,

chased, 52%. Fuel costs: 54% of revenues. '11 reported deprec. rates: 3.0% electric, 2.9% gas, 7.4% other. Has 7,700 employees. Chairman: David W. Joos. President & CEO: John G. Russell. Incorporated: Michigan. Address: One Energy Plaza, Jackson, Michigan 49201. Tel.: 517-788-0550. Internet: www.cmsenergy.com.

159 215 237 Fixed Charge Cov. (% **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 -2.0% 2.5% 8.5% Revenues -9.0% .5% 'Cash Flow" 3.0% 7.0% Earnings 10.0% 5.0% Dividends Book Value 2.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

7421

8190

-.3

8930

50.8

	OHAD				
Cal-	Mar.31		VENUES ( Sep.30		Full
endar					Year
2009	2104	1225	1263	1613	6205.0
2010	1967	1340	1443	1682	6432.0
2011	2055	1364	1464	1620	6503.0
2012	1743	1333	1424	1550	6050
2013	1900	1350	1450	1600	6300
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.31	.28	.29	.05	.93
2010	.35	.26	.53	.21	1.33
2011	.51	.26	.53	.15	1.45
2012	.36	.37	.57	.25	1.55
2013	.50	.35	.55	.25	1.65
Cal-	QUART	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec. 31	Year
2008	.09	.09	.09	.09	.36
2009	.125				.50
2010	.15	.15	.15	.21	.66
2011	.21	.21	.21	.21	.84
2012	.24	.24	.24		

Rate increases should enable CMS Energy's earnings to advance in 2012 and 2013. In June, electric and gas tariff hikes for the company's utility subsidiary, Consumers Energy, went into effect. (Electric and gas rates were increased by \$118.5 million and \$16 million, respectively.) Our earnings estimate is at the upper end of management's targeted range of \$1.52-\$1.55 a share, despite a mild winter and a \$0.03-a-share charge that CMS took for an early retirement program in the second quarter. (A hotter-than-normal July will help in this regard.) We forecast a profit increase of 6% in 2013, in line with the company's goal of 5%-7% bottom-line growth annually.

Frequent rate hikes are needed in order to place capital investment in the rate base. Typically, these increases are modest, thanks in part to effective expense control. Consumers Energy has not yet determined the timing of its next electric and gas rate applications, but we think they will come within the next few months. (The earliest that the utility may file a gas case is December 1st, due to a stipulation in its previous rate order.) Consumers En-

ergy will be able to self-implement rate increases six months after filing its cases, and an order from the Michigan Public Service Commission is due 12 months after the filing

Consumers Energy is spending \$235 million to add 100 megawatts of wind capacity. The project should be completed by yearend. This will bring the utility closer to meeting a state regulation of having 10% of its generating capacity from renewable sources by 2015.

**Finances are adequate.** The fixedcharge coverage and common-equity ratio are below those of most utilities, but at least these measures are getting better. Also, CMS is benefiting from tax-loss carryforwards. The company is far different from what it was 10 years ago, when it was in the red and cut its dividend.

By electric utility standards, this stock has a dividend yield and 3- to 5year total return potential that are about average. It has a favorable rank for Timeliness. Like many utility issues, the share price is within our 2015-2017 Target Price Range.

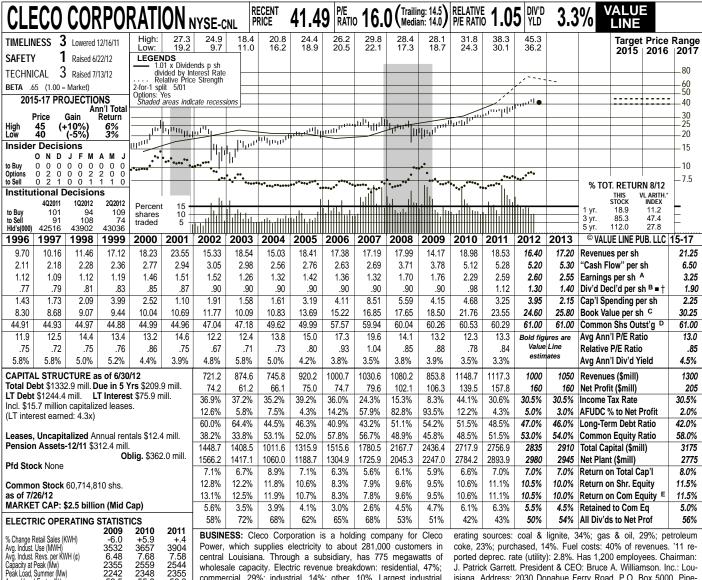
Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 21, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '05, (\$1.61); '06, (\$1.08); '07, (\$1.26); '09, (7¢); '10, 3¢; '11, 12¢; '12, (14¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '05, 7¢; '06, 3¢; '07, (40¢); '09, 8¢;

May, Aug. & Nov. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan

'10, (8¢); '11, 1¢; '12, 3¢. '10 EPS don't add due to change in shs. Next earnings report due late Oct. **(B)** Div'ds historically paid late Feb., avail. **(C)** Incl. intang. In '11: \$9.70/sh. **(D)** In mill. **(E)** Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '12: 10.3%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 12.9%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability R+ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 45



central Louisiana. Through a subsidiary, has 775 megawatts of wholesale capacity. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 47%; commercial, 29%; industrial, 14%; other, 10%. Largest industrial customers are paper mills and other wood-product industries. Gen-

ported deprec. rate (utility): 2.8%. Has 1,200 employees. Chairman: J. Patrick Garrett. President & CEO: Bruce A. Williamson. Inc.: Louisiana. Address: 2030 Donahue Ferry Road, P.O. Box 5000, Pineville, LA 71361-5000. Tel.: 318-484-7400. Internet: www.cleco.com.

138 294 415 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '15-'17 Revenues -1.5% .5% 3.5% 'Cash Flow" 6.0% 5.0% 5.5% 6.5% Earnings 10.0% 2.0% 10.0% 11.5% 6.0% Dividends Book Value 8.0%

% Change Customers (avg.)

2242

2348

+.7

56.2

+.6

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	213.0	207.2	241.5	192.1	853.8
2010	272.3	275.9	343.9	256.6	1148.7
2011	253.7	272.9	351.6	239.1	1117.3
2012	222.8	240.1	312.1	225	1000
2013	235	255	330	230	1050
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.11	.45	.99	.21	1.76
2010	.56	.58	.82	.33	2.29
2011	.48	.52	1.08	.51	2.59
2012	.50	.77	.98	.35	2.60
2013	.50	.60	1.10	.35	2.55
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.225	.225	.225	.225	.90
2009	.225	.225	.225	.225	.90
2010	.225	.25	.25	.25	.98
2011	.25	.28	.28	.3125	1.12
2012	.3125	.3125	.3375		

Cleco's board of directors has raised the dividend again. This was the fourth increase since 2010, after a span of several years without a boost. The lâtest dividend hike was \$0.025 a share (8%) quarterly. Cleco is targeting a payout ratio of 50%-60%. The company's cash flow is very healthy, giving the board the ability to continue raising the disbursement.

The utility is awaiting the outcome of a request for proposals (RFP). Most notably, the RFP includes a proposal to transfer Cleco's last nonregulated generating asset, the Coughlin gas-fired plant, to Cleco Power, its regulated utility subsidiary. (Cleco Power is now buying electricity from Coughlin under a three-year contract that began earlier this year.) The winning bidders, selected by an independent monitor, will probably be announced in late 2012. If the asset transfer is one of the winners, the Louisiana Public Service Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission would still have to approve it. This would probably occur in 2014.

We estimate that earnings will be about flat in 2012 and decline slightly

in 2013. In the first half of 2012. Cleco booked \$0.19 a share of income from the contractual expiration of indemnifications related to nonregulated generating units that were sold in 2010 and 2011. We *in*clude this income in our presentation, even though the company is excluding it from its earnings guidance of \$2.34-\$2.44 a share. We figure that, without any such income in 2013, profits will fall a bit. Beyond 2013, we aren't assuming that the aforementioned asset transfer will occur. By utility standards, top-quality Cleco stock has a high valuation. The stock has outperformed most utility equities so far this year. Its dividend yield is about a percentage point below the industry average, and its price-earnings ratio is above the market multiple. The quotation is within our 2015-2017 Target Price Range, making total return potential low. In our view, the valuation reflects not only Cleco's strong dividend growth prospects, but some takeover speculation, as well. We don't advise investors to purchase this stock based on the possibility of an acqui-

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '00, 5¢; '02, (5¢), '03, (\$2.05); '05, \$2.11; '07, \$1.22; '10, \$1.91; '11, 63¢; losses from discont. ops.: '00, 14¢; '01, 4¢. Next earn-

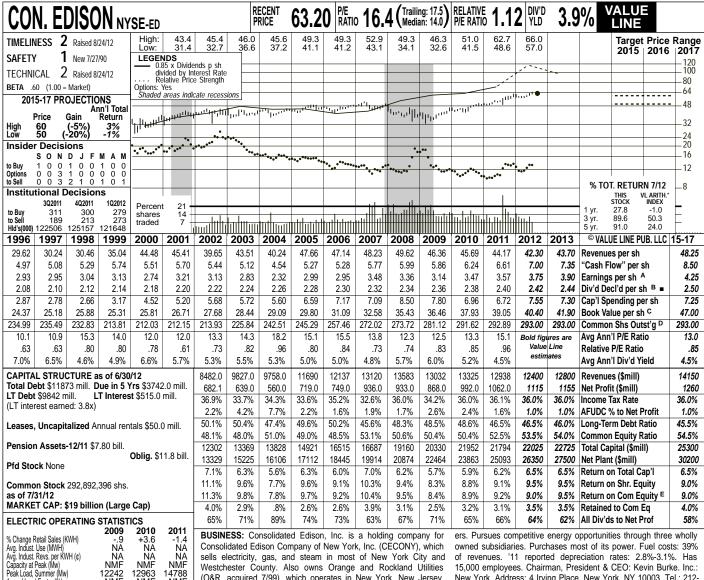
ings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Feb., May, Aug. and Nov. ■ Div'd (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on reinvestment plan avail. † Shareholder investment pla com. eq. in '09: 11.7%; earned on avg. com. ment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In eq., '11: 11.7%. Regulatory Climate: Average

sition.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 75

September 21, 2012



sells electricity, gas, and steam in most of New York City and Westchester County. Also owns Orange and Rockland Utilities (O&R, acquired 7/99), which operates in New York, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania. Has 3.6 million electric, 1.2 million gas custom-

of revenues. '11 reported depreciation rates: 2.8%-3.1%. Has 15,000 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Kevin Burke. Inc.: New York. Address: 4 Irving Place, New York, NY 10003. Tel.: 212-460-4600. Internet: www.conedison.com

331 360 296 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '15-'17 Revenues 1.0% 1.0% 'Cash Flow" 4.5% 4.5% 1.0% 1.0% 5.5% 4.0% Earnings 1.0% 4.5% 1.0% 3.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

12242

NMF

NA

12963 NMF

NA

14788

NMF NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES ( Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2009	3423	2845	3489	3275	13032
2010	3462	3017	3707	3139	13325
2011	3349	2993	3629	2967	12938
2012	3078	2771	3651	2900	12400
2013	3200	2900	3700	3000	12800
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.66	.55	1.20	.73	3.14
2010	.80	.64	1.23	.80	3.47
2011	1.06	.56	1.30	.65	3.57
2012	.94	.73	1.35	.73	3.75
2013	1.05	.67	1.38	.80	3.90
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.585	.585	.585	.585	2.34
2009	.59	.59	.59	.59	2.36
2010	.595	.595	.595	.595	2.38
2011	.60	.60	.60	.60	2.40
2012	.605	.605			

Consolidated Edison's largest utility subsidiary plans to file a general rate case in November. Consolidated Edison Company of New York's rate plan expires in 2013: at the end of March for electricity and at the end of September for gas and steam. The utility will be able to update its rate base and its operating expenses, but will likely wind up with a lower allowed return on equity, due to low interest rates. (This is especially true on the electric side, where the allowed ROE is now 10.15%.) New tariffs should take effect at the start of October, 2013, so any change in rates wouldn't have much effect on the utility until 2014.

Orange and Rockland got an electric rate order that took effect at the start of July. The three-year rate plan calls for a total tariff increase of \$48 million. The allowed ROE is 9.4% in the first year, 9.5% in the second, and 9.6% in the third. based on a 48% common-equity ratio.

competitive energy business made a large asset acquisition. Consolidated Edison Development paid \$266 million (from cash on hand) for a megawatt solar project that is under construction in California. It is scheduled for completion in the fourth quarter of 2012. This asset appealed to the company because it came with a 25-year contract to sell power to the local utility there. ConEd is looking for solar projects that come with long-term power contracts, or are in states in which solar energy credits can be sold. As a group, the company's nonutility activities are earning a higher ROE than the regulated utility operations.

We look for respectable earnings growth this year and next. ConEd is benefiting from customer growth, especially on the gas side of its business, where customers are converting from oil to gas to heat their homes. The purchase of the solar project should help next year, too.

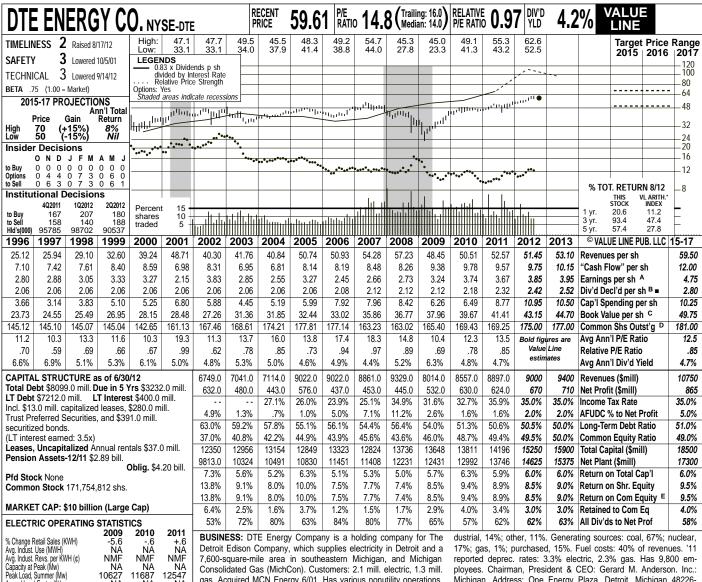
This timely stock is up nearly 10% since our May report, far outpacing most utility issues. There isn't any obvious reason for the rise in price. The yield is a bit below the utility average, the relative price-earnings ratio is well above its historical level, and the quotation is higher than the upper level of our 2015-2017 Target Price Range.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 24, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring losses: '02, 11¢: '03, 45¢: gain on discontinued operations: '08, \$1.01. Next earnings report due late Oct. (B) Dividends historically paid in mid-Mar., mid-

June, mid-Sept., and mid-Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest-ment plan available. (C) Incl. intangibles. In 11: \$34,24/sh. (D) In millions. (E) Rate base: (gas) 10.3%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 11: \$3.4.24/sh. (D) In millions. (E) Rate base: (gas) 10.3%; earned on avg. com. eq., 11: net original cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. for 9.5%. Regulatory Climate: Below Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 85



7,600-square-mile area in southeastern Michigan, and Michigan Consolidated Gas (MichCon). Customers: 2.1 mill. electric, 1.3 mill. gas. Acquired MCN Energy 6/01. Has various nonutility operations. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 42%; commercial, 33%; in-

reported deprec. rates: 3.3% electric, 2.3% gas. Has 9,800 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Gerard M. Anderson. Inc.: Michigan. Address: One Energy Plaza, Detroit, Michigan 48226-1279. Tel.: 313-235-4000. Internet: www.dteenergy.com

223 262 282 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 2.5% 2.0% 2.0% Revenues 1.0% 3.0% 4.5% 5.0% 1.5% 'Cash Flow" 4.0% 5.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 4.0% 4.0% 4.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

10627

NA

-.8

11687

ŇÄ

12547

ΝA

Cal-			VENUES (		Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	2255	1688	1950	2121	8014.0
2010	2453	1792	2139	2173	8557.0
2011	2431	2028	2265	2173	8897.0
2012	2249	2025	2376	2350	9000
2013	2450	2100	2450	2400	9400
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	1.09	.51	.92	.72	3.24
2010	1.38	.51	.96	.90	3.74
2011	1.04	.67	1.07	.89	3.67
2012	.91	.86	1.10	.98	3.85
2013	1.10	.75	1.10	1.00	3.95
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.53	.53	.53	.53	2.12
2009	.53	.53	.53	.53	2.12
2010	.53	.53	.53	.56	2.15
2011	.56	.56	.5875	.5875	2.30
2012	.5875	.5875	.5875	.62	

DTE Energy's electric utility subsidiary has asked the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) for an ac**counting order.** Detroit Edison believes it will need rate relief in 2014. However, in order to delay the filing of its next general rate case, the utility proposes deferring \$127 million of regulatory liabilities (which otherwise would have been passed on to customers), and then amortizing them into pretax income starting in 2014. If the MPSC turns down Detroit Edison's request, then the utility will probably file a rate case next year.

DTE's gas utility subsidiary has a general rate case pending. MichCon filed for a tariff hike of \$76.7 million, based on a return of 11% on a common-equity ratio of 52%. The utility is also asking the MPSC to grant regulatory mechanisms for the recovery of \$387 million of infrastructure capital programs and the decoupling of revenues from volume. A recommendation from the MPSC's staff was expected shortly after this report went to press. MichCon will self-implement a rate increase in November, and the MPSC's order is due six months later.

We have raised our 2012 earnings estimate by \$0.20 a share. A hotter-thanusual second quarter raised net profit by \$21 million (\$0.12 a share), and the hot weather continued into July. Our revised estimate of \$3.85 a share is still within DTE's targeted range of \$3.65-\$3.95. We figure that rate relief at MichCon and an improved showing from the company's nonregulated activities will lead to higher income in 2013. Our estimate is \$3.95 a share.

The board of directors has raised the dividend. The increase was \$0.13 a share (5.5%) annually. We had looked for a healthy boost in the payout, but the raise was even better than we had expected.

DTE expects to monetize some assets in the fourth quarter. The company is placing its Barnett Shale acreage up for sale. DTE is targeting about \$300 million of proceeds from these asset sales in 2012. which it will probably reinvest in nonregulated operations.

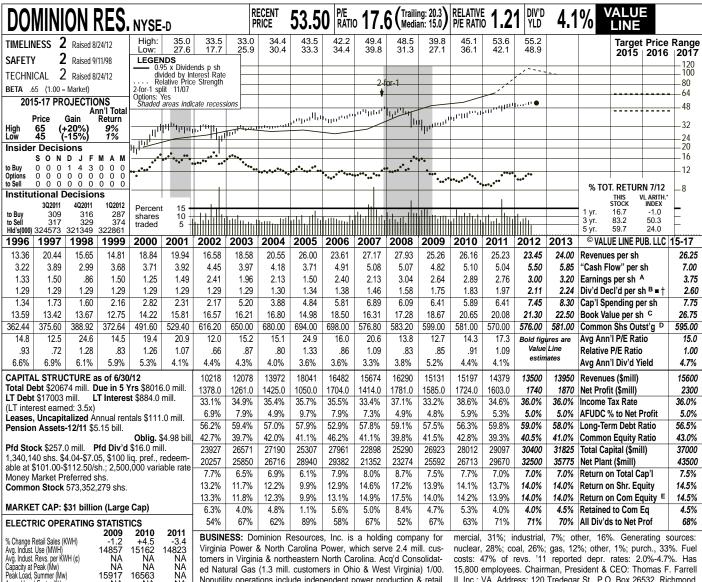
This timely issue has an average dividend yield for a utility. Total return potential to 2015-2017 is unimpressive. Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 21, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '03, (16¢); '05, (2¢); '06, 1¢; '07, \$1.96; '08, 50¢; '11, 51¢; gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '03, 40¢; '04, (6¢); '05, (20¢); '06, (2¢); '07, \$1.20;

'08, 13¢. '10 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Jan., Apr., July and Oct.

'11: \$42.59/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '11: 10.5% elec.; in '10: 11% gas; earned on avg. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In | com. eq., '11: 9.1%. Regulatory Climate: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability R+ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 75



Virginia Power & North Carolina Power, which serve 2.4 mill. customers in Virginia & northeastern North Carolina. Acq'd Consolidated Natural Gas (1.3 mill. customers in Ohio & West Virginia) 1/00. Nonutility operations include independent power production & retail energy services. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 46%; com-

15,800 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Thomas F. Farrell II. Inc.: VA. Address: 120 Tredegar St., P.O. Box 26532, Richmond, VA 23261-6532. Tel.: 804-819-2000. Internet: www.dom.com on line in 2016. Virginia Power is building a \$350 million transmission line that is

costs: 47% of revs. '11 reported depr. rates: 2.0%-4.7%. Has

319 378 318 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) to '15-'17 3.5% 3.0% 7.0% 2.0% 3.0% 6.5% Revenues .5% 'Cash Flow' 6.0% 5.0% Earnings 6.5% 3.5% 6.0% 5.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NΑ

ŇĀ

+.8

16563

ΝA

NA

NA

NA

+.5

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (	\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	4778	3450	3648	3255	15131
2010	4168	3333	3950	3746	15197
2011	4057	3341	3803	3178	14379
2012	3462	3053	3850	3135	13500
2013	3650	3150	3900	3250	13950
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.89	.78	1.00	d.01	2.64
2010	.51	.79	.98	.61	2.89
2011	.89	.58	.69	.60	2.76
2012	.86	.48	.91	.75	3.00
2013	.90	.60	.95	.75	3.20
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB <b>■</b> †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.395	.395	.395	.395	1.58
2009	.4375	.4375	.4375	.4375	1.75
2010	.4575	.4575	.4575	.4575	1.83
2011	.4925	.4925	.4925	.4925	1.97
2012	.5275	.5275			

We have cut our 2012 earnings estimate for Dominion Resources by \$0.15 a share. Second-quarter results were below our expectation. The weather was milder than normal, which hurt the bottom line by an estimated \$0.05 a share, and the company booked a \$74 million pretax charge (\$0.08 a share) for the cost of restoring customers following storms in mid-2012. Even so, profits should still advance over the 2011 tally, because . . .

Virginia Power is performing well. The service area's economy is faring better than the national economy. In addition, the utility's earning power is rising with the addition of generation and transmission projects. We expect growth from the regulated operations to produce higher profits in 2013, as well. Virginia Power completed gas-fired and coal-fired plants in 2011 and 2012, respectively. It earned a return on these projects through rate riders. The utility is now building a 1,329megawatt gas-fired facility at an expected cost of \$1.1 billion. It is scheduled for completion in late 2014. The company plans to ask the Virginia regulators for permission to construct a similar plant that would be scheduled for completion in 2015, and some smaller transmission projects are under way, as well.

North Carolina Power has a rate case pending. The utility filed for a tariff hike of \$63.7 million, based on an 11.25% return on a 52.4% common-equity ratio. New rates should take effect at the start of 2013.

Weak power prices are a concern for **Dominion.** Hedging and effective cost controls can only do so much in such an operating environment. We expect no improvement in the nonregulated powergeneration segment's profits in the next two years. At least the company's other nonutility operations are faring better. One key opportunity is a proposed expansion of its Cove Point liquefied natural gas facility—if Dominion can obtain regulatory approvals and fend off legal challenges.

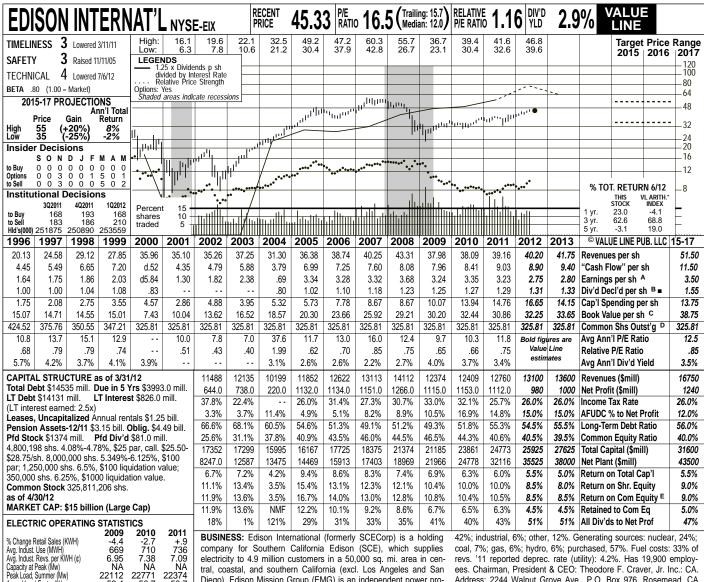
Tĥis stock is rankeď favorably for **Timeliness.** However, the yield and 3- to 5-year total return potential are only average, by utility standards. *Paul E. Debbas, CFA* 

August 24, 2012

(A) Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '01, (42¢); '03, (\$1.46); '04, (22¢); '06, (18¢); '07, \$1.67; '08, 12¢; '09, (47¢); '10, \$2.18; '11, (7¢); losses from disc. ops.: '04, 3¢; '06, 26¢; '07, 1¢; '10,

26¢; '12, 3¢. '09 EPS don't add due to change intang. In '11: \$9.05/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for in shares. Next earnings report due late Oct. split. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost, adj. Rate (B) Div'ds histor. paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept., all'd on com. eq. in '11: 10.9%; earned on avg. and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. | com. eq., '11: 13.4%. Regulatory Climate: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 70



company for Southern California Edison (SCE), which supplies electricity to 4.9 million customers in a 50,000 sq. mi. area in central, coastal, and southern California (excl. Los Angeles and San Diego). Edison Mission Group (EMG) is an independent power producer. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 40%; commercial,

coal, 7%; gas, 6%; hydro, 6%; purchased, 57%. Fuel costs: 33% of revs. '11 reported deprec. rate (utility): 4.2%. Has 19,900 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Theodore F. Craver, Jr. Inc.: CA. Address: 2244 Walnut Grove Ave., P.O. Box 976, Rosemead, CA 91770. Tel.: 626-302-2222. Internet: www.edison.com.

268 240 209 Fixed Charge Cov. (% **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 1.5% 7.0% 6.0% Revenues 1.5% 5.0% 'Cash Flow' 5.0% 8.5% Earnings 7.0% 11.0% 5.5% 8.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

6 95

53.4

22374 50.7

22771

50.7

+.5

NA 22112

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES ( Sep.30		Full Year
2009	2812	2834	3678	3050	12374
2010	2810	2742	3788	3069	12409
2011	2782	2983	3981	3014	12760
2012	2856	3094	4050	3100	13100
2013	3025	3200	4175	3200	13600
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.78	.78	1.08	.59	3.24
2010	.70	.62	1.46	.58	3.35
2011	.62	.54	1.31	.76	3.23
2012	.28	.47	1.40	.60	2.75
2013	.60	.50	1.15	.55	2.80
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.305	.305	.305	.305	1.22
2009	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2010	.315	.315	.315	.315	1.26
2011	.32	.32	.32	.32	1.28
2012	325	325	325		

Edison International's nonregulated generating assets are being hurt by low power prices and more-stringent **environmental rules.** Edison Mission Group (EMG), the company's nonutility subsidiary, lost \$0.07 a share in 2011 (excluding sizable one-time charges) and \$0.26 a share in the first quarter of 2012. EMG was unable to obtain financing for environmental upgrades to the Homer City coal-fired plant in Pennsylvania, and intends to transfer Homer City to its owner-lessors. The company also plans to close two coal-fired facilities in Chicago in September. At this juncture, management is evaluating the future of EMG.

Southern California Edison (SCE) is still waiting for an order in its general rate case. The utility is seeking rate hikes of \$809 million, \$117 million, and \$513 million in 2012, 2013, and 2014, respectively. No matter when the order comes out, new tariffs will be retroactive to the start of 2012. Management won't provide earnings guidance until the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) issues its decision.

A cost-of-capital application is pend-

ing. SCE proposed an allowed return on equity of 11.1% and a 48% common-equity ratio. The allowed ROE would be adjusted if there is a significant change in interest rates. If the utility's request is granted, this would reduce annual rates by \$128 million due in part to a lower allowed ROE than the current 11.5%. The CPUC's order is expected in late 2012, and will take effect at the start of 2013.

The San Onofre nuclear station is out of service. SCE might be able to recover the replacement power costs stemming from the unplanned outage (subject to a CPUC review), but the repair costs will hurt pretax income by an estimated \$55 million-\$65 million in 2012. It is unknown when the plant will return to service.

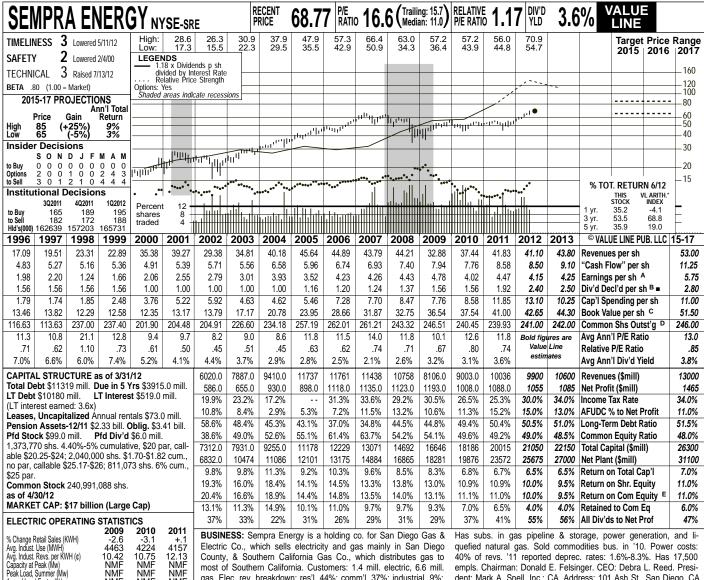
More-attractive utility selections are **available elsewhere.** The stock's yield is more than a percentage point below the industry average, and the dividend growth we project over the 3- to 5-year period probably won't be enough to provide a good total return. Moreover, the quotation is near the midpoint of our 2015-2017 Target Price Range.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 3, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '01, \$1.88; '02, \$1.48; '03, (12¢); '04, \$2.12; '09, (64¢); '10, 54¢; '11, (\$3.33); gain (losses) from disc. ops.: '07, (1¢); '09, (2¢), '10, 1¢; '11, | late Jan., Apr., July & Oct. ■ Div'd reinv. plan | com. eq., '11: 9.7%. Reg. Climate: Above Avg

(1¢). Incl. nonrec. losses: '00, \$7.58; '01, \$1.88. '09 & '10 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next egs. due early Nov. (B) Div'ds paid all'd on com. eq. in '08: 11.5%; earned on avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 80



County, & Southern California Gas Co., which distributes gas to most of Southern California. Customers: 1.4 mill. electric, 6.6 mill. gas. Elec. rev. breakdown: res'l. 44%; comm'l. 37%; industrial. 9%; other, 10%. Purchases most of its power; the rest is nuclear & gas.

40% of revs. '11 reported deprec. rates: 1.6%-8.3%. Has 17,500 empls. Chairman: Donald E. Felsinger. CEO: Debra L. Reed. President: Mark A. Snell, Inc.: CA. Address: 101 Ash St., San Diego, CA 92101-3017. Tel.: 619-696-2034. Internet: www.sempra.com.

275 296 319 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs to '15-'17 -3.0% 4.5% 2.5% Revenues 1.5% 6.0% 'Cash Flow' 4.5% 8.0% 5.5% 4.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 8.5% 9.5% 9.0% 5.0% 11.5%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NMF

+.5

NMF

NMF

+.5

NMF

+.6

Cal-			VENUES (		Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	2108	1689	1853	2456	8106
2010	2534	2008	2116	2345	9003
2011	2434	2422	2576	2604	10036
2012	2383	2300	2600	2617	9900
2013	2650	2500	2700	2750	10600
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	1.29	1.06	1.27	1.16	4.78
2010	.81	.89	1.18	1.15	4.02
2011	1.07	.97	1.22	1.21	4.47
2012	.97	.93	1.15	1.10	4.15
2013	1.05	.95	1.15	1.10	4.25
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.31	.32	.35	.35	1.33
2009	.35	.39	.39	.39	1.52
2010	.39	.39	.39	.39	1.56
2011	.39	.48	.48	.48	1.83
2012	.48	.60	.60		

Sempra Energy's utilities have two rate cases pending before the Califor-Public Utilities Commission **(CPUC).** One is a general rate case. Southern California Gas requested a rate hike of \$268 million. San Diego Gas & Electric filed for a total electric and gas increase of \$235 million. The latter request includes \$67 million for cost recovery of incremental wildfire insurance premiums, which stemmed from wildfires in 2007. No matter when the CPUC's order comes out, new tariffs will be retroactive to the start of 2012. Separately, the utilities made their cost of capital applications. SoCalGas and SDG&E are seeking allowed returns on equity of 10.9% and 11%, respectively, and a 52% common-equity ratio. The utilities are asking for a continuation of a regulatory mechanism that automatically adjusts the cost of capital each year, based on changes in interest rates. A ruling from the CPUC is expected in late 2012, and will take effect at the start of 2013.

We have cut our 2012 earnings estimate by \$0.05 a share. That's mainly because first-quarter profits fell short of our expectation. Our revised estimate of \$4.15

a share is still within Sempra's targeted range of \$4.00-\$4.30. (Earnings are likely to decline this year due to the expiration of a power contract in 2011.) We are sticking with our 2013 profit forecast of \$4.25 a share.

Sempra is making significant investments in both the utility and nonutility sides of its business. In June, SDG&E completed a transmission project at a cost of about \$1.9 billion. The utilities proposed a \$2.8 billion pipeline safetyenhancement program, which requires the approval of the CPUC. The CPUC has already okayed a \$435 million project to build and modernize electric substations. On the nonutility end, Sempra is developing projects in gas storage, liquefied natural gas, and renewable energy.

Sempra stock has been one of the topperforming electric utility issues so far in 2012, having risen 25% year to date. A hefty dividend increase in the first quarter helped. Following the run-up, however, the stock doesn't stand out for utility investors for either the short or long term.

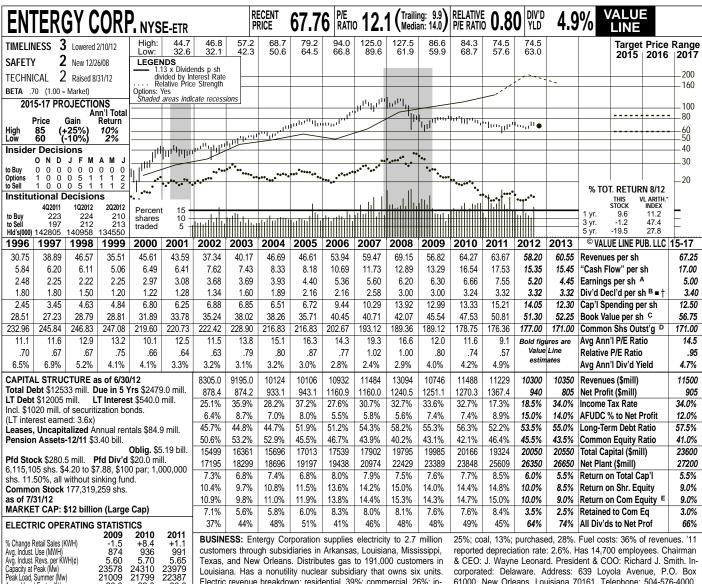
Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 3, 2012

(A) Diluted egs. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '05, 17¢; '06, (6¢); '09, (26¢); '10, (\$1.05); '11, \$1.15; gain (losses) from disc. ops.: '04, (10¢); '05, (4¢); '06, \$1.21; '07, (10¢). '10 EPS don't

add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid mid-Jan., Apr., July and Oct. Div'd reinvest, plan avail. (CE) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq.: SDG&E in '08: 11.1%; SoCalGas in '03: 10.82%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: (C) Incl. intang. In '11: \$17.77/sh. (D) In mill. | 11.6%. Regulatory Climate: Above Average

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 95 **Earnings Predictability** 90

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62.0 60.0 % Change Customers (vr-end) +1.1+.9 +.5 355 342 339 Fixed Charge Cov. (% **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 4.5% Revenues 4.0% 1.5% 11.5% 8.5% 9.0% 4.5% 'Cash Flow 10.0% 9.5% 1.0% -5.0% Earnings

10.0% 4.5%

Dividends Book Value

5.60 23578

21009

21799

5.65 23979

22387

1.0% 3.0%

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2009 2789 2521 2499 10746 2937 11488 2010 2760 2863 3332 2533 2011 2541 2803 3396 2489 11229 2012 2384 2519 3000 2397 10300 2013 2450 2500 3000 2400 10350 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2009 1.64 1.20 1.14 2.32 6.30 2.62 1.26 2010 1.12 1.65 6.66 2011 1.38 1.76 3.53 .87 7.55 2.00 .74 5.20 2012 .40 2.06 .80 .80 4.45 2013 1.25 1.60 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2008 3.00 2009 .75 .75 .75 .75 3.00 2010 .75 .83 .83 .83 3.24 2011 83 .83 .83 .83 3.32 2012 .83 .83 .83

customers through subsidiaries in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and New Orleans. Distributes gas to 191,000 customers in Louisiana. Has a nonutility nuclear subsidiary that owns six units. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 39%; commercial, 26%; industrial, 25%; other, 10%. Generating sources: nuclear, 34%; gas.

Entergy has taken the first steps toward the intended sale of its transmission assets to ITC Holdings. The companies have applied for approval in Louisiana and New Orleans (which has a separate commission), and filings with the regulators in Texas, Arkansas, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission will probably happen in the coming weeks. Entergy decided to sell its transmission system because this business is capitalintensive and makes up less than 10% of its assets. The company would receive \$1.775 billion in cash, which it would use for debt reduction. In order to make the deal tax-free, ITC would issue enough stock to Entergy shareholders so that they would own 50.1% of ITC. ITC's stock-holders must approve the transaction.

Entergy has nuclear worries. In New York, the company's license extension applications with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for the Indian Point units have been delayed. The licenses expire in 2013 and 2015, but Entergy believes the plants may keep running while the filings are pending. The company is also embroiled in a dispute with the state, which

reported depreciation rate: 2.6%. Has 14,700 employees. Chairman & CEO: J. Wayne Leonard. President & COO: Richard J. Smith. Incorporated: Delaware. Address: 639 Loyola Avenue, P.O. Box 61000, New Orleans, Louisiana 70161. Telephone: 504-576-4000. Internet: www.entergy.com

wants it to build cooling towers at the site. Entergy is proposing a much less costly alternative. In Vermont, litigation between the state government and Entergy concerning Vermont Yankee is ongoing. In Michigan, the NRC is conducting supplemental inspections of Palisades, which has had operating problems.

We have raised our 2012 earnings estimate. Second-quarter profits exceeded our expectation thanks to a tax benefit that boosted the bottom line by \$0.44 a share. Nevertheless, earnings will probably wind up below the 2012 tally due to low prices in the power markets, less favorable weather conditions than in 2011, and expenses associated with the asset sale to ITC. Assuming a more normal tax rate in 2013, earnings will probably decline.

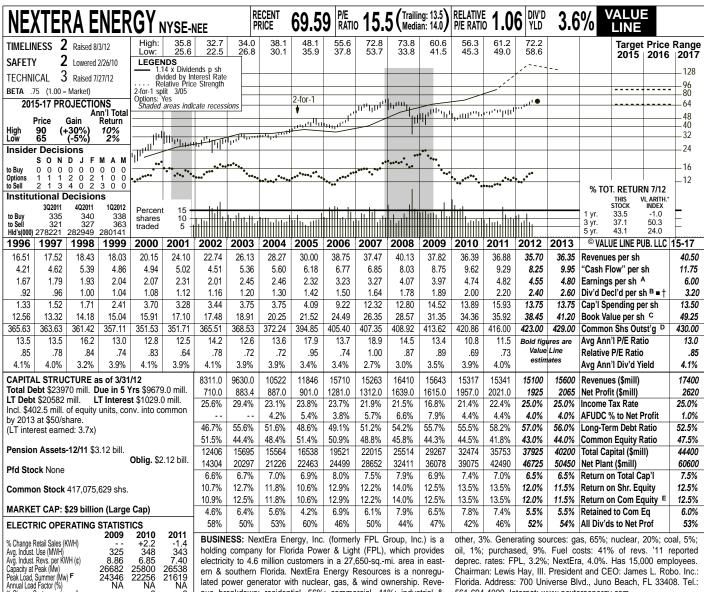
This stock stands out for its dividend **yield,** which is above the utility average. The low valuation reflects the market's concerns about the state of the power markets and the aforementioned nuclear troubles. Even so, we think this issue is suitable for most utility accounts, except those stressing dividend growth.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 21, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '97, (\$1.22); '98, 78¢; '01, 15¢; '02, (\$1.04); '03, 33¢ net; '05, (21¢); '12, (\$1.26). '10 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report | plan available. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In | Regulatory Climate: Average.

due late Oct. **(B)** Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept. and Dec. **•** Div'd reinvestment plan available. † Shareholder investment 10.5%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 15.4%.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 95



electricity to 4.6 million customers in a 27,650-sq.-mi. area in eastern & southern Florida. NextEra Energy Resources is a nonregulated power generator with nuclear, gas, & wind ownership. Revenue breakdown: residential, 56%; commercial, 41%; industrial &

deprec. rates: FPL, 3.2%; NextEra, 4.0%. Has 15,000 employees. Chairman: Lewis Hay, III. President and CEO: James L. Robo. Inc.: Florida. Address: 700 Universe Blvd., Juno Beach, FL 33408. Tel.: 561-694-4000. Internet: www.nexteraenergy.com.

315 311 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 281 ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '15-'17 Revenues 6.0% 2.5% 1.5% 6.5% 7.5% 6.5% 8.5% 11.0% 7.5% Cash Flow" 4.0% 5.0% Earnings 8.0% 6.5% Dividends Book Value 9.0%

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES ( Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2009	3705	3811	4473	3654	15643
2010	3622	3591	4691	3413	15317
2011	3134	3961	4382	3864	15341
2012	3371	3667	4562	3500	15100
2013	3400	3800	4800	3600	15600
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.90	.91	1.31	.85	3.97
2010	1.36	1.01	1.74	.63	4.74
2011	.64	1.38	1.20	1.61	4.82
2012	1.11	1.26	1.28	.90	4.55
2013	1.05	1.35	1.40	1.00	4.80
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.445	.445	.445	.445	1.78
2009	.4725	.4725	.4725	.4725	1.89
2010	.50	.50	.50	.50	2.00
2011	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2012	.60	.60			

NextEra Energy's utility subsidiary has reached a settlement of its general rate case. The agreement, if approved by the Florida commission, would raise Florida Power & Light's rates by \$378 million in January. Further tariff hikes would occur when modernization projects on three gas-fired plants are completed in 2013, 2014, and 2016. The utility's allowed return on equity would be in a range with a midpoint of 10.7%. FPL could file for rate relief if it earns an ROE of less than 9.7%, and another party could seek a rate review if the utility earns an ROE above 11.7%. FPL and the intervenors asked for a commission ruling by the end of August. Several large capital projects are in various stages of development. The three plant modernization projects mentioned above would cost a total of about \$3.5 billion. FPL is also adding 490 mw of capacity to its existing nuclear units at an expected cost of \$3.1 billion. The utility will recover the cost of the nuclear uprate program through a regulatory mechanism, instead of in base rates.

Although we look for an earnings decline this year, this doesn't mean that

NextEra is performing poorly. Markto-market accounting gains boosted the bottom line by \$0.45 a share in 2011, making for a tough comparison. Even so, utility profits are benefiting from the use of regulatory amortization (i.e., reduced depreciation because depreciation taken in the past was too high), and nonutility income is benefiting from additional generating capacity, much of it wind. We look for higher profits in 2013, assuming that the regulators approve FPL's settlement. This timely stock has been one of the best-performing utility issues in 2012, having risen about 15% year to date. Investors are attracted to NextEra's superior dividend growth potential and the fact that the company's nonregulated business has held up much better (even with weakness in the power markets) than those of most utilities with a major nonregulated presence. The dividend yield is fractionally below the industry average, however, and since the quotation is within our 2015-2017 Target Price Range, long-term total return potential isn't much better than the norm for the utility industry. Paul E. Debbas, ČFA August 24, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gain (losses): '00, (5¢); '02, (60¢); '03, 5¢; '11, cally paid in mid-March, mid-June, mid-Sept., and mid-Dec. • Div'd reinvestment plan available. † Shareholder investment plan available. (24¢). '11 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds histori-(C) Incl. deferred charges. In '11: \$5.19/sh.

21619 NA

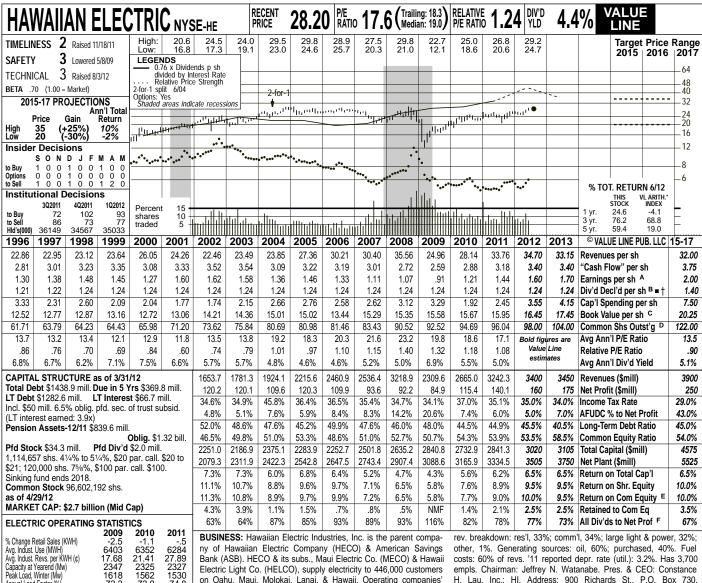
+.6

22256 NA

+.6

(D) In millions, adj. for stock split. (E) Rate allowed on common equity in '10: 9%-11%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 13.6%. Regulatory Climate: Average. (F) Winter peak in '09.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 70 **Earnings Predictability** 85



ny of Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) & American Savings Bank (ASB). HECO & its subs., Maui Electric Co. (MECO) & Hawaii Electric Light Co. (HELCO), supply electricity to 446,000 customers on Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, & Hawaii. Operating companies' systems are not interconnected. Disc. int'l power sub. in '01. Elec.

other, 1%. Generating sources: oil, 60%; purchased, 40%. Fuel costs: 60% of revs. '11 reported depr. rate (util.): 3.2%. Has 3,700 empls. Chairman: Jeffrey N. Watanabe. Pres. & CEO: Constance H. Lau. Inc.: HI. Address: 900 Richards St., P.O. Box 730, Honolulu, HI 96808-0730. Tel.: 808-543-5662. Web: www.hei.com.

the main reason why we expect earnings to improve in 2012 and climb in

2013. We estimate that share net will

reach \$1.60 this year—the highest tally in

a decade — despite a probable decline in

profits at the American Savings Bank sub-

sidiary. ASB is likely to have lower fee income and a narrower interest-rate spread

this year. We estimate a 6% earnings increase next year. However, because the payout ratio is still high, we expect no div-

New regulation has not eliminated

the need for general rate cases. As this

report went to press, HELCO was planning to file an application. An interim rate

order is due 12 months after the filing

date. There is no statutory time limit for

This timely equity's dividend yield is only slightly above the utility aver-

age. However, with the stock trading

Range, the modest dividend growth we

project over that time frame probably

won't be enough to produce an attractive

idend increase until mid-decade.

the final decision.

within our 3-

Paul E. Debbas, CFA

total return.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		234	300	337
ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value	Past 10 Yrs. 1.5% -1.0% -2.0%	Past 5 Yrs. 1.5% -2.0% -3.0%	6 1 6 4 6 9	'09-'11  5-'17  .5%  .5%  .0%  .0%

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (vr-end)

1618 72.2

1562

+.5

1530 74.8

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (		Full Year
2009	543.8	525.9	620.3	619.6	2309.6
2010	619.0	655.7	694.6	695.7	2665.0
2011	710.6	794.3	886.4	851.0	3242.3
2012	814.9	850	885.1	850	3400
2013	850	850	900	850	3450
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.22	.17	.37	.15	.91
2010	.29	.31	.35	.26	1.21
2011	.30	.28	.50	.36	1.44
2012	.40	.34	.49	.37	1.60
2013	.43	.36	.52	.39	1.70
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB <b>■</b> †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2009	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2010	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2011	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2012	.31	.31			

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '00, (56¢); '01, (36¢); '03, (5¢); '04, 2¢; '05, (1¢); nonrec. gain (loss): '05, 11¢; '07,

Each of Hawaiian Electric Industries' utilities is now operating under a new regulatory mechanism. The company's largest utility, Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO), has been benefiting from the mechanism since 2011, and Hawaii Electric Light Company (HELCO) and Maui Electric Company (MECO) began using it this year. (MECO was granted an interim rate hike of \$13.1 million, or 3.2%, based on a return of 10% on a common-equity ratio of 56.86%.) An advantage of the new mechanism is the decoupling of electric volume and revenues, so that declines in usage (stemming from the effects of the sluggish economy and conservation efforts) will no longer hurt the utilities. In addition, the utilities now benefit from annual rate adjustments for capital spending and increases in operating expenses. The new mechanism reduces, but does not eliminate, the effects of regulatory lag. HECO has a goal of earning an 8.5% return on equity in 2012. This would be an improvement over its performance in recent years, but would still fall short of its allowed ROE of 10%.

The effects of the new mechanism are

paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. Div'd reinv. plan avail. † Sharehldr. invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '11: \$7.83/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Orig. cost. Rate

all'd on com. eq. in '11: HECO, 10%; in '12: HELCO, 10%; in '12: MECO, 10%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 9.2%. Regul. Climate: Avg. (F) Excl. div'ds paid through reinvest. plan.

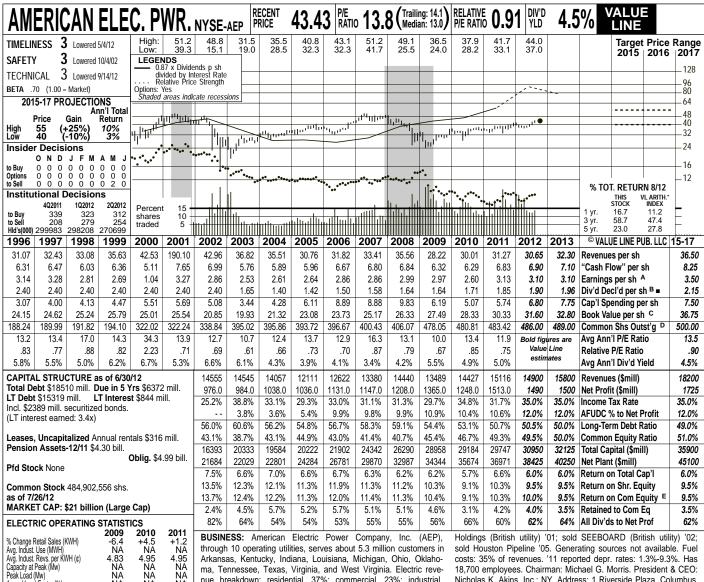
Company's Financial Strength	B+
Stock's Price Stability	90
Price Growth Persistence	30
Earnings Predictability	70

to 5-year Target Price

August 3, 2012

(9¢). Next egs. due early Nov. (B) Div'ds histor. © 2012, Value Line Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product.

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Arkansas, Kentucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 37%; commercial, 23%; industrial, 21%; wholesale, 16%; other, 3%. Sold 50% stake in Yorkshire

costs: 35% of revenues. '11 reported depr. rates: 1.3%-9.3%. Has 18,700 employees. Chairman: Michael G. Morris. President & CEO: Nicholas K. Akins, Inc.: NY, Address: 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, OH 43215-2373. Tel.: 614-716-1000. Internet: www.aep.com

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		265	257	286
ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value	Past 10 Yrs. -10.5%  2.0% -3.0% 1.0%	Past 5 Yrs. -2.0% 1.0% 1.5% 4.0% 5.0%	to 6	1 '09-'11 '15-'17 3.5% 4.0% 3.0% 3.5% 4.0%

Annual Load Factor (%)

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA NA NA NA

NA NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES ( Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2009	3458	3202	3547	3282	13489
2010	3569	3360	4064	3434	14427
2011	3730	3609	4333	3444	15116
2012	3625	3551	4300	3424	14900
2013	3850	3750	4450	3750	15800
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.89	.68	.93	.49	2.97
2010	.72	.35	1.16	.37	2.60
2011	.83	.73	1.17	.41	3.13
2012	.80	.75	1.10	.45	3.10
2013	.85	.75	1.05	.45	3.10
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B <b>=</b>	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.41	.41	.41	.41	1.64
2009	.41	.41	.41	.41	1.64
2010	.41	.42	.42	.46	1.71
2011	.46	.46	.46	.47	1.85
2012	.47	.47	.47		

Electric Power will American making a transition to competitive markets in Ohio in the next few years. The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) issued a new plan in the third quarter. The PUCO overturned the previous transition plan earlier this year after some customers complained about much higher bills. AEP's base generation rates will be frozen (but there will be a fuel adjustment clause), and the utility will be able to collect a nonbypassable retail stability rider and a capacity charge to help compensate for the effects of customer switching to other suppliers. AEP will make another filing to separate its generating units in Ohio into a nonutility affiliate, except for two units that will be transferred to two regulated companies. Management was disappointed with certain aspects of the transition plan that the PUCO ordered, and has asked the regulators for a rehearing. Because the new plan will make it easier for other providers to compete in AEP's service territory, we have lowered our 2013 earnings estimate by \$0.15 a share, to \$3.10, which would be flat with our estimated 2012 tally.

**Two rate cases are pending.** Indiana Michigan Power filed for a \$146.3 million rate hike in Indiana, based on an 11.15% return on equity. The commission's staff is recommending an increase of just \$28 million, based on a 9.2% ROE. An order is expected by yearend. Another AEP subsidiarv. SWĚPČO, asked the Texas commission for an increase of \$83.1 million, based on an 11.25% ROE. Rates should go into effect in the first quarter of 2013.

The regulated operations are faring well. There is less regulatory activity than usual because most of AEP's utilities are earning their allowed ROEs, or are close to doing so. In addition, the company's transmission business should increase its contribution to the bottom line in the coming years, as there are plenty of opportunities to invest capital. Because the regulated picture is generally bright, we think the board of directors will raise the dividend in the fourth quarter, as it did in each of the past two years.

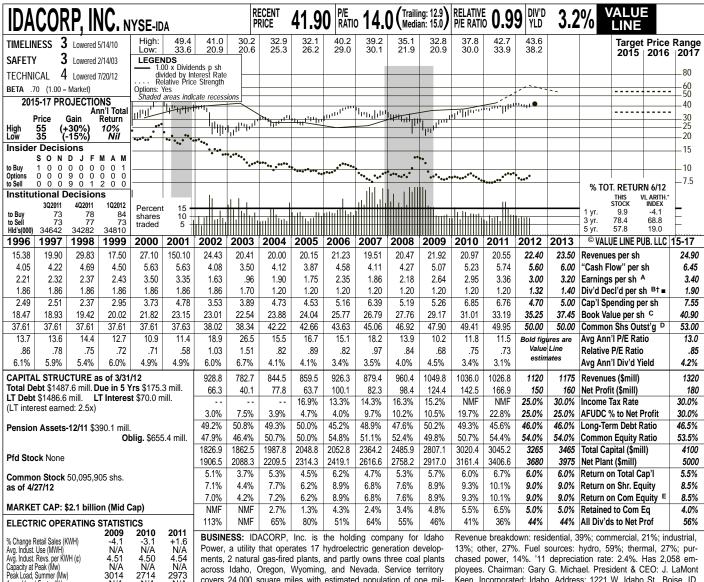
This stock's yield and 2015-2017 total return potential are similar to the utility norms.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 21, 2012

(A) Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '02, (\$3.86); '03, (\$1.92); '04, 24¢; '05, (62¢); '06, (20¢); '07, (20¢); '08, 40¢; '10, (7¢); '11, 89¢; gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '02, (57¢); '03, (32¢); | historically paid early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. | on avg. com. eq., '10: 9.3%. Regul. Clim.: Avg. © 2012, Value Line Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product

'04, 15¢; '05, 7¢; '06, 2¢; '08, 3¢; '09, (1¢). '09 ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. **(C)** Incl. intang. In '11: EPS don't add due to change in shs., '11 due to rounding. Next egs. due late Oct. **(B)** Div'ds Rates all'd on com. eq.: 9.96%-10.9%; earned

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 90



ments, 2 natural gas-fired plants, and partly owns three coal plants across Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, and Nevada. Service territory covers 24,000 square miles with estimated population of one million. Sells electricity in Idaho (95% of revenues) and Oregon (5%). chased power, 14%. '11 depreciation rate: 2.4%. Has 2,058 employees. Chairman: Gary G. Michael. President & CEO: J. LaMont Keen. Incorporated: Idaho. Address: 1221 W. Idaho St., Boise, ID. 83702. Telephone: 208-388-2200. Internet: www.idacorpinc.com

280 264 230 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 5 Yrs. 0.5% 5.0% 8.5% of change (per sh) to '15-'17 Revenues -10.5% 3.0% 'Cash Flow' 3.0% 2.0% Earnings -0.5% 8.0% 4.5% Dividends Book Value -4.5% 3.5% 5.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

3014

+.6

2714

N/A

+.4

2973

N/A

Cal- endar	QUAF Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES(S Sep.30	mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2009	228.6	243.6	324.5	253.1	1049.8
2010	252.5	241.8	309.4	232.3	1036.0
2011	251.5	235.0	309.6	230.7	1026.8
2012	241.1	250	350	278.9	1120
2013	275	260	360	280	1175
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.40	.59	1.16	.49	2.64
2010	.34	.82	1.39	.40	2.95
2011	.60	.42	2.16	.18	3.36
2012	.50	.50	1.55	.45	3.00
2013	.55	.55	1.60	.50	3.20
Cal-	QUART	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	\ID B†∎	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.30	.30	.30	.30	1.20
2009	.30	.30	.30	.30	1.20
2010	.30	.30	.30	.30	1.20
2011	.30	.30	.30	.30	1.20
2012	33	33			0

IDACORP had a disappointing start to the year. The company reported firstquarter top- and bottom-line results that were below expectations, as a result of lower sales, warmer temperatures, and increased expenses. Moreover, both measures decreased from the year-ago period, largely due to lower accumulated deferred investment tax credits (ADITCs), which negatively impacted the bottom line by \$3 million. (Idaho Power only used \$0.8 million, compared to \$3.9 million last year.) At yearend, IDA expects to use less than \$5 million based on its 2012 ROE estimate. Recall, Idaho Power can use up to \$45 million of ADITCs from 2012-2014 to achieve a minimum return of 9.5%. Thus, despite the underwhelming earnings results this quarter, IDA's ability to preserve this balance augurs well for its future performance.

The Langley Gulch power plant was completed. After conducting its "first fire" operating test in April, Idaho Power commenced commercial operation at its 300-megawatt natural gas-fired plant on June 29th. In all, the project cost a total of \$398 million since 2009. The subsidiary re-

quested that \$336.7 million of these expenses be recognized in its rate base, which would raise its annualized revenues by \$59.9 million. However, the Idaho Public Utilities Commission (IPUC) approved a reduced amount of \$58.1 million, which was effective on July 1st. Overall, Langley Gulch will likely become a substantial part of IDA's energy portfolio, and should yield a 7.86% regulated return on investment.

Idaho Power is under contract to add more wind power, which could raise costs for customers. In the back half of the year, the company must add another 300 megawatts of wind power to the 500 megawatts already being generated. However, the expenses that Idaho Power will likely incur to produce the alternative energy have become worrisome. As a result, IDA's customers may see higher costs if contract terms are not adjusted.

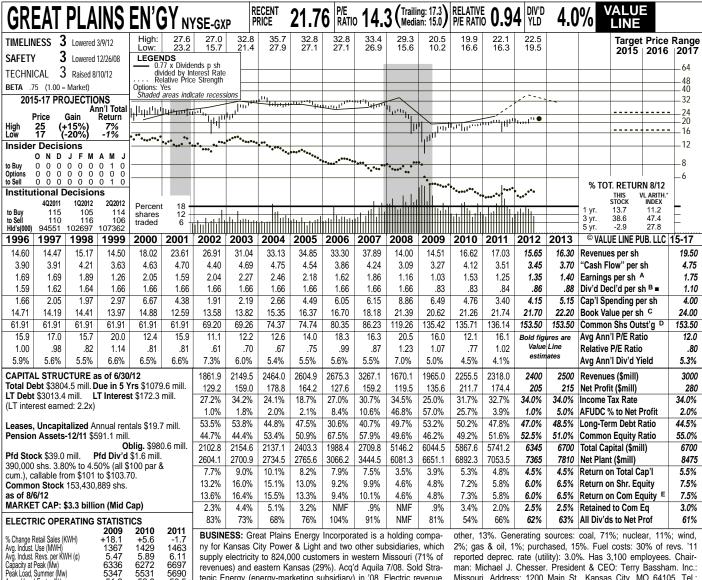
Shares of IDACORP are unappealing. Investors may want to look elsewhere due to the low dividend yield, which remains below average compared to its industry peers. Average ranks in both Timeliness and Safety add to our lackluster outlook. Michelle Jensen August 3, 2012

(A) EPS diluted. Excl. nonrecurring gains (loss): '00, 22¢; '03, 26¢; '05, (24¢); '06, 17¢. Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early March, late May, late mill. (E) Rate Base: Net original cost. Rate al-

Aug., and late Nov. Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) lncl. deferred debits. In '11: \$20.74/sh. (D) In Regulatory Climate: Above Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 85

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supply electricity to 824,000 customers in western Missouri (71% of revenues) and eastern Kansas (29%). Acq'd Aquila 7/08. Sold Strategic Energy (energy-marketing subsidiary) in '08. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 41%; commercial, 38%; industrial, 8%;

reported deprec. rate (utility): 3.0%. Has 3,100 employees. Chairman: Michael J. Chesser. President & CEO: Terry Bassham. Inc.: Missouri. Address: 1200 Main St., Kansas City, MO 64105. Tel.: 816-556-2200. Internet: www.greatplainsenergy.com.

144 218 211 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 -14.0% Revenues -1.5% 3.5% 'Cash Flow' -3.5% -9.5% 4.5% 5.5% Earnings -13.0% 5.5% 5.0% 2.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (avg.)

5347

-1.2

5531

52.8

+.2

5690

50.5

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (		Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	419.2	480.5	587.7	477.6	1965.0
2010	506.9	552.0	728.8	467.8	2255.5
2011	492.9	565.1	773.7	486.3	2318.0
2012	479.7	603.6	816.7	500	2400
2013	550	600	800	550	2500
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.05	.28	.57	.10	1.03
2010	.15	.47	.96	d.04	1.53
2011	.01	.31	.91	.01	1.25
2012	d.07	.41	.91	.10	1.35
2013	.10	.30	.90	.10	1.40
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.415	.415	.415	.415	1.66
2009	.2075	.2075	.2075	.2075	.83
2010	.2075	.2075	.2075	.2075	.83
2011	.2075	.2075	.2075	.2125	.84
2012	.2125	.2125	.2125		

As usual, Great Plains Energy's utility subsidiaries have rate cases pending. The company's utilities have not been earning their allowed returns on equity in recent years, so they have been filing rate applications frequently in order to reduce the effects of regulatory lag and weak vol-ume. Great Plains' utilities asked the Missouri commission for tariff hikes totaling \$189.2 million, based on a return of 10.4% on a 52.5% common-equity ratio. The company is also asking the state regulators to grant it tracking mechanisms to recover rising property taxes and earn a return on transmission expenditures. New rates are expected to go into effect in late January. Kansas City Power & Light asked the Kansas commission for a rate increase of \$63.6 million, based on a 10.4% return on a 51.8% common-equity ratio. New tariffs are expected to take effect at the start of 2013. Even if the utilities receive reasonable rate orders, they are likely to underearn their allowed RÖEs again next year. We have raised our 2012 earnings esti-

mate by \$0.15 a share, to \$1.35. Favorable weather conditions helped lift Juneperiod results, and the higher-than-normal

temperatures continued into the third quarter. Our revised estimate is still within management's targeted range of \$1.20-\$1.40.

We look for only a moderate shareearnings increase in 2013. We assume reasonable regulatory treatment, but we also base our forecast on a return to normal weather patterns. Also, average shares outstanding will be higher due to the 17.1 million shares that Great Plains issued in June of 2012 for the conversion of some debt into equity.

The Wolf Creek nuclear unit has room for improvement. The plant, 47%-owned by KCP&L, had a refueling outage in 2011 that was much longer than expected, and then had an unplanned outage in the first quarter of 2012. Its next refueling outage is scheduled for the first quarter of 2013.

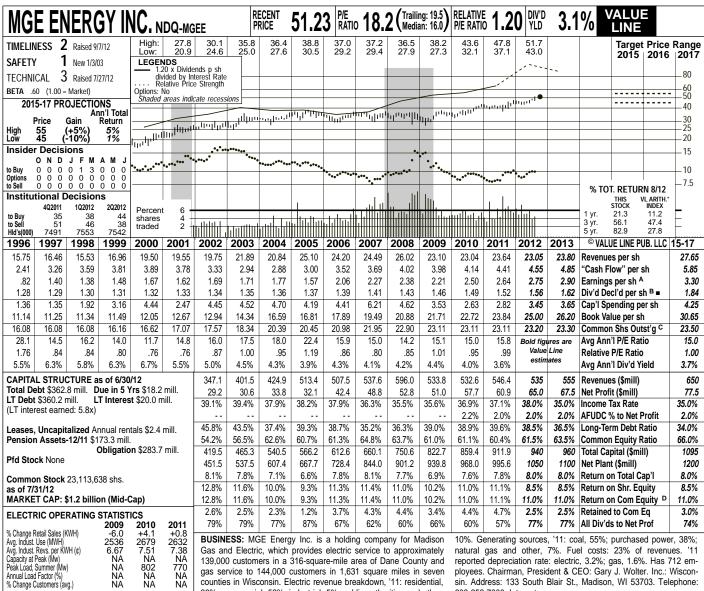
We are not enthusiastic about this stock. The yield (even assuming a dividend hike in the fourth quarter) is only about equal to the utility average, and with the quotation well within our 2015-2017 Target Price Range, total return potential is unimpressive.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 21, 2012

(A) Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '00, 49¢; '01, (\$2.01); '02, (5¢); '03, 29¢; '04, (7¢); '09, 12¢; gain (losses) on discont. ops.: '03, (13¢); '04, 10¢; '05, (3¢); '08, 35¢; '09, (1¢). '09-'11 EPS

don't add due to change in shares or rounding.
Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept. & Dec.
Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In eq., '11: \$9.01/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Fair value. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MO in '11: 10%; in KS in '10: 10%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 6.0%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 90 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 70



gas service to 144,000 customers in 1,631 square miles in seven counties in Wisconsin. Electric revenue breakdown, '11: residential, 33%; commercial, 52%; industrial, 5%; public authorities and other,

ployees. Chairman, President & CEO: Gary J. Wolter. Inc.: Wisconsin. Address: 133 South Blair St., Madison, WI 53703. Telephone: 608-252-7000. Internet: www.mge.com.

NA Fixed Charge Cov. (%) NA NA ANNUAL RATES Est'd '09-'11 Past Past 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '15-'17 2.0% 1.0% Revenues 2.5% 6.0% 6.5% 1.5% 6.0% 5.0% 3.5% 'Cash Flow" Earnings 4.5% 1.0% Dividends **Book Value** 6.5% 6.0% 5.0% Cal- QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

NA

NA

NA

endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	181.1	107.6	109.3	135.8	533.8
2010	159.7	109.1	127.9	135.9	532.6
2011	164.6	117.3	133.6	130.9	546.4
2012	149.3	117.2	132	136.5	535
2013	160	120	135	140	555
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.65	.43	.55	.58	2.21
2010	.62	.50	.86	.52	2.50
2011	.77	.55	.91	.41	2.64
2012	.69	.62	.86	.58	2.75
2013	.75	.62	.90	.63	2.90
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B ■	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.355	.355	.3617	.3617	1.43
2009	.3617	.3617	.3684	.3684	1.46
2010	.3684	.3684	.3751	.3751	1.49
2011	.3751	.3751	.3826	.3826	1.52
2012	.3826	.3826	.3951		
1					

**Shares of MGE Energy have advanced** nicely in value over the past three months. The company reported solid results for the second quarter. The top line roughly matched the prior-year results, supported by a modest increase in electric sales volume, as warmer-than-normal weather drove customer demand higher. Growth in the electric and nonregulated lines was roughly offset by a decrease in gas revenue. Regardless, operating expenses declined, and share earnings increased roughly 13%.

Healthy performance will probably continue going forward. The utility should continue to benefit from favorable demographics within its service territory. A relatively strong economy ought to drive population growth and demand for power in and around Madison, Wisconsin. We expect favorable results from the electric business going forward, though the company's gas operations should continue to experience weakness. Overall, we look for solid bottom-line growth for the current year. This trend will probably continue from 2013 onward.

The company has been active on the

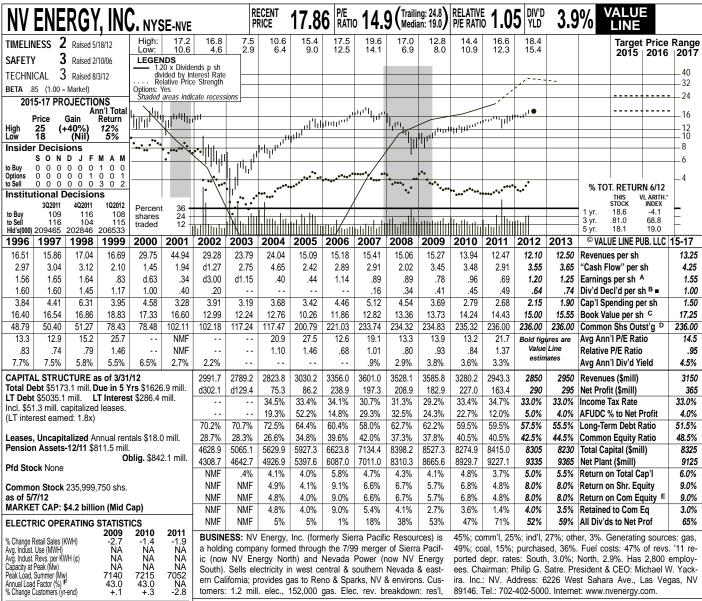
regulatory front. MGE has requested a 5.8% hike in electric rates and a 2.6% increase in gas rates. The company cited costs associated with infrastructure and environmental improvements as reasons for the request. It has asked that these rates become effective on January 1st of 2013.

The board of directors has increased the dividend by about 3%. Beginning with the September payout, the quarterly dividend is now \$0.3951. Moderate dividend growth will probably continue in the coming years.

This stock is ranked to outperform the broader equity markets for the coming six to 12 months. Looking further out, we anticipate higher revenues and share earnings for the company by 2015-2017. Moreover, MGE earns good Safety, Financial Strength, marks for Price Stability, and Earnings Predictability. The stock also has below-average volatility (Beta: 0.60). However, despite the solid profits and steady dividends we expect 3 to 5 years out, total return potential is below the *Value Line* median. Michael Napoli, CFA September 21, 2012

(A) Excl. nonrecurring loss: '96, 42¢. Next earnings report due in November. (B) Dividends historically paid in mid-March, June, September, and December. ■ Dvd. rein-

vestment plan available. (C) In millions. (D) Rate allowed on common equity in '11: 10.4%; earned on average common equity, '11: 10.3%. Regulatory Climate: Above AverCompany's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 90



South). Sells electricity in west central & southern Nevada & eastern California; provides gas to Reno & Sparks, NV & environs. Customers: 1.2 mill. elec., 152,000 gas. Elec. rev. breakdown: res'l,

ees. Chairman: Philip G. Satre. President & CEO: Michael W. Yackira. Inc.: NV. Address: 6226 West Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89146. Tel.: 702-402-5000. Internet: www.nvenergy.com.

181 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 159 181 **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '09-'11 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 -5.0% -1.0% Revenues Cash Flow 6.0% 4.0% Earnings 11.5% 16.0% -6.0% -2.0% 14.0% 3.5% Dividends 4.0% Book Value QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

7140

7215

endar	Mar.31		Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	755.3	838.6	1219.0	772.9	3585.8
2010	714.5	782.7		655.0	3280.2
2011	641.0	674.9	1017.8	609.6	2943.3
2012	611.4	650	1000	588.6	2850
2013	600	700	1050	600	2950
Cal-	EA	RNINGS	PER SHARI	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	d.09	.08	.78	.02	.78
2010	d.01	.16	.75	.06	.96
2011	.01	.05	.73	d.11	.69
2012	.05	.25	.85	.05	1.20
2013	.06	.26	.87	.06	1.25
Cal-	QUART	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.08	.08	.08	.10	.34
2009	.10	.10	.10	.11	.41
2010	.11	.11	.11	.12	.45
2011	.12	.12	.12	.13	.49
2012	.13	.17			

NV Energy's board of directors raised the dividend significantly. The increase was \$0.04 a share (30.8%) in the second quarter. The company is targeting a payout ratio of 55%-65%, and expects to be able to boost the disbursement "by about 10% annually for the next few years". Our estimates and projections indicate that NV will attain its goal.

Dividend hikes are one way that NV can use its free cash flow. The company's declining capital budget and its taxloss carryforwards create a happy situation for management. Debt reduction is another objective. More than \$1.6 billion of debt is due through 2016. NV wants to raise its common-equity ratio to approximately 50%.

Earnings are likely to advance materially this year. The key factor is a \$158.6 million rate hike at NV Energ South that took effect at the start of 2012. Declining interest expense should help, too. In addition, the comparison in the second half of the year is easy. Expenses associated with a gas-fired plant that began operating in 2011 hurt the bottom line by \$0.12 a share last year. Our estimate,

which we've raised by a dime a share, is at the midpoint of NV's guidance of \$1.15-\$1.25 a share.

We forecast just modest profit growth in 2013. The service area's economy isn't growing, due to the hangover effects of the housing crisis. At least NV Energy should benefit from another reduction in interest expense. Our estimate of \$1.25 a share would produce a 4% earnings increase.

NV Energy has a 25% stake in a transmission project that is under con-struction in Nevada. The line will connect the company's northern and southern utilities, and will enable them to be merged into one entity (with the approval of the state commission). However, it has been delayed by as much as a year, to the end of 2013. NV Energy's share of the cost is estimated at \$138 million.

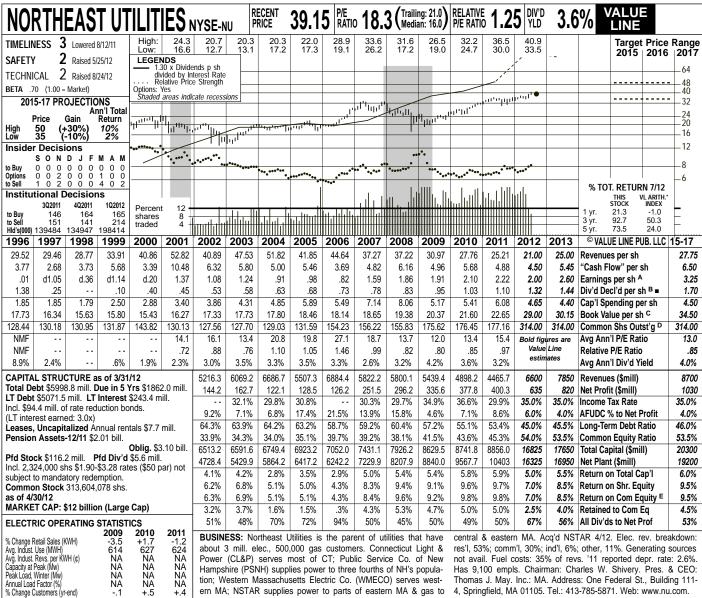
This timely stock is up 10% in price since our May report, which is understandable in view of the hefty dividend boost. Compared with the average for utilities, the dividend yield is a bit below average, but 3- to 5-year total return potential is above average. Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 3, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '00, 8¢; '01, 31¢; '03, (5¢); '04, (3¢); non-rec. gain (loss): '04, (21¢); '06, 20¢. '09 & '11

7052 NA -2.8

report due early Nov. (B) Div'd reinstated 7/07. Div'ds historically paid mid-Mar., June, Sept., & ergy North in '08: 10.6%; NV Energy South in Dec. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '11: \$6.69/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net Reg. Climate: Avg. (F) NV Energy South only.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 90 Price Growth Persistence 85 **Earnings Predictability** 60



Power (CL&P) serves most of CT; Public Service Co. of New Hampshire (PSNH) supplies power to three fourths of NH's population; Western Massachusetts Electric Co. (WMECO) serves western MA; NSTAR supplies power to parts of eastern MA & gas to not avail. Fuel costs: 35% of revs. '11 reported depr. rate: 2.6%. Has 9,100 empls. Chairman: Charles W. Shivery. Pres. & CEO: Thomas J. May. Inc.: MA. Address: One Federal St., Building 111-4, Springfield, MA 01105. Tel.: 413-785-5871. Web: www.nu.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		255	284 291
ANNUAL RATES	Past	Past	Est'd '09-'11
of change (per sh)	10 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	to '15-'17
Revenues	-4.0%	-9.5%	b Nil
"Cash Flow"	-2.5%	2.0%	
Earnings Dividends		18.0%	
Dividends	12.5%	8.5%	
Book Value	3.0%	3.5%	8.0%

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2009	1594	1224	1306	1315	5439.4
2010	1339	1112	1243	1204	4898.2
2011	1235	1048	1115	1068	4465.7
2012	1100	1629	2021	1850	6600
2013	2050	1700	2175	1925	7850
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.60	.47	.37	.48	1.91
2010	.49	.41	.57	.64	2.10
2011	.64	.44	.51	.64	2.22
2012	.56	.15	.75	.54	2.00
2013	.70	.55	.80	.55	2.60
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	ND B∎	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.20	.20	.2125	.2125	.83
2009	.2375	.2375	.2375	.2375	.95
2010	.25625	.25625	.25625	.25625	1.02
2011	.275	.275	.275	.275	1.10
2012	.29375	.343			

The profits we estimate for Northeast Utilities in 2012 aren't indicative of the company's earning potential. NU incurred expenses and reserves for customer rate credits associated with its merger with NSTAR, which was completed in April. These amounted to \$0.24 a share in the first half. In addition, due to criticism following lengthy storm-related outages in 2011, Connecticut Light & Power wrote off \$40 million of restoration costs and agreed to fund some energy initiatives in the state. This lowered first-half profits by \$0.14 a share. At least the second half of 2012 should be much better. Most merger-related costs have already been booked, and moderate rate hikes took effect in mid-2012 at Public Service of New Hampshire and Yankee Gas.

**Next year should be much better.** The combined company is achieving mergerrelated cost reductions, which are ramping up quarter by quarter. NU is retaining these savings because electric tariffs are frozen in Connecticut through November of 2014 and in Massachusetts through December of 2015. Also, we estimate that the board will raise the quarterly dividend by 5% in the first period of 2013.

CL&P is still dealing with repercussions from the aforementioned storm**related outages.** The state regulators issued a report that criticized some aspects of the utility's performance. In fact, they suggested that its allowed return on equity might be cut when rates are reset after the freeze ends. Even before the report was released, the utility proposed a five-year, \$300 million system resiliency plan. CL&P is hoping for a ruling from the commission in time for the work to begin in 2013.

Transmission is an important part of NU's business. The company earns a higher ROE on transmission than on distribution. Its five-year transmission capital budget is over \$3 billion. However, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is reviewing NU's allowed return on equity, due to complaints that it is too high.

This stock is up more than 10% since our May report. Its valuation is not compelling for either the near or long term. The subpar regulatory climate in Connecticut is another cause for concern.

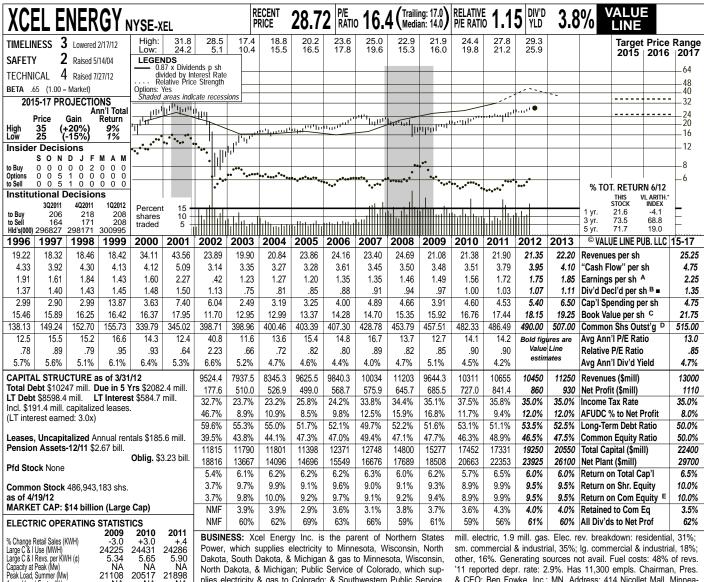
Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 24, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '02, 10¢; '03, (32¢); '04, (7¢); '05, (\$1.36); '08, (19¢); '10, 9¢. '09, '10 & '11 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early

Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid late Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '11: avg. com. eq., '11: 10.1%. Regulatory Climate: \$20.07/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate all'd on com.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 60

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Power, which supplies electricity to Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, South Dakota, & Michigan & gas to Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota, & Michigan; Public Service of Colorado, which supplies electricity & gas to Colorado; & Southwestern Public Service, which supplies electricity to Texas & New Mexico. Customers: 3.4

sm. commercial & industrial, 35%; lg. commercial & industrial, 18%; other, 16%. Generating sources not avail. Fuel costs: 48% of revs. '11 reported depr. rate: 2.9%. Has 11,300 empls. Chairman, Pres. & CEO: Ben Fowke. Inc.: MN. Address: 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Tel.: 612-330-5500. Web: www.xcelenergy.com.

258 277 298 Fixed Charge Cov. (% **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 -1.5% 1.0% 4.5% -4.0% -2.0% -1.0% Revenues 3.0% 'Cash Flow" 5.0% 6.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

21108 NA

+.5

21898

ŇĀ

+.4

20517

ΝA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES ( Sep.30		Full Year
2009	2695	2016	2315	2618	9644.3
2010	2807	2308	2629	2567	10311
2011	2817	2438	2832	2568	10655
2012	2578	2422	2850	2600	10450
2013	2900	2650	3000	2700	11250
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.38	.25	.48	.37	1.49
2010	.36	.29	.62	.29	1.56
2011	.42	.33	.69	.28	1.72
2012	.38	.36	.69	.32	1.75
2013	.42	.36	.71	.36	1.85
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.23	.23	.2375	.2375	.94
2009	.2375	.2375	.245	.245	.97
2010	.245	.245	.2525	.2525	1.00
2011	.2525	.2525	.26	.26	1.03
2012	26	26	27		

One of Xcel Energy's utility subsidiaries is taking steps to deal with disappointing regulatory rulings in two states. The Minnesota commission denied Northern States Power's request for an accounting order that would have allowed it to defer (for future recovery) \$24 million of incremental property taxes in 2012. The decision will make it tougher for the company to attain even the low end of its targeted profit range of \$1.75-\$1.85 a share this year. (Even so, we're keeping our estimate at \$1.75 a share for now.) The company was planning to file an electric application in Minnesota in November, but is considering accelerating its rate case. The South Dakota regulators granted NSP a final electric rate hike of about \$8 million (less than the interim tariff increase of \$12.7 million), based on a 9.25% return on a 53.04% common-equity ratio. Considering the order, and the low ROE that NSP has been earning in the state, the utility filed another rate case shortly thereafter. It requested a \$19.4 million tariff hike, based on a return of 10.65% on a commonequity ratio of 52.89%. New rates should take effect in late 2012 or early 2013.

A rate case is pending in Wisconsin, and a few more filings are expected by yearend. Regulatory activity is standard operating procedure for Xcel's utilities so that they can place their capital investments into the rate base and recover rising expenses. In Wisconsin, NSP asked for electric and gas increases of \$39.1 million (6.7%) and \$5.3 million, respectively, based on a return of 10.4% on a commonequity ratio of 52.5%. New tariffs are likely to take effect in early 2013. The company also plans to file electric rate cases in Texas, New Mexico, and North Dakota. Rate relief should boost earnings in 2013, and a return to normal winter weather conditions would be a plus, as well.

The board of directors boosted the common dividend by one cent a share (3.8%) quarterly. The increase was near the upper end of Xcel's dividend growth target of 2%-4% annually. We think dividend hikes will accelerate by mid-decade. Xcel stock does not stand out among

utility equities. The dividend yield and 3- to 5-year total return potential are below average for the industry.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 3, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (loss): '02, (\$6.27); '10, 5¢; gains (losses) on disc. ops.: (03, 27¢; '04, (30¢); '05, 3¢; '06, 1¢; '09, (1¢); '10, 1¢. '09 EPS don't add due to rounding.

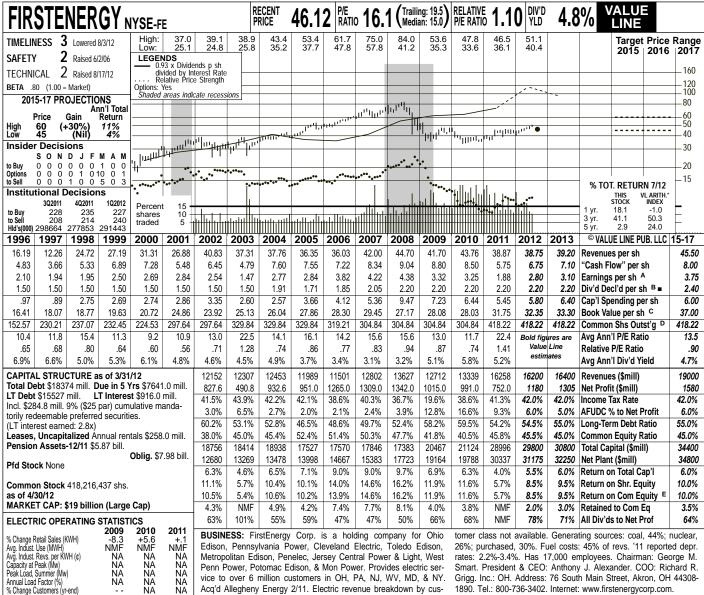
\$4.91/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Varies.

Next egs. report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds histor. Paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '11:

Next egs. report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds histor. Rate all'd on com. eq.: MN '09 10.88%; WI '08 10.75%; CO '10 (elec.) 10.5%; CO '07 (gas) 10.25%; TX '86 15.05%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 10.1%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 100

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Metropolitan Edison, Penelec, Jersey Central Power & Light, West Penn Power, Potomac Edison, & Mon Power. Provides electric service to over 6 million customers in OH, PA, NJ, WV, MD, & NY. Acq'd Allegheny Energy 2/11. Electric revenue breakdown by cus-

rates: 2.2%-3.4%. Has 17,000 employees. Chairman: George M. Smart. President & CEO: Anthony J. Alexander. COO: Richard R. Grigg. Inc.: OH. Address: 76 South Main Street, Akron, OH 44308-1890. Tel.: 800-736-3402. Internet: www.firstenergycorp.com

206 193 253 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) to '15-'17 Revenues 4.0% 2.5% 1.5% 'Cash Flow" 1.5% .5% -2.0% .5% 5.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 4.0% 1.5% 1.5% 4.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA NA NA

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (	\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	3334	3017	3408	2953	12712
2010	3299	3128	3693	3219	13339
2011	3576	4060	4719	3903	16258
2012	4078	3869	4400	3853	16200
2013	4200	3950	4300	3950	16400
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.94	.84	.77	.77	3.32
2010	.59	.87	1.19	.61	3.25
2011	.15	.48	1.27	d.09	1.88
2012	.73	.45	.82	.80	2.80
2013	.80	.65	.85	.80	3.10
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2009	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2010	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2011	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2012	.55	.55			

Unfavorable conditions in the power markets continue to hurt FirstEnergy. That's partly why the company's share earnings have fallen significantly since 2008. Low power prices are squeezing margins from its nonregulated generating assets. June-period profits fell short of our expectation, and we have lowered our 2012 earnings estimate by \$0.50 a share, to \$2.80. This figure is still well above the depressed 2011 tally, but mainly because the company incurred sizable mergerrelated expenses, stemming from its takeover of Allegheny Energy, last year.

Various uncertainties prompted management to withdraw its earnings guidance for 2013. (The company's targeted range for 2012, on a GAAP basis, is \$2.80-\$3.10 a share.) The aforementioned conditions in the power markets, as well as the state of the economy, have raised uncertainty for FirstEnergy. Withdrawal of guidance usually concerns Wall Street, and the stock price is down 6% since the company reported second-quarter results in early August. We've trimmed our 2013 share-net forecast from \$3.25 to \$3.10.

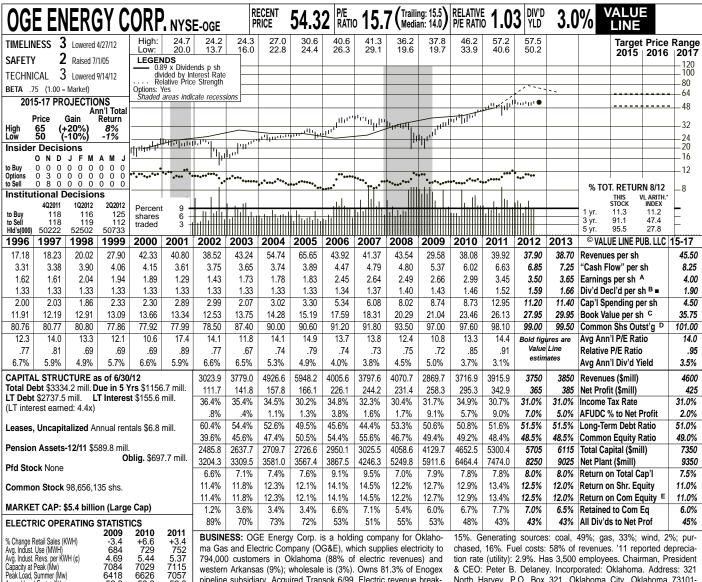
FirstEnergy received some good news

in Ohio. The company was disappointed with American Electric Power's initial plan for transition to competitive markets in the state, which FirstEnergy believed was anticompetitive. (FirstEnergy has a retail energy-supply operation that competes in Ohio and other states that allow customers to choose their provider.) AEP's revised plan, which the state regulators approved, is more competitive. In addition, FirstEnergy's own regulatory plan was extended by two years, through May of 2016. Jersey Central Power & Light must file a rate case by November 1st. After the state's Rate Counsel complained that JCP&L was overearning its allowed return on equity of 9.75%, the Board of Public Utilities ordered the utility to file a rate case. We assume no change in rates in our estimates and projections, but this doesn't mean that we are ruling out the possibility of an unfavorable regulatory outcome.

We have a neutral stance on this equity. Its dividend yield is above average for a utility, but subpar dividend growth to 2015-2017 will likely produce a total return that is only average for the industry. Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 24, 2012

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '04, | chg. in shs. Next egs. report due early Nov. (B) mill. (E) Rate base: Deprec. orig. cost. Rates (11¢); '05, (28¢); '09, (3¢); '10, (68¢); '11, 33¢; gain (loss) from disc. ops.: '03, (33¢); '05, 5¢. div'ds declared in '04. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan com. eq.: 9.75%-12.9%; earn. on avg. 11: 11.4%. Regulatory Climate: OH avail. (C) Incl. intang.: In '11: \$20.25/sh. (D) In Above Avg.; PA, NJ Avg.; MD, WV Below Avg. chg. in shs. Next egs. report due early Nov. (B) mill. (E) Rate base: Deprec. orig. cost. Rates Div'ds paid early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. Five div'ds declared in '04. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan com. eq.: 9.75%-12.9%; earn. on avg. com. eq., '11: 11.4%. Regulatory Climate: OH

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 90 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 



794,000 customers in Oklahoma (88% of electric revenues) and western Arkansas (9%); wholesale is (3%). Owns 81.3% of Enogex pipeline subsidiary. Acquired Transok 6/99. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 43%; commercial, 24%; industrial, 18%; other,

tion rate (utility): 2.9%. Has 3,500 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Peter B. Delaney. Incorporated: Oklahoma. Address: 321 North Harvey, P.O. Box 321, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-0321. Telephone: 405-553-3000. Internet: www.oge.com

338 409 427 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 Revenues -.5% -8.0% 4.0% 8.5% 8.5% 2.0% 8.5% 'Cash Flow" 4.5% 6.0% 5.5% 4.5% Earnings 4.5% 7.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

6418

+.8

6626

+.8

7057

52.2

+.8

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2009	606.6	644.1	845.3	773.7	2869.7
2010	875.8	887.2	1125.4	828.5	3716.9
2011	840.5	978.1	1212.1	885.2	3915.9
2012	840.7	855.0	1200	854.3	3750
2013	850	850	1250	900	3850
Cal-	EA	RNINGS	PER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.18	.72	1.40	.35	2.66
2010	.25	.78	1.65	.31	2.99
2011	.25	1.04	1.80	.37	3.45
2012	.38	.95	1.82	.35	3.50
2013	.35	1.00	1.95	.35	3.65
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.3475	.3475	.3475	.3475	1.39
2009	.355	.355	.355	.355	1.42
2010	.3625	.3625	.3625	.3625	1.45
2011	.375	.375	.375	.375	1.50
2012	.3925	.3925	.3925		

OGE Energy's utility subsidiary has received a rate increase. Oklahoma Gas and Electric's tariffs were raised by \$4.3 million (less than 1%), based on a 10.2% return on a 53% common-equity ratio. The rate hike was well below the \$73.3 million OG&E had requested. Still, the decision wasn't as unfavorable as it might appear. The utility will now be able to file for re-covery of some transmission projects through a rate rider, similar to the regulatory mechanisms it has for other kinds of capital expenditures (such as wind capacity). OG&É expects to spend nearly \$1 billion on transmission in the next five years. The utility isn't earning its allowed ROE in Arkansas. OG&E will soon seek recovery of a wind project through a sur-charge on customers' bills. If this doesn't narrow the gap between its allowed and earned ROEs, the utility will probably file a general rate case.

The Enogex pipeline subsidiary acquired some gas-gathering assets earlier this month. It paid \$80.5 million for properties in northwestern Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle. This is a key growth region for Enogex. In fact, the company

plans to invest another \$250 million in midstream gas infrastructure through the end of next year. Enogex expects its minority partner to invest \$60 million in the fourth quarter of 2012. This would reduce OGE's stake in Enogex to about 80%, from 81.3% today.

We estimate an earnings increase this year and next. The economy in OG&E's service area is stronger than the national economy, and OGE is benefiting from ongoing investment at Enogex. The bottomline growth this year will likely be slight, however, because the extremely hot summer of 2011 makes for a tough comparison.

We expect a dividend increase at the board meeting in the fourth quarter. This is when the directors usually review the disbursement. We estimate a 4.5% raise in the annual payout, to \$1.64 a share.

This stock's yield is more than a percentage point below the utility average. With the quotation within our 2015-2017 Target Price Range, total return potential is low.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 21, 2012

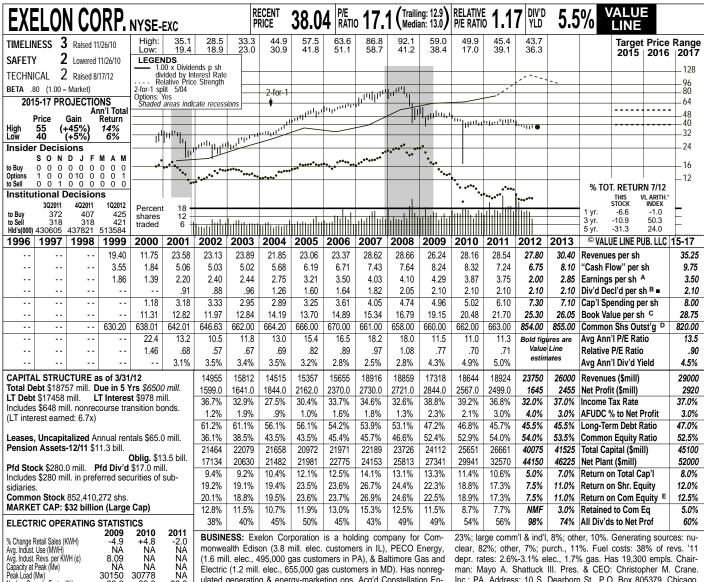
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring losses: '02, 39¢; '03, 14¢; '04, 6¢; gains on discontinued ops.: '02, 12¢; '04, 1¢; '05, 49¢; '06, 39¢. '09 & '11 EPS don't add to total due to rounding.

charges. In '11: \$6.98/sh. (D) in mill., adj. for | 13.1%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in late Jan., Apr., July & Oct. Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred in 109: 10.25%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 12.45%.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 95 **Earnings Predictability** 95

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monwealth Edison (3.8 mill. elec. customers in IL), PECO Energy, (1.6 mill. elec., 495,000 gas customers in PA), & Baltimore Gas and Electric (1.2 mill. elec., 655,000 gas customers in MD). Has nonregulated generating & energy-marketing ops. Acq'd Constellation Energy 3/12. Elec. rev. breakdown: res'l, 59%; small comm'l & ind'l,

clear, 82%; other, 7%; purch., 11%. Fuel costs: 38% of revs. '11 depr. rates: 2.6%-3.1% elec., 1.7% gas. Has 19,300 empls. Chairman: Mayo A. Shattuck III. Pres. & CEO: Christopher M. Crane. Inc.: PA. Address: 10 S. Dearborn St., P.O. Box 805379, Chicago, IL 60680-5379. Tel.: 312-394-7398. Internet: www.exeloncorp.com.

622 546 569 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 4.0% Revenues 4.0% 4.0% 5.0% 4.5% 7.0% 7.5% 'Cash Flow" 3.5% -2.0% Earnings 8.0% Nil 6.0% Dividends Book Value 5.5%

Nuclear Capacity Factor (%) % Change Customers (vr-end)

30150

NΑ

30778

93.9

+.4

NA

NA

+.3

93.3

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES ( Sep. 30		Full Year
2009	4722	4141	4339	4116	17318
2010	4461	4398	5291	4494	18644
2011	5052	4587	5295	3990	18924
2012	4686	5954	7000	6110	23750
2013	6500	6100	7100	6300	26000
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
2009	1.28	.99	1.14	.88	4.29
2010	1.13	.67	1.27	.79	3.87
2011	1.01	.93	.90	.91	3.75
2012	.53	.33	.60	.54	2.00
2013	.75	.65	.75	.70	2.85
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.50	.50	.50	.525	2.03
2009	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10
2010	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10
2011	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10
2012	525	525			

Exelon's earnings will almost certainly decline considerably this year. The acquisition of Constellation Energy in March is one reason. Exelon estimates that its merger-related expenses in 2012 will amount to \$325 million, but mergerrelated expense reductions will be \$170 million. (Over time, the former will decline and the latter will increase.) We are including these costs in our earnings presentation. Even were it not for the Constellation deal, however, profits were headed down. Until 2012, Exelon's hedging program had insulated its nonregulated generating subsidiary from the effects of wor-sening conditions in the power markets, but low power prices have finally caught up with the company.

Despite the fact that Exelon might not earn the dividend in 2012, the payout is secure, in our view. The board of directors isn't considering merger-related costs when declaring dividends. Exelon's finances remain sound, too.

The benefits of the Constellation takeover should be more apparent beginning in 2013. The merger-related costs are expected to decline to \$80 million,

while the merger-related savings are estimated to advance to \$305 million. In 2014, further improvement is likely in each of these measures, and management expects its nonregulated businesses to generate an additional \$100 million of operating income through synergies. Exelon's generating business is a good fit with Constellation's retail energy-supply unit. Rate relief at Baltimore Gas and Electric should be another plus. However, weak prices in the power markets will offset these positive factors to some extent.

Baltimore G&E has filed a general rate case. The utility is seeking increases of \$150.8 million for electricity and \$53.4 million for gas, based on a 10.5% return on a 48.4% common-equity ratio. New tariffs are expected to take effect in February

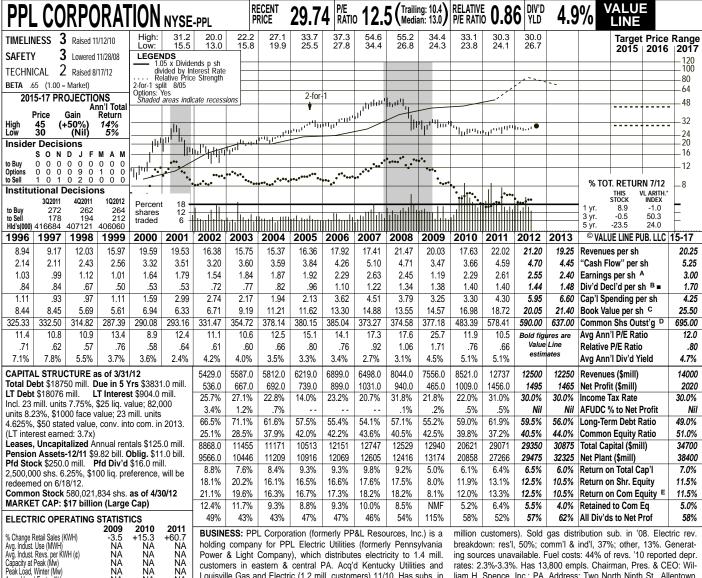
We think this stock has appeal for income-oriented investors. The dividend yield is more than one percentage point above the utility mean. Total return potential to 2015-2017 is also above the group average, despite the fact that we project no dividend increase over that time frame.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 24, 2012

(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring gain (losses): '02, (18¢); '03, (\$1.06); '04, 3¢; '05, (\$1.85); '06, (\$1.15); '09, (20¢); '12, (25¢); gains from disc. ops.: '07, 2¢; '08, 3¢. '10 EPS

don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinearly Mar., June, early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. program avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 40 **Earnings Predictability** 90



holding company for PPL Electric Utilities (formerly Pennsylvania Power & Light Company), which distributes electricity to 1.4 mill. customers in eastern & central PA. Acq'd Kentucky Utilities and Louisville Gas and Electric (1.2 mill. customers) 11/10. Has subs. in power generation & marketing, electricity distribution in U.K. (7.6

breakdown: res'l, 50%; comm'l & ind'l, 37%; other, 13%. Generating sources unavailable. Fuel costs: 44% of revs. '10 reported depr. rates: 2.3%-3.3%. Has 13,800 empls. Chairman, Pres. & CEO: William H. Spence. Inc.: PA. Address: Two North Ninth St., Allentown, PA 18101-1179. Tel.: 800-345-3085. Internet: www.pplweb.com

321 222 304 Fixed Charge Cov. (% **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 Revenues 1.0% 4.0% .5% 'Cash Flow' 2.0% 5.0% 6.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 10.5% 10.5% 7.5% 7.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

+.3

NΑ

NA NA NA

NA

NΑ

+22.5

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (	\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	2351	1673	1805	1727	7556.0
2010	3006	1473	2179	1863	8521.0
2011	2910	2489	3120	4218	12737
2012	4112	2549	3100	2739	12500
2013	3550	2700	3200	2800	12250
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.64	.07	.12	.37	1.19
2010	.74	.22	.62	.69	2.29
2011	.82	.35	.76	.69	2.61
2012	.93	.48	.65	.49	2.55
2013	.75	.45	.68	.52	2.40
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.305	.335	.335	.335	1.31
2009	.335	.345	.345	.345	1.37
2010	.345	.35	.35	.35	1.40
2011	.35	.35	.35	.35	1.40
2012	.35	.36	.36		

PPL Corporation's utility subsidiaries in Pennsylvania and Kentucky have rate cases pending. In Pennsylvania, PPL Electric Utilities filed for a rate hike of \$104.6 million, based on a return of 11.25% on a common-equity ratio of 51.03%. In Kentucky, Louisville Gas and Electric requested electric and gas increases of \$62.1 million and \$17.2 million, respectively, based on an 11% return on a 55.64% common-equity ratio. Kentucky Utilities filed for an electric hike of \$82.1 million, based on an 11% return on a 53.74% common-equity ratio. Orders in each state are expected in December, with new tariffs taking effect in January

Profits from the company's utilities in the United Kingdom are up significantly. These businesses contributed \$0.62 a share in the first half of 2012, compared with \$0.18 a year earlier. Part of the improvement is due to an acquisition that PPL made there in 2011, but the utilities are also faring well on their own. With income from PPL's nonregulated business under pressure (see below) and the company's domestic utilities needing rate relief because they aren't earning adequate re-

turns on equity, the U.K. operations have become even more important for PPL.

Declining margins from the nonregulated side of the business will probably lead to lower earnings in 2012 and **2013.** The combination of weak power prices and higher coal costs is problematic for PPL. Management is looking for ways to cut costs. Note that mark-to-market gains or losses, which we include in our presentation but not in our estimates (because they are impossible to predict), will skew reported earnings.

Despite the profit squeeze, the board of directors boosted the dividend earlier this year, and we look for another increase in 2013. Although overall earnings are down, utility income is up—and is likely to keep rising as the company's rate base expands.

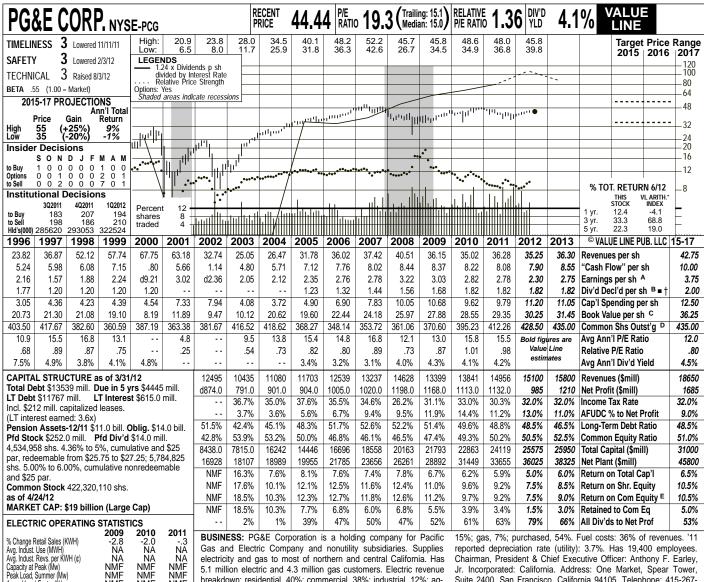
We think this stock is worthy of consideration by income-oriented investors. Compared with the average electric utility, the dividend yield is above average. Projected total returns to 2015-2017 also compare favorably with those of most other utility issues

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 24, 2012

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '07, (12¢); '10, (8¢); '11, 8¢; gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '05, (12¢); '07, 19¢; '08, 3¢; '09, (10¢); '10, (4¢); '12, (1¢). '09 & '11 EPS don't add

due to rounding, '10 due to chg. in shs. Next egs. due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '11: \$11.29/sh.

(D) In mill., adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Fair val. Rate all'd on com. eq. in PA in '08: none spec.; in KY in '10: 9.75%-10.75%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 14.4%. Regul. Climate: Avg. Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 55 **Earnings Predictability** 60



Gas and Electric Company and nonutility subsidiaries. Supplies electricity and gas to most of northern and central California. Has 5.1 million electric and 4.3 million gas customers. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 40%; commercial, 38%; industrial, 12%; agricultural, 7%; other, 3%. Generating sources: nuclear, 24%; hydro,

reported depreciation rate (utility): 3.7%. Has 19,400 employees. Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer: Anthony F. Earley, Jr. Incorporated: California. Address: One Market, Spear Tower, Suite 2400, San Francisco, California 94105. Telephone: 415-267-7000. Internet: www.pgecorp.com

303 295 296 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 2.5% 3.5% 3.5% Revenues -5.5% 3.0% 3.5% 4.5% 2.0% 4.0% 'Cash Flow" 6.0% Earnings 8.5% 8.0% 16.0% 6.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NMF

+.2

NMF

NMF

+.5

NA

NMF NMF

NMF

+.4

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES ( Sep.30		Full Year
2009	3431	3194	3235	3539	13399
2010	3475	3232	3513	3621	13841
2011	3597	3684	3860	3815	14956
2012	3641	3700	3900	3859	15100
2013	3950	3800	4000	4050	15800
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.65	.87	.80	.71	3.03
2010	.67	.86	.66	.63	2.82
2011	.50	.91	.68	.69	2.78
2012	.66	.54	.55	.55	2.30
2013	.60	.70	.75	.70	2.75
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB <b>■</b> †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.36	.39	.39	.39	1.53
2009	.39	.42	.42	.42	1.65
2010	.42	.455	.455	.455	1.79
2011	.455	.455	.455	.455	1.82
2012	455	455	455		

The aftermath of the pipeline explosion in San Bruno, California in September of 2010 remains a major investment consideration for PG&E. The explosion caused fatalities, injuries, and significant property damage. Since then, PG&E has incurred millions of dollars of costs and third-party claims associated with the accident, and these are continuing in 2012. (Some of the third-party claims are covered by insurance.) The company estimates that its pipeline-related expenses will amount to \$450 million-\$550 million this year, and that third-party liability claims will amount to as much as \$225 million. Separately, PG&E made a \$70 million contribution to San Bruno in the March quarter. (All figures are pre-tax.) We are *including* these expenses (and any insurance recoveries) in our presentation, which is one reason why we expect an earnings decline this year. Another is that average shares outstanding will be higher, as the company expects to issue \$700 million of common equity in 2012. PG&E is still facing a substantial fine from the state commission, which we will exclude from our presentation.

We estimate that earnings will rebound in 2013. PG&E hasn't stated its expectation for pipeline-related expenses, but we believe they will not be as high as in 2012. One disadvantage, however, is that the utility's allowed return on equity is likely to be lower than it is this year.

A cost-of-capital filing is pending. PG&E proposed an allowed ROE of 11% (compared with 11.35% now) and common-equity ratio of 52%. This would reduce annual rates by about \$100 million. An order is expected by yearend, and will take effect at the start of 2013.

The utility has made its preliminary filing for its general rate case. (This proceeding is separate from the cost-ofcapital case.) It plans to ask for rate increases of \$1.25 billion in 2014, and \$500 million in each of the following two years. A ruling is expected in 2013, with new tariffs taking effect at the start of 2014.

We don't recommend this stock. Despite the ongoing uncertainties surrounding the San Bruno explosion, the stock's yield is only average for a utility, and 3- to 5-year total return potential is low. Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 3, 2012

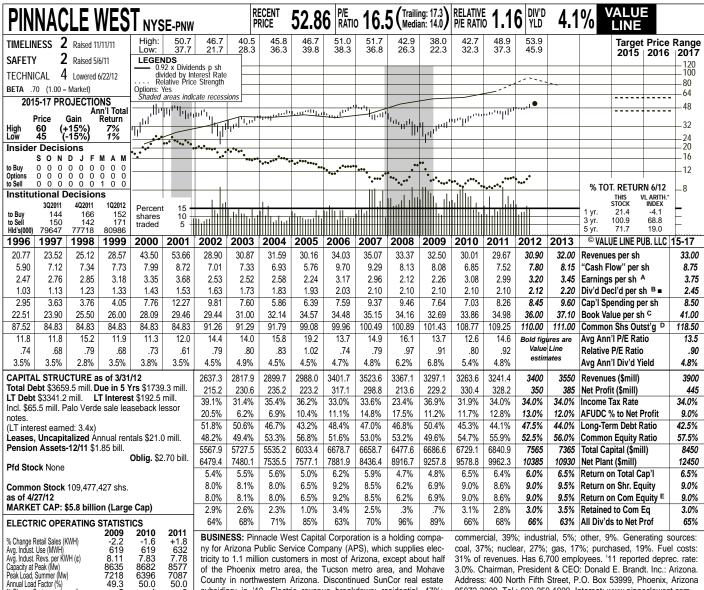
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '96, (41¢); '97, 18¢; '99, (\$2.44); '04, \$6.95; '09, 18¢; '11, (68¢); '12, (10¢); gain from disc. ops.: '08, 41¢. Incl. nonrec. loss: '00, \$11.83.

Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Jan., Apr., July and Oct.
■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. † Shareholder 11.35%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 9.5%.

investment plan avail. (C) Incl. intangibles. In Regulatory Climate: Above Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 90

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tricity to 1.1 million customers in most of Arizona, except about half of the Phoenix metro area, the Tucson metro area, and Mohave County in northwestern Arizona. Discontinued SunCor real estate subsidiary in '10. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 47%;

31% of revenues. Has 6,700 employees. '11 reported deprec. rate: 3.0%. Chairman, President & CEO: Donald E. Brandt. Inc.: Arizona. Address: 400 North Fifth Street, P.O. Box 53999, Phoenix, Arizona 85072-3999. Tel.: 602-250-1000. Internet: www.pinnaclewest.com.

248 296 308 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 -3.0% -1.0% -2.0% -1.0% Revenues 1.0% 'Cash Flow" 2.5% 5.0% Earnings 1 0% 4.0% 2.0% 2.5% 3.0% Dividends Book Value 1.5%

+.5

% Change Customers (vr-end)

6396

50.0

+.4

7087

50.0

+.8

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	625.9	836.0	1142.2	693.0	3297.1
2010	620.3	820.6	1139.1	683.6	3263.6
2011	648.9	799.8	1124.8	667.9	3241.4
2012	620.6	879.4	1200	700	3400
2013	650	875	1300	725	3550
Cal-	EA	RNINGS	PER SHARE	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	d.36	.74	2.07	d.19	2.26
2010	.07	.83	2.08	.06	3.08
2011	d.15	.78	2.24	.11	2.99
2012	d.07	.90	2.30	.07	3.20
2013	Nil	1.00	2.35	.10	3.45
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10
2009	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10
2010	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10
2011	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10
2012	.525	.525	.525		

Pinnacle West's utility subsidiary received a base rate increase in mid-2012. Arizona Public Service's tariffs were raised by \$116.3 million (4%), based on a return of 10% on a common-equity ratio of 53.94%. In addition, APS' fuel adjustment clause will now reflect the entire change in fuel and purchased-power costs, compared with 90% of any changes previously. Base rates will be frozen until mid-2016, except for a moderate increase that would occur in mid-2013. This would place the Four Corners asset acquisition (see below) in the rate base, provided that the purchase is approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the utility reaches a new coal supply contract.

The utility hopes to complete the Four Corners purchase in December. APS would pay \$294 million for another utility's 739-megawatt stake in units 4 and 5 of the coal-fired station. It would have to spend \$300 million on environmental upgrades for these two units, but would avoid \$600 million of environmental improvements that would have been required for units 1, 2, and 3, which would be shut down. The company would finance

the purchase with debt. Note that our figures will not reflect the Four Corners acquisition until after it has been completed. Earnings are likely to rise in 2012 and 2013. Rate relief should be the key factor each year. Management wasn't providing earnings guidance until June-quarter results were released, which was expected shortly after this report went to press

We look for a dividend incréase later this year. The rate case has been concluded, Pinnacle's earning power is improving, and the payout ratio is low enough to allow the board of directors to raise the disbursement. We estimate that the board will hike the quarterly dividend by \$0.02 a share (3.8%). This would be Pinnacle's first dividend increase since the fourth quarter of 2006.

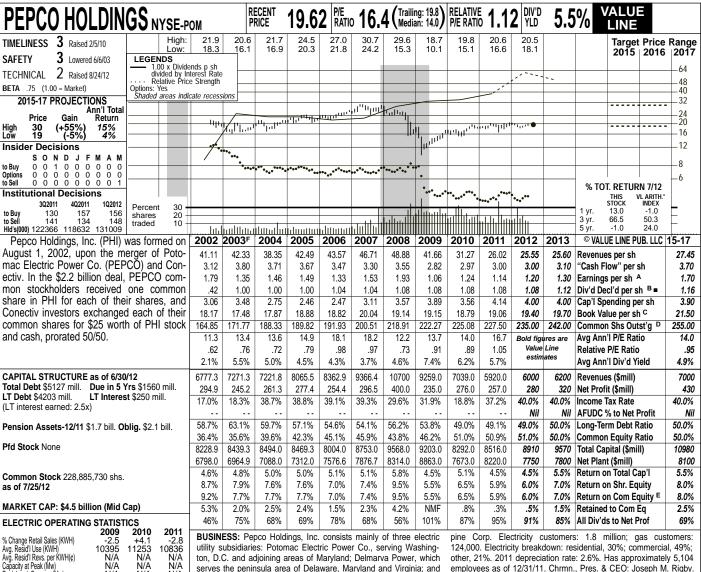
The price of this timely stock has risen 10% so far this year, far out-performing most utility equities. We think this is due to the outcome of the rate case and the prospective dividend increase. This issue's yield is about average for a utility, but total return potential to 2015-2017 is low.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 3, 2012

(A) Diluted egs. Excl. nonrec. losses: '02, 77¢; '09, \$1.45; excl. gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '00, 22¢; '05, (36¢); '06, 10¢; '08, 28¢; '09, (13¢); '10, 18¢; '11, 10¢. '10 EPS don't add

due to change in shares, '11 due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds (E) Rate base: Fair value. Rate allowed on historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept. and Dec. Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. 11: 8.8%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 65



N/A N/A N/A N/A N/A +.6 +1.1+.7 188 204 251 Est'd '09-'11 Past 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 5 Yrs. -4.5% -4.0% -4.5% -3.5% -3.0% 4.0% 7.0%

.27

N/A

N/A

Peak Load, Summer (Mw) Annual Load Factor (%)

Fixed Charge Cov. (%

of change (per sh)

Revenues "Cash Flow"

2010

2011

2012

.27

ANNUAL RATES

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Earnings -4.5% Dividends **Book Value** 0.5% 0.5% 2.0% QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2009 2520 2065 2539 2135 9259 2010 1819 1636 2067 1517 7039 1634 1409 1234 1643 5920 2012 1202 1000 1620

2013	1300	1200	2000	1700	6200		
Cal-		EARNINGS PER SHARE AG Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31					
	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year		
2009	.21	.11	.56	.18	1.06		
2010	.16	.34	.52	.25	1.24		
2011	.27	.42	.35	.10	1.14		
2012	.30	.27	.43	.20	1.20		
2013	.30	.35	.45	.20	1.30		
Cal-	QUAR	Full					
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year		
2008	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08		
2009	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08		

ton, D.C. and adjoining areas of Maryland; Delmarva Power, which serves the peninsula area of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia; and Atlantic City Electric, serving southern New Jersey. In July 2010, Pepco sold competitive energy business (Conectiv Energy) to Cal-

Pepco Holdings turned in a soft second-quarter showing. The Washington, DC-based utility reported earnings of \$0.27 a share, below our \$0.33 estimate. The miss was primarily driven by higherthan-expected operating costs related to reliability and system improvement ef-Ålthough we believe Penco's heightened spending habits will provide some benefit down the road, they are likely to continue to suppress earnings growth in the near term. As a result, we have reduced our 2012 earnings estimate by \$0.05 a share, to \$1.20. Despite the weak second-quarter performance, management reiterated its full-year share-net guidance range of \$1.15-\$1.30.

The company recently received disappointing rulings in its Maryland rate cases. On July 20th, both Pepco and Delmarva Power received decisions in their distribution rate cases in Maryland. For Pepco, the commission approved an \$18 million annual rate increase based on an ROE of 9.31%, while Delmarva was approved for an \$11 million increase on an ROE of 9.81%. Combined, the utilities were only granted about 50% of their reother, 21%. 2011 depreciation rate: 2.6%. Has approximately 5,104 employees as of 12/31/11. Chrmn., Pres. & CEO: Joseph M. Rigby. Inc.: DE. Address: 701 Ninth Street, N.W., Wash., D.C. 20068. Telephone.: 202-872-2000. Internet: www.pepcoholdings.com.

quested hikes.

There are currently three rate cases pending. Looking past the unfavorable regulatory treatment in Maryland, the company still has ongoing cases in DC, Delaware, and New Jersey where it is requesting a total of \$154 million of incremental revenues. A decision in DC is expected sometime in the coming months, while rulings in New Jersey and Delaware are pegged for the fourth quarter.

The stock's dividend remains among the highest in the utility sector. Shares of Pepco are currently yielding an attractive 5.5%, well above the industry's 4.1% Encouragingly, average. management reiterated its commitment to maintaining its quarterly payout in Pepco's most recent conference call (August 7th). For investors seeking to add a consistent income play to their portfolios, this stock remains a top selection.

These neutrally ranked shares are well-suited for long-term accounts. Based on our current projections, total return potential to 2015-2017 is above average by utility standards.

Michael Ratty August 24, 2012 Company's Financial Strength

(A) Based on dil. shs. Excl. nonrecur. items: '01, 30¢; '03, d69¢; '04, 1¢; '05, 47¢; '06, d1¢; '08, 46¢; '10, 62¢. Next egs. rpt. due early Nov. (B) Div'ds paid in late March, June, Sep., and

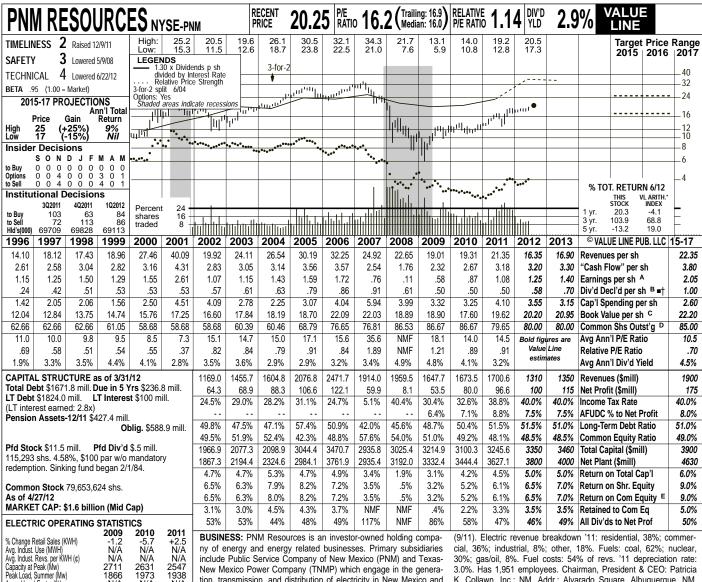
.27

.27

Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan. **(C)** Incl. def'd chgs: ('06-Del.); NJ: 10.3% ('10-ACE); Earned on '10 '11, \$4.5 bill. or \$19.78/sh. **(D)** In mill. **(E)** Rate allowed in MD: 9.83% ('10-Pepco), 10.0% ('09- '03 results pro forma.

Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 

95 30



ny of energy and energy related businesses. Primary subsidiaries include Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) and Texas-New Mexico Power Company (TNMP) which engage in the generation, transmission, and distribution of electricity in New Mexico and Texas. Sold competitive energy business First Choice Energy

cial, 36%; industrial, 8%; other, 18%. Fuels: coal, 62%; nuclear, 30%; gas/oil, 8%. Fuel costs: 54% of revs. '11 depreciation rate: 3.0%. Has 1,951 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Patricia K. Collawn. Inc.: NM. Addr.: Alvarado Square, Albuquerque, NM. 87158. Tel.: 505-241-2700. Internet: www.pnmresources.com.

156 182 201 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) to '15-'17 -3.5% -2.5% -7.5% -7.5% -4.5% Revenues 2.0% "Cash Flow" Earnings 5.5% 16.0% -12.0% -8.0% -1.0% 12.0% 3.0% Dividends Book Value 1.5%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

1866

N/A -.9

N/A

2631 1973

N/A

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES ( Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2009	385.9	401.1	477.7	383.0	1647.7
2010	383.5	405.8	503.7	380.5	1673.5
2011	387.7	415.5	549.5	347.9	1700.6
2012	305.4	315	395	294.6	1310
2013	310	325	410	305	1350
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.15	.01	.60	d.18	.58
2010	.06	.21	.63	d.03	.87
2011	.04	.20	.61	.22	1.08
2012	.17	.30	.60	.18	1.25
2013	.20	.35	.65	.20	1.40
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ID B∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.23	.23	.125	.125	.71
2009	.125	.125	.125	.125	.50
2010	.125	.125	.125	.125	.50
2011	.125	.125	.125	.125	.50
2012	.145	.145			

PNM Resources posted a decent start to the year. The company's top- and bottom-line results of \$305 million and \$0.17 a share were in line with expectations. Earnings more than doubled from the year-ago tally, largely due to the sale of its competitive energy businesses, First Choice Power and Optim Energy, which put pressure on PNMR's performance last year. Moreover, share repurchases in 2011, totaling approximately \$125 million, helped to boost share earnings in this year. Looking forward, we reiterate our 2012 share-net estimate of \$1.25; however, we increased our 2013 projection by a nickel, to \$1.40.

**Environmental** Agency's (EPA) best available retrofit technology (BART) requirements have **led to an uphill battle.** Recall, the court decided to deny PNMR's request to suspend installation of selective catalytic reduction (SCR) technology, which could cost the company more than \$750 million over the next five years. Too, the governor of New Mexico sent a similar request, asking the EPA to permit a 90-day stay to allow PNMR to create an alternative plan.

The motion was granted in July, and we expect a final decision later this year.

The electric utility remains engaged regarding other regulatory activity. Although PNMR is not anticipating another general rate case filing this year, the company is focused on its pending FERC rate cases, its renewable energy rider, and its 2013 renewable energy plan.

Shares of PNM Resources picked up steam since our last review. The stock price climbed to over \$20 a share, hitting a high not seen since 2008. Thus, this issue is ranked to outperform the broader market averages over the coming six to 12 months.

However, PNM Resources' lackluster dividend yield may offset any positive sentiment. Despite the company's 16% quarterly dividend increase, to \$0.145 a share, we are still unimpressed. PNMR's 2.9% yield is significantly below the utility industry average of 4.1%. Thus, incomeseeking investors should look elsewhere right now. Moreover, PNMR's stock price is within our Target Price Range, limiting capital gains potential.

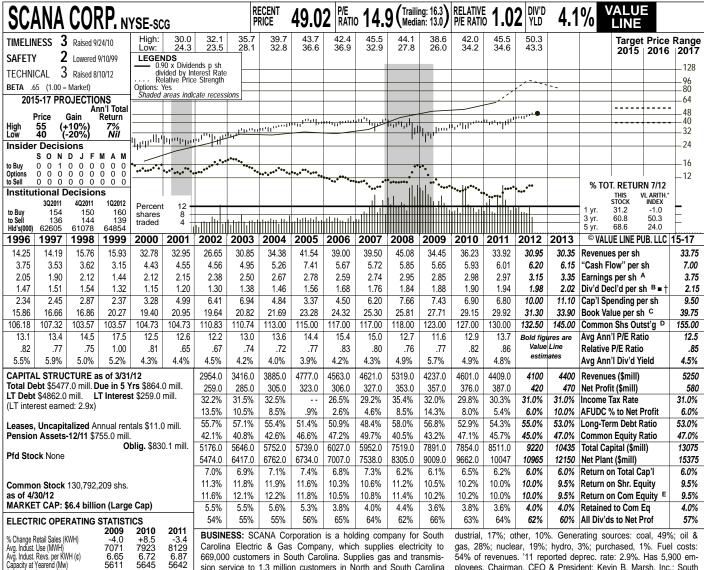
Michelle Jensen August 3, 2012

(A) EPS diluted. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '97, 3¢; '98, net (16¢); '99, 5¢; '00, 14¢; '01, (10¢); '03, 45¢; '05, (56¢); '07, 14¢; '08,

(\$3.77); '10, (\$1.36). Egs. máy not sum due to | plan avail. (C) İncl. intang. '11: \$3.21/sh. (D) In | Climate: Avg.

rounding. Next egs. report due early Aug. (B) mill., adjust. for split. (E) Rate base: net orig. Div'ds hist. paid in mid Feb., May, Aug., Nov. Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. on avg. com. eq., '11: 6.1%. Regulatory

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 65 Price Growth Persistence 25 **Earnings Predictability** 15



669,000 customers in South Carolina. Supplies gas and transmission service to 1.3 million customers in North and South Carolina and Georgia. Owns gas pipelines. Acquired PSNC Energy 2/00. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 42%; commercial, 31%; in-

54% of revenues. '11 reported deprec. rate: 2.9%. Has 5,900 employees. Chairman, CEO & President: Kevin B. Marsh. Inc.: South Carolina. Address: 100 SCANA Parkway, Cayce, South Carolina 29033. Tel.: 803-217-9000. Internet: www.scana.com

255 278 279 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '09-'11 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 2.5% 4.0% 4.5% 4.5% 3.5% -2.0% -1.0% 2.0% 4.0% 4.5% Revenues -.5% 'Cash Flow' 3.0% 4.0% Earnings 2.0% 5.5% Dividends Book Value

4557

+.8

4735

60.9

+.9

4885

57.3

+.5

Capacity at Yearend (Mw) Peak Load, Summer (Mw)

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES Sep.30		Full Year
2009	1343	878	921	1095	4237.0
2010	1428	939	1088	1146	4601.0
2011	1281	1000	1092	1036	4409.0
2012	1107	908	1085	1000	4100
2013	1250	950	1150	1050	4400
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	PER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.94	.45			2.85
2010	1.02	.43	.79	.74	2.98
2011	1.00	.43	.81	.75	2.97
2012	.91	.55	.85	.84	3.15
2013	1.05	.50	.90	.90	3.35
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	\IDB <b>=</b> †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.44	.46	.46	.46	1.82
2009	.46	.47	.47	.47	1.87
2010	.47	.475	.475	.475	1.90
2011	.475	.485	.485	.485	1.93
2012	.485	.495	.495		

SCANA's utility subsidiary in South Carolina has filed an electric rate case. South Carolina Electric & Gas is seeking a rate hike of \$151.5 million (6.6%), based on a return of 10.95% on a common-equity ratio of 52.18%. (This application excludes the two nuclear units that are under construction, which are dealt with in separate regulatory proceedings.) SCE&G's electric rate base isn't earning an adequate return on equity, having earned an ROE of below 9% for the 12 months ended in mid-2012. In recent years, the utility has been able to settle its general rate cases. SCE&G expects to obtain a rate order in time for new tariffs to take effect at the start of 2013

The utility has a separate filing for its nuclear construction costs under the state's Base Load Review Act (BLRA). SCE&G's 55% share of the two units it is building are projected to cost \$5.8 billion. In order to avoid rate shock and enable the utility to earn a return on construction work in progress, SCE&G files for a modest rate hike each year under the BLRA for these costs. The latest petition is for an increase of \$56.7 million (2.5%). New rates are expected to take effect in October.

SCE&G is seeking an adjustment in gas rates, too. Each year, the utility files if it is overearning or underearning its allowed ROE by at least half a percentage point. Because SCE&G is now underearning its allowed ROE for gas, it requested a boost of \$8.8 million (2.4%). New tariffs should take effect in November.

We have raised our 2012 share-net estimate by a nickel, to \$3.15. Junequarter profits were better than we expected, as the company is benefiting from economic improvement in its service territory. Our revised estimate is at the midpoint of SCANA's guidance of \$3.05-\$3.25.

Wе forecast further bottom-line growth in 2013. We assume reasonable regulatory treatment in the aforementioned rate cases and a return to normal weather patterns in Georgia. The mild winter hurt SCANA's gas-supply operation there in the first quarter of 2012.

We aren't entĥusiastic about this stock. The yield is only average for a utility, and 3- to 5-year total return potential is low.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 24, 2012

(A) Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '97, 16¢; '99, 29¢; '00, 28¢; '01, \$3.00; '02, (\$3.72); '03, 31¢; '04, (23¢); '05, 3¢; '06, 9¢. '11 EPS don't add due to change in shs. Next earnings report due (C) Incl. intang. In '11: \$9.84/sh. (D) In mill.

late Oct. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. 

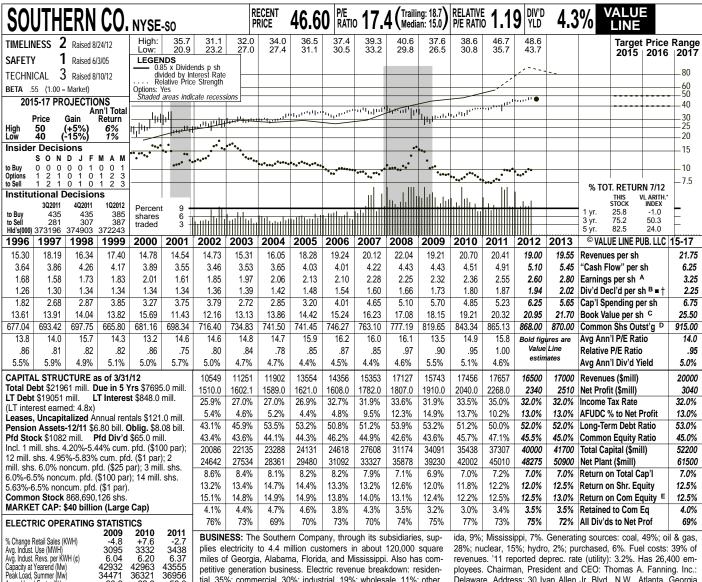
Div'd reinvestment plan avail. 

Shareholder investment plan avail.

(E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in SC: 10.7% elec. in '10, 10.25% gas in '05; in NC: 10.6% in '08; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 9.9%. Regul. Clim.: Above Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 100

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plies electricity to 4.4 million customers in about 120,000 square miles of Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi. Also has competitive generation business. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 35%; commercial, 30%; industrial, 19%; wholesale, 11%; other, 5%. Retail revenues by state: Georgia, 51%; Alabama, 33%; Flor28%; nuclear, 15%; hydro, 2%; purchased, 6%. Fuel costs: 39% of revenues. '11 reported deprec. rate (utility): 3.2%. Has 26,400 employees. Chairman, President and CEO: Thomas A. Fanning. Inc.: Delaware. Address: 30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., N.W., Atlanta, Georgia 30308. Tel.: 404-506-5000. Internet: www.southerncompany.com.

	310	342	397
Past	Past	Est'd	'09-'11
10 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	to	'15-'17
2.5%	2.5%	6	1.0%
2.0%	3.5%	b i	5.0%
3.0%			5.0%
			4.0%
3.5%	6.0%	6	5.0%
	10 Yrs. 2.5% 2.0%	Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 2.5% 2.5% 3.0% 3.0% 4.0%	Past Past Est'd 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to 2.5% 2.5% 2.0% 3.5% 3.0% 3.0% 4.0%

60.6

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (vr-end)

36956

62.2

Cal- endar	QUA Mar.31	RTERLY R Jun.30	EVENUES Sep.30		Full Year
2009	3666	3885	4682	3510	15743
2010	4157	4208	5320	3771	17456
2011	4012	4521	5428	3696	17657
2012	3604	4181	5015	3700	16500
2013	3800	4200	5200	3800	17000
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.41	.61	.99	.31	2.32
2010	.60	.62	.98	.18	2.36
2011	.49	.70	1.06	.30	2.55
2012	.42	.70	1.12	.36	2.60
2013	.50	.75	1.20	.35	2.80
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB <b>■</b> †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.4025	.42	.42	.42	1.66
2009	.42	.4375	.4375	.4375	1.73
2010	.4375	.455	.455	.455	1.80
2011	.455	.4725	.4725	.4725	1.87
2012	4725	49			

Southern Company has two major projects under construction. Georgia Power is building two nuclear units that are scheduled to begin commercial operation in 2016 and 2017. The utility's 45.7% share of the project (about 1,000 megawatts) has a certified cost of \$6.1 billion. However, some \$400 million of cost overruns are in dispute between the company and the construction firms. If the final cost is above the certified cost, Georgia Power would have to seek recovery for the overage from the state commission. Mississippi Power is building a 582-mw coal gasification plant, which is scheduled for completion in 2014. The projected cost has risen to \$2.88 billion (including a \$62 million contingency), which is the cost cap there. The utility would have to ask the state regulators for approval to recover any costs above the cost cap.

We now estimate that earnings will slightly in 2012. Secondadvance quarter profits were better than we expected, so we have raised our earnings estimate by \$0.05 a share, to \$2.60. Our revised estimate is now within Southern Company's guidance of \$2.58-\$2.70

share.

We expect profits to increase in 2013. Georgia Power will benefit from the final increase of its three-year rate hike. In addition, the service area's economy is growing moderately. We have raised our earnings estimate by \$0.05 a share because average shares outstanding will be lower than we had expected.

Southern Company won't need additional common equity this year or next. That's because the cost of environmental compliance will be less than the company had expected. Whatever equity is issued through the exercise of options will be bought back on the open market. There will be a small net increase in shares outstanding, however, because options are exercised at below-market prices.

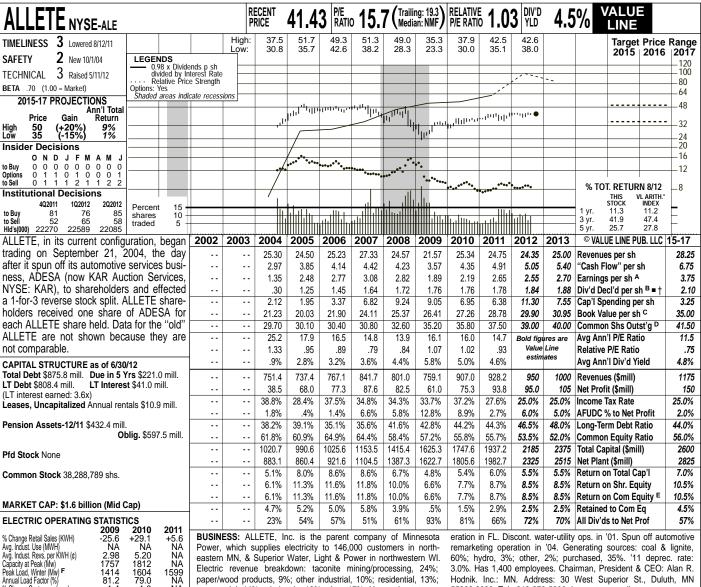
This high-quality stock is timely. However, it is trading at an above-market price-earnings ratio, which is unusual for a utility issue. The yield is average for a utility, but with the share price near the upper bound of our 2015-2017 Target Price Range, total return potential over that time frame is minimal.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 24, 2012

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gain (loss): '03, 6¢; '09, (25¢). '10 EPS don't add due to change in shares. Next earnings report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '11: \$6.27/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: AL, MS,

fair value; FL, GA, orig. cost. Allowed return on com. eq. (blended): 12.5%. Earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 13.0%. Regulatory Climate: AL Above Average; GA, MS, FL Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 100



Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 296 334 344 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '09-'11 Past 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. 3.0% Revenues "Cash Flow" 3.0% 8.0% .5% 12.0% 9.0% 3.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 4.0%

% Change Customer's (avg.)

NA

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Cal-Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 endar Year 199.6 164.7 178.8 216.0 2010 233.6 211.2 224.1 238.1 907.0 2011 242.2 219.9 226.9 239.2 928.2 2012 240.0 216.4 243.6 250 950 2013 255 235 250 260 1000 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 endar Year 2009 1.89 2010 .68 .57 .56 .38 2.19 1.07 .57 2011 .48 .53 2.65 .70 2012 .66 .39 .80 2013 .75 .50 .75 .70 2.70 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2008 1.72 .43 .43 .43 .43 2009 .44 .44 .44 .44 1.76 2010 .44 .44 .44 .44 1.76 .445 .445 .445 .445 1.78 2011 .46 .46 .46 2012

paper/wood products, 9%; other industrial, 10%; residential, 13%; commercial, 14%; wholesale, 13% other, 17%. Has real estate op-

ALLETE's earnings are likely to be much better in the second half of 2012 than they were in the first half. The company's main utility subsidiary, Minnesota Power, gets current cost recovery for about half of its capital expenditures. This includes the two wind projects that are under construction. Each will provide 105 megawatts of capacity at an expected cost of \$160 million. The bulk of the capital spending will be in the second half of 2012, and this will be reflected in the bottom line. In addition, this year Minnesota Power's operating and maintenance expenses were skewed towards the first half. Our 2012 earnings estimate is at the midpoint of ALLETE's targeted range of \$2.45-\$2.65 a share. (Note: If the Minnesota commission grants the utility a pension tracking mechanism that it requested, that would likely prompt management to raise its guidance.) Earnings will probably fall short of last year's tally because ALLETE recorded ťax benefiťs of \$0.26 a share in the first half of 2011.

We estimate that profits will advance in 2013. We assume a return to normal weather conditions in the first quarter; a Hodnik. Inc.: MN. Address: 30 West Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802-2093. Tel.: 218-279-5000. Internet: www.allete.com.

mild winter in 2012 cost the company about \$0.05 a share. A full year of income from the aforementioned wind projects will be a plus, too. We estimate a 6% earnings increase, to \$2.70 a share.

**ALLETE** has some avenues for further earnings growth by mid-decade. Minnesota Power's mining customers are running at full capacity. Some of them have projects in various stages of development. This should boost the utility's load in the next few years. Minnesota Power has proposed a \$350 million-\$400 million environmental upgrade to a coal-fired unit, for which it needs the approval of the state commission. And there are significant opportunities for transmission investment, both on the utility's own and through its 8% equity interest in American Transmission Company.

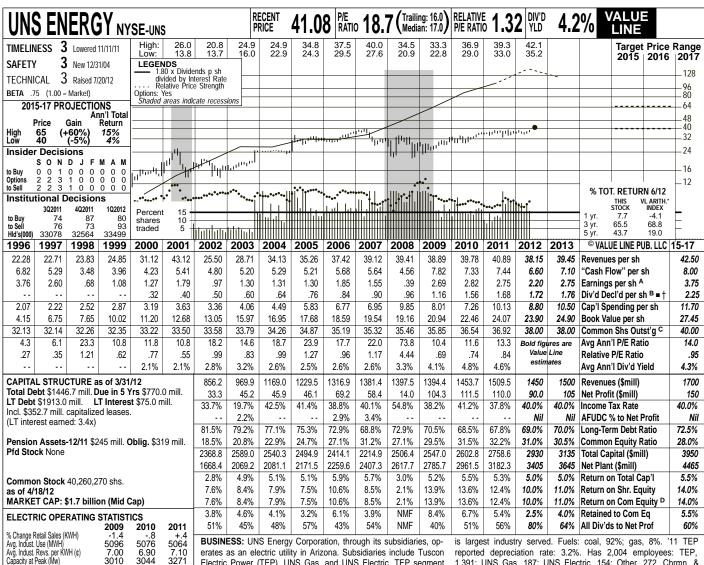
This stock's dividend yield is slightly above average for a utility. We project strong earnings growth, and moderate dividend growth, over the 3- to 5-year period, but total return potential over that time frame is only about equal to the industry average.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 21, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (loss): '04, 2¢; '05, (\$1.84); gain (losses) on disc. ops.: '04, \$2.57, '05, (16¢); '06, (2¢); loss from accounting change: '04, 27¢. Next egs. report

due late Oct. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Original cost deprec. Mar., June, Sept. and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest-ment plan avail. † Shareholder investment plan earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 9.1%. Regulatory avail. (C) Incl. deferred chgs. In '11: \$9.22/sh. | Climate: Average. (F) Summer peak in '10.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence 100 50 **Earnings Predictability** 



erates as an electric utility in Arizona. Subsidiaries include Tuscon Electric Power (TEP), UNS Gas, and UNS Electric. TEP segment serves about 404,000 retail customers in southern Arizona and accounted for 77% of '11 net income. Revenue sources: residential, 42%; commercial, 21%; industrial, 34%; other, 3%. Copper mining UNS Energy, formerly known as

is largest industry served. Fuels: coal, 92%; gas, 8%. '11 TEP reported depreciation rate: 3.2%. Has 2,004 employees: TEP, 1,391; UNS Gas, 187; UNS Electric, 154; Other, 272. Chrmn. & CEO: Paul J. Bonavia. Pres.: David G. Hutchens. Inc.: AZ. Address: 88 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ. 85701. Telephone: 520-571-4000. Internet: www.unisourceenergy.com.

251 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 232 268 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '09-'11 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '15-'17 of change (per sh) 2.0% 5.0% 7.0% 2.5% 7.0% 13.0% Revenues 16.5% 1.0% 'Cash Flow' 5.5% 7.5% Earnings Dividends 20.0% Book Value 7.0% 5.0% 3.5%

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill )

2333

+.3

Peak Load, Summer (Mw) Annual Load Factor (%) % Change Customers (yr-end)

0-1

endar	Mar.31		Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year
2009	311.9	337.8	414.2	330.5	1394.4
2010	317.9	337.8	438.8	359.2	1453.7
2011	344.8	369.7	450.9	344.1	1509.5
2012	318.9	355	435	341.1	1450
2013	340	345	450	365	1500
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.14	.80	1.45	.30	2.69
2010	.52	.65	1.36	.29	2.82
2011	.35	.71	1.46	.22	2.75
2012	.17	.60	1.25	.18	2.20
2013	.35	.70	1.45	.25	2.75
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ID B∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.24	.24	.24	.24	.96
2009	.29	.29	.29	.29	1.16
2010	.39	.39	.39	.39	1.56
2011	.42	.42	.42	.42	1.68
2012	.43	.43			
l	l				l

Energy, formerly known UniSource Energy, has filed for rate increases. The company's largest subsidiary, Tuscon Electric Power (TEP), has been in a four-year base-rate freeze, which is scheduled to end December 1, 2012, according to its 2008 settlement agreement. As anticipated, TEP filed for a rate hike on July 2nd, and expects the settlement to be completed within 13 months, with an August 1, 2013 start date. TEP is requesting \$128 million in annual revenue increases, which is based on an original cost rate base of approximately \$1.5 billion. All told, an increase would likely result in a 15% base-rate hike, which should help boost earnings in 2013. As a result, however, customers will see costs rise a little over 15%, as the average bill will increase by \$13 a month.

The new rates are needed to provide TEP with an appropriate rate of return, which has been lacking due to significant cost changes since its last test year in 2006. Indeed, the requested rate hikes will likely cover rising service costs and the significant amount of capital investments the company incurred over the

past five years. Too, the rate increases will help pay for renewable power and energy efficiency expenditures mandated by environmental regulations. Also, management hopes to see growth and demand improve, which have lagged since the recession.

In other news, the company reported underwhelming first-quarter results. In fact, both the top and bottom lines were below expectations. Revenues were \$319 million, and earnings contracted over 50% from the year-ago figure. We now anticipate the full-year performance will be lackluster, as UNS is hindered by TEP's rate freeze. As a result, we have tempered our 2012 share-net estimate by a nickel, to \$2.20.

These shares are best suited for income-oriented investors. Although this issue is ranked to mirror the broader market averages over the coming six to 12 months, UNS Energy's 4.2% dividend yield is impressive. Moreover, we expect management to further boost the dividend in the coming 3 to 5 years, to achieve its target payout ratio, which is 60%-70% of its net income.

Michelle Jensen

August 3, 2012

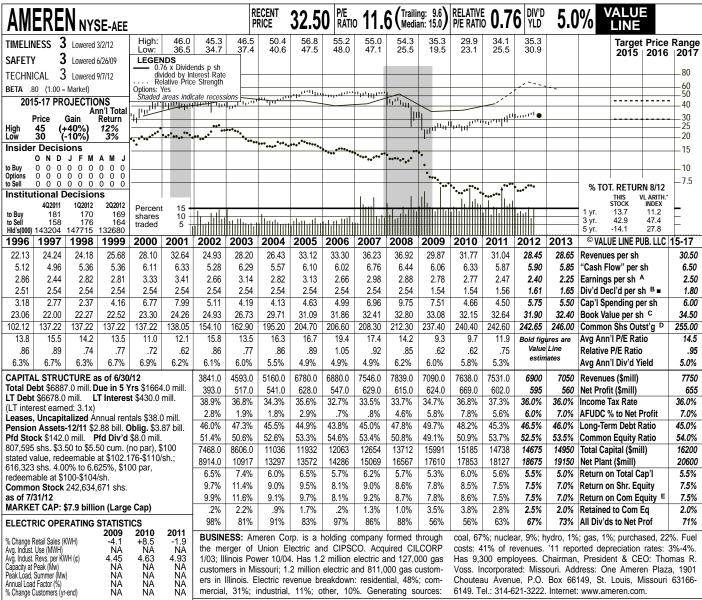
(A) EPS diluted. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '98, 19¢; '99, \$1.35; '00, 48¢; '03, \$2.00. Next earnings report due early Aug. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. (B) Div'ds historically

paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) In millions. (D) Rate base: fair value. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '08:

paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. | 10.25%; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: 12.4%. Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. Regulatory Climate: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength
Stock's Price Stability
95
Price Growth Persistence
Earnings Predictability
35

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the merger of Union Electric and CIPSCO. Acquired CILCORP 1/03; Illinois Power 10/04. Has 1.2 million electric and 127,000 gas customers in Missouri; 1.2 million electric and 811,000 gas customers in Illinois. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 48%; commercial, 31%; industrial, 11%; other, 10%. Generating sources:

costs: 41% of revenues. '11 reported depreciation rates: 3%-4%. Has 9,300 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Thomas R. Voss. Incorporated: Missouri. Address: One Ameren Plaza, 1901 Chouteau Avenue, P.O. Box 66149, St. Louis, Missouri 63166-6149. Tel.: 314-621-3222. Internet: www.ameren.com

	266	293	295
Past	Past		'09-'11
	5 Yrs.	to 1	
.5%	-	-	Nil
.5%	.5%	b 1	.0%
-1.5%	-1.5%	6 -1	.0%
-5.0%	-9.5%	6 2	.5%
3.5%	1.0%	6 1	.0%
	10 Yrs. .5% .5% -1.5% -5.0%	Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs5% -5.5% -1.5% -1.5% -9.5%	Past 10 Yrs. 5%

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (yr-end)

NA NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (		Full Year
2009	1916	1684	1815	1675	7090.0
2010	1940	1725	2267	1706	7638.0
2011	1904	1781	2268	1578	7531.0
2012	1658	1660	<b>2050</b>	1 <b>532</b>	<b>6900</b>
2013	<b>1750</b>	<b>1700</b>	<b>2000</b>	1600	<b>7050</b>
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Dec.31	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30		Year
2009 2010 2011 2012 2013	.66 .43 .29 d.11 <b>.30</b>	.77 .64 .57 .87 <b>.55</b>	1.04 1.49 1.50 <b>1.39</b> <b>1.15</b>	.34 .21 .11 <b>.25</b>	2.78 2.77 2.47 <b>2.40</b> <b>2.25</b>
Cal-	QUART	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B ■	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30		Dec.31	Year
2008 2009 2010 2011 2012	.635 .385 .385 .385 .40	.635 .385 .385 .385 .40	.635 .385 .385 .385	.635 .385 .385 .40	2.54 1.54 1.54 1.56

Ameren is awaiting an order on its electric rate case in Missouri. The utility is seeking a rate increase of \$376 million (14.6%), based on a return of 10.75% on a common-equity ratio of 52%. Ameren also wants the commission to establish a tracking mechanism for storm costs and an accrual mechanism for assets that are in service, but not yet reflected in customer rates. The commission's staff is recommending a \$210 million tariff hike, based on a 9% ROE, but is against the two regulatory mechanisms. The staff also recommends a change to the fuel adjustment clause so that only 85% of these costs would be reflected (versus 95% now). The commission's order is due in December, with new rates taking effect in January.

An electric rate case is pending in Il**linois, too.** This is the first one under a new state law that provides for recovery of electric distribution spending through a formula. The commission's decision is due in late September, and earnings this year will reflect a true-up for the 2012 rate base and the actual cost of service.

More-frequent rate cases in Missouri and the new law in Illinois should re-

duce the effects of regulatory lag. This has been a problem for the past several years, which is one reason why returns on equity have generally been mediocre.

The merchant-generation subsidiary is dealing with unfavorable industrywide conditions. Low wholesale power prices are hurting owners of nonregulated generating assets. In addition, facilities are facing stringent emissions rules. As a result, this segment has closed some units, reduced the employee headcount, and cut its capital budget. This business is still covering its cash needs, but is only slightly profitable. Next year will likely be worse, due to lower hedged prices. All told, we estimate lower earnings in 2012 and 2013, even if the outcome of the aforementioned rate matters is reasonable for Ameren.

This stock has appeal for incomeoriented investors. The yield is nearly a percentage point above the utility average. Although we project little overall earnings improvement between now and 2015-2017, dividends will likely be raised over that time thanks to growth in *utility* income. Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 21, 2012

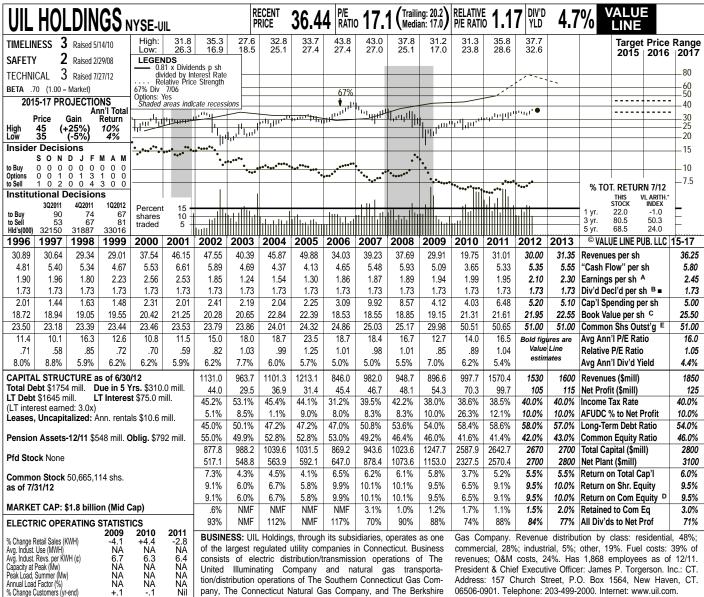
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gain (losses): '03, 11¢; '05, (11¢); '10, (\$2.19); '11, (32¢); '12, (\$1.55). '09 EPS don't add due to change in shs., '11 due to rounding. Next earnings report

due early Nov. **(B)** Div'ds historically paid in late Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. **(C)** Incl. intang. In '11:

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deprec. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MO in '10: 10.1%; in IL in '10: 9.9%-10.3% electric, in '12: 9.06% gas; earned on avg. com. eq., '11: \$8.33/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Orig. cost 7.6%. Reg. Climate: MO, Avg.; IL, Below Avg. © 2012, Value Line Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 10 **Earnings Predictability** 90



consists of electric distribution/transmission operations of The United Illuminating Company and natural gas transportation/distribution operations of The Southern Connecticut Gas Company, The Connecticut Natural Gas Company, and The Berkshire

revenues; O&M costs, 24%. Has 1,868 employees as of 12/11. President & Chief Executive Officer: James P. Torgerson. Inc.: CT. Address: 157 Church Street, P.O. Box 1564, New Haven, CT. 06506-0901. Telephone: 203-499-2000. Internet: www.uil.com.

ANNUAL RATES   Past   5 fts.   10 / 17s.   5 fts.   10 / 15-17   10	Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		303	281	230
	of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends	10 Yrs. -3.5% -2.0%	5 Yrs. -9.0% 1.5% 4.5%	to 6	'15-'17 5.0% 3.5% 4.0% Nil

NA

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	235.5	200.2	255.2	205.7	896.6
2010	220.3	207.1	236.3	334.0	997.7
2011	561.1	314.0	321.4	373.9	1570.4
2012	458.3	283.5	360	428.2	1530
2013	470	300	380	450	1600
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.48	.51	.73	.22	1.94
2010	.53	.48	.63	.35	1.99
2011	1.02	.28	.24	.41	1.95
2012	.92	.23	.35	.60	2.10
2013	.95	.30	.40	.65	2.30
Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73
2009	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73
2010	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73
2011	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73
2012	.432	.432			

UIL Holdings reported weaker-thanexpected second-quarter results. The Connecticut-based utility posted earnings of \$0.23 a share during the period, significantly below our \$0.33 estimate. The miss was primarily driven by unfavorable weather conditions, which has seemed to be a recurring theme among several utilities this earnings season. Despite the soft quarterly showing, management reaf-firmed its full-year earnings guidance range of \$2.00-\$2.15 a share. We have guidance We have lowered our 2012 share-net estimate by a nickel, to \$2.10.

Given recent regulatory uncertainty, UIL is still considering when to file its electric distribution rate case. Since the restructuring last year of Connecticut's utility regulatory body (PURA), UIL has been reluctant to file its electric rate case due to a lack of visibility. Now that the composition of the board has been settled. we anticipate the company will make the filing sometime in the first half of 2013. However, nothing has been officially stated at this juncture. Based on our current estimates, we assume UIL's electric business will earn its allowed ROE in 2012 and 2013.

Continued progress in gas conversions is a positive. UIL has converted nearly 4,700 customers through the first half of 2012, roughly a 46% increase over the comparable period of 2011. Management noted it remains on pace to hit its goal of 10,200 by year's end, as well as its 30,000-35,000 target by the end of 2013. We look for gas conversions and other cost savings to help the gas utilities earn their allowed ROEs by 2014.

The stock maintains a neutral ranking for Timeliness (3). In our view, the equity remains an attractive selection for investors seeking to add some stability to their portfolios. With Above-Average rankings for Safety (2) and Financial Strength (B++), UIL represents a solid low-risk play within the utility sector. Indeed, its dividend yield also ranks among the best in the industry, offering shareholders a nice income component, as well.

Based on our current projections, total return potential for UIL to 2015-2017 is right around the utility industry average. Michael Ratty

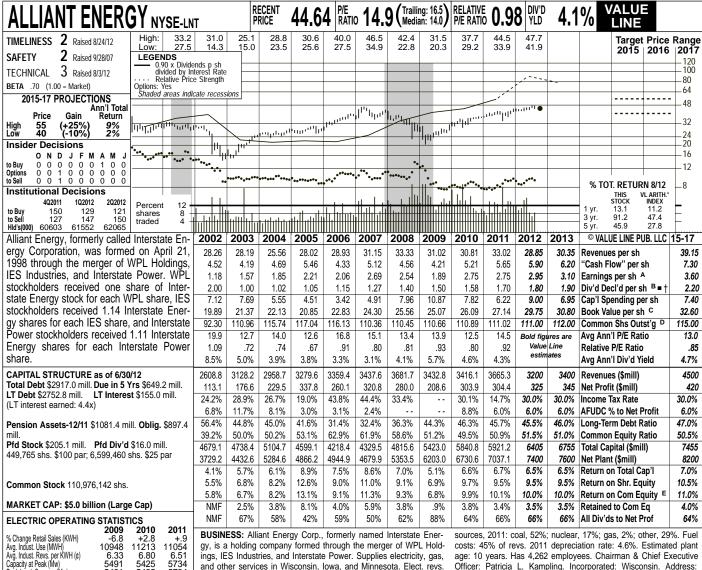
(A) EPS basic. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '96, 17¢; '00, 4¢; '03, (26¢); '04, \$2.14; '06, (\$5.07); '10, (47¢). Next egs. report due early

Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Jan., orig. cost. Rate allowed on common equity in

early April, early July, and early Oct. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '11: \$370.2 mill. or \$7.32/sh. (D) Rate base: In millions. Adjust for stock dividend.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 90 Price Growth Persistence 70 **Earnings Predictability** 80

August 24, 2012



ings, IES Industries, and Interstate Power. Supplies electricity, gas, and other services in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. Elect. revs. by state: WI, 47%; IA, 50%; MN, 3%. Elect. rev.: residential, 37%; commercial, 23%; industrial, 28%; wholesale, 7%; other, 5%. Fuel age: 10 years. Has 4,262 employees. Chairman & Chief Executive Officer: Patricia L. Kampling. Incorporated: Wisconsin. Address: 4902 N. Biltmore Lane, Madison, Wisconsin 53718. Telephone: 608-458-3311. Internet: www.alliantenergy.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (% 256 306 237 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '09-'11 Past 10 Yrs. to '15-'17 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" 1.0% 3.0% 3.5% 6.5% -.5% 5.0% 8.0% -2.0% 2.0% Earnings 6.5% -3.0% Dividends **Book Value** 3.5% 4.0%

+.1

5425 NA

+ 2

5734 NA

+.2

Peak Load, Summer (Mw) Annual Load Factor (%)

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	949.9	742.3	885.7	854.9	3432.8
2010	890.2	741.6	951.7	832.6	3416.1
2011	945.0	819.5	1021.6	879.2	3665.3
2012	765.7			724	3200
2013	790	750	1100	760	3400
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.30	.34	.77	.48	1.89
2010	.45	.44	1.31	.55	2.75
2011	.68	.44	1.12	.51	2.75
2012	.50	.58			2.95
2013	.55	.55	1.35	.65	3.10
Cal-	QUART	ND B ■†	Full		
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.35	.35	.35	.35	1.40
2009	.375	.375	.375	.375	1.50
2010	.395	.395	.395	.395	1.58
2011	.425	.425	.425	.425	1.70
2012	.45	.45	.45		

Alliant Energy posted solid bottomline performance for the quarter. The utility business benefited from greater electric sales to residential and commercial customers. Higher income from subsidiary Interstate Power and Light's (IPL's) tax benefit rider also contributed, and so did lower operating costs. Looking forward, we expect decent results from the utilities going forward, assuming a stable economy and normal weather. Favorable earnings comparisons ought to continue in the coming quarters, and we project a nice share-net improvement for fulľ-year 2012.

There have been some developments on the regulatory front. IPL, along with two parties representing Iowa consumers, has filed a proposed settlement with the Iowa Utilities Board (IUB) in its natural gas rate case. The three parties have agreed to increase IPL's natural gas service revenue by roughly \$10.5 million. A time line for review of the settlement proposal by the IUB is unknown, though the original rate case was expected to be completed by April of 2013. IPL had previously requested a rate hike of \$14.8 million, to

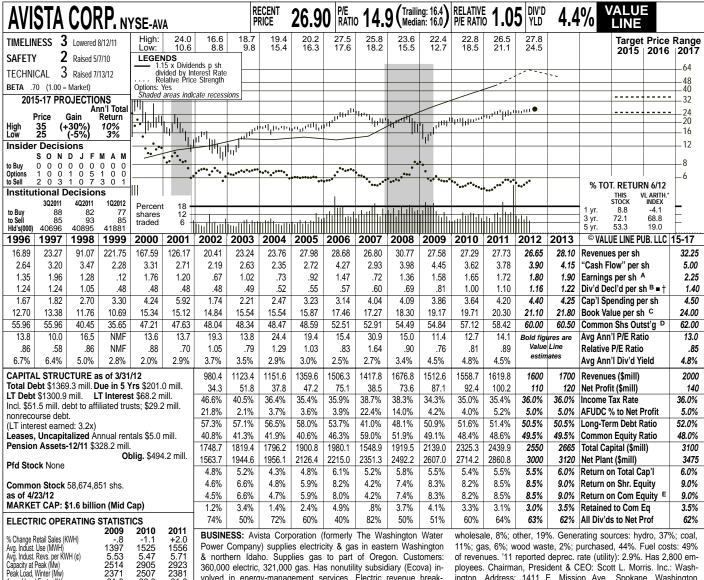
recover natural gas system improvements and to compensate for higher costs. Elsewhere, subsidiary Wisconsin Power and Light has received approval from the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin to reduce retail gas base rates by 7% in 2013 and freeze gas rates in the following year. The utility has also requested to reduce overall retail electric rates by 2.5% next year, due to lower expected electric fuel costs. It will probably receive approval for the plan by yearend.

This stock is ranked to outperform the broader market for the coming six to 12 months. Looking further out, we anticipate higher revenues and share earnings for the company by 2015-2017. In addition, Alliant earns favorable marks for Safety, Financial Strength, and Price Stability. From the recent quotation, this issue has unimpressive, though fairly welldefined, total return potential for the coming years. Income-oriented investors may find this equity's healthy dividend yield attractive. However, investors seeking strong capital appreciation potential are probably better served elsewhere. Michael Napoli, CFA September 21, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '01, (28¢); '03, net 24¢; '04, (58¢); '05, (\$1.05); '06, 83¢; '07, \$1.09; '08, 7¢; '09, (88¢); '10, (15¢); '11, (1¢). Next egs. rpt. due in Novem-

ber. **(B)** Div'ds historically paid in mid-Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. • Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † shareholder invest. plan avail. **(C)** Incl. deferred chgs. in '11: \$92.1 mill., \$0.83/sh.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence 100 95 **Earnings Predictability** 



down: residential, 33%; commercial, 28%; industrial, 12%; Avista has a general rate case pending in Washington. The utility requested an electric tariff hike of \$41.0 million (8.8%) and a gas rate increase of \$10.1 million (6.8%). Avista based its application on a 10.9% return on a 48.4% commonequity ratio. Unless the utility is able to

volved in energy-management services. Electric revenue break-

effect in early March.

61.0

318

Est'd '09-'11

to '15-'17

2.5%

4.0% 5.5%

6.5% 3.5%

Year

1512.6

1558.7

1619.8

1600

1700

Full

Year

1.58

1.65

1.72

1.80

1.90

Year

.69

.81

1.00

1.10

301

299

Past

5 Yrs.

.5%

5.0% 9.5%

12.5% 4.0%

403.3

3744

438.9

447.7

Dec.31

.40

.45

.42

50

.50

Dec.31

.18

.21

.25

.275

475

Past

10 Yrs

-16.5%

3.5% 5.0% 7.5%

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

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

314.7

367.2

343.7

350

375

.15

.22

.18

.20

.22

.21

.25

.275

EARNINGS PER SHARE A

Jun.30 Sep.30

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = †

307.1

360.7

360.6

350

375

.47

46

.39

.45

.48

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30

.165

.21

.25

.275

.29

Avista plans to file a rate case in Idaho, as well. Tariffs there are frozen until April 1, 2013. We expect the utility to put forth its petition in September, so that any rate hike can go into effect as soon as possible.

reach a settlement, new rates will go into

There is a good reason for all of this regulatory activity. Due to the effects of regulatory lag, Avista has not earned an adequate return on equity for many years. In fact, the utility's petition in Washington occurred just three months after electric and gas rate increases took effect in the state. At least, earned ROEs are showing signs of improvement. These have exceeded 8% in each of the past three years, and we figure that they will continue to get better.

Earnings should increase this year

ployees. Chairman, President & CEO: Scott L. Morris. Inc.: Washington. Address: 1411 E. Mission Ave., Spokane, Washington 99202-2600. Tel.: 509-489-0500. Internet: www.avistacorp.com

and next. The aforementioned rate hike

in Washington (\$20 million electric, \$3.75 million gas) is a key reason. Our 2012 profit estimate is within Avista's targeted range of \$1.65-\$1.85 a share. Rate relief should help boost the bottom line in 2013, as well. On the nonregulated side of the business, the Ecova energy-services subsidiary should continue to benefit from acquisitions that are enabling it to provide a new array of services to its customers. Avista's guidance includes \$0.16-\$0.19 a share of income from Ecova, at least as much as the \$0.16 a share it contributed in 2011.

Financing needs are modest. Avista entered into a purchase agreement to issue \$80 million of bonds in November. This will probably be the company's only longterm debt financing this year. The company also expects to issue up to \$45 million of common equity in 2012 through its "dribble" program.

We regard this stock as an average utility selection. The dividend yield and 3- to 5-year total return potential are comparable with the industry averages.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 3, 2012

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. losses: '00, 27¢; Aug. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., '02, 9¢; '03, 3¢; gain (losses) on disc. ops.: '01, June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd due to rounding. Next egs. report due early chgs. In '11: \$9.69/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate © 2012, Value Line Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Fixed Charge Cov. (%

**ANNUAL RATES** 

of change (per sh)

Revenues

Earnings

endar

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

Cal

endar

2009

2010

2011

2012

2013

endar

2008

2009

2010

2011

2012

**Book Value** 

487.5

456 4

476.6

4523

Mar.31

.57

.52

.73

.65

.70

.165

.18

.25

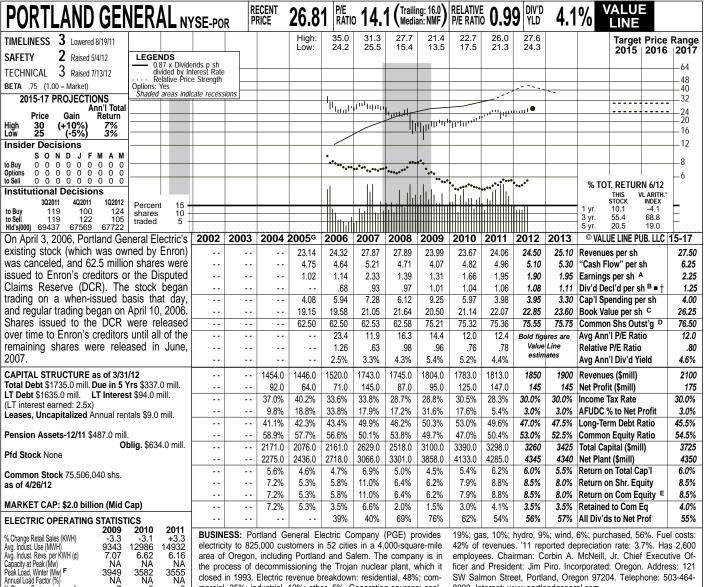
.275

.29

475

'Cash Flow'

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 65



the process of decommissioning the Trojan nuclear plant, which it closed in 1993. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 48%; commercial, 35%; industrial, 12%; other, 5%. Generating sources: coal,

ficer and President: Jim Piro. Incorporated: Oregon. Address: 121 SW Salmon Street, Portland, Oregon 97204. Telephone: 503-464-8000. Internet: www.portlandgeneral.com.

179 273 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 224 ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '09-'11 Past 5 Yrs. to '15-'17 of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow 2.5% 5.0% 8.5% NMF Earnings Dividends 5.5% 3.5% **Book Value** 2.0% 3.5%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

3582 NA

+ 5

3555 NA

+ 2

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	485.0	389.0	445.0	485.0	1804.0
2010	449.0	415.0	464.0	455.0	1783.0
2011	484.0	411.0	439.0	479.0	1813.0
2012	479.0	431	460	480	1850
2013	495	440	470	495	1900
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.47	.31	.43	.11	1.31
2010	.36	.32	.65	.34	1.66
2011	.92	.29	.36	.38	1.95
2012	.65	.35	.50	.40	1.90
2013	.68	.37	.50	.40	1.95
Cal-	QUART	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.235	.245	.245	.245	.97
2009	.245	.245	.255	.255	1.00
2010	.255	.255	.26	.26	1.03
2011	.26	.26	.265	.265	1.05
2012	.265	.265			

Portland General Electric has issued a request for proposals for generating resources, and another RFP is coming. The utility needs generating resources for the 2013-2017 time frame. PGE will propose building some units, and an independent evaluator hired by the state commission will review PGE's bid against proposals submitted by other companies that want to build units themselves or sell power to the company. The winning bidders will likely be announced in late 2012 or early 2013. PGE, with the approval of the Oregon commission, will also issue a separate KFP for renewable energy resources. If everything proceeds as expected, the winners of the latter RFP will be announced in late 2012 or early 2013,

The importance of the RFPs is that they will determine PGE's capital spending and financing plans for the next few years. We are not assuming in our figures that the company builds any major projects over that time frame, but if any of its bids are successful, then PGE's profits will probably wind up higher than our estimates and projections suggest.

We estimate that earnings will decline slightly in 2012, recover in 2013, and improve in 2014. Favorable hydro and weather conditions helped PGE in the first quarter of 2011, making the year-to-year profit comparison difficult. Our 2012 estimate of \$1.90 a share is within PGE's guidance of \$1.85-\$2.00. Without much impetus for higher income in 2013, except for modest volume growth, only a slight bottom-line increase is probable next year. (The company has not yet provided earnings guidance for 2013.) PGE will probably file a general rate application in early 2013, with new tariffs taking effect in 2014. If this occurs, earnings growth in 2014 should be greater than in 2013.

As we had expected, the board of directors raised the dividend in the second quarter. The board boosted the annual disbursement by \$0.02 cents a share (1.9%), the same increase as in each of the past two years.

This stock's dividend yield is about equal to the utility average. Our 3- to 5-year projections indicate subpar total return potential.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 3, 2012

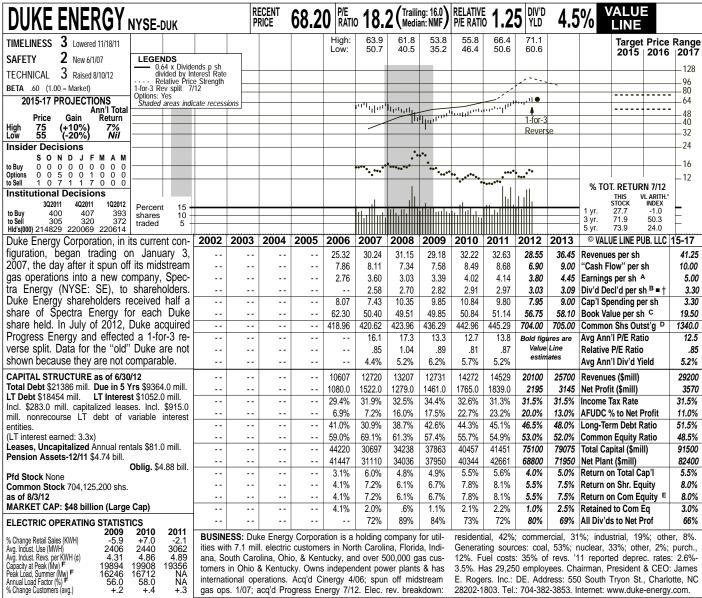
(A) Diluted EPS. '09 & '10 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. Div'd reinvestment plan avail. † Share-

holder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred | com. eq., '11: 9.0%. Regulatory Climate: Below charges. In '11: \$7.88/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net original cost. Rate allowed on common equity in '11: 10.0%; earned on average standing when the stock began trading in '06.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence Earnings Predictability

100 50

45



Peak Load, Summer (Mw) F Annual Load Factor (%) F % Change Customers (avg.) 295 292 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 308 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '09-'11 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 4.5% of change (per sh) to '15-'17 4.5% 'Cash Flow' 1.0% 7.0% 3.5% 4.5% 2.0%

-4.0%

3.5%

Revenues

Earnings

Dividends

Book Value

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 3312 2009 2913 3396 3110 12731 2010 3287 3946 14272 3594 3445 3964 2011 3663 3534 3368 14529 20100 2012 3630 3577 6950 5943 25700 2013 6000 6350 6100 7250 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2009 .81 .63 .78 3.39 1.17 2010 1.02 .87 .60 4.02 1.53 2011 1.14 .99 1.35 .66 4.14 2012 1.26 .99 1.10 .45 3.80 1.20 1.00 .75 4.45 2013 1.50 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2008 .66 .69 2.70 2009 .69 .69 .72 .72 2.82 .72 .735 .735 2.91 2010 .72 2011 .735 .735 .75 .75 2.97 2012 .75 .75 .765

ana, South Carolina, Ohio, & Kentucky, and over 500,000 gas customers in Ohio & Kentucky. Owns independent power plants & has international operations. Acq'd Cinergy 4/06; spun off midstream gas ops. 1/07; acq'd Progress Energy 7/12. Elec. rev. breakdown:

Duke Energy's takeover of Progress Energy created more controversy after completion than while awaiting regulatory approval. In early July, Duke issued about \$17 billion in stock for Progress, which has utilities in North and South Carolina and in Florida. (Note: All per-share data have been adjusted for a 1for-3 reverse split paid July 3rd.) As Duke announced the completion of the deal, it also stated that Bill Johnson (the former Progress CEO who was slated to take over as CEO of Duke) had "resigned . . . by mutual agreement." Jim Rogers remained CEO. Subsequently, some former Progress officers and directors resigned, as well. The North Carolina commission held hearings about the unexpected management change, and a rating agency lowered its corporate credit ratings on Duke.

The controversy doesn't seem to have hurt Duke's stock—so far. It has performed in line with most electric utility equities since the closing of the deal. How-ever, that's not to say that there won't eventually be any repercussions. The company is planning rate filings in the Carolinas later in 2012. Rate orders there have

12%. Fuel costs: 35% of revs. '11 reported deprec. rates: 2.6%-3.5%. Has 29,250 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: James E. Rogers. Inc.: DE. Address: 550 South Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202-1803. Tel.: 704-382-3853. Internet: www.duke-energy.com.

been reasonable in recent years, but it remains to be seen whether this will continue when the commissions issue their rulings next year. The merger integration process might also be hampered, too.

**Duke has other worries.** The Crystal River 3 nuclear unit remains out of service, as it has been since September of 2009. Repair costs would probably be more than \$1 billion. Whether this is covered by insurance is in dispute. A coal gasification plant that Duke is building in Indiana went over budget by nearly \$1 billion, resulting in writedowns in 2011 and 2012, and the start-up date has been delayed from September until early 2013.

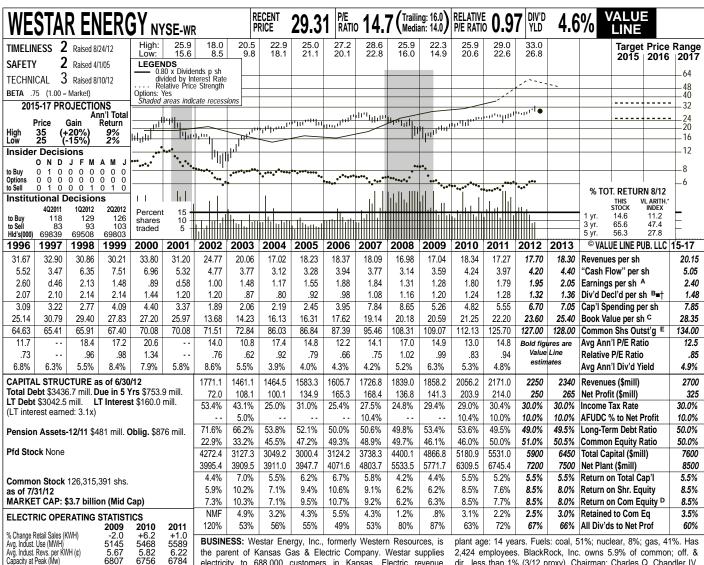
Duke expects to incur \$450 million-\$550 million of merger-related expenses in the second half of 2012. We are including these in our presentation. Earnings should be much higher in 2013.

This stock's yield is about half a percentage point above the utility mean. In our view, this isn't enough to compensate investors for the uncertainties that Duke is facing. Furthermore, total return potential to 2015-2017 is unappealing Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 24, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '08, 15¢; '09, (63¢); '10, (\$1.02); '11, (30¢); '12, (60¢). Next egs. report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., June,

Sept. & Dec. • Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '11: \$18.06/sh. (D) In mill., (elec.); in '04 in IN: 10.3%; earned on avg. adj. for reverse split. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rates allowed on com. eq. in '12 in NC SC, OH, IN Above Avg. (F) Carolinas only.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence 100 80 **Earnings Predictability** 



electricity to 688,000 customers in Kansas. Electric revenue sources: residential and rural, 42%; commercial, 37%; industrial, 21%. Sold investment in ONEOK in 2003 and 85% ownership in Protection One in 2004. 2011 depreciation rate: 4.2%. Estimated dir., less than 1% (3/12 proxy). Chairman: Charles Q. Chandler IV. Chief Executive Officer and President: Mark A. Ruelle. Inc.: Kansas. Address: 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612. Telephone: 785-575-6300. Internet: www.westarenergy.com.

297 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 226 267 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '09-'11 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '15-'17 of change (per sh) -6.0% -6.0% 2.5% 4.5% Revenues -1.0% 'Cash Flow" 1.5% 1.0% Earnings Dividends 6.5% -4.5% **Book Value** -3.0% 6.0% 5.0%

4545

+.9

5485

+.3

5549 55.5

Peak Load, Summer (Mw) Annual Load Factor (%)

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	421.8	467.8	528.5	440.1	1858.2
2010	459.8	495.2	644.4	456.8	2056.2
2011	481.7	524.9	678.2	486.2	2171.0
2012	475.7			518	2250
2013	520	575	710	535	2340
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2009	.10	.35	.73	.10	1.28
2010	.27	.47	1.01	.05	1.80
2011	.27	.38	.98	.16	1.79
2012	.21	.48	1.02	.24	1.95
2013	.25	.46	1.08	.26	2.05
Cal-	QUAR1	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2008	.27	.29	.29	.29	1.14
2009	.29	.30	.30	.30	1.19
2010	.30	.31	.31	.31	1.23
2011	.31	.32	.32	.32	1.27
2012	.32	.33	.33		

Westar Energy reported strong re**sults for the second quarter.** The top line advanced at a moderate clip. The company benefited from healthy demand resulting from warmer weather during the period. Solid growth from the Retail businesses and an impressive advance in Transmission revenue more than offset a decline in Wholesale revenue. Healthy topline results were partly offset by greater operating costs, however. Even so, share net of \$0.48 compared favorably with the prior-year tally.

Favorable comparisons ought to continue in the coming quarters. A rate increase of \$50 million was approved and implemented earlier in the year. This ought give retail sales a boost. Healthy growth should continue in the Transmission business, though weakness may well persist in the Wholesale line. Overall, we expect higher revenues and share earnings for the company for full-year 2012. Growth ought to continue in 2013.

Investment in operations ought to pay off going forward. All of the company's large projects remain on schedule and within budget. Westar has finished an up-

grade of air quality equipment at its Lawrence Energy Center, and an additional improvement is slated for completion by the end of the year. Major environ-mental projects at the Jeffrey and LaCygne energy centers are also progressing well. The Prairie Wind joint venture is also coming along nicely. Westar has acquired the majority of the rights of way, and has begun clearing. The project is expected to be completed in late 2014.

This stock is favorably ranked for year-ahead performance. Looking further out, we anticipate higher revenues and share earnings for the company by 2015-2017. Moreover, Westar earns good marks for Safety, Price Stability, and Earnings Predictability. In addition, the stock has below-average volatility (Beta: 0.75). Overall, Westar has unimpressive, but fairly well-defined, total return potential for the pull to 2015-2017. Conservative, income-seeking investors may find this issue attractive, considering the healthy dividend yield. Subscribers looking for strong capital appreciation can probably find better choices elsewhere. Michael Napoli, CFA September 21, 2012

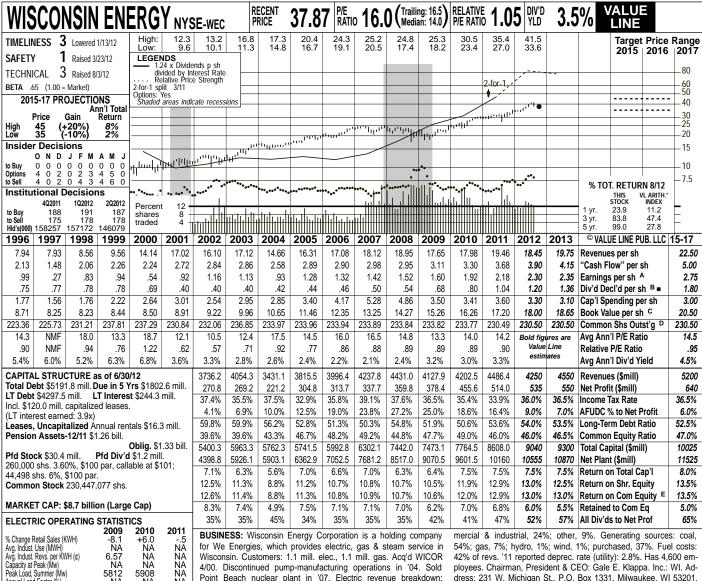
(A) EPS diluted from 2010 onward. Excl. non-recur gains (losses): '96, (\$0.19); '97, \$7.97; '98, (\$1.45); '99, (\$1.31); '00, \$1.07; '01, 27¢;

'02, (\$12.06); '03, 77¢; '08, 39¢; '11, 14¢. Next | **(C)** Incl. reg. assets. In 2011: \$8.32/sh.

egs. rep't due in November. (B) Div'ds paid in early Jan., April, July, and Oct. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (E) In mill.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 80

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Wisconsin. Customers: 1.1 mill. elec., 1.1 mill. gas. Acq'd WICOR 4/00. Discontinued pump-manufacturing operations in '04. Sold Point Beach nuclear plant in '07. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 36%; small commercial & industrial, 31%; large com-

42% of revs. '11 reported deprec. rate (utility): 2.8%. Has 4,600 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Gale E. Klappa. Inc.: WI. Address: 231 W. Michigan St., P.O. Box 1331, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Tel.: 414-221-2345. Internet: www.wisconsinenergy.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		281	312	339
ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow"	Past 10 Yrs. 3.0% 3.5%	Past 5 Yrs. 3.0% 4.0%	Est'd to'	'09-'11 15-'17 3.5% '.0%
Earnings Dividends Book Value	9.0% 3.0% 6.5%	10.0% 14.0% 7.0%	6 13	5.5% 3.5% 4.0%

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (yr-end)

NA NA +.2

5908

NA

ΝĀ

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES ( Sep.30		Full Year
2009 2010 2011 2012 2013	1396.2 1248.6 1328.7	842.5 890.9	821.9 973.2 1052.8	1067.3 1089.8 1113.2	4127.9 4202.5 4486.4 <b>4250</b> <b>4550</b>
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31		PER SHAR Sep.30		Full Year
2009 2010 2011 2012 2013	.60 .55 .72 .74 <b>.80</b>	.27 .37 .41 .51 <b>.45</b>	.55 <b>.56</b>		1.60 1.92 2.18 <b>2.30</b> <b>2.35</b>
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	Full Year			
2008 2009 2010 2011 2012	.135 .169 .20 .26 .30	.135 .169 .20 .26 .30	.135 .169 .20 .26 .30	.135 .169 .20 .26	.54 .68 .80 1.04

Wisconsin Energy has a rate case pending in Wisconsin. The company's utilities in the state are seeking electric rate increases of \$172.6 million (6.2%) in 2013 and \$37.1 million in 2014, a gas rate decrease of \$17.1 million in 2013, and small tariff hikes for steam. The staff of the Wisconsin commission is not contesting the 10.4%-10.5% returns on equity that the utilities are requesting. New rates should go into effect at the start of 2013.

An electric rate hike in Michigan took effect in late June. The regulators boosted Wisconsin Electric's tariffs by \$9.2 million (5.2%), based on a 10.1% ROE. This was above the \$7.7 million raise that the utility self-implemented six months earlier.

Earnings will likely advance at a mid-single-digit clip in 2012. This year, the utility avoided a rate increase by suspending \$140.1 million of regulatory amortization. Average shares outstanding are down slightly, as well. We have raised our earnings estimate by a nickel a share due to favorable weather conditions. Our revised estimate is at the midpoint of Wisconsin Energy's targeted range of \$2.28-\$2.32 a share.

We have cut our 2013 earnings estimate by \$0.05 a share. Wisconsin Energy's stock-repurchase authorization has \$200 million remaining. We had estimated that the stock would be bought back next year, but are no longer doing so due to the high share price, which is up about 10% so far this year.

Wisconsin Energy has signaled that its dividends will probably be raised by more than 10% in 2013 and 2014. Over the past several years, the company has had a payout ratio that is well below the industry average. The board wants to change this, and is targeting a payout ratio of about 60% by 2014.

The high expected dividend growth is reflected in this stock's valuation. The dividend yield is nearly a full percentage point below the utility mean, and the relative price-earnings rătio is higher than it has been historically. Despite the strong dividend growth we project over the 3- to 5-year period, total return potential is unexciting because the quotation is already within our 2015-2017 Target Price Range. Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 21, 2012

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '99, (5¢); '00, 10¢ net; '02, (44¢); '03, (10¢) net; '04, (42¢); gains on disc. ops.: '04, 77¢ '05, 2¢; '06, 2¢; '09, 2¢; '10, 1¢; '11, 6¢. '11

EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd WI in '10: 10.4%-10.5%; earned on avg. com.

reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '11: eq., '11: 13.1%. Regulat. Climate: Above Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 95