

monwealth Edison (3.9 mill. elec. customers in IL), PECO Energy, (1.6 mill. elec., 501,000 gas customers in PA), & Baltimore Gas and Electric (1.2 mill. elec., 656,000 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, 57%; other, 15%; purch., 28%. Fuel costs: 43% of revs. '13 depr. rates: 2.9%-3.4% elec., 2.1% gas. Has 25,800 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.

569 338 293 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 2.0% 3.0% 1.5% Revenues 1.0% 2.5% 'Cash Flow' -1.0% -7.5% 2.0% 3.0% Earnings .5% 9.5% -2.5% 5.0% Dividends Book Value

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

NMF

32736

93.3

+.3

32150

+23.6

NMF

NA

+.6

94.1

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year			
2012	4686	5954	6565	6284	23489			
2013	6082	6141	6502	6163	24888			
2014	7237	6024	6912	6227	26400			
2015	7000	6000	6900	6100	26000			
2016	7200	6200	7100	6300	26800			
Cal-	E/	EARNINGS PER SHARE A						
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year			
2012	.54	.33	.57	.48	1.92			
2013	.30	.57	.86	.58	2.31			
2014	.10	.60	.92	.48	2.10			
2015	.70	.55	.70	.55	2.50			
2016	.70	.60	.75	.55	2.60			
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year			
2011	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10			
2012	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10			
2013	.525	.31	.31	.31	1.46			
2014	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24			
2015								

There is good and bad news about Exelon's proposed acquisition of Pepco Holdings. Under the agreement, Exelon would pay \$6.8 billion in cash for Pepco, the parent company of utilities in Washington, DC; the Delmarva Peninsula; and southern New Jersey. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and New Jersey Board of Public Utilities have each approved the combination. On the other hand, the regulatory process isn't going as well in Delaware, where the demands for concessions are far greater than what the companies have offered. The transaction has come under some criticism in Maryland and the District of Columbia, as well. This doesn't necessarily mean that the deal is doomed, and the companies' goal is to complete it in the second or third quarter. We will not include Pepco in our figures until the acquisition is final.

Exelon has already made some moves in anticipation of the closing of the **Pepco purchase.** The company executed a forward sale agreement for 57.5 million common shares and sold (or is selling) some assets to raise cash.

We estimate a strong earnings in-

crease this year, followed by a moremoderate advance in 2016. The Marchquarter comparison is easy this year, as mark-to-market accounting charges on hedges reduced profits by \$0.52 a share in the first period of 2014. Exelon should benefit from moderate growth in utility income this year and next. We also think a dividend hike is possible in 2016.

Some of Exelon's nuclear plants might be closed for economic reasons. The company is working with officials in Illinois and New York to try to keep them open. Possible rule changes in the region's power markets would increase capacity payments to owners of merchant generating assets, and would thus be beneficial for Exelon. There are signs of long-term improvement in the power markets, and this helped Exelon stock rise 37% last year. Prices lately have declined, however, so the stock price has retreated 8% so far in 2015.

Exelon stock has a dividend yield that is about average for a utility. Total return potential to 2018-2020 is modest, but above that of most utility equities. Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 20, 2015

(A) Dil. egs. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '02, (18¢); '03, (\$1.06); '05, (\$1.85); '06, (\$1.15); '09, (20¢); '12, (50¢); '13, (31¢); '14, 23¢. '12 &

rounding. Next earnings report due early May. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. 9.6% gas; earned on avg. com. eq., '13: 9.1%. '13 EPS don't add due to change in shares or | (C) Incl. def'd charges. In '13: \$10.79/sh. (D) In | Regulat. Climate: PA, Avg.; IL, MD, Below Avg. © 2015 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

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 90 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 65 All of the major electric utilities located in the eastern region of the United States are reviewed in this Issue; central electrics, in Issue 5; and the remaining utilities, in Issue 11.

Earlier this month, the Edison Electric Institute (EEI) made its annual presentation before electric utility analysts.

We discuss the effect of interest rates on utility stocks.

Most electric utility stocks haven't moved much so far in 2015. We still think they are expensively priced.

What's On EEI's Mind

Every year (usually in the first half of February), the Edison Electric Institute (an industry group representing investor-owned electric companies) comes to New York City to make a presentation before electric utility analysts. EEI talks about the state of the industry, the major concerns facing its member companies, and what EEI is doing to respond to these concerns. This year, the electric grid and (as has been the case for the past several years) environmental regulations were areas of focus.

There are numerous concerns affecting the electric grid. Electric utilities are facing threats, both physical and through cyberattacks. As a result, the Electric Subsector Coordinating Council was formed, which includes representatives of investor-owned utilities, other industry members (e.g., public power) and other groups such as the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) and the Nuclear Energy Institute. This organization wants to enhance tools and technologies, share information, and develop plans for response and recovery. EEI is also concerned that solar customers are not paying for their use of the grid. (Some utilities are addressing this problem with their state commissions.) Current net metering rules allow these users to export excess power at retail rates. Transmission investment has risen significantly in recent years to make up for a long period of underinvestment, connect renewable projects, and enhance utilities' ability to transmit power. Accordingly, EEI is concerned about the lowering of allowed returns on equity for transmission, which might act as a disincentive for transmission spending. (Federally granted allowed ROEs for transmission are still higher than those granted by states for distribution, however.)

Environmental regulation has increased in recent years. Many rules and proposals from the Environmental Protection Agency have resulted in criticism and litigation. Arguably the most controversial EPA proposal yet is the one that would force states to reduce carbon emissions. Under the current proposal, each state would have final targets that must be reached by 2030, and interim goals that must be attained by 2020. In many states, the interim target is well above 50% of the final one, thereby precluding plans that would result in gradual reductions in emissions. This would force some utilities to close coal-fired plants at a time when some parts of the country (such as the Northeast) already don't have enough fuel diversity. The closing of coal-fired facilities so soon would also hurt system reliability. This has raised numerous objections, not just from EEI but from other groups such as NERC and some state gov-

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 78 (of 97)

ernments and regulatory commissions. Another worry is an inadequate treatment of nuclear power. Already, two nonregulated nuclear plants have been shut for economic reasons, and the closing of additional units would make it harder for states to reach their targets. The EPA plans to finalize these rules this summer. There has already been litigation filed against this proposal, and about the only certainty is that more lawsuits will be put forth.

Interest Rates And Utility Stocks

Like fixed-income securities, utility stocks are sensitive to interest rates. (This is true for all utilities, not just electrics.) The environment of low interest rates in the past several years has been a boon for utility equities. This was evident in 2014, when a decline in rates from an already-low level allowed EEI's index of stocks to produce a 29% total return.

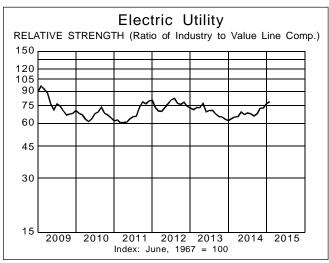
Almost every electric utility stock under our coverage (except El Paso Electric, which paid no dividend for many years) shows a line on the price chart that is derived from the dividend multiplied by a coefficient that differs from one stock to the next, divided by the interest rate on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note. We expect this rate to be slightly lower in 2015 than it was in 2014, but higher in 2016 as the Federal Reserve begins raising interest rates. Thus, the dividend line for each utility stock in Issue 1 shows a steep drop in 2016. This illustrates a possible outcome for these stocks if interest rates rise.

Conclusion

Low interest rates have lasted longer than most people expected, but few expect rates to stay this low permanently. The previous section discussed the risk that utility investors face when rates start to rise. Of course, things won't necessarily unfold this way—these stocks are also affected by other factors, including company-specific events—but utility investors must be cognizant of this.

So far in 2015, most electric utility stocks have either risen or fallen very little. The industry's average dividend yield is 3.4%. We continue to believe that most of these equities are expensively priced.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA



All of the major electric utilities located in the western region of the United States are reviewed in this Issue; eastern electrics, in Issue 1; and the remaining utilities, in Issue 5.

Electric utility stocks, as a group, have declined sharply in value so far in 2015. We discuss why this has happened.

The earnings of some electric utilities are likely to decline this year.

Even after the falloff so far this year, electric utility equities are not cheap.

Up In 2014, Down In 2015

Last year was outstanding for electric utility stocks, as a whole. According to an index provided by the Edison Electric Institute (a group representing investor-owned electric companies), electric utility equities produced a total return of 28.9%. Moreover, this followed a solid (though less spectacular) showing in 2013, which saw a 13.0% total return. Electric utility stocks benefited from investors who are reaching for dividend yields in an environment of very low interest rates. The decline in interest rates helped, too. The yield on 10-year U.S. Treasury notes fell more than three-quarters of a percentage point. A few stocks (including *Integrys Energy* and *Cleco*) were boosted by takeover agreements.

This year has been a different story. The price of almost every electric utility issue has declined in 2015, and several have fallen by more than 10%. This is in sharp contrast to the broader market averages, which are near where they were at the start of the year. Investors are worried about the possibility that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates later this year. Indeed, the yield on the 10-year Treasury note, which declined in early 2015, has risen to the point where it is higher than at the end of 2014. Even if interest rates had remained stable, though, it would not have been surprising to see a reversion to the mean after two years of significant outperformance.

There are also company-specific reasons why some utility stocks have weakened. For instance, the decline in oil prices since mid-2014 has hurt *CenterPoint Energy* and *OGE Energy*. Each of these companies has a stake in Enable Midstream Partners, an oil and gas master limited partnership. The decline in oil prices has reduced rig activity where Enable operates. Even in 2014, *CenterPoint* and *OGE* were outliers among utility issues, and the underperformance has continued this year.

For Some Companies, Lower Earnings

Electric utilities normally aren't fast-growing companies, but at least they post year-to-year earnings increases more often than not. For instance, *Wisconsin Energy* has seen its earnings rise for 10 consecutive years, and we expect the streak to continue in 2015 and 2016. *CMS Energy* has a five-year streak going. This year, however, there are more exceptions than usual.

The profits of *CenterPoint* and *OGE*, mentioned above, will probably wind up lower in 2015 due to the industrywide conditions affecting Enable. In some cases, regulatory lag (higher costs that aren't reflected in rates) at

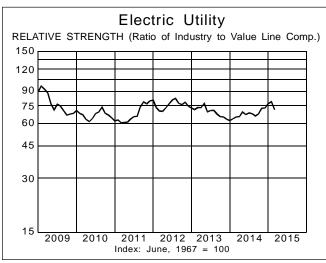
INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 54 (of 97)

a utility is holding back profit growth. *OGE* is facing this problem this year. So is *Great Plains Energy*. Sometimes, the year-ago tally provides for a difficult comparison. In the first quarter of 2014, *Entergy* benefited from a spike in power prices in New England, since it had nonregulated generating assets that were well positioned to take advantage of the favorable market conditions. Because the comparison is tough, the company's profits will probably decrease in 2015. DTE Energy faces a tough comparison, as well, because weather patterns were favorable for its gas utility in 2014. Another problem facing utilities (or any company that has pensions) is higher pension expense. Beginning this year, the calculations are based on increased life expectancy. The decline in interest rates at the end of 2014 means that future pension benefits will be discounted at a lower rate. *Entergy* expects higher pension expense this year. There are exceptions: A few companies, such as *Ameren* in Missouri and Eversource (formerly Northeast Utilities) in Massachusetts, have regulatory mechanisms to track pension costs. Finally, subscribers should note that we include mark-to-market accounting gains or losses in our earnings presentation because they are an ongoing part of quarterly and annual results. This was another positive factor for *DTE*'s profits in 2014.

Conclusion

With the decline in the price of most electric utility stocks so far this year, the average dividend yield for the industry has risen. From a low of 3.2%, this figure rose to 3.7% in the week we went to press. This is well above the median for dividend-paying stocks under our coverage, but still low by historical standards (a reflection of current interest rates). Nevertheless, this doesn't mean that electric utility equities are cheap. We recommend that readers look at our projections for interest rates in the Quarterly Economic Review in Selection & Opinion, or in each issue of Ratings & Reports. We estimate that the rate on the 10-year Treasury note—which is used to calculate the dividend line in the price charts of utility stocks-will climb by more than a percentage point in 2016, and still more by 2018-2020. Such a move would likely hurt the prices of electric utility equities, which remain sensitive to interest rates.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA



ELECTRIC UTILITY (WEST) INDUSTRY

All of the major electric utilities located in the western region of the United States are reviewed in this Issue; eastern electrics, in Issue 1; and the remaining utilities, in Issue 5.

We look back at the year that just ended and ahead to the new year.

Electric utility stocks had a stellar performance in 2014. We do not expect a repeat in 2015.

A Look Back At 2014 And A Look Ahead To 2015

Most electric utility stocks turned in an outstanding performance in 2014. According to an index compiled by the Edison Electric Institute (an organization representing investor-owned utilities), the group provided a total return of 28.9% in 2014. This was more than twice the 13.7% return of the Standard and Poor's 500 Index. Moreover, this followed a strong 2013, in which the overall total return was 13.0%. In 2014, The median total return of the individual stocks in this index was 30.5%.

The stock of every electric company we cover (in Issues 1, 5, and 11) had a double-digit total return, with three exceptions: OGE Energy, CenterPoint Energy, and *Black Hills Corporation*. The steep decline in oil prices in the second half of 2014 hurt these companies because *Black Hills* has an exploration and production subsidiary, and the other two companies each own a stake in Enable Midstream Partners, a master limited partnership that declined along with a lot of other MLPs, as investors are worried about cutbacks in drilling for oil and gas.

Why was last year so good for electric utility equities? A decline in interest rates—from an already low level—helped. The yield on the 10-year U.S. Treasury note fell more than three-quarters of a percentage point. With many income-oriented investors reaching for yield, money was poured into utility stocks. Another positive factor for some companies were signs of a long-term recovery in wholesale power prices. This helped lift the stocks of Entergy, Exelon, and Public Service Enterprise Group. Finally, takeover targets usually see a run-up in their share prices. Indeed, Integrys Energy and Pepco Holdings—each of which is being acquired—were the top-two performers last year. Empire District Electric Company, also regarded as a takeover target, was in the top quartile for total returns. The stock of Edison International benefited from the resolution of some uncertainties facing the company and its Southern California Edison subsidiary.

What's in line for 2015? It is highly unlikely that investors will see a repeat of the run-ups that most stocks in this industry experienced in 2014. These advances accelerated late in the year. As the new year began, interest rates continued to decline, but we note that our Quarterly Economic Review estimates that interest rates will be higher this year. If so, that would probably hurt these stocks, all else equal.

Electric utility investors should also keep their eyes on environmental regulations, and the litigation surrounding them. The Environmental Protection Agency's proposal to reduce carbon emissions is shaping up to be

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 17 (of 97)

even more controversial than previous EPA proposals. Another concern facing some utilities is net metering rules that have benefited users of solar power. Utilities feel that these customers are not paying for their use of the electric grid, so nonsolar customers are subsidizing them. Among other things, utilities want to increase the monthly fixed charge that each customer pays so that it comes closer to covering the companies' actual fixed costs. This is an important matter for the utility subsidiaries of *Pinnacle West* and *Hawaiian Electric Industries*. Southern California Edison, the *Edison International* unit, is also addressing this concern.

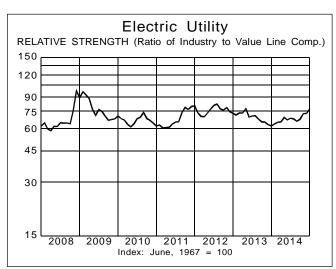
Many utility boards of directors evaluate the company's dividends annually. Often, this review occurs in the first quarter. Among stocks reviewed in Issue 11, we look for dividend increases from Sempra Energy, Avista, Black Hills, and NorthWestern this quarter. The directors of Edison International and PNM Resources raised their companies' payouts in the fourth period of 2014. (Edison International's is actually being paid in the first quarter of 2015.) Note that the dividend yields we show are based on estimated year-ahead dividend payments, not the annualized rate of the most recently paid quarterly disbursement.

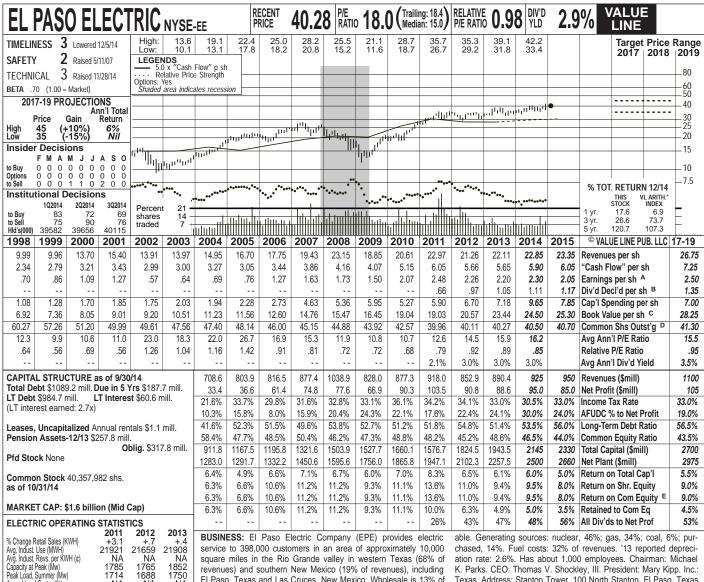
Conclusion

After two years of excellent share-price performance, these equities have become expensive, in our view. The group's dividend yield is 3.3%, higher than the market median but low by historical standards.

Our long-term economic projections are for interest rates to be significantly above today's level. As mentioned, higher interest rates are normally a negative factor for utility equities. The stocks of some utilities, including *Portland General, Pinnacle West, Xcel Energy, Sempra Energy, Avista*, and *PG&E*, are trading above the upper bound of their 3- to 5-year Target Price Range. All told, this group's total return potential to 2017-2019 is just 2%.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA





square miles in the Rio Grande valley in western Texas (68% of revenues) and southern New Mexico (19% of revenues), including El Paso, Texas and Las Cruces, New Mexico. Wholesale is 13% of revenues. Electric revenue breakdown by customer class not avail-

ation rate: 2.6%. Has about 1,000 employees. Chairman: Michael K. Parks. CEO: Thomas V. Shockley, III. President: Mary Kipp. Inc.: Texas. Address: Stanton Tower, 100 North Stanton, El Paso, Texas 79901. Telephone: 915-543-5711. Internet: www.epelectric.com.

346 302 280 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '17-'19 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 2.0% 8.5% 8.5% 4.5% Revenues 3.0% 'Cash Flow' 4.0% 1.5% Earnings 11.0% 7.0% 5.0% Dividends Book Value 8.0% 8.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

1714

+1.7

1765

1688

ŇĀ

+1.5

1750

+1.3

Cal-	QUAR		VENUES (\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31		Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	176.1	242.6	307.6	191.7	918.0
2012	168.6	228.3	267.2	188.8	852.9
2013	177.3	240.1	282.7	190.3	890.4
2014	185.5	251.8	283.6	204.1	925
2015	195	255	295	205	950
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	E A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.16 .08 .19 .11	.78 .77 .72 .75 .65	1.40 1.29 1.26 1.30 1.15	.13 .12 .03 .14 .10	2.48 2.26 2.20 2.30 2.05
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VIDENDS F Sep.30		Full Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.22 .25 .265	.22 .25 .265 .28	.22 .25 .265 .28	.22 .25 .265 .28	.66 .97 1.05 1.11

The effects of regulatory lag for El Paso Electric in 2015 will be greater than we had expected. The company is building four 88-megawatt gas-fired peak-ing units. Two are expected to be in service by the end of the current quarter. A third unit will be on line in 2016, and a fourth in late 2016 or early 2017. (The total cost is estimated at \$370 million.) The utility is planning to file rate cases in New Mexico in April and in Texas in August, with new tariffs taking effect in each state in March of 2016. This means that EPE won't get any rate relief this year, but will incur costs associated with the new units. In addition, the Allowance for Funds Used During Construction (a noncash credit to income) that the company will record in 2015 will be well below the 2014 level due to the completion of the first two units. All of this is will hurt earnings this year by an estimated \$0.31-\$0.37 a share. There will be some positive factors, too, such as customer growth that has been at 1.4% lately, but the negative will almost certainly outweigh the positive. All told, we have cut our 2015 earnings estimate by \$0.15 a share, to \$2.05.

We forecast higher profits in 2016. EPE should benefit from rate relief and continued growth in its service area (see below).

The company is financing its construction budget with debt. EPE issued \$150 million of 30-year debt in December, and will probably issue the same amount (although with a shorter maturity) in late

The economy of the utility's service area is in good shape. For a few years, growth was driven by the expansion of the army base at Fort Bliss. Now, other factors are helping. Some companies have announced plans for new facilities and will hire workers. Other expansions are occurring at medical facilities and at the University of Texas at El Paso. All of this should help boost the demand for power.

The stock's dividend yield is a cut below the utility average. Although we project strong dividend growth over the 3to 5-year period, total return prospects are unspectacular, given that the recent price is well within our 2017-2019 Target Price Range

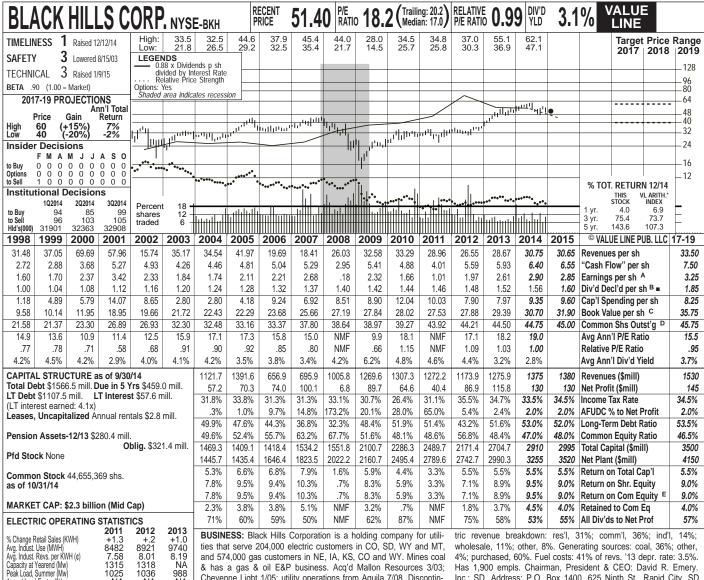
Paul E. Debbas, CFA January 30, 2015

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses): '98, 6¢; '99, (38¢); '01, (4¢); '03, 81¢; '04, 4¢; '05, (2¢); '06, 13¢; '10, 24¢. '11 earnings don't add to full-year total due to rounding.

Next earnings report due late Feb. (B) Initial dividend declared 4/11; payment dates in late March, June, Sept., and Dec. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '13: \$101.0 mill., \$2.51/sh. (D) In Average.

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

80



and 574,000 gas customers in NE, IA, KS, CO and WY. Mines coal & has a gas & oil E&P business. Acq'd Mallon Resources 3/03; Cheyenne Light 1/05; utility operations from Aquila 7/08. Discontinued telecom in '05; oil marketing in '06; gas marketing in '11. Elec4%; purchased, 60%. Fuel costs: 41% of revs. '13 depr. rate: 3.5%. Has 1,900 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.

160 205 224 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '17-'19 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs 5.5% 3.0% 2.0% Revenues -2.5% 3.0% 'Cash Flow' .5% -3.0% 6.5% 9.5% Earnings 2.5% 3.5% 1.5% 2.0% 3.5% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (yr-end)

1025

+.3

1036

ŇĀ

+.3

988

NA

+.8

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	Full Year			
2011	400.8	260.7	249.5	361.2	1272.2
2012	365.8	242.4	246.8	318.9	1173.9
2013	380.7	279.8	259.9	355.5	1275.9
2014	460.2	283.2	272.1	359.5	1375
2015	430	290	280	380	1380
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.73	.09	d.29	.44	1.01
2012	.80	.11	.38	.68	1.97
2013	.97	.69	.52	.43	2.61
2014	1.08	.44	.60	.78	2.90
2015	1.00	.45	.60	.80	2.85
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.365	.365	.365	.365	1.46
2012	.37	.37	.37	.37	1.48
2013	.38	.38	.38	.38	1.52
2014	.39	.39	.39	.39	1.56
2015					

The price of Black Hills stock has been significantly affected by the price of oil in the past two years. When oil prices were high in 2013, this equity was one of the top performers in the electric utility industry. In 2014, when oil prices declined precipitously, the share price rose just 1% in a year in which most utility issues fared extremely well. Oil and natural gas prices are continuing to decline. So far, Black Hills' oil and gas exploration and production subsidiary has not announced a cutback in its drilling or capital spending plans, but this might change when the company announces earnings in early February.

We estimate that earnings will decline slightly in 2015. In early November, Black Hills put forth 2015 profit guidance of \$2.90-\$3.10 a share. However, this was based on higher commodity prices than are likely to occur this year. Although the company has hedged some of its expected 2015 production, there is little doubt that it will feel the effects of lower oil and gas prices. Thus, our earnings estimate of \$2.85 a share is below the low end of management's guidance.

The utility received rate increases in two states. In Kansas, the commission approved a "black box" settlement (i.e., no specified return on equity) calling for a \$5.2 million raise in gas rates. In Colorado, electric rates were raised by \$3 million, based on a return of 9.83% on a common-equity ratio of 50.17%. Each tariff hike took effect at the start of the new year. Black Hills is awaiting a final order in its electric rate case in South Dakota, in which the utility sought an increase of \$14.6 million, based on a 10.25% return on equity.

We expect a dividend increase in the current quarter. A first-period hike in the disbursement has been the practice of the board of directors for many years. We estimate that the board will boost the quarterly dividend by a cent a share (2.6%). The company's payout ratio is low enough to allow for an increase, despite the possibility of lower earnings in 2015.

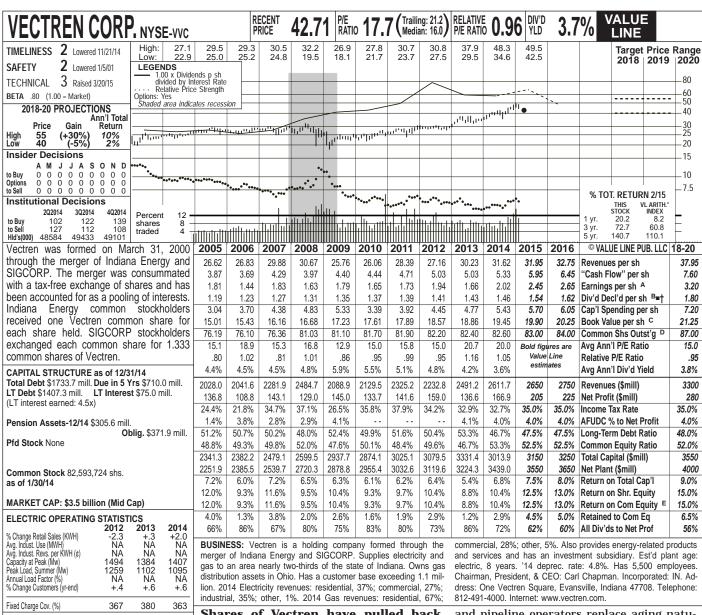
This timely stock has a dividend yield that is a cut below the utility mean. It does not stand out for its 3- to 5-year total return potential.
Paul E. Debbas, CFA

January 30, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '05, (99¢); '08, (\$1.55); '09, (28¢); '10, 10¢; '12, 4¢ net; gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '05, (7¢); '06, 21¢; '07, (4¢); '08, \$4.12; '09, 7¢; '11, 23¢;

'12, (16¢). '11, '12 EPS don't add due to chng. '13: \$11.12/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net in shs. or rounding. Next egs. due early Feb. (B) Div'ds paid early Mar., Jun., Sept., & Dec. none specified; in CO in '15: 9.83%; earned on ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd chgs. In avg. com. eq., '13: 9.1%. Regul. Climate: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 85 Price Growth Persistence 65 **Earnings Predictability** 40



Past ANNUAL RATES **Past** Est'd '12-'14 10 Yrs 5 Yrs. to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 4.0% 7.0% 9.5% Revenues 2.5% 5% 4.5% 2.0% 4.0% 1.5% Earnings 2.0% 2.5% 4.0% 2.0% Dividends 3.0% Book Value QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Cal-Full

endar Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 Year 513.5 2232.8 2012 604.6 470.6 644.1 700.6 680.0 2491.2 2013 531.0 579.6 2611. 2014 796.8 542.5 595.6 676.8 540 2015 790 620 700 2650 2016 810 565 635 740 2750 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Calendar Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 Year 2012 .62 1.94 .48 .53 d.07 .61 .52 1.66 2013 .60 .57 2.02 2014 .62 .14 .68 .70 .40 .62 2.45 2015 .73 2016 .75 .45 .67 .78 2.65 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B=+ Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2011 345 345 345 350 1.39 2012 .350 350 .350 355 1.41 2013 355 .355 .355 360 1.43 2014 .360.360.360 .380 1.46 2015 .380

Shares of Vectren have pulled back somewhat in recent months. This issue had advanced steadily in recent years, though we think the stock had gotten a bit ahead of itself, following a run-up in price. The company posted a slight top-line decrease for the fourth quarter. Gas utility revenues advanced moderately for the period, but this was more than offset by declines in the electric utility and nonutility operations. Still, operating expenses fell slightly more than total revenue, and share earnings of \$0.68 compared favorably with the prior-year tally.

We envision solid performance going forward. The utility group ought to report good results. The gas utility segment should benefit from returns on the Ohio infrastructure replacement programs and modest customer growth. We also expect the electric utility services line to perform well. Elsewhere, we think the nonutility group will continue to benefit from strong performance at the infrastructure business. This line will probably experience healthy demand, assuming fairly normal weather. Construction activity should remain strong, as utilities, municipalities,

and pipeline operators replace aging natural gas and oil pipelines, and related infrastructure. The recent drop in energy prices is not expected to have a significant impact on results in the current year, as infrastructure services markets typically lag economic changes by up to 12 months. This might affect results next year, though long-term trends still appear favorable in this market. The absence of commoditybased nonutility businesses (following the sale of Vectren Fuels last year) will probably also be a plus. Overall, we expect a moderate top-line advance and a strong share-earnings improvement for the company for full-year 2015. Healthy growth will probably continue from 2016 onward. This stock is favorably ranked for year-ahead performance. Conservative,

income-seeking accounts may find some-thing to like here. Vectren offers a solid dividend yield, and earns good marks for Safety, Financial Strength, Price Stability, and Earnings Predictability. But this appears to be reflected in the recent quotation, and long-term appreciation potential is subpar at this juncture.

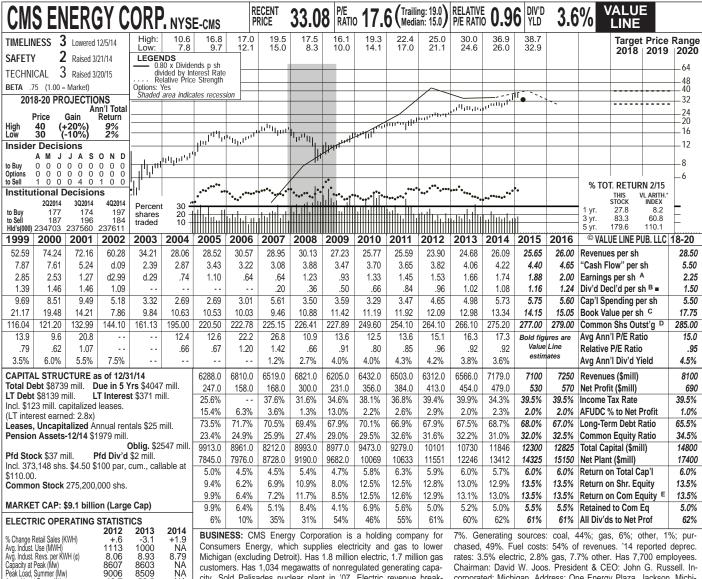
Michael Napoli, ČFA March 20, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gain (loss): '09, 15¢. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. Next egs report due in May. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early March,

June, September, and December. Div'd rein- fair value. Rates allowed on elect. common vest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '14, \$6.34/sh. (D) In millions. (E) Electric rate base determination: Climate: Above Average.

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

60



Michigan (excluding Detroit). Has 1.8 million electric, 1.7 million gas customers. Has 1,034 megawatts of nonregulated generating capacity. Sold Palisades nuclear plant in '07. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 43%; commercial, 31%; industrial, 19%; other,

rates: 3.5% electric, 2.8% gas, 7.7% 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.

278 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 268 282 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '12-'14 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs -3.0% 3.0% 12.0% Revenues -5.0% 2.5% 'Cash Flow' 5.5% 5.5% 9.0% Earnings 23.5% 4.0% 6.5% 5.5% Dividends Book Value 3.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

9006

8509

+.1

NA

NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	Full Year			
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	1802 1979 2523 2300 2300		1507 1445 1430 1500 1550	1670 1736 1758 1800 1850	6312.0 6566.0 7179.0 7100 7250
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31	RNINGS F Jun.30	ER SHARI Sep.30	E A Dec.31	Full Year
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	.36 .53 .75 .68	.37 .29 .30 .40 .45	.55 .46 .34 . 45 . 55	.25 .37 .35 .35	1.53 1.66 1.74 1.88 2.00
Cal- endar	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec. 31				Full Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.21 .24 .255 .27 .29	.21 .24 .255 .27	.21 .24 .255 .27	.21 .24 .255 .27	.84 .96 1.02 1.08

CMS Energy's utility subsidiary has received a gas rate increase. Consumers Energy had filed for a tariff hike of \$88 million, based on a return on equity of 10.7%. The utility reached a settlement calling for a \$45 million raise, based on a 10.3% ROE. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) approved the settlement in late January.

An electric rate case is pending. Consumers Energy is seeking an increase of \$163 million, based on a 10.7% ROE. Under Michigan regulatory law, the utility will self-implement a rate hike in mid-2015, and the MPSC's final order is due in late 2015. This will enable Consumers Energy to place a 540-megawatt gas-fired generating plant, which it has agreed to purchase for \$155 million, in the rate base. The transaction is scheduled to close in late 2015.

We expect CMS Energy to continue to produce steady earnings growth in 2015 and 2016. The company should benefit from rate relief, reductions in operating and maintenance expenses, and moderate volume growth. Our 2015 profit estimate is within management's typically

narrow range of \$1.86-\$1.89 a share, CMS' goal is for annual earnings growth of 5%-7%, and our 2016 forecast of \$2.00 a share would produce an increase within this range.

The board of directors raised the dividend in the first quarter. The board boosted the quarterly payout by \$0.02 a share (7.4%). We project continued good dividend growth through the 2018-2020 period. CMS Energy is targeting a payout ratio of 60%-70%.

Finances are adequate. Consistent earnings growth is a plus. The company's cash flow is stronger than our "cash flow" figures (which do not include deferred taxes) suggest. On the other hand, the common-equity ratio is subpar due to debt that is held at the parent level, and the fixed-charge coverage is a bit below the industry norm. CMS Energy merits a Financial Strength rating of B++.

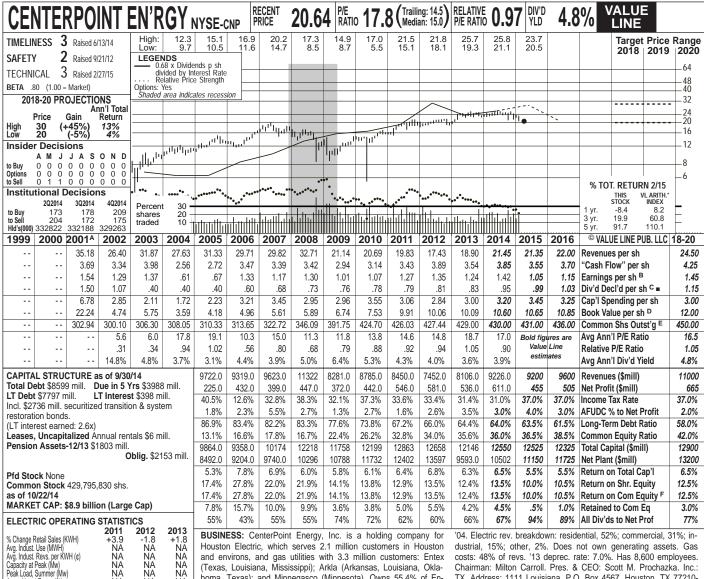
CMS Energy's strengths are adequately reflected in the stock's quotation. Ťhis issue does not stand out among utilities for its dividend yield. Its 3- to 5-year total return potential is unspectacular. Paul E. Debbas, CFA March 20, 2015

(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¢;

10, (8¢); '11, 1¢; '12, 3¢, '13 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Apr. (B) Div'ds historically paid late Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail.

(C) Incl. intang. In '14: \$7.11/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '15: 10.3%; earned on avg. com. eq., '14: 13.4%. Regulatory Climate: Average © 2015 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++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 75



and environs, and gas utilities with 3.3 million customers: Entex (Texas, Louisiana, Mississippi); Arkla (Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Texas); and Minnegasco (Minnesota). Owns 55.4% of Enable Midstream Partners. Discontinued Texas Genco Holdings in

costs: 48% of revs. '13 deprec. rate: 7.0%. Has 8,600 employees. Chairman: Milton Carroll. Pres. & CEO: Scott M. Prochazka. Inc.: TX. Address: 1111 Louisiana, P.O. Box 4567, Houston, TX 77210-4567. Tel.: 713-207-1111. Internet: www.centerpointenergy.com

221 223 204 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) to '18-'20 Revenues -5.0% -9.5% 4.0% 'Cash Flow' 1.0% 2.5% 1.5% -1 0% Earnings -2.0% -1.0% 4.0% 13.0% Dividends Book Value

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (avg.)

NA

+2.1

NA

NA

+2.0

NA

+2.0

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	Full Year			
2012	2084	1525	1705	2138	7452.0
2013	2388	1894	1640	2184	8106.0
2014	3163	1884	1807	2372	9226.0
2015	2750	2000	2000	2450	9200
2016	2850	2100	2100	2550	9600
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	В	Full
endar					Year
2012	.34	.29	.40	.31	1.35
2013	.34	.29	.35	.26	1.24
2014	.43	.25	.33	.41	1.42
2015	.30	.20	.25	.30	1.05
2016	.33	.22	.27	.33	1.15
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	VID c ■	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.1975	.1975	.1975	.1975	.79
2012	.2025				.81
2013	.2075	.2075			.83
2014	.2375	.2375	.2375	.2375	.95
2015	.2475				

The sharp drop in oil prices since mid-2014 has hurt CenterPoint Energy. The company has a 55.4% stake in Enable Midstream Partners, an oil and gas master limited partnership. Due to the decline in oil prices, the rig count where Enable operates has also declined. Thus, distributions (and equity income) from CenterPoint's interest in Enable this year will be less than initially expected. Accordingly, management expects earnings to fall to \$1.00-\$1.10 a share in 2015. Center-Point was one of the worst-performing electric utility equities in 2014, posting a total return of just 5% in what was an outstanding year for most other utilities, and the stock price has fallen 12% so far this vear.

The dividend was raised in the first quarter, but by less than previously **expected.** In mid-2014, CenterPoint stated its expectation of 8%-10% dividend growth annually for a three-year period. However, this happened when oil prices were well above the levels seen in early 2015. Thus, with the distribution from Enable turning out less than expected, the board of directors raised the quarterly div-

idend by a cent a share (4.2%) in the first quarter. This is still a decent growth rate, but not 8%-10%.

Some of CenterPoint's utility operations will seek rate relief this year. Houston Electric is underearning its allowed return on equity, so next month the utility will make a filing to recover distribution spending it has made since its last rate case under a ratemaking mechanism for electric companies in Texas. On the gas side, CenterPoint expects to put forth rate applications in Texas, Minnesota, and Arkansas.

We expect earnings to make a partial recovery in 2016. The aforementioned rate filings should help. We also look for increased equity income from Enable, based on our forecast that oil prices will be higher than in 2015.

CenterPoint stock has one of the highest dividend yields of any utility is**sue.** It is about a percentage point above the industry mean. Total return potential to 2018-2020 is also above average for a utility. The stock is attractive for incomeoriented investors

Paul E. Debbas, CFA March 20, 2015

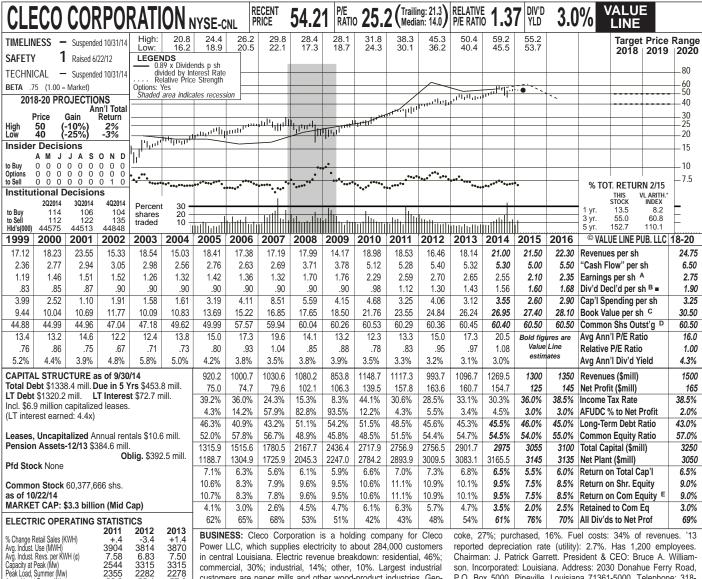
(A) Pro forma data. (B) Diluted EPS. Excl. extraordinary gains (losses): '04, (\$2.72); '05, 9¢; '11, \$1.89; '12, (38¢) net; '13, (52¢); gain (losses) on disc. ops.: '03, 2¢; '04, (37¢); '05, © 2015 Value Line Publishing LLC. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to 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

(1¢). '12 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next egs. report due early May. **(C)** Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. **(D)** Incl. intang. In '13: eq., '13: 12.0%. Regulatory Climate: Avg.

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

80

90



commercial, 30%; industrial, 14%; other, 10%. Largest industrial customers are paper mills and other wood-product industries. Generating sources: gas & oil, 29%; coal & lignite, 28%; petroleum

son. Incorporated: Louisiana. Address: 2030 Donahue Ferry Road, P.O. Box 5000, Pineville, Louisiana 71361-5000. Telephone: 318-484-7400. Internet: www.cleco.com

415 326 360 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '18-'20 Revenues -1.0% 5.0% 12.0% 12.5% 7.5% Cash Flow 3.0% .5% 6.0% 3.0% 6.0% 6.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 8.5%

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (avg.)

2355

+.6

55.1

+.6

57.0

+.6

Calendar QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full Year 2012 222.8 240.1 297.4 233.4 993.7 2013 240.9 263.9 328.8 263.1 1096.7 2014 284.4 309.1 371.4 304.6 1269.5 2015 280 315 390 315 1300 2016 290 325 410 325 1350 Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2012 .50 .77 1.05 .38 2.70 2013 .45 .69 1.09 .41 2.65 2014 .43 .60 1.17 .35 2.35 2015 .30 .50 1.00 .30 2.10 2016 .35 .55 1.10 .35 2.35 Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2012						
2013 240.9 263.9 328.8 263.1 1096.7 2014 284.4 309.1 371.4 304.6 1269.5 2015 280 315 390 315 1300 2016 290 325 410 325 1350 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full Year 2012 .50 .77 1.05 .38 2.70 2013 .45 .69 1.09 .41 2.65 2014 .43 .60 1.17 .35 2.55 2015 .30 .50 1.00 .30 2.10 2016 .35 .55 1.10 .35 2.35 Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2011 .25 .28 .28 .3125 1.30 2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 1.30 2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 .3						
2014 284.4 309.1 371.4 304.6 1269.5 280 315 390 315 1300 2016 290 325 410 325 1350 2016 290 325 410 325 1350 2016 290 325 410 325 1350 2012 5.0 5.0 5.0 5.0 5.0 5.0 5.0 5.0 5.0 5.0	2012	222.8	240.1	297.4	233.4	993.7
2015 280 315 390 315 1300 2016 290 325 410 325 1350 2016 290 325 410 325 1350 2016 325 325 410 325 1350 2016 325 325 325 325 325 325 325 325 325 325	2013	240.9	263.9	328.8	263.1	1096.7
2016 290 325 410 325 1350 Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2012 .50 .77 1.05 .38 2.70 2013 .45 .69 1.09 .41 2.65 2014 .43 .60 1.17 .35 2.55 2015 .30 .50 1.00 .30 2.10 2016 .35 .55 1.10 .35 2.35 Calendar QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B ■ Full Year 2011 .25 .28 .28 .3125 1.12 2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 .3375 .3362 .3625 .3625 .3625 .3625 .3625 .1.43 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 .40 .40	2014	284.4	309.1	371.4	304.6	1269.5
Calendar EARNINGS PER SHARE A Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year Full Year 2012 .50 .77 1.05 .38 2.70 2013 .45 .69 1.09 .41 2.65 2014 .43 .60 1.17 .35 2.55 2015 .30 .50 1.00 .30 2.10 2016 .35 .55 1.10 .35 2.35 Calendar QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = Full Year Full Year 2011 .25 .28 .28 .3125 1.12 2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 1.30 2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 1.43 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 .40	2015		315	390	315	
endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2012 .50 .77 1.05 .38 2.70 2013 .45 .69 1.09 .41 2.65 2014 .43 .60 1.17 .35 2.55 2015 .30 .50 1.00 .30 2.10 2016 .35 .55 1.10 .35 2.35 Cal-endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2011 .25 .28 .28 .3125 1.12 2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 1.30 2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 1.43 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 1.56	2016	290	325	410	325	1350
endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2012 .50 .77 1.05 .38 2.70 2013 .45 .69 1.09 .41 2.65 2015 .30 .50 1.00 .30 2.10 2016 .35 .55 1.10 .35 2.35 Calendar QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B ■ Mar.31 Full Year Year 2011 .25 .28 .3125 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 .3375 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 .3625 .3625 .3625 .143 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 .40 .40 .40	Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
2013 .45 .69 1.09 .41 2.65 2014 .43 .60 1.17 .35 2.55 2015 .30 .50 1.00 .30 2.10 2016 .35 .55 1.10 .35 2.35 Cal- QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID = Full year endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2011 .25 .28 .28 .3125 1.12 2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 1.30 2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 1.43 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 .40 1.56		Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	
2014 .43 .60 1.17 .35 2.55 2015 .30 .50 1.00 .30 2.10 2016 .35 .55 1.10 .35 2.35 Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2011 .25 .28 .28 .28 .3125 1.12 2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 1.30 2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 1.43 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 .1.56	2012	.50	.77	1.05	.38	2.70
2015 .30 .50 1.00 .30 2.10 2016 .35 .55 1.10 .35 2.35 Cal-endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2011 .25 .28 .28 .3125 1.12 2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 1.30 2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 .3625 .1.43 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 .1.56	2013	.45	.69	1.09	.41	
2016 .35 .55 1.10 .35 2.35 Calendar QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = Mar.31 Full year Full year 2011 .25 .28 .28 .3125 .3125 .1.12 2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 1.30 2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 .3625 .143 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 .156	2014	.43	.60	1.17	.35	2.55
Calendar QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = Mar.31 Full year 2011 .25 .28 .28 .3125 .1.12 2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 1.30 2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 .143 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 1.56	2015	.30	.50	1.00	.30	2.10
endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2011 .25 .28 .28 .3125 .112 2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 .130 2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 .3625 .143 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 .156	2016	.35	.55	1.10	.35	2.35
2011 .25 .28 .28 .3125 .1.12 2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 .1.30 2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 .3625 .143 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 .1.56	Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
2012 .3125 .3125 .3375 .3375 1.30 2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 .143 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 1.56	endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013 .3375 .3625 .3625 .3625 .3625 1.43 2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 1.56	2011	.25	.28	.28	.3125	1.12
2014 .3625 .40 .40 .40 1.56	2012	.3125	.3125	.3375	.3375	1.30
	2013	.3375	.3625	.3625	.3625	1.43
2015 .40	2014	.3625	.40	.40	.40	1.56
	2015	.40				

Corporation's shareholders Cleco overwhelmingly approved the takeover of the company. Of the shareholders who voted, 94% (representing 77% of the shares outstanding) favored the transaction. Under the terms of the agreement, a consortium led by Macquarie Infrastructure Partners and British Columbia Energy would pay \$55.37 in cash for each share of Cleco stock. The transaction still requires the approval of the Louisiana Public Service Commission (LPSC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Cleco expects the deal to be completed in the second half of 2015. Due to the take-over agreement, the Timeliness rank of Cleco stock is suspended.

We believe stockholders should sell their shares on the open market. At more than 24 times estimated 2015 earnings, the offer is very generous. The recent price is just 2% below the buyout price, leaving little upside potential for shareholders. By selling now, shareholders eliminate the downside risk that arises from the possibility that the transaction fails to win regulatory approval. At this juncture, there does not appear to be sig-

nificant regulatory risk, but given the track record of mergers and acquisitions in this industry, an unfavorable surprise cannot be ruled out.

We expect no increase in the dividend as long as the acquisition is pending. The dividend yield is low, by utility stan-

Earnings are likely to decline materially in 2015. The LPSC reduced Cleco's allowed return on equity in 2014, so the utility will operate under a full year with the lower allowed ROE this year. In addition, the tax rate is likely to be significantly higher than a year ago. Our estimate of \$2.25 a share is below management's targeted range of \$2.28-\$2.38 because we *include* merger-related expenses, but the company excludes these costs.

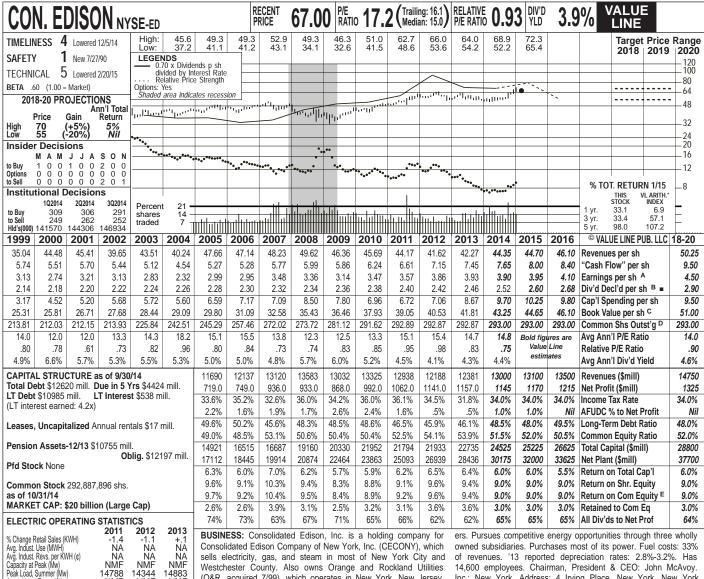
We forecast higher profits in 2016. If Cleco is still a publicly traded stock next year, this indicates that the deal fell through. Accordingly, we assume merger-related costs in our \$2.35-a-share estimate. We figure that the utility will benefit from modest load growth. Finally, we expect a dividend increase.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA March 20, 2015

(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 discontinued operations: '00, 14¢; '01, 4¢.

'13 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early May. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Feb., May, Aug. and Nov. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred '13: 10.4%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 90 **Earnings Predictability** 80



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. '13 reported depreciation rates: 2.8%-3.2%. Has 14,600 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: John McAvoy. Inc.: New York. Address: 4 Irving Place, New York, New York 10003. Tel.: 212-460-4600. Internet: www.conedison.com

382 385 360 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. -2.5% 4.5% 3.0% 1.0% 4.0% Revenues 2.5% Cash Flow 4.5% 2.5% 2.5% 2.0% Earnings 2.5% 3.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (yr-end)

14788

NMF

NA

14344

NMF

NA

NMF

14883 NMF NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year			
2012	3078	2771	3438	2901	12188			
2013	3306	2767	3440	2868	12381			
2014	3789	2911	3390	2910	13000			
2015	3650	2950	3500	3000	13100			
2016	3750	3050	3600	3100	13500			
Cal-	EA	EARNINGS PER SHARE A						
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year			
2012	.94	.73	1.49	.70	3.86			
2013	1.16	.49	1.49	.79	3.93			
2014	1.23	.64	1.49	.54	3.90			
2015	1.20	.65	1.50	.60	3.95			
2016	1.20	.70	1.55	.65	4.10			
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year			
2011	.60	.60	.60	.60	2.40			
2012	.605	.605	.605	.605	2.42			
2013	.615	.615	.615	.615	2.46			
2014	.63	.63	.63	.63	2.52			
2015	.65							

Consolidated Edison's largest utility subsidiary has filed an electric rate case. Consolidated Edison Company of New York (CECONY) is seeking a rate hike of \$368 million (7.2%), based on a return of 10% on a common-equity ratio of 48%. The application is driven by a need to recover spending to enhance system reliability. The utility is also asking for a higher allowed ROE. Electric rates are frozen through year-end 2015, so new tariffs won't take effect until the start of 2016. (Gas and steam rates are frozen through year-end 2016.) CECONY isn't requesting rate increases for 2017 and 2018, but would consider (through settlement talks) a plan that would provide for additional hikes of \$310 million in 2017 and \$156 million in 2018.

Orange and Rockland Utilities also has a rate application pending. O&R is seeking electric and gas rate hikes of \$33.4 million and \$40.7 million, respectively, based on a return of 9.75% on a commonequity ratio of 48%. New tariffs should take effect on November 1st.

We estimate just a slight earnings increase in 2015, but a greater advance

in 2016. ConEd is benefiting from customer conversions from oil heat to gas heat, and even the steep drop in oil prices in recent months hasn't stopped this. We base our 2016 forecast on reasonable regulatory treatment for CECONY and O&R The board of directors has raised the

dividend. The quarterly increase was \$0.02 a share (3.2%). ConEd is targeting a payout ratio of 60%-70%.

The National Transportation Safety

Board has yet to release its findings about an explosion of a gas pipeline in New York last March. Eight people were killed in the accident, and dozens more were injured. ConEd is facing litigation, but has insurance and has not taken a reserve. Despite the uncertainty.

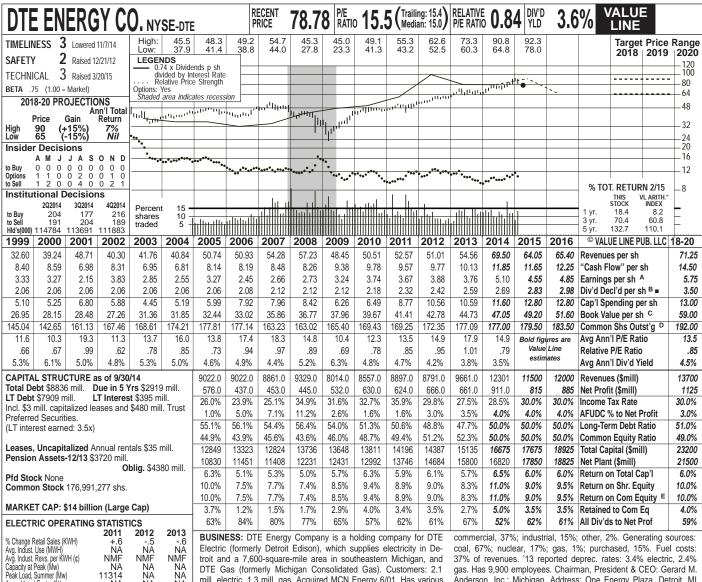
The price of this untimely stock is up **6% so far this year.** The explosion hasn't had much influence on the quotation, but investors should keep an eye on this matter. The dividend yield is slightly above the utility mean. However, with the recent price near the upper end of our 3- to 5year Target Price Range, total return potential is low.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 20, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '02, (11¢); '03, (45¢); '13, (32¢); '14, 9¢; gain on discontinued operations: '08, \$1.01. Next earnings report due early May. (B) Div'ds his-

torically paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. Div'd reinvestment plan available. **(C)** Incl. intaggibles. In '13: \$26.83/sh. **(D)** In millions. **(B)** Rate base: net orig. cost. Rate allowed on 9.5%. Regulatory Climate: Below Average.

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



DTE Gas (formerly Michigan Consolidated Gas). Customers: 2.1 mill. electric, 1.3 mill. gas. Acquired MCN Energy 6/01. Has various nonutility operations. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 46%;

Anderson. Inc.: Michigan. Address: One Energy Plaza, Detroit, MI 48226-1279. Tel.: 313-235-4000. Internet: www.dteenergy.com. Our 2015 earnings estimate is within the

271 282 286 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '18-'20 Revenues 2.0% -.5% 4.5% 'Cash Flow' 3.0% 2.5% 3.5% 7.5% 5.5% 6.0% Earnings 3.0% 4.0% 5.5% 4.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

ΝA

NA

NA NA

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	2239	2013	2190	2349	8791.0
2013	2516	2225	2387	2533	9661.0
2014	3930	2698	2595	3078	12301
2015	3300	2600	2700	2900	11500
2016	3500	2700	2800	3000	12000
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.91	.87	1.30	.79	3.88
2013	1.34	.60	1.13	.69	3.76
2014	1.84	.70	.88	1.68	5.10
2015	1.60	.75	1.05	1.15	4.55
2016	1.70	.80	1.10	1.25	4.85
Cal-	QUART	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.56	.56	.5875	.5875	2.30
2012	.5875	.5875	.5875	.62	2.38
2013	.62	.62	.655	.655	2.55
2014	.655	.655	.655	.69	2.66
2015	.69				

DTE Energy's electric utility subsidiary has filed a general rate case. DTE Electric is seeking a tariff hike of \$370 million, based on a return of 10.75% on a common-equity ratio of 50%. Capital additions, including the purchase of a 732megawatt gas-fired generating facility in early 2015 at a cost of \$240 million, are driving the filing. Under Michigan regulatory law, the utility will self-implement an interim rate increase in June, with the final order coming in December.

Investors should not be alarmed by the earnings decline we estimate for **2015.** Our presentation *includes* mark-tomarket accounting gains or losses because they are an ongoing part of DTE Energy's operations. These boosted profits by \$0.57 a share in 2014. Favorable weather conditions added another \$0.12 a share to the bottom line. Otherwise, DTE Energy's operations are performing well. Interim rate relief and effective cost control should benefit DTE Electric. On the nonregulated side, higher income from natural gas pipelines and an improved performance from the company's portfolio of renewableenergy projects should be the key factors.

company's targeted range of \$4.48-\$4.72 a

We forecast higher profits in 2016. DTE Electric will have a full year of rate relief. DTE Gas will continue to benefit from a regulatory mechanism that allows for current recovery of certain kinds of capital expenditures. (Even with this mechanism, a general rate application is likely in 2016 or 2017.) We expect continued growth from some of DTE Energy's nonutility activities, particularly its pipeline and its industrial energy services (e.g., cogeneration) operations. (A proposed onethird interest in a pipeline from Michigan to the Utica Shale region would enhance this segment's long-term profit potential.) Our estimate of \$4.85 a share would produce earnings growth slightly above management's annual goal of 5%-6%.

DTE Energy's strengths are reflected **in the recent price.** The dividend yield is about average for a utility, and with the quotation above the midpoint of our 2018-2020 Target Price Range, total return potential is low.

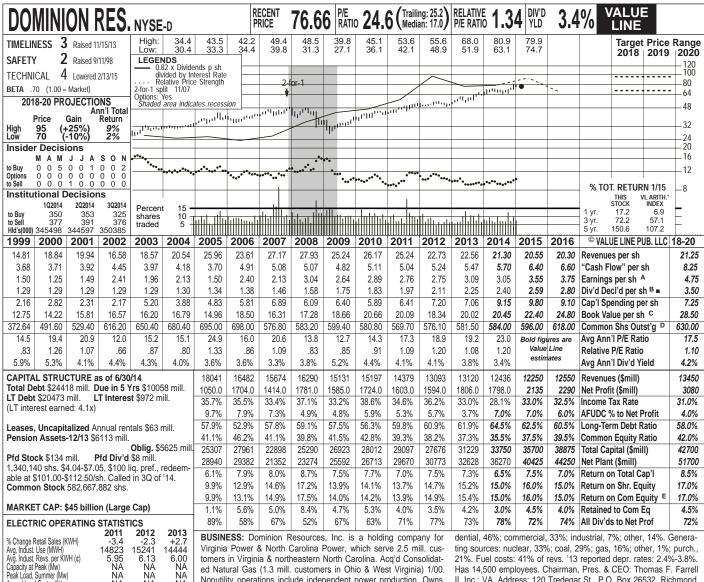
Paul E. Debbas, CFA March 20, 2015

(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¢; '12, (33¢). '12 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due late April. (B) Div'ds histor. paid in mid-Jan., Apr., July and Oct. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl.

intang. In '13: \$29.41/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '11: 10.5% elec.; in '13: 10.5% gas; earned on avg. com. eq., '13: 8.6%. Regul. Clim.: Avg. Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 100

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tomers 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. Owns 68.5% of Dominion Midstream Partners. Elec. rev. breakdown: resi-

21%. Fuel costs: 41% of revs. '13 reported depr. rates: 2.4%-3.8%. Has 14,500 employees. Chairman, Pres. & 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.

debt and future ash pond closure costs, is

such an example. We forecast an earnings

318 316 339 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '18-'20 -2.0% 1.0% 2.5% 7.5% 2.5% 2.5% 2.5% 4.0% Revenues -1.5%Cash Flow 6.5% 7.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA

+.5

NA

NA +.9

NA

NA +.9

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year			
2012	3462	3053	3411	3167	13093			
2013	3523	2980	3432	3185	13120			
2014	3630	2813	3050	2943	12436			
2015	3350	2800	3100	3000	12250			
2016	3500	2850	3150	3050	12550			
Cal-	E/	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year			
2012	.86	.48	.80	.61	2.75			
2013	.86	.47	1.02	.74	3.09			
2014	1.03	.60	.95	.46	3.05			
2015	.90	.70	1.05	.90	3.55			
2016	.95	.75	1.10	.95	3.75			
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year			
2011	.4925	.4925	.4925	.4925	1.97			
2012	.5275	.5275	.5275	.5275	2.11			
2013	.5625	.5625	.5625	.5625	2.25			
2014	.60	.60	.60	.60	2.40			
2015	.6475							

Significant investments in most of Dominion Resources' lines of business should drive earnings growth through the end of the decade. The company's regulated utility subsidiary, Virginia Power, is spending money on gas-fired and solar generation; electric transmission; moving some distribution lines underground; substation security; and hooking up additional customers. Some 75% of its spending is recoverable via "riders" on customers' bills, obviating the need for a general rate case. Dominion Energy, which is involved in midstream gas and gas distribution, is benefiting from gas production in the Marcellus and Utica shale regions. The company also has a joint venture in a (primarily) fee-based business that serves producers in these regions.

Our 2015 earnings estimate is near the low end of the company's guidance of \$3.50-\$3.85 a share. In most years, Dominion has expenses that we include in our presentation, even though the company excludes them from its definition of operating earnings. The fourth quarter of 2014, which includes charges totaling \$0.42 a share for the early retirement of

increase in 2016 in line with Dominion's near-term target of 5%-6% yearly growth. Dominion Midstream Partners should be a good source of cash for Dominion. This master limited partnership had an initial public offering last fall. Dominion plans to drop down gas assets to Dominion Midstream, including a gas pipe-line in South Carolina the company bought this quarter for \$493 million. Dominion is also building a gas pipeline for \$500 million and has a 45% stake in a \$4.5 billion-\$5.0 billion proposed pipeline. But the company's largest single investment is a project to convert a natural gas liquids terminal from an import to an export facil-

The board of directors has increased the annual dividend by \$0.19 a share (7.9%). Dominion is targeting annual dividend growth of 8% through 2020. The yield is average for a utility, but 3- to 5year total return potential is modest. Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 20, 2015

ity. All told, Dominion Midstream expects

to increase its annual distributions by a

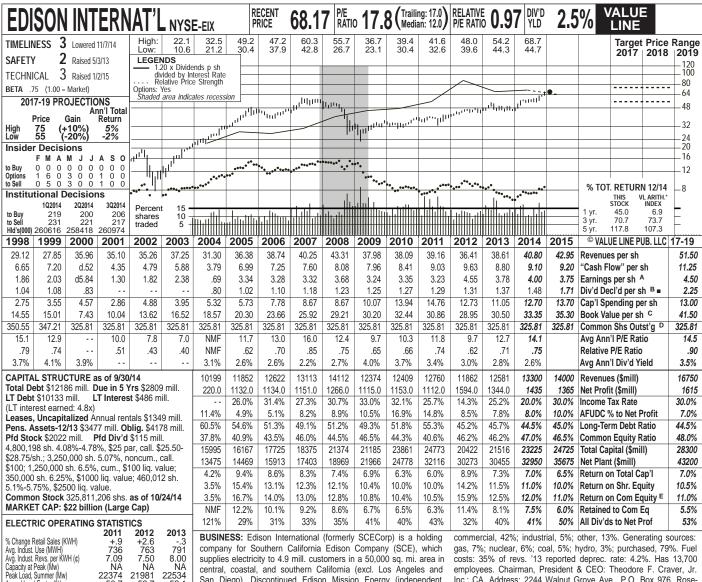
whopping 22% through 2020.

(A) Dil. egs. 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¢); '12, (\$1.70); '14, (76¢); losses from disc. ops.:

'06, 26¢; '07, 1¢; '10, 26¢; '12, 4¢; '13, 16¢. '14 (C) Incl. intang. In '13: \$8.38/sh. (D) In mill., EPS don't add due to rounding. Next egs. due late Apr. (B) Div'ds histor. paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. avg. com. eq., '13: 16.0%. Regul. Climate: Avg. © 2015 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

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

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company for Southern California Edison Company (SCE), which supplies electricity to 4.9 mill. customers in a 50,000 sq. mi. area in central, coastal, and southern California (excl. Los Angeles and San Diego). Discontinued Edison Mission Energy (independent power producer) in '12. Elec. revenue breakdown: residential, 40%;

gas, 7%; nuclear, 6%; coal, 5%; hydro, 3%; purchased, 79%. Fuel costs: 35% of revs. '13 reported deprec. rate: 4.2%. Has 13,700 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.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		209	308	295
ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value	Past 10 Yrs. .5% 6.0% 7.5%	Past 5 Yrs. -1.5% 3.5% 2.5% 2.5% 3.0%	Est'd	1'11-'13 17-'19 5.0% 3.5% 2.5% 9.5%
20011 10100	0.070	0.0 /		0.070

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

7.09 NA

22374 50.7

7.50 NA

52.7

21981

8.00 NA

52.1

22534

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31					
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	2012 2415 2 2013 2632 3 2014 2926 3		3981 3734 3960 4356 4300	3014 3060 2943 3002 3200	12760 11862 12581 13300 14000		
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31	Full Year					
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.62 .54 .78 .61	.54 .55 .78 1.07 .75	1.31 1.09 1.41 1.52 1.50	.76 2.39 .81 .80 . 75	3.23 4.55 3.78 4.00 3.75		
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		IDENDS PA		Full Year		
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.32 .325 .3375 .355 .4175	.32 .325 .3375 .355	.32 .325 .3375 .355	.32 .325 .3375 .355	1.28 1.30 1.35 1.42		

Edison International's board of directors rewarded the company's stockholders with a large dividend increase. The board raised the annual dividend by \$0.25 a share (17.6%), payable at the end of January. The company is targeting a payout ratio of 45%-55% of the profits of its utility subsidiary, Southern California Edison.

SCE's general rate case is pending. The utility is asking for rate hikes of \$82 million in 2015, \$295 million in 2016, and \$313 million in 2017. On the other hand, the state's Office of Ratepayer Advocates and an intervenor group are proposing a decrease of \$680 million this year, followed by increases of \$98 million in 2016 and \$116 million in 2017. The ruling will be retroactive to the start of 2015. No matter what happens with the rate order.

Earnings will probably decline in 2015. Edison International recorded some tax benefits in 2014, thereby making the profit comparison difficult. The tax rate will probably be higher this year. We expect earnings growth to resume in 2016. The utility is benefiting from its rising rate base, which is expected to climb 7%-

9% annually through 2017.

The California commission approved a regulatory settlement concerning the San Onofre nuclear plant. SCE shut the two units in 2013 due to damage stemming from the replacement of the steam generators, and took a writedown. The utility will retain 5% of any insurance recoveries and 50% of any monies it gets from the manufacturer of the steam generators. SCE is involved in a dispute, which won't likely be resolved anytime soon, with the manufacturer.

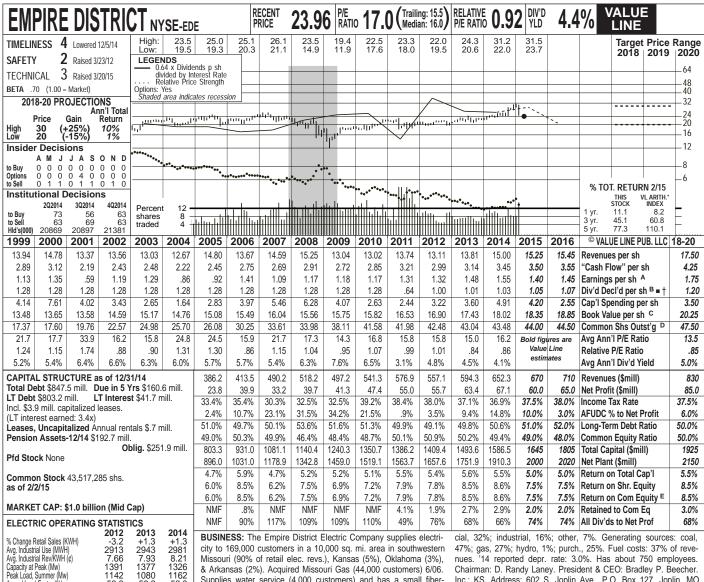
Edison International was one of the top-performing electric utility stocks in 2014. The share price rose nearly 50%, as investors responded favorably to the resolution of the uncertainties surrounding San Onofre. The dividend hike helped, too. However, even though we have raised our sights for the 3- to 5-year period, with the recent price above the midpoint of our 2017-2019 Target Price Range, total return potential (like that of most utility issues) is low. The stock's dividend vield is also about a percentage point below the industry average.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA January 30, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '02, \$1.48; '03, (12¢); '04, \$2.12; '09, (64¢); '10, 54¢; '11, (\$3.33); '13, (\$1.12); gains (loss) from discont. ops.: '12, (\$5.11); '13, 11¢; '14,

44¢. '12 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Feb. (B) Div'ds paid late Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. ■ Div'd reinvest-10.45%; earned on avg. com. eq., '13: 12.5%. ment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In Regulatory Climate: Above Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 45 **Earnings Predictability** 65



Missouri (90% of retail elec. revs.), Kansas (5%), Oklahoma (3%), & Arkansas (2%). Acquired Missouri Gas (44,000 customers) 6/06. Supplies water service (4,000 customers) and has a small fiberoptics operation. Elec. rev. breakdown: residential, 45%; commernues. '14 reported depr. rate: 3.0%. Has about 750 employees. Chairman: D. Randy Laney. President & CEO: Bradley P. Beecher. Inc.: KS. Address: 602 S. Joplin Ave., P.O. Box 127, Joplin, MO 64802-0127. Tel.: 417-625-5100. Internet: www.empiredistrict.com.

314 331 334 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '12-'14 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. Revenues .5% -.5% 4.0% 'Cash Flow' 3.0% 2.5% 3.0% 5.0% 5.0% 3.0% Earnings -4.5% 2.0% 3.0% 2.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (avg.)

1142

+.6

1080

+.5

1162

52.8

+.3

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	137.2 151.1 179.7 170 180	131.6 136.6 149.8 160 170	159.2 157.5 171.5 180 190	129.1 149.1 151.3 160 170	557.1 594.3 652.3 670 710
Cal- endar		RNINGS P Jun.30	ER SHARI Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	.23 .30 .48 .30 .30	.25 .27 .26 .25	.60 .56 .55 .60	.23 .35 .26 . 25	1.32 1.48 1.55 1.40 1.45
Cal- endar	QUART Mar.31	Full Year			
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.32 .25 .25 .255 .26	.32 .25 .25 .255	.25 .25 .25	.25 .255 .26	.64 1.00 1.01 1.03

Empire District Electric is awaiting an order on its electric rate application. The utility is seeking a rate hike of \$24.3 million (5.5%), based on a 10.15% return on a 51.45% common-equity ratio. The single-biggest driver of the rate case is the need to place an environmental up-grade to the Asbury coal-fired plant in the rate base. This project was completed in December at a cost of \$121 million. Empire District also wants to recover higher property taxes and the cost of a maintenance contract for Unit 12 of the Riverton gas-fired plant. In addition, the utility proposes to recover changes in transmission costs through its fuel adjustment clause. New tariffs should take effect by July, unless Empire District reaches a settlement that would allow for new rates sooner. The company has asked the Kansas and Arkansas commissions to allow it to recover the cost of this project through a rider on customers' bills, and plans to make a similar request in Oklahoma.

Due to the effects of regulatory lag, earnings will probably decline **2015.** Empire District is already booking higher depreciation expense and property

taxes associated with the Asbury upgrade. but won't receive rate relief for a few more months. We underestimated the effects of regulatory lag, and have cut our 2015 earnings estimate by \$0.10 a share, to \$1.40. Our revised estimate is within the company's targeted range of \$1.30-\$1.45.

We forecast only a partial profit recovery in 2016, due to more regulatory lag. Empire District is expanding Riverton 12's capacity by 100 megawatts at an expected cost of \$165 million-\$175 million. The utility plans to file another rate case in Missouri once the current one is concluded, but rate relief won't come until after the project goes into service in mid-2016.

Empire District stock is untimely, and has fallen nearly 20% so far in 2015. We think the recent decline is merely a correction. For a while, the price rose above \$30 a share, possibly indicating that the company was viewed as a takeover candidate. The dividend yield is a cut above the utility average, but total return potential to 2018-2020 is low, even after the pullback.

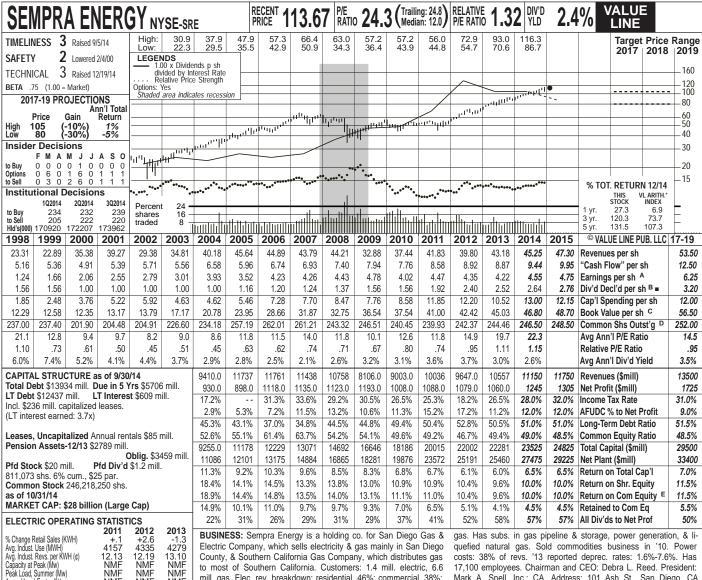
Paul E. Debbas, CFA March 20, 2015

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. loss from discontinued operations: '06, 2¢. '12 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due late April. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., June,

Sept. and Dec. Div'ds suspended 3Q '11, reinstated 1Q '12. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (3% discount). † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '14:

\$5.93/sh. **(D)** In mill. **(E)** Rate base: Deprec. orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MO in '13: none specified; earned on avg. com. eq., '14: 8.7%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 35 **Earnings Predictability** 85



NMF +.5 307

Est'd '11-'13 to '17-'19 4.5% 6.0%

NMF

NMF

NMF

+.5

262

NMF

NMF

+.6

319

Past

5 Yrs.

-1.0%

4.5%

12.5% 6.5%

Past

10 Yrs.

2.0%

4.5% 4.5%

11.5%

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Fixed Charge Cov. (%

ANNUAL RATES

of change (per sh)

Revenues

Earnings

'Cash Flow'

Dividends Book Value

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
					-
2011	2434	2422	2576	2604	10036
2012	2383	2089	2507	2668	9647
2013	2650	2651	2551	2705	10557
2014	2795	2678	2815	2862	11150
2015	2950	2850	2950	3000	11750
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	1.07	.97	1.22	1.21	4.47
2012	.97	.98	1.33	1.08	4.35
2013	.54	1.46	1.09	1.13	4.22
2014	.99	1.08	1.39	1.09	4.55
2015	1.05	1.15	1.40	1.15	4.75
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P.	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.39	.48	.48	.48	1.83
2012	.48	.60	.60	.60	2.28
2013	.60	.63	.63	.63	2.49
2014	.63	.66	.66	.66	2.61
2015	.66				
2010	.00				I

County, & Southern California Gas Company, which distributes gas to most of Southern California. Customers: 1.4 mill. electric, 6.6 mill. gas. Elec. rev. breakdown; residential, 46%; commercial, 38%; industrial, 9%; other, 7%. Purchases most of its power; the rest is

Sempra Energy has begun construction of a large project. The company is converting its Cameron liquefied natural gas terminal from an import to an export facility. Sempra has a 50.2% stake in the project, which is expected to cost \$9 billion-\$10 billion. It is expected to be completed in 2018 and should provide Sempra with net profit of \$325 million-\$350 million annually. The project might be expanded, too; the company will file a request with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission this year.

Sempra's utilities have filed general rate cases. Southern California Gas requested a \$256 million increase, and San Diego Gas & Electric asked for a total (electric and gas) hike of \$133 million. An order from the California regulators is expected by yearend, but even if it slips into 2016, it will be retroactive to the start of next year.

Earnings should improve in 2015. International investments are a particular area of focus for Sempra. The company has a lot of projects in various stages of development in Latin America and South America, especially natural gas pipelines in 92101-3017. Tel.: 619-696-2034. Internet: www.sempra.com. Mexico.

An asset sale is expected to close soon. Sempra has agreed to sell its 50% stake in a nonregulated gas-fired power plant. The company expects to book an undisclosed gain on the sale, which we will exclude from our earnings presentation as a nonrecurring item.

17,100 employees. Chairman and CEO: Debra L. Reed. President:

Mark A. Snell. Inc.: CA. Address: 101 Ash St., San Diego, CA

A new corporate structure might be in **Sempra's future.** The company is evaluating changes such as the formation of a "yieldco" that NRG Energy formed in 2013 or a master limited partnership and Next-Era Energy formed in 2014. Sempra expects to make an announcement around the end of the current quarter. Our estimates and projections are based on the company's current configuration.

This stock is expensively priced. Like several other utility equities, it is trading above our 2017-2019 Target Price Range. Perhaps Wall Street is anticipating some kind of corporate structure move. The stock doesn't stand out among utilities for its dividend yield, even though we estimate a sizable increase in the payout in the current quarter.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA January 30, 2015

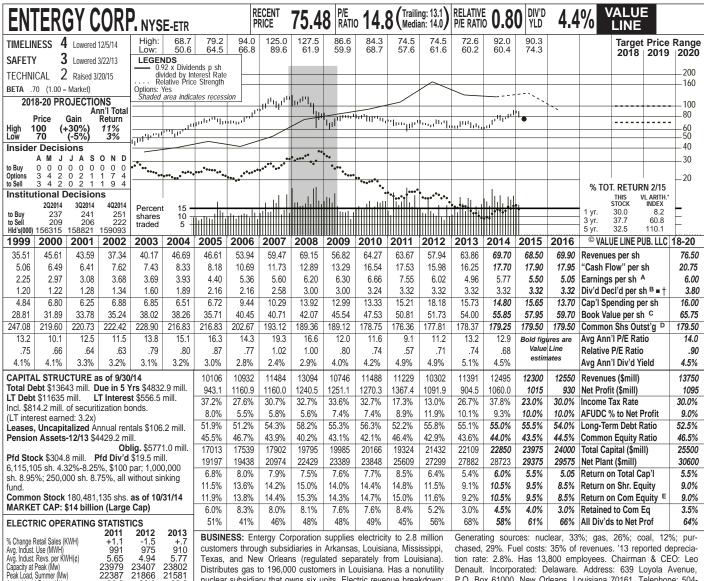
(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '05, 17¢; '06, (6¢); '09, (26¢); '10, (\$1.05); '11, \$1.15; '12, (98¢); '13, (30¢) net; gain (losses) from disc. ops.: '04, (10¢); '05, (4¢); '06, \$1.21;

'07, (10¢). '12 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next egs. report due late Feb. (B) Div'ds histor. paid mid-Jan., Apr., July & Oct. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '13:

\$16.35/sh. **(D)** In mill. **(E)** Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq.: SDG&E in '13: 10.3%; SoCalGas in '13: 10.1%; earn. on avg. com. eq., '13: 9.6%. Reg. Climate: Above Avg

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 85 **Earnings Predictability** 95

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customers through subsidiaries in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and New Orleans (regulated separately from Louisiana). Distributes gas to 196,000 customers in Louisiana. Has a nonutility nuclear subsidiary that owns six units. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 38%; commercial, 26%; industrial, 28%; other, 8%

chased, 29%. Fuel costs: 35% of revenues. '13 reported depreciation rate: 2.8%. Has 13,800 employees. Chairman & CEO: Leo Denault. Incorporated: Delaware. Address: 639 Loyola Avenue, P.O. Box 61000, New Orleans, Louisiana 70161. Telephone: 504-576-4000. Internet: www.entergy.com.

339 254 245 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. Revenues 4.5% .5% 3.0% 3.0% -.5% 2.0% 3.5% Cash Flow 9.0% 6.0% 7.0% Earnings 5.0% 5.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

22387

60.0

+.5

23407

21866

60.0

+.8

21581

62.0

+.8

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Full Year	
2012	2384	2518	2964	2436	10302	
2013	2609	2738	3352	2692	11391	
2014	3208	2997	3458	2831	12494	
2015	2850	2950	3550	2950	12300	
2016	2900	3000	3650	3000	12550	
Cal-	EA	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				
endar	Mar.31	Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31				
2012	.40	2.06	1.89	1.67	6.02	
2013	.90	.92	2.31	.83	4.96	
2014	2.28	1.08	1.68	.74	5.77	
2015	1.15	1.15	2.05	1.15	5.50	
2016	1.05	1.05	1.90	1.05	5.05	
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA		Full	
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30		Year	
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.83 .83 .83 .83 .83	.83 .83 .83 .83	.83 .83 .83 .83	.83 .83 .83 .83	3.32 3.32 3.32 3.32	

Entergy's earnings are likely to decline this year. Income from the company's nonregulated operations will probably be lower. In early 2014, this business benefited from a spike in power prices in New England. That did not occur this winter. Wholesale power prices have declined in recent months, too. And Entergy no longer has income (\$0.20 a share last year) from the Vermont Yankee nuclear plant, which it closed at the end of 2014. Another factor is an increase in pension and nonpension benefits costs. Not everything is negative. The company's utilities are benefiting from volume growth, despite the decline in oil prices that has affected some of its industrial customers. The tax rate is likely to be much lower this year. Management's earnings guidance for 2015 is \$5.10-\$5.90 a share. Our estimate is at the midpoint of this range

We look for earnings to fall again in **2016.** We do not assume that Entergy will have as low a tax rate as in 2015. Operationally, we expect growth in utility income, based on continued kilowatt-hour sales growth and some rate relief, but a decline in profits from the nonregulated side of Entergy's business.

An asset purchase is pending. Three of Entergy's utility subsidiaries have agreed to pay \$948 million for a 1,980-megawatt Union gas-fired generating station. The transaction requires the approval of the regulatory commissions in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Orleans, and Texas, plus that of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. It should be completed in late 2015. In Louisiana and Texas, the utility should be able to recover the cost of the Union plant through regulatory mechanisms.

Entergy will soon file a rate case in Arkansas. The application will seek to place the portion of the Union plant allocated to Arkansas in the rate base and im-

prove its earned return on equity there.

The situation with the Indian Point nuclear station bears watching. Entergy wants to extend the two units' operating licenses by 20 years, but faces opposi-tion from some officials in New York State. Entergy stock is untimely, but offers a dividend yield and 3- to 5-year total return potential that are somewhat above the utility averages.

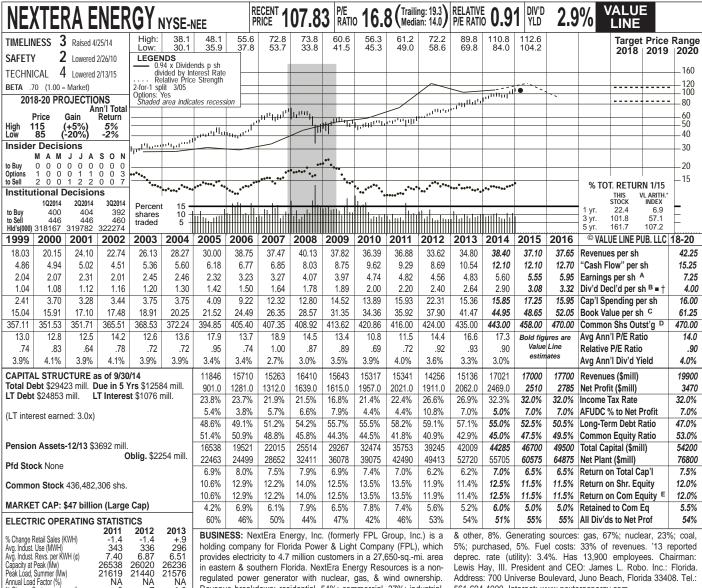
Paul E. Debbas, ČFA March 20, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses): '01, 15¢; '02, (\$1.04); '03, 33¢ net; '05, (21¢); '12, (\$1.26); '13, (\$1.14); '14, (56¢). '14 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earn-

ings report due late April. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. base: Net original cost. Allowed return on equi-Div'd reinvestment plan available. (C) Incl. deferred base: Net original cost. Allowed return on equi-ty (blended): 10%; earned on avg. com. eq., 13: 9.3%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

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

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provides electricity to 4.7 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, 54%; commercial, 37%; industrial

deprec. rate (utility): 3.4%. Has 13,900 employees. Chairman: Lewis Hay, III. President and CEO: James L. Robo. Inc.: Florida. Address: 700 Universe Boulevard, Juno Beach, Florida 33408. Tel.: 561-694-4000. Internet: www.nexteraenergy.com.

311 278 295 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. -2.0% 5.5% 6.0% Revenues 3.5% 2.5% 7.0% 6.5% 7.5% 7.0% Cash Flow 6.5% 7.5% **Earnings** Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

21619

ŇÁ

+.6

NA

+.7

+1.8

DOOK V	alue	0.0	70 1.	370	7.070
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2012	3371	3667	3843	3375	14256
2013	3279	3833	4394	3630	15136
2014	3674	4029		4664	17021
2015	4000	4250		4000	17000
2016	4150	4450		4150	17700
Cal- endar			ER SHARE		Full Year
2012	1.11	1.45	.98	1.02	4.56
2013	1.00	1.44	1.64	.75	4.83
2014	.98	1.12	1.50	2.00	5.60
2015	1.30	1.45	1.65	1.15	5.55
2016	1.40	1.55	1.75	1.25	5.95
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ID B ■†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.55 .60 .66 .725	.55 .60 .66 .725	.55 .60 .66 .725	.55 .60 .66 .725	2.20 2.40 2.64 2.90

NextEra Energy has agreed to acquire Hawaiian Electric Industries' three electric utility subsidiaries. NextEra would pay \$2.8 billion, mostly in stock, for the utilities. The purchase requires the approval of HEI shareholders, the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The companies expect the deal to be completed by yearend. NextEra would bring its expertise in renewable energy to Hawaii, which wants to use more renewables and less oil. However, NextEra would be paying a high price for utilities that have underearned their allowed returns on equity—sometimes by a wide margin.

NextEra's regulated and nonregulated businesses are performing well. Florida Power & Light is benefiting from solid customer growth and the economic recovery in its service territory. NextEra Energy Resources adds renewable projects every year (1,629 megawatts in 2014).

Investors should not be concerned about the slight earnings decline we estimate for 2015. Last year, mark-tomarket accounting gains stemming from hedges boosted share net by \$0.35. This

will make the comparison tough, notably in the December quarter. We include these gains (or charges) in our presentation because they are an ongoing part of operations, but don't reflect them in our estimates and projections because they are impossible to predict. Our 2015 earnings estimate is within NextEra's targeted range of \$5.40-\$5.70 a share. We forecast a 7% earnings increase, to \$5.95, in 2016.

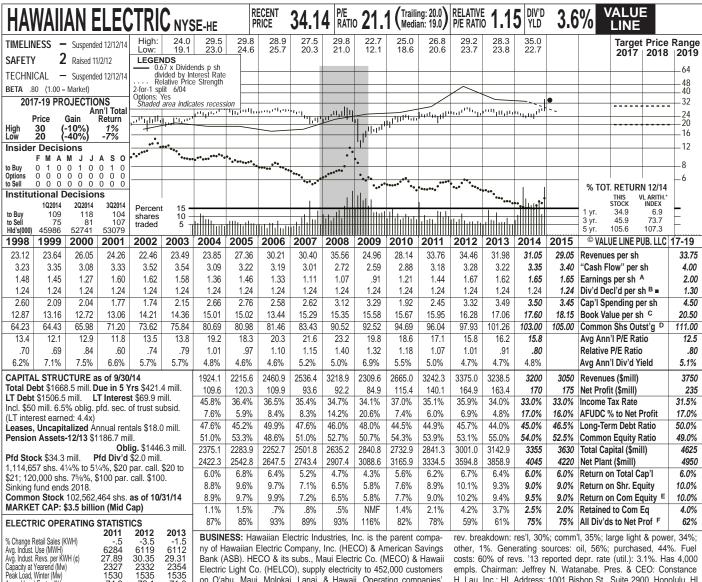
FPL is planning some investments in natural gas. The Florida commission approved a plan to invest in gas reserves in order to reduce costs for ratepayers. The utility also plans to invest at least \$2 billion in two gas pipeline joint ventures.

We think the board of directors raised the dividend shortly after this report went to press. The board has been hiking the payout at a fast pace in recent years. NextĔra's dividend yield is low for a utility. The valuation reflects the company's good track record and superior dividend growth potential. However, with the recent price above the midpoint of our 2018-2020 Target Price Range, total return potential is negligible. Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 20, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gain (losses): '00, (5¢); '02, (60¢); '03, 5¢; '11, (24¢); '13, (80¢); gain on discontinued operations: '13, 44¢. Next earnings report due late April. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., mid-June, mid-Sept., & mid-Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '13:

\$5.18/sh. **(D)** In millions, adjusted for stock split. **(E)** Rate allowed on com. eq. in '13: 9.5%-11.5%; earned on avg. com. eq., '13: 12.1%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 70 **Earnings Predictability** 80



Bank (ASB). HECO & its subs., Maui Electric Co. (MECO) & Hawaii Electric Light Co. (HELCO), supply electricity to 452,000 customers on O'ahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, & Hawaii. Operating companies' systems are not interconnected. Disc. int'l power sub. in '01. Elec.

costs: 60% of revs. '13 reported depr. rate (util.): 3.1%. Has 4,000 empls. Chairman: Jeffrey N. Watanabe. Pres. & CEO: Constance H. Lau. Inc.: HI. Address: 1001 Bishop St., Suite 2900, Honolulu, HI 96808-0730. Tel.: 808-543-5662. Internet: www.hei.com

337 396 398 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) to '17-'19 1.0% 1.5% Revenues 3.5% Nil 'Cash Flow' 3.5% 4.0% -.5% Earnings 6.0% 1.0% 4.0% Dividends Book Value 1.5% 2.5%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

1530

+.3

1535

+.5

1535

+.8

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2011	710.6	794.3	886.4	851.0	3242.3
2012	814.9	854.3	867.7	838.1	3375.0
2013	784.1	796.7	831.2	826.5	3238.5
2014	783.7	798.7		750.5	3200
2015	750	750	800	750	3050
Cal-	E/	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.30	.28	.50	.36	1.44
2012	.40	.40	.49	.38	1.67
2013	.34	.41	.48	.39	1.62
2014	.45	.41	.46	.33	1.65
2015	.39	.44	.46	.36	1.65
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2012	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2013	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2014	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2015					

Hawaiian Electric Industries agreed to be acquired by NextEra Energy. NextEra is buying HEI's three utilisubsidiaries. For each of their shares, HEI stockholders would receive 0.2413 of a share of NextEra stock (valued at \$26.28); a \$0.50-a-share special dividend; and a share of American Savings Bank. ASB would be spun off into a publicly traded company, subject to completion of the utility takeover. HEI estimates that the value of ASB stock would be \$8.00 a share. All told, the compensation to HEI stockholders would amount to \$34.78 a share. NextEra would also assume a tax liability estimated at \$1.60 a share stemming from the ASB spinoff. All of the compensation except the special dividend would be taxfree to HEI stockholders, who will vote on the deal. The transaction also requires the approval of the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The companies expect the deal to close by late 2015.

What should HEI stockholders do? This depends on tax considerations. With the price of HEI stock just 2% below the value of NextEra's generous offer, there is

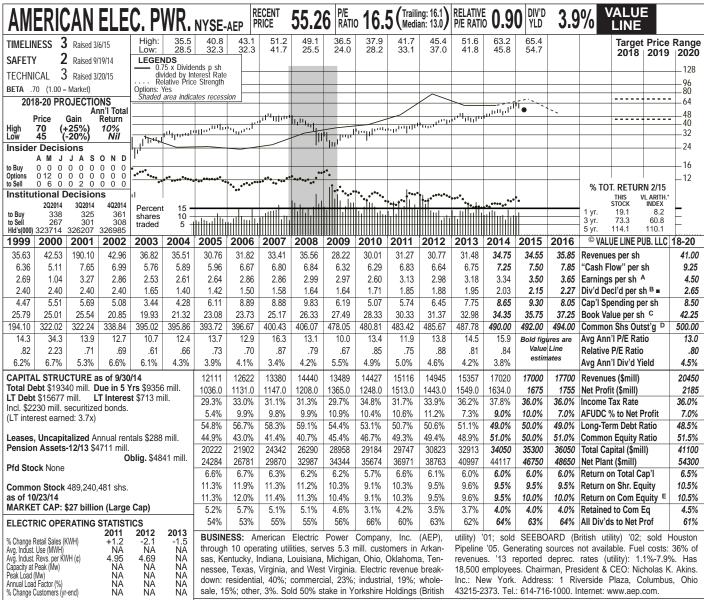
little upside potential unless the price of NextEra stock continues to rise. However, selling the stock would create a capital gain. The Timeliness rank of HEI stock is suspended due to the takeover agreement. The transformation of utilities in **Hawaii is ongoing.** Last year, the PUC directed the company to put forth a proposal to increase the use of renewable energy and address the problem of high oil prices. Although oil prices have come down considerably since then (and customers had seen their bills decline by 20% by the end of 2014), the state still wants to reduce its dependence on foreign sources of energy. The rates customers are paying for their power are still well above the national average, even with lower oil prices. Meanwhile, the company wants to increase the monthly fixed charge for residential ratepayers. As more customers have placed solar panels on their buildings, nonsolar customers are subsidizing solar users.

We have trimmed our 2015 earnings estimate by \$0.05 a share. HEI will likely incur some merger-related costs stemming from the deal with NextEra. Paul E. Debbas, CFA January 30, 2015

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '00, (56¢); '01, (36¢); '03, (5¢); '04, 2¢; '05, (1¢); nonrec. gain (losses): '05, 11¢; '07 (9¢); '12, (25¢). Next earnings report due mid-

Feb. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. • Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '13: \$5.81/sh. (D) In mill., avg_com. eq., '13: 9.7%. Regul. Climate: Avg. adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Orig. cost. Rate al- | (F) Excl. div'ds paid through reinvest. plan.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 90 Price Growth Persistence 35 **Earnings Predictability** 75



sas, Kentucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, and West Virginia. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 40%; commercial, 23%; industrial, 19%; wholesale, 15%; other, 3%. Sold 50% stake in Yorkshire Holdings (British

revenues. '13 reported deprec. rates (utility): 1.1%-7.9%. Has 18,500 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Nicholas K. Akins. Inc.: New York. Address: 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215-2373. Tel.: 614-716-1000. Internet: www.aep.com

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		286	280	326
ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends	Past 10 Yrs. -10.0% .5% -1.5%	Past 5 Yrs. -1.5% - 1.5% 4.0%	Est'd	1 '11-'13 '18-'20 4.0% 4.5% 5.5% 5.0%
Book Value	3.5%	4.5%		4.5%

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

NA NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Full Year
2012	3625	3551	4156	3613	14945
2013	3826	3582	4176	3773	15357
2014	4648	4044	4302	4026	17020
2015	4350	4100	4500	4050	17000
2016	4550	4250	4700	4200	17700
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Dec.31	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30		Year
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	.80 .75 1.15 1.00 1.05	.75 .73 .80 .80	1.00 1.10 1.01 1.15 1.20	.43 .60 .39 .55	2.98 3.18 3.34 3.50 3.65
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B ■	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30		Dec.31	Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.46 .47 .47 .50 .53	.46 .47 .49 .50	.46 .47 .49 .50	.47 .47 .50 .53	1.85 1.88 1.95 2.03

What will American Electric Power do with its nonregulated generating assets in Ohio? The company had proposed a purchased-power agreement with four plants, which was intended to provide these assets with a stable source of income. The state commission rejected AEP's proposal, but did not prohibit purchasedpower contracts. Now, the company must decide whether to put forth a revised proposal, or sell the assets. In fact, AEP has hired an investment-banking firm to evaluate a sale. Another company with nonregulated generating units in Ohio, Duke Energy, reached an agreement to sell these plants last year. Duke fared better than it had originally expected, although the units were still sold at a loss. In any case, AEP has been striving to make itself a more regulated company in recent years. We don't know when management will announce its plans.

We estimate mid-single-digit earnings growth this year and next. We are basing our estimates on retention of AEP's nonregulated generating assets. Due to conditions in the power markets, the income from these assets will probably de-

cline in 2015 and 2016. Even so, rising profits from the regulated operations should outweigh this falloff. Some of AEP's utilities are asking for rate increases, and the company's electric transmission operations are increasing their contribution as more capital is invested in this area. Over the next three years, AEP has budgeted more than \$4.8 billion for transmission capital expenditures. Our earnings estimates for 2015 and 2016 are at the midpoint of management's targeted ranges of \$3.40-\$3.60 a share and \$3.45-\$3.85 a share, respectively.

Rate cases are pending in West Virginia and Kentucky. In West Virginia, Appalachian Power is seeking a rate hike of \$226 million, based on a 10.62% return on equity. An order is due on May 26th. Kentucky Power filed for a rate increase of \$70 million, based on the same 10.62% ROE. New tariffs should take effect in mid-2015.

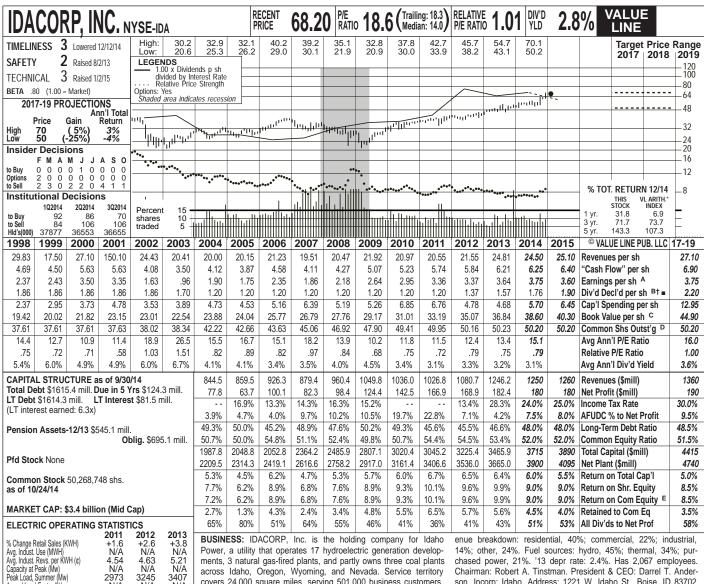
This stock has a dividend yield and 3to 5-year total return potential that are about average, by utility standards.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA March 20, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '02, (\$3.86); '03, (\$1.92); '04, 24¢; '05, (62¢); '06, (20¢); '07, (20¢); '08, 40¢; '10, (7¢); '11, '12, (38¢); '13, (14¢); discont. ops.: '02,

(57¢); '03, (32¢); '04, 15¢; '05, 7¢; '06, 2¢; '08, 3¢. '11 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next egs. report due late Apr. (B) Div'ds historically paid early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd related by the properties of the pro © 2015 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

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



ments, 3 natural gas-fired plants, and partly owns three coal plants across Idaho, Oregon, Wyoming, and Nevada. Service territory covers 24,000 square miles, serving 501,000 business customers. Sells electricity in Idaho (95% of revenues) and Oregon (5%). Rev-

chased power, 21%. '13 depr rate: 2.4%. Has 2,067 employees. Chairman: Robert A. Tinstman. President & CEO: Darrel T. Anderson. Incorp: Idaho. Address: 1221 W. Idaho St., Boise, ID 83702. Telephone: 208-388-2200. Internet: www.idacorpinc.com

its 2015 Integrated Resource Plan. The

194 283 329 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '17-'19 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs 2.0% 6.5% 10.0% 3.0% 5.5% Revenues -10.0% 3.5% 3.0% 5.5% -2.5% 4.5% 'Cash Flow' 2.5% 1.5% Earnings 8.0% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

N/A

3245

N/A

+1.1

3407

N/A

+1.5

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	251.5	235.0	309.6	230.7	1026.8
2012	241.1	254.7	334.0	250.9	1080.7
2013	264.9	303.9	381.1	296.3	1246.2
2014	292.7	317.7	382.2	257.4	1250
2015	290	305	385	280	1260
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.60	.42	2.16	.18	3.36
2012	.50	.71	1.84	.33	3.37
2013	.70	.93	1.46	.55	3.64
2014	.55	.89	1.73	.58	3.75
2015	.60	.75	1.85	.40	3.60
Cal-	QUAR1	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B†∎	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.30	.30	.30	.30	1.20
2012	.33	.33	.33	.38	1.37
2013	.38	.38	.38	.43	1.57
2014	.43	.43	.43	.47	1.76
2015					

We are raising our 2014 share-net estimate for IDACORP. Third-quarter results were above our expectations. Better than expected results were due to slightly improved weather in the September period. Customer growth has also aided sales volume, as it has helped to offset lower usage among the company's residential and irrigation customer categories. However, earnings in the September period were primarily impacted by lower income tax expense. This was due to a tax method change related to Idaho Power's capitalized repairs reduction. IDACORP recently raised its guidance for 2014 to reflect the lower tax expense. The company expects 2014 earnings to be in the range of \$3.70 to \$3.80 per share, higher than the previous guidance of \$3.50 to \$3.65 per share. In accordance, we have raised our 2014 estimate to \$3.75 per share. Looking ahead, the method change is expected to result in a small amount of continued benefit, depending on the nature of annual capital additions at Idaho Power. IDACORP expects more clarity on this in the next quarter.

Idaho Power is currently working on

plan is expected to indicate a modest increase in the average and peak load growth from the company's earlier IRP in 2013. The completed Integrated Resource Plan is expected to be filed with the Idaho Public Utility Commission by June 2015. A dividend hike is likely in 2015. The company's dividend policy seeks maintain a payout ratio between 50% and 60%. The board of directors recently increased the dividend payout in September, 2014 by 9.3%. The dividend should continue to see an improvement until IDACORP reaches the upper end of the payout range. These shares do not stand out at this juncture. Based on the stock's current Timeliness rank, it is expected to be an average performer over the next six to 12 months. However, appreciation potential over the next 3- to 5-year period is limited, as the stock price is already at the top of our three- to five-year Target Price Range. Additionally, although further dividend increases are likely, the company's current

dividend yield is presently below the aver-

age yield of 3.3% for electric utilities.

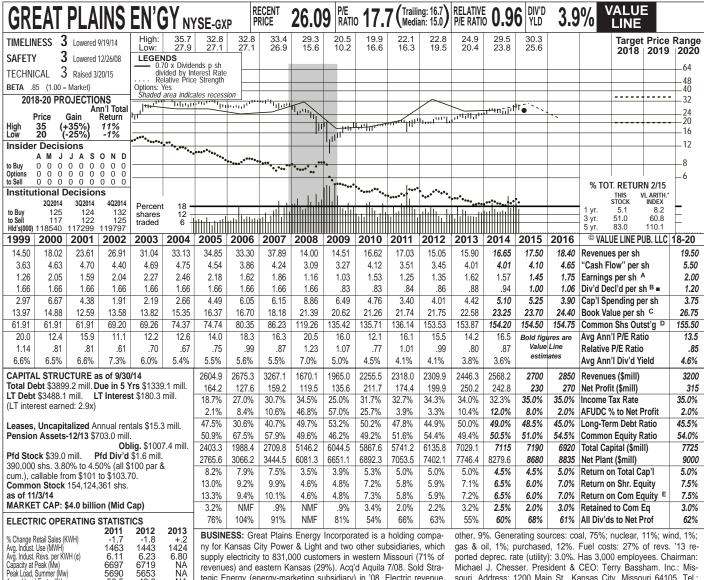
(A) EPS diluted. Excl. nonrecurring gains (loss): '00, 22¢; '03, 26¢; '05, (24¢); '06, 17¢. Egs. may not sum to total due to rounding. Next earnings report due in late February. (B)

Div'ds historically paid in late Feb., May, Aug., and late Nov. Div'd reinvestment plan avail. on com. eq. in Idaho in '11: 9.5%-10.5%; Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred debits. In '13: \$21.06/sh. (D) In mill. Regulatory Climate: Above Average.

Saumya Ajila

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 80 **Earnings Predictability** 90

January 30, 2015



supply electricity to 831,000 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, 42%; commercial, 40%; industrial, 9%;

ported deprec. rate (utility): 3.0%. Has 3,000 employees. Chairman: Michael J. Chesser. President & CEO: Terry Bassham. Inc.: Missouri. Address: 1200 Main St., Kansas City, Missouri 64105. Tel.: 816-556-2200. Internet: www.greatplainsenergy.com

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		211	235 26	37
ANNUAL RATES	Past	Past	Est'd '11-'	13
of change (per sh)	10 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	to '18-'20)
Revenues	-5.0%	-11.0%	3.5%	
"Cash Flow"	-2.5%	5%	6.5%	
Earnings	-3.5%	-2.0%		
Dividends	-6.5%			
Book Value	5.0%	3.5%	3.0%	

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (avg.)

5690

5653

49.6

NA

NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Full Year
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	479.7 542.2 585.1 600 625	603.6 600.3 648.4 650 700	746.2 765.0 782.5 850 900	480.4 538.8 552.2 600 625	2309.9 2446.3 2568.2 2700 2850
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31	RNINGS F Jun.30	ER SHARI Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	d.07 .17 .15 .15	.41 .41 .34 .30 .40	.95 .93 .95 .90	.03 .11 .12 .10	1.35 1.62 1.57 1.45 1.75
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		IDENDS PA	AID B ■ Dec.31	Full Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.2075 .2125 .2175 .23 .245	.2075 .2125 .2175 .23		.2125 .2175 .23 .245	.84 .86 .88 .94

Great Plains Energy's largest utility subsidiary has rate cases pending in Missouri and Kansas. In Missouri, Kansas City Power & Light is seeking an increase of \$120.9 million (15.8%), based on a 10.3% return on a 50.36% commonequity ratio. In Kansas, the utility is requesting a hike of \$67.3 million (12.5%), based on a 10.3% return on a 50.48% common-equity ratio. The filings are driven by a need to place environmental spending at the La Cygne coal-fired plant and upgrades to the Wolf Creek nuclear unit in the rate base. KCP&L also wants to recover higher transmission costs and property taxes. In Missouri, the utility is asking for a fuel-adjustment clause that include transmission expenses, along with a regulatory mechanism to track property taxes. New tariffs should go into effect around the start of the fourth quarter. Because that is a seasonally weak period for the company, any rate relief KCP&L obtains won't have a large effect on profits this year. In fact . .

Earnings will probably decline this year. Unrecovered property taxes and transmission costs will result in a sig-

nificant amount of regulatory lag for the company in 2015-even more than we had expected in our December report. Thus, we have cut our share-earnings estimate by \$0.15, to \$1.45. Our revised estimate is within the company's targeted (and wide) range of \$1.35-\$1.60. Despite our expectation of lower profits, the payout ratio is still low enough to allow for a dividend increase this year. Note that Great Plains Energy benefits from tax-loss carryforwards that aren't reflected in our "cash flow" figures.

Regulatory lag is nothing new for Great Plains Energy. This problem has persisted for the past several years. That's why returns on equity have been mediocre since 2008.

We forecast significant bottom-line improvement in 2016. We assume reasonable regulatory treatment in our estimate of \$1.75 a share, which would result in an increase of more than 20%.

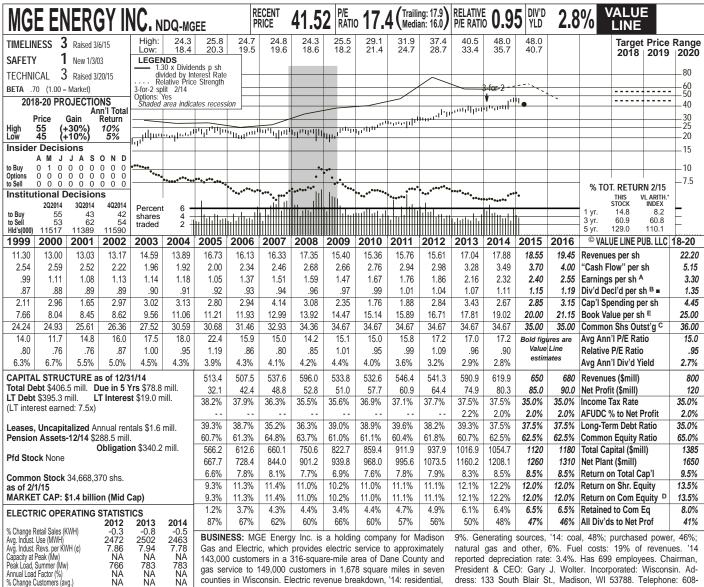
The dividend yield and 3- to 5-year total return potential for Great Plains Energy stock are about average, compared with most utility issues.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA March 20, 2015

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '00, 49¢; '01, (\$2.01); '02, (5¢); '03, 29¢; '04, (7¢); '09, 12¢; gain (losses) on disc. ops.: '03, (13¢); '04, 10¢; '05, (3¢); '08, 35¢. '12 EPS don't add

due to change in shs., '14 due to rounding.
Next earnings report due early May. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept. & Dec.
■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In © 2015 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

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



143,000 customers in a 316-square-mile area of Dane County and gas service to 149,000 customers in 1,678 square miles in seven counties in Wisconsin. Electric revenue breakdown, '14: residential, 33%; commercial, 53%; industrial, 5%; public authorities and other,

reported depreciation rate: 3.4%. Has 699 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Gary J. Wolter. Incorporated: Wisconsin. Address: 133 South Blair St., Madison, WI 53788. Telephone: 608-252-7000. Internet: www.mgeenergy.com.

702 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 579 676 ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '12-'14 Past 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '18-'20 2.0% 5.0% Revenues 4.5% 4.5% 7.0% 2.5% 8.0% 7.5% 'Cash Flow" Earnings 6.5% Dividends 5.5% Book Value 6.0% 6.0%

% Change Customers (avg.)

NA NA

NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2012	149.3	117.2	137.8	137.0	541.3
2013	167.2	128.3	140.1	155.3	590.9
2014	210.3	128.8	135.1	145.7	619.9
2015	215	135	145	155	650
2016	220	142	153	165	680
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.46	.41	.68	.31	1.86
2013	.65	.40	.70	.41	2.16
2014	.80	.41	.67	.44	2.32
2015	.80	.45	.70	.45	2.40
2016	.84	.48	.74	.49	2.55
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.2501	.2501	.2551	.2551	1.01
2012	.2551	.2551	.2634	.2634	1.04
2013	.2634	.2634	.2717	.2717	1.07
2014	.2717	.2717	.2825	.2825	1.11
2015	.2825				
1					

Shares of MGE Energy have traded somewhat lower over the past three months. The company reported mixed results for the fourth quarter of 2014. Revenue of \$145.7 million declined moderately, on a year-over-year basis. But efforts to control operating expenses and lower benefits costs boosted profitability, and share earnings of \$0.44 improved nicely over the prior-year tally.

has recently A rate case resolved. In late December, the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin authorized MGE to increase 2015 rates for retail electric customers by \$15.4 million (3.8%) and decrease gas rates by \$3.8 million (2.0%). The increase in retail electric rates covers expenses associated with the construction of emission-reduction equipment, improvements to the state's electric transmission system, along with fuel and purchased power costs. The authorized return on equity is 10.2%.

We envision further improvement in the current year. The company's utility operations should continue to benefit from favorable demographics. A healthy local economy will likely drive population

growth and demand for power in the Madison, Wisconsin area. The aforementioned rate relief should also boost revenues. Efforts to keep expenses in check ought to further benefit the bottom line. Solid growth will probably continue at Otter Tail in 2016.

The risk profile is attractive here. The company has established a track record of stable operating performance, and we expect this to continue. Low exposure to economically sensitive industrial customers increases the stability of earnings. Moreover, leverage appears manageable. As a result, MGE earns very good marks for Safety, Financial Strength, Price Stability, and Earnings Predictability.

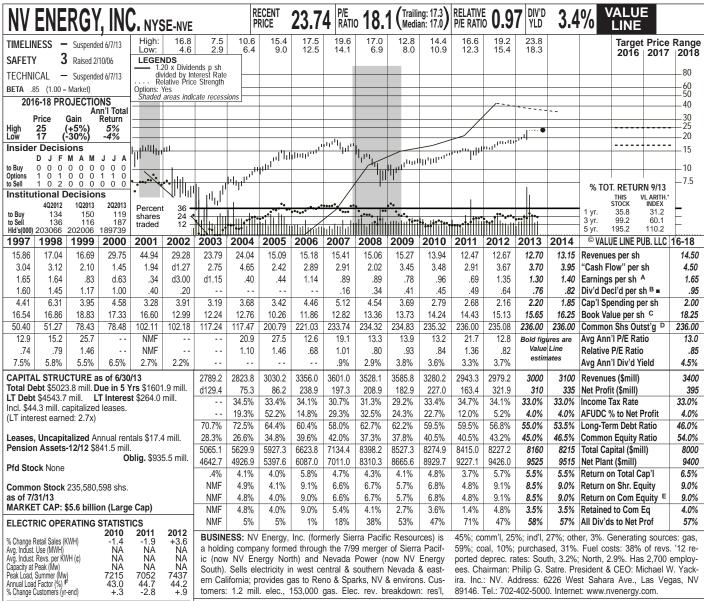
Conservative investors with a long-time horizon might find these shares attractive. Looking out to 2018-2020, the stock offers decent total return potential, on a risk-adjusted basis. This should be supported by moderate growth in revenues, earnings, and dividends at the company over the pull to late decade. This equity is neutrally ranked for year-ahead relative price performance. Michael Napoli, CFA

March 20, 2015

(A) Diluted earnings. Next earnings report due early May. (B) Dividends historically paid in mid-March, June, September, and December. ■ Dvd. reinvestment plan available. (C) In mil-

lions, adjusted for split. (D) Rate allowed on common equity in '14: 10.2%; earned on common equity, '14: 12.2%. Regulatory Climate: Above Average. (E) Includes regulatory assets.

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



ic (now NV Energy North) and Nevada Power (now NV Energy South). Sells electricity in west central & southern Nevada & eastern California; provides gas to Reno & Sparks, NV & environs. Customers: 1.2 mill. elec., 153,000 gas. Elec. rev. breakdown: res'l,

ported deprec. rates: South, 3.2%; North, 2.9%. Has 2,700 employees. 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

256 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 181 181 **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '10-'12 5 Yrs. -3.0% to '16-'18 2.0% of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. Revenues Cash Flow' 4.0% 4.0% 8.5% Earnings 10.0% -.5% 4.5% 4.0% Book Value OHADTEDLY DEVENUES (\$ will)

7215

7052

7437

44.2

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2010 2011 2012 2013 2014	714.5 641.0 611.4 584.2 625	782.7 674.9 740.7 731.6 750	1026.5	655.0 609.6 600.6 634.2 650	3280.2 2943.3 2979.2 3000 3100
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31		PER SHARI Sep.30		Full Year
2010 2011 2012 2013 2014	d.01 .01 .05 .09	.16 .05 .29 .27 .30	.73	.06 d.11 .07 <i>.05</i>	.96 .69 1.35 1.30 1.40
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		IDENDS P. Sep.30		Full Year
2009 2010 2011 2012 2013	.10 .11 .12 .13	.10 .11 .12 .17	.10 .11 .12 .17	.11 .12 .13 .17	.41 .45 .49 .64

Shareholders of NV Energy have approved the takeover of the company by MidAmerican Energy. MidAmerican, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, has agreed to pay \$23.75 in cash for each share of NV Energy. The deal still requires the approval of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The companies are targeting the first quarter of 2014 for completion of the transaction. Due to the buyout agreement, the Timeliness rank of NV Energy stock remains suspended.

We continue to advise NV Energy stockholders to sell their shares on the open market. The offer is generous, at 18 times earnings. The recent price of the stock is just slightly below the takeover price, leaving very little upside potential for stockholders. Accordingly, by selling their stock now, NV Energy holders can avoid downside risk in case the deal falls through. So far, the agreement has not generated much controversy, but an unfavorable regulatory outcome cannot be ruled out.

NV Energy North has revised its rate

filing. This case was required by state regulatory law. The utility is now seeking an electric rate decrease of \$4.7 million (0.7%) and a gas tariff hike of \$6.0 million (6.7%). (The electric request is based on a reallocation of debt between the electric and gas businesses and a reduction in operating and maintenance costs.) NV Energy filed for returns on equity of 10.4% for electricity and 10.35% for gas, based on a common-equity ratio of 47%. An order is expected in December, with new rates taking effect at the start of 2014

NV Energy is asking the PUCN for approval to combine its two utilities into one. The company is building a transmission line to connect NV Energy North and NV Energy South, which would enable it to operate the utilities as one entity. A ruling is expected in March of 2014

We estimate that earnings will decline a bit this year. Weather patterns were favorable in 2012, and NV Energy is incurring costs related to the pending takeover. These reduced profits by \$0.04 a share in the second quarter. We figure that earnings will exceed the 2012 level in 2014. Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 1, 2013

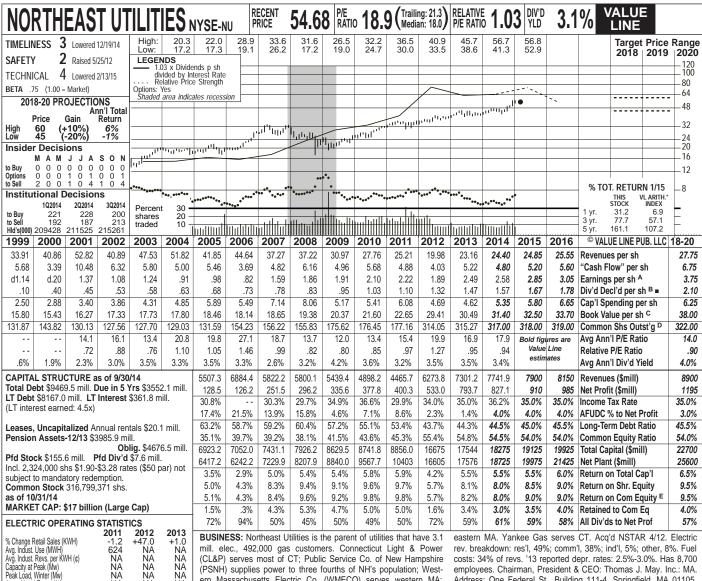
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '00, 8¢; '01, 31¢; '03, (5¢); '04, (3¢); non-rec. gain (loss): '04, (21¢); '06, 20¢. '11 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report

due late Feb. (B) Div'd reinstated 7/07. Div'ds historically paid mid-Mar., June, Sept., & Dec.

Div'd reinv, plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '12: ** Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '12: \$6.77/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. 10%, earned on avg. com. eq., '12: 9.2% Climate: Avg. (F) NV Energy South only.

cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. for NV Energy North in '08: 10.6%; NV Energy South in '12: 10%; earned on avg. com. eq., '12: 9.2%. Reg.

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



(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 central &

employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Thomas J. May. Inc.: MA. Address: One Federal St., Building 111-4, Springfield, MA 01105. Tel.: 413-785-5871. Internet: www.eversource.com (10.9%), based on a return of 10.25% on a common-equity ratio of 52.94%. New tar-

291 427 320 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. Revenues -7.0%-10.5% 3.0% -4.5% 6.0% 9.5% 5.0% 'Cash Flow' -.5% 9.0% 8.0% 7.0% 4.5% Earnings 11.0% 8.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA +.4

NA NA NA

NA

+59.8

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	1100	1629	1861	1684	6273.8
2013	1995	1636	1893	1777	7301.2
2014	2291	1678	1892	1881	7741.9
2015	2250	1750	2000	1900	7900
2016	2350	1800	2050	1950	8150
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.56	.15	.66	.55	1.89
2013	.72	.54	.66	.56	2.49
2014	.74	.40	.74	.69	2.58
2015	.80	.60	.80	.65	2.85
2016	.85	.65	.85	.70	3.05
Cal-	QUAR1	ERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B∎	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.275	.275	.275	.275	1.10
2012	.294	.343	.343	.343	1.32
2013	.3675	.3675	.3675	.3675	1.47
2014	.3925	.3925	.3925	.3925	1.57
2015	.4175				

Northeast Utilities changed its name to Eversource Energy shortly after this report went to press. The company wanted to brand all of its utility subsidiaries under the Eversource name, and began doing business under the new name in early February. The stock was expected to begin trading under its new name and ticker symbol (ES) on February 19th.

Connecticut Light & Power received a rate increase. Tariffs were raised by \$134.1 million (13.9%), based on a return of 9.17% on a common-equity ratio of 50.38%. The utility's allowed ROE for the first 12 months following the rate order is just 9.02% as a penalty for what the regulators deemed inadequate responses to storms in 2011. New tariffs took effect on December 1st. CL&P has not been earning an adequate ROE, so rate relief was sorely needed. The order includes a regulatory mechanism that decouples revenues and volume.

NSTAR Gas has a rate case pending in Massachusetts, and another gas filing is upcoming. The utility is seeking its first base rate hike in more than 20 years. It filed for an increase of \$45.9 million iffs will take effect at the start of 2016. Yankee Gas in Connecticut will file a rate application in the second quarter.

We estimate solid earnings increases this year and next. Rate relief should help. Capital spending on electric transmission is another factor. NU's transmission budget for 2015 through 2018 is \$3.9 billion. And the company continues to effect cost reductions stemming from its merger with NSTAR three years ago. Our 2015 earnings estimate is within NU's targeted range of \$2.75-\$2.90 a share.

The board of directors has increased the dividend. The board boosted the annual disbursement by \$0.10 a share This is within the company's targeted growth rate of 6%-8% a year.

This stock's dividend yield is a cut below the mean for utilities. This reflects the company's superior dividend growth prospects. Like most utility issues, the recent price is within the 2018-2020 Target Price Range, so total return potential is low.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 20, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '02, 10¢; '03, (32¢); '04, (7¢); '05, (\$1.36); '08, (19¢); '10, 9¢. '12 EPS don't add due to chng. in shs., '13 & '14 due to rounding. Next earn-

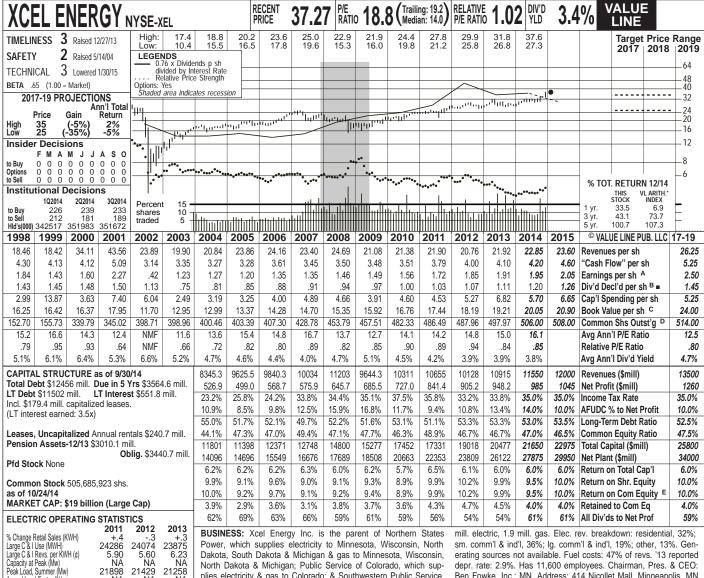
ings report due early May. (B) Div'ds historically paid late Mar., June, Sept., & Dec.

Div'd paid late Mar., June, Sept., & Dec.

Output

Div'ds historical com. eq. in MA: '11, 9.6%; in CT: (elec.) '15, 9.02% (gas) '11, 8.83%; in NH: '10, 9.67%; earn. on avg. com. eq., '13: 8.3%. Regul. Clim.: '13: \$23.09/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate allowed on CT, Below Avg.; NH, Avg.; MA, Above Avg.

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



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: 3.5

Xcel Energy's utility subsidiary in

Minnesota is awaiting an order on its

erating sources not available. Fuel costs: 47% of revs. '13 reported depr. rate: 2.9%. Has 11,600 employees. Chairman, Pres. & CEO: Ben Fowke, Inc.: MN, Address: 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Tel.: 612-330-5500. Internet: www.xcelenergy.com.

321 298 303 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '17-'19 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs 5 Yrs. -2.0% 2.5% 5.5% 3.5% 4.5% Revenues -3.0%3.5% 'Cash Flow' .5% 3.5% 5.0% 5.5% Earnings 5.0% 4.5% Dividends Book Value

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

21898

NA +.4

21258 NA

+.8

ΝĂ

+.7

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Full Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	2817 2578 2783 3203 3200	2438 2275 2579 2685 2750	2832 2724 2822 2870 3100	2568 2551 2731 2792 2950	10655 10128 10915 11550 12000
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31	RNINGS F Jun.30	ER SHARI Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.42 .38 .48 .52 .50	.33 .38 .40 .39	.69 .81 .73 .73	.29 .29 .30 . 31	1.72 1.85 1.91 1.95 2.05
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		IDENDS PA		Full Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.253 .26 .27 .28 .30	.253 .26 .27 .30	.26 .27 .28 .30	.26 .27 .28 .30	1.03 1.06 1.10 1.18

multiyear rate application. Northern States Power (NSP) is seeking rate hikes of \$142.2 million for 2014 and \$106.0 million for 2015, based on a return of 10.25% on a 52.5% common-equity ratio. (NSP is now collecting an interim tariff hike of \$127 million.) An administrative law judge has recommended increases of \$73.6 million in 2014 and \$122.4 million in 2015, based on a 9.77% return on a 52.5% common-equity ratio. The commission's order is expected in the second quarter. The Minnesota commission is examin-

ing the prudence of an uprate and life extension for a nuclear plant. The original estimate of this project was \$320 million; the final cost was \$665 million. If any portion of this spending is disallowed, Xcel would have to take a writedown.

The company is seeking electric rate **hikes in other states.** Public Service of Colorado is asking for an electric increase of \$107.2 million, based on a return of 10.25% on a common-equity ratio of 56%. On the other hand, the commission's staff and Office of Consumer Counsel are pro-

posing rate decreases. NSP filed for \$15.6 million in South Dakota, based on a 10.25% return on a 53.86% common-equity ratio. Southwestern Public Service asked the Texas commission for a \$64.8 million boost, based on a 10.25% return on a 53.97% common-equity ratio. Orders on each of these filings are expected in 2015.

The company received electric rate hikes in Wisconsin and Texas. NSP was granted \$14.2 million in Wisconsin and \$37.0 million in Texas.

Rate relief is a significant driver of Xcel's profit growth. Our 2015 earnings estimate of \$2.05 a share is within the company's targeted range of \$2.00-\$2.15 a share.

We look for a dividend increase this quarter. We estimate that the annual payout will be raised \$0.06 a share (5%), which is within Xcel's dividend growth goal of 4%-6% a year.

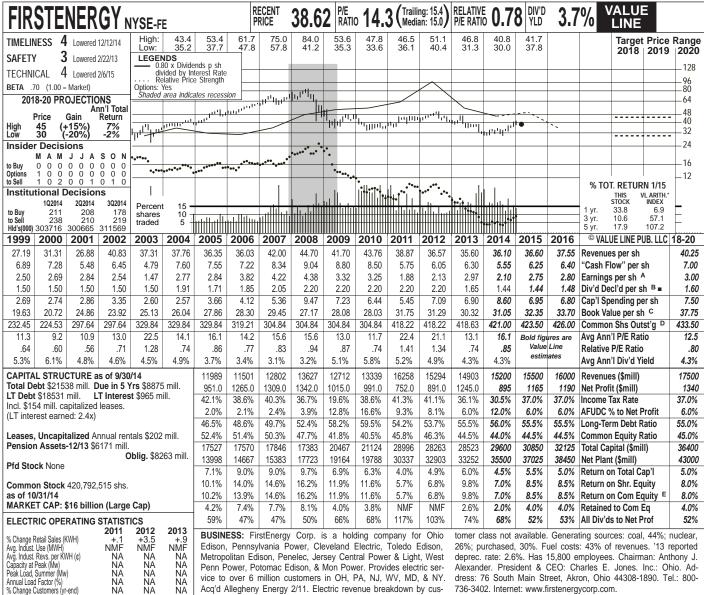
The dividend yield of Xcel stock is about average for a utility. Like several other utility issues, the recent price is above our 2017-2019 Target Price Range, so total return potential is negative. Paul E. Debbas, CFA January 30, 2015

(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¢. '11 & '12 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next egs. report due late Apr. (B) Div'ds histor. paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct.

Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '13: \$5.04/sh. (D) İn mill. (E) Rate base:

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Varies. Rate all'd on com. eq.: MN '13 9.83%; WI '15 10.2%; CO '14 (elec.) 9.72%; CO '07 (gas) 10.25%; TX '14 10.4%; earned on avg. com. eq., '13: 10.3%. Regulatory Climate: Avg. © 2015 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++ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 100



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-

Alexander. President & CEO: Charles E. Jones. Inc.: Ohio. Address: 76 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308-1890. Tel.: 800-736-3402. Internet: www.firstenergycorp.com.

206 236 294 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) Revenues .5% -2.0% -6.0% 1.0% 'Cash Flow' 2.0% 1.0% Earnings -11.0% -3.5% 3.0% Dividends Book Value 2.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA NA

NA NA

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	3986	3757	4051	3500	15294
2013	3724	3512	4020	3647	14903
2014	4189	3496	3888	3627	15200
2015	4050	3750	4000	3700	15500
2016	4200	3850	4150	3800	16000
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.78	.52	1.05	d.23	2.13
2013	.51	.47	.88	1.11	2.97
2014	.34	.27	.79	.70	2.10
2015	.65	.50	.85	.75	2.75
2016	.65	.50	.90	.75	2.80
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2012	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2013	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2014	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2015	.36				

FirstEnergy has made progress in some of its regulatory matters. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission company's granted the request forward-looking tariff regulation, effective at the start of 2015. (The utility's allowed return on equity in this business is now 12.38%, but this might be lowered.) The West Virginia commission approved a settlement calling for a total rate increase of \$63 million for FirstEnergy's two utilities in the state, effective February 25th. The company's four utilities in Pennsylvania reached a settlement calling for rate hikes totaling \$293 million. A ruling is expected by May 19th. This settlement, and the order in West Virginia, were "black box" agreements in which an allowed ROE was not specified.

Other regulatory matters are pending. FirstEnergy is asking the Ohio commission to approve a three-year extension of its Electric Security Plan. This would include 15-year agreements through which the company's utilities in the state would purchase the output of some generating assets, including the Davis-Besse nuclear unit and the Sammis coal-fired plant. Jer-

sey Central Power & Light filed for a tariff hike of \$9.1 million, based on an 11% ROE. However, an administrative law judge recommended a cut of \$107.5 million. Each of these matters will probably be resolved within the next several weeks. A dividend increase is possible next year—if not sooner. FirstEnergy is waiting for its regulatory matters to be resolved so that it can gauge the earning power of its utility operations. We estimate a dividend hike in 2016. However, we think the disbursement won't approach its previous \$2.20-a-share level, even over the 3- to 5-year period.

Earnings should return to a more normal level this year, followed by a modest increase in 2016. Last year, some unusual (but not nonrecurring) charges reduced profits. FirstEnergy's earnings growth will probably be driven by its regulated utility operations.

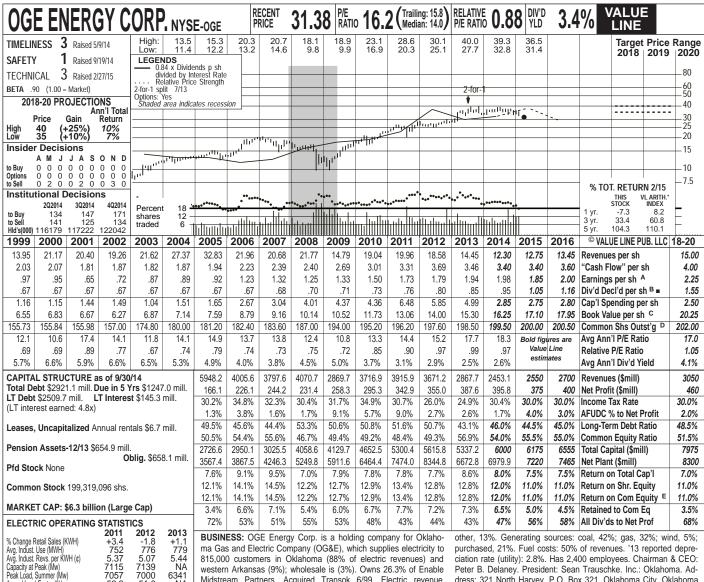
The dividend yield of this untimely stock is a bit above the utility average. With the recent price above the midpoint of our 2018-2020 Target Price Range, total return potential is unimpressive. Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 20, 2015

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '05, (28¢); '09, (3¢); '10, (68¢); '11, 33¢; '12, (29¢); '13, (\$2.07); '14, (17¢); gains from disc. ops.: '05, 5¢; '13, 4¢; '14, 20¢. '12 EPS don't add

due to rounding. Next earnings report due early May. (B) Div'ds paid early Mar., June, Sep. & on com. eq.: 9.75%-12.9%; earned on avg. Dec. 5 div'ds decl. in '04, 3 in '13. ■ Div'd reinv. avail. (C) Incl. intang.: In '13: \$19.76/sh. (D) In Avg.; PA, NJ Avg.; MD, WV Below Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 90 Price Growth Persistence 25 **Earnings Predictability** 65

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western Arkansas (9%); wholesale is (3%). Owns 26.3% of Enable Midstream Partners. Acquired Transok 6/99. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 42%; commercial, 26%; industrial, 19%;

Peter B. Delaney. President: Sean Trauschke. Inc.: Oklahoma. Address: 321 North Harvey, P.O. Box 321, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-0321. Tel.: 405-553-3000. Internet: www.oge.com

427 404 367 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '18-'20 Revenues -1.5% -4.0%NMF 6.5% 9.5% 8.5% 7.5% 3.0% 8.5% 'Cash Flow' 2.0% Earnings 10.0% 5.5% Dividends Book Value

+.8

+1.1

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

+1.1

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	840.7	855.0	1113.4	862.1	3671.2
2013	901.4	734.2	723.2	508.9	2867.7
2014	560.4	611.8	754.7	526.2	2453.1
2015	575	625	800	550	2550
2016	600	675	850	575	2700
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.19	.48	.94	.20	1.79
2013	.12	.46	1.08	.29	1.94
2014	.25	.50	.94	.29	1.98
2015	.20	.50	.95	.20	1.85
2016	.20	.55	1.05	.20	2.00
Cal-	QUART	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	(IDB ■	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.1875	.1875	.1875	.1875	.75
2012	.19675	.19675	.19675	.19675	.79
2013	.20875	.20875	.20875	.20875	.84
2014	.225	.225	.225	.25	.93
2015	.25				

OGE Energy's earnings are likely to decline this year. One reason is a probable falloff in equity income from the company's 26.3% stake in Enable Midstream Partners, an oil and gas master limited partnership. Enable has seen a decline in the rig count in its operating area, and although most of its business is fee-based, the drop in commodity prices is another negative factor. Another reason is regulatory lag at Oklahoma Gas and Electric. due to higher depreciation, unrecovered transmission costs, and the ending of a wholesale power contract. We slashed our earnings estimate by \$0.25 a share, to \$1.85. Our revised estimate is within OGE's guidance of \$1.76-\$1.89.

The utility is awaiting a ruling from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission (OCC) on its environmental compliance plan. OG&E plans to spend \$1.1 billion through 2019 to comply with EPA mandates. The utility would recover these costs through riders on customers' bills. After the OCC has issued its decision, OG&E will file a general rate case (probably in the June quarter) to address the aforementioned reasons for regulatory lag.

New tariffs would take effect six months later, meaning that any rate relief the company gets this year will come too late to help lift profits much in 2015. OG&E is also planning a rate case in Arkansas, possibly by the end of the current quarter.

We look for earnings to recover next year. We assume reasonable regulatory treatment, and that the contribution from Enable will be greater than in 2015 (but not back to the 2014 level).

OGE still intends to increase the dividend at an annual rate of 10% through **2019.** We note that the percentage decline in expected distributions from Enable isn't nearly as large as that of expected equity income. In addition, OGE's low payout ratio and solid finances give the board of directors the wherewithal to increase the disbursement rapidly.

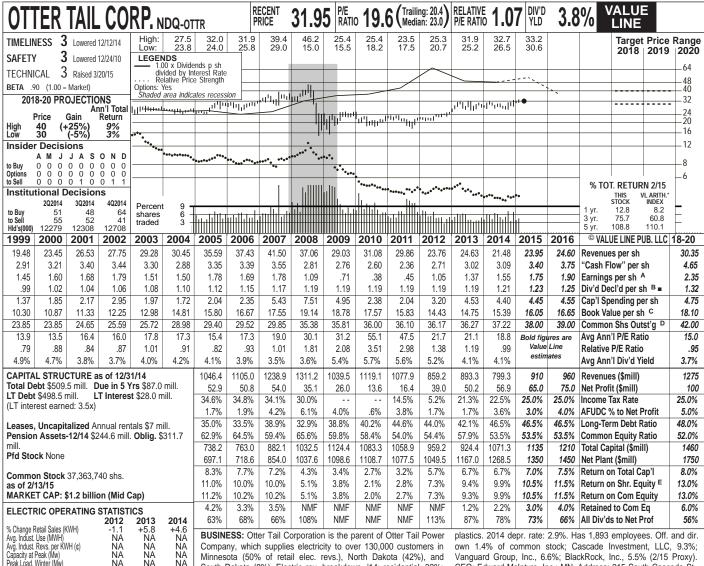
This high-quality stock is suitable for investors seeking dividend growth. The quotation has fallen 12% so far in 2015, which has been a weak year for most utility issues. Even after the pullback. though, the dividend yield is a cut below the utility average. Paul E. Debbas, CFA March 20, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring losses: '02, 20¢; '03, 7¢; '04, 3¢; gains on discontinued operations: '02, 6¢; '05, 25¢; '06, 20¢. '13 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report

due early May. (B) Div'ds historically paid in late Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan available. (C) Incl. deferred charges.

(E) Rate base: Net original cost. Rate allower on com. eq. in Oklahoma in '12: 10.2%; in Arkansas in '11: 9.95%; earned on avg. com. (E) Rate base: Net original cost. Rate allowed In '13: \$1.91/sh. (D) In millions, adj. for split. eq., '13: 13.2%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

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



Minnesota (50% of retail elec. revs.), North Dakota (42%), and South Dakota (8%). Electric rev. breakdown, '14: residential, 32%; commercial & farms, 37%; industrial, 25%; other, 6%. Fuel costs: 16.6% of revenues. Also has operations in manufacturing and

Vanguard Group, Inc., 6.6%; BlackRock, Inc., 5.5% (2/15 Proxy). CEO: Edward McIntyre. Inc.: MN. Address: 215 South Cascade St. P.O. Box 496, Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538-0496. Telephone: 866-410-8780. Internet: www.ottertail.com

359 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 257 336 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '12-'14 Past Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '18-'20 of change (per sh) -8.5% -0.5% 2.0% -2.0% -1.0% Revenues 4.5% 8.0% 'Cash Flow" Earnings -2 0% 10.0% Dividends -4 5% Book Value 1.0% 3.5% QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill)

NA

Annual Load Factor (%

% Change Customer's (yr-end)

NA NA

NA

endar	Mar.31		Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012 2013	219.9 218.0	211.4 212.4	215.3 229.8	212.6 233.1	859.2 893.3
2014 2015 2016	215.0 225 240	194.4 215 230	196.5 230 240	193.4 240 250	799.3 910 960
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31		ER SHARI Sep.30	_	Full Year
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	.28 .41 .59 .55	.19 .21 .27 .30	.13 .41 .43 .50	.47 .35 .28 .40	1.05 1.37 1.55 1.75 1.90
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY DIV Jun.30	IDENDS P. Sep.30	AID B ■ Dec.31	Full Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.298 .298 .298 .303 .308	.298 .298 .298 .303	.298 .298 .298 .303	.298 .298 .298 .303	1.19 1.19 1.19 1.21

Shares of Otter Tail have increased in price over the past six months. The company performed relatively well in 2014. Healthy results were led by the electric segment, where solid execution and the regulatory cost recovery of approved power plant environmental upgrades and transmission projects drove strong bottomline growth. This was partly offset by less favorable results in the Manufacturing and Plastics lines.

The company has sold the assets of its energy and electrical construction business, Aevenia. Otter Tail received consideration of \$25 million from Primoris AV. This move reflects the company's strategy of exiting noncore operations to focus nonutility investment exclusively manufacturing-based businesses.

We envision greater revenues and share earnings for Otter Tail in the current year. Solid growth ought to continue from 2016 onward. The Electric segment should be able to further capitalize on a favorable operating environment going forward. This business will likely continue to experience growth in retail kilowatt-hour sales and rider recovery rev-

enue. The company anticipates \$665 million in capital expenditures through 2019 and annual growth in the utility rate base of 8.6% (starting from the 2013 figure of \$728 million). Meanwhile, the manufacturing line should continue to benefit from greater demand from customers in recreational, lawn and garden, and energyrelated end markets, though we also expect higher costs here. Elsewhere, demand for polyvinyl chloride pipe should support results at the plastics business. However, earnings here could remain soft, as higher resin costs may not be fully be recovered through greater pipe prices.

The board of directors has increased

the dividend by almost 2%. Starting with the March payout, the quarterly dividend is now \$0.3075. Modest increases are

likely up ahead.

Income-seeking accounts may find the healthy dividend yield attractive. But this stock is just neutrally ranked for Timeliness. Appreciation potential is nothing to write home about either, as the shares are presently trading within our Target Price Range. Michael Napoli, ČFA March 20, 2015

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses): '99, 34¢; '10, (44¢); '11, 26¢; '13, 2¢; gains (losses) from discont. operations: '04, 8¢; '05, 33¢; '06, 1¢; '11, (\$1.11); '12, (\$1.22); '13,

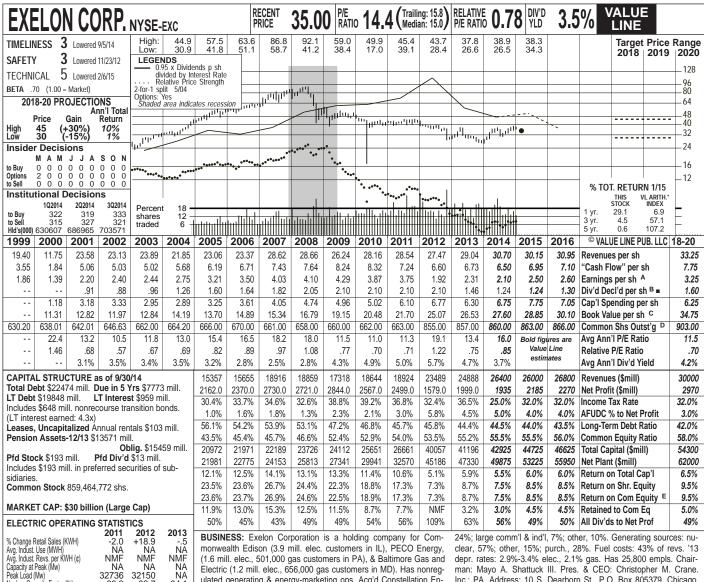
2¢; '14, 2¢. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due in May.

(B) Div'ds historically paid in early March, June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. **(C)** Incl. intangibles. In '14: \$42.7 mill., \$1.15/sh. **(D)** In mill. **(E)** Regulatory Climate: MN, ND, Average; SD,

Above Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 85 Price Growth Persistence 20 **Earnings Predictability** 50

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monwealth Edison (3.9 mill. elec. customers in IL), PECO Energy, (1.6 mill. elec., 501,000 gas customers in PA), & Baltimore Gas and Electric (1.2 mill. elec., 656,000 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, 57%; other, 15%; purch., 28%. Fuel costs: 43% of revs. '13 depr. rates: 2.9%-3.4% elec., 2.1% gas. Has 25,800 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.

569 338 293 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 2.0% 3.0% 1.5% Revenues 1.0% 2.5% 'Cash Flow' -1.0% -7.5% 2.0% 3.0% Earnings .5% 9.5% -2.5% 5.0% Dividends Book Value

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

NMF

32736

93.3

+.3

32150

+23.6

NMF

NA

+.6

94.1

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2012	4686	5954	6565	6284	23489
2013	6082	6141	6502	6163	24888
2014	7237	6024	6912	6227	26400
2015	7000	6000	6900	6100	26000
2016	7200	6200	7100	6300	26800
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.54	.33	.57	.48	1.92
2013	.30	.57	.86	.58	2.31
2014	.10	.60	.92	.48	2.10
2015	.70	.55	.70	.55	2.50
2016	.70	.60	.75	.55	2.60
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10
2012	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10
2013	.525	.31	.31	.31	1.46
2014	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2015					

There is good and bad news about Exelon's proposed acquisition of Pepco Holdings. Under the agreement, Exelon would pay \$6.8 billion in cash for Pepco, the parent company of utilities in Washington, DC; the Delmarva Peninsula; and southern New Jersey. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and New Jersey Board of Public Utilities have each approved the combination. On the other hand, the regulatory process isn't going as well in Delaware, where the demands for concessions are far greater than what the companies have offered. The transaction has come under some criticism in Maryland and the District of Columbia, as well. This doesn't necessarily mean that the deal is doomed, and the companies' goal is to complete it in the second or third quarter. We will not include Pepco in our figures until the acquisition is final.

Exelon has already made some moves in anticipation of the closing of the **Pepco purchase.** The company executed a forward sale agreement for 57.5 million common shares and sold (or is selling) some assets to raise cash.

We estimate a strong earnings in-

crease this year, followed by a moremoderate advance in 2016. The Marchquarter comparison is easy this year, as mark-to-market accounting charges on hedges reduced profits by \$0.52 a share in the first period of 2014. Exelon should benefit from moderate growth in utility income this year and next. We also think a dividend hike is possible in 2016.

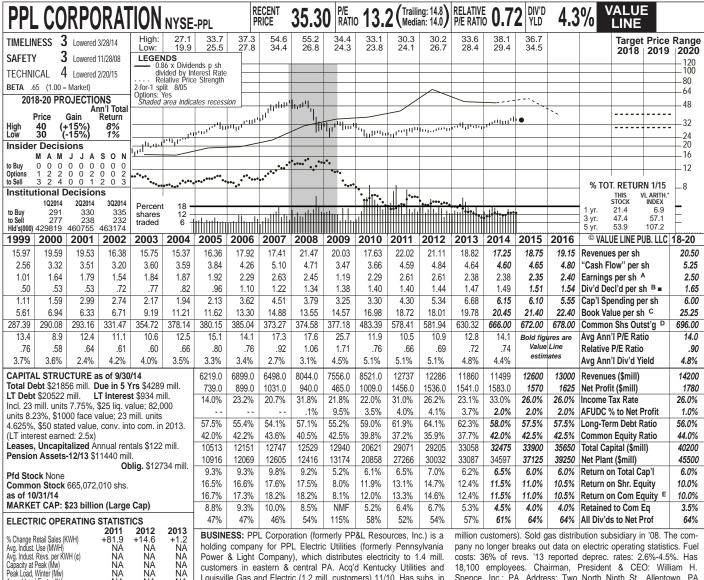
Some of Exelon's nuclear plants might be closed for economic reasons. The company is working with officials in Illinois and New York to try to keep them open. Possible rule changes in the region's power markets would increase capacity payments to owners of merchant generating assets, and would thus be beneficial for Exelon. There are signs of long-term improvement in the power markets, and this helped Exelon stock rise 37% last year. Prices lately have declined, however, so the stock price has retreated 8% so far in 2015.

Exelon stock has a dividend yield that is about average for a utility. Total return potential to 2018-2020 is modest, but above that of most utility equities. Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 20, 2015

(A) Dil. egs. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '02, (18¢); '03, (\$1.06); '05, (\$1.85); '06, (\$1.15); '09, (20¢); '12, (50¢); '13, (31¢); '14, 23¢. '12 &

rounding. Next earnings report due early May. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. 9.6% gas; earned on avg. com. eq., '13: 9.1%. '13 EPS don't add due to change in shares or | (C) Incl. def'd charges. In '13: \$10.79/sh. (D) In | Regulat. Climate: PA, Avg.; IL, MD, Below Avg. © 2015 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

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 90 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 65



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 costs: 36% of revs. '13 reported deprec. rates: 2.6%-4.5%. Has 18,100 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: William H. Spence. Inc.: PA. Address: Two North Ninth St., Allentown, PA 18101-1179. Tel.: 800-345-3085. Internet: www.pplweb.com.

304 304 288 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '18-'20 2.0% 3.0% 4.0% Revenues 2.0% Nil Cash Flow 1.5% Nil 2.0% 4.5% Earnings 5% 8.0% 10.0% 3.5% 6.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA

NA NA

NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2012	4112	2549	2403	3222	12286
2013	2457	3450	3105	2848	11860
2014	F	F	F	4023	11499
2015	3350	3050	3150	3050	12600
2016	3450	3150	3250	3150	13000
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.93	.47	.61	.60	2.61
2013	.65	.63	.62	.46	2.32
2014	F	F	F	.82	2.38
2015	.80	.50	.55	.50	2.35
2016	.80	.55	.55	.50	2.40
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.35	.35	.35	.35	1.40
2012	.35	.36	.36	.36	1.43
2013	.36	.3675	.3675	.3675	1.46
2014	.3675	.3725	.3725	.3725	1.49
2015	.3725				

PPL is spinning off its nonregulated energy-supply business. The company plans to combine these assets with those of an independent power producer, Riverstone, to form Talen Energy. PPL shareholders would receive one share of Talen for each of their shares in a tax-free deal. The transaction has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, but still requires the approval of the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission and Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It is expected to be completed in the second quarter. Our figures will include this business until the spinoff is completed.

PPL has completed the sale of its hydro assets in Montana. The price was \$900 million. PPL booked a \$0.20-a-share gain on the sale, which (along with the earnings from these assets) is excluded as income from discontinued operations. Note that the company's restated revenues and earnings for the first three quarters of 2014 are not yet available.

Rate cases are pending in Kentucky, and PPL plans to file an application in Pennsylvania this year. Kentucky Utilities requested an electric rate in-

crease of \$153 million (9.6%), based on a 10.5% return on a 53.02% common-equity ratio. Louisville Gas and Electric is seeking electric and gas tariff hikes of \$30 million (2.7%) and \$14 million (4.4%), respectively, based on a 10.5% return on a 52.75% common-equity ratio. New rates should take effect at the start of July. PPL hasn't been specific about the timing of the Pennsylvania case, but past filings have been in late March, with new rates taking effect at the start of the following year.

We estimate that earnings in 2015 and 2016 will approximate the 2014 tally. (Our estimates would be lower were we to assume the spinoff.) We aren't expecting big changes in profitability of any of the company's utilities, including its opera-tions in the United Kingdom. Note that we are including costs associated with the spinoff, which amounted to \$0.12 a share in 2014

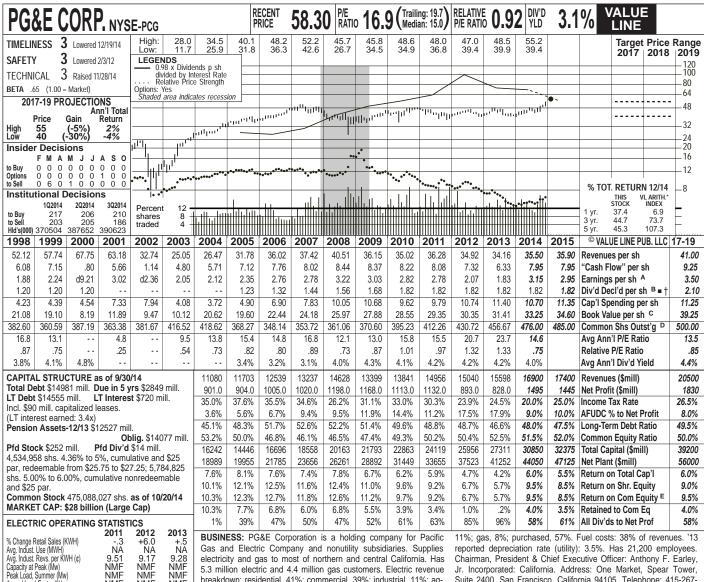
The dividend yield of PPL stock is nearly one percentage point above the utility mean. With the recent price within our 2018-2020 Target Price Range, total return potential is unexciting. Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 20, 2015

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '07, (12¢); '10, (8¢); '11, 8¢; '13, (62¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '05, (12¢); '07, 19¢; '08, 3¢; '09, (10¢); '10, (4¢); '12, (1¢); '14, 23¢. '13

EPS don't add due to chg. in shs. Next earnings report due late April. (B) Div'ds histor. paid in early Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '13: \$10.18/sh.

(D) In mill., adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Fair val. Rate all'd on com. eq. in PA in '13: 10.4%; in KY in '13: 10.25%; earn. on avg. com. eq., '13: 12.4%. Reg. Climate: Avg. (F) Unavailable.

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



9.28 NMF NMF 9.51 NMF ŇMF NMF NMF NMF NMF NMF % Change Customers (vr-end) +.4 +.5 +.3 231 223 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 295 Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '17-'19 -1.5% -1.5% 2.5%

ANNUAL RATES Revenues -2.0% -5.5% 5.0% 4.5% 'Cash Flow' 4.0% 8.0% Earnings 9.5% 2.5% 4.5% Dividends Book Value 11.0%

Cal-	QUAR		VENUES (\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31		Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	3597 3641 3672 3891 4150	3684 3593 3776 3952 4150	3860 3976 4175	3815 3830 3975 4118 4250	14956 15040 15598 16900 17400
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	E A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.50 .66 .55 .49	.91 .55 .74 .57	.68 .87 .36 1.71 1.05	.69 d.01 .19 .38 .55	2.78 2.07 1.83 3.15 2.95
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ID B ■ †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.455 .455 .455 .455 .455	.455 .455 .455 .455	.455 .455 .455 .455	.455 .455 .455 .455	1.82 1.82 1.82 1.82

Gas and Electric Company and nonutility subsidiaries. Supplies electricity and gas to most of northern and central California. Has 5.3 million electric and 4.4 million gas customers. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 41%; commercial, 39%; industrial, 11%; agricultural, 8%; other, 1%. Generating sources: nuclear, 24%; hydro,

Will 2015 be the year in which the uncertainties surrounding the explosion of a PG&E gas pipeline in San Bruno, California are finally resolved? In September of 2010, the accident killed eight people, injured dozens more, and caused extensive property damage. Since then, the company has incurred (and continues to do so) significant pipeline-related expenses that were not recovered from customers. These costs are included in our earnings presentation, but a \$200 million reserve PG&E took for a probable fine was excluded. All told, the company has incurred (or committed to do so) \$2.7 billion in unrecovered costs. However, administrative law judges and the Safety and Enforcement Division of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) are each recommending additional penalties that would raise the negative pretax impact on shareholders to more than \$4.7 billion. The company is also facing an indictment from the federal government.

Earnings are tough to predict. This is due to uncertainties in the magnitude and timing of the unrecovered costs, as well as any insurance recoveries. (Note that our

reported depreciation rate (utility): 3.5%. Has 21,200 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.

Earnings Predictability includes score data from years before the accident.)

Wall Street appears optimistic that this problem will be resolved without excessive harm to the company's finances. The share price rose more than 25% in 2014, and has advanced almost 10% so far in the new year.

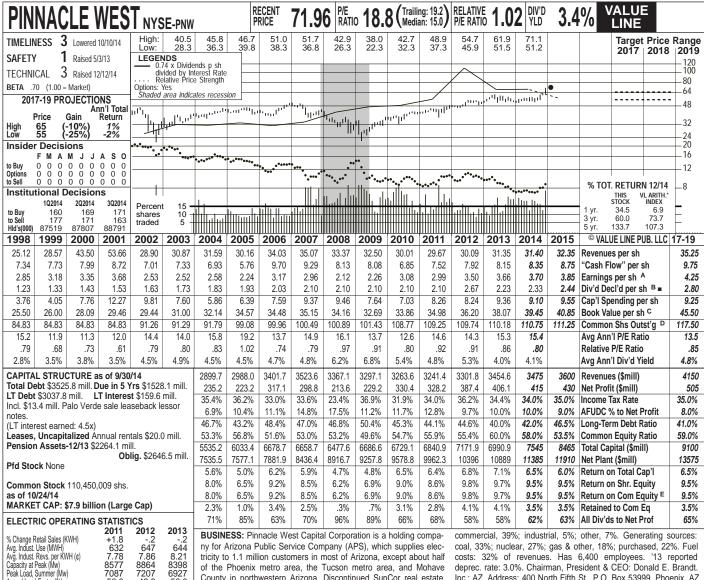
PG&E awaits a ruling on its gas transmission and storage case. The utility requested increases of \$555 million in 2015, \$61 million in 2016, and \$168 million in 2017. New rates will be retroactive to the start of this year. However, the discovery of some ex parte communications (via e-mail) between the company and the CPUC might well complicate this matter.

We believe more-attractive selections are available elsewhere. Following the run-up in the stock price, the dividend yield is a bit below average for a utility. The payout hasn't been raised since the accident, and we expect no hike again in 2015, even if the San Bruno matter with the CPUC is concluded before yearend. Finally, the recent price is above the upper end of our 2017-2019 Target Price Range. Paul E. Debbas, CFA January 30, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '99, (\$2.44); '04, \$6.95; '09, 18¢; '11, (68¢); '12, (15¢); gain from disc. ops.: '08, 41¢. Incl. nonrec. loss: '00, \$11.83. '13 EPS don't add

due to rounding. Next earnings report due mid-Feb. **(B)** Div'ds historically paid in mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. • Div'd reinvest. plan avail. in '13: 10.4%; earned on avg. com. eq., '13: † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. | 5.9%. Regulatory Climate: Above Average

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



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, 49%;

costs: 32% of revenues. Has 6,400 employees. '13 reported deprec. rate: 3.0%. Chairman, President & CEO: Donald E. Brandt. Inc.: AZ. Address: 400 North Fifth St., P.O. Box 53999, Phoenix, AZ 85072-3999. Tel.: 602-250-1000. Internet: www.pinnaclewest.com.

308 397 419 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) to '17-'19 -2.5% -3.0% 4.0% 2.5% 1.0% Revenues -2.0% 2.5% 'Cash Flow 3.5% 4.0% 1.5% Earnings 3.5% 2.0% 3.0% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (yr-end)

7087

+.8

7207

+1.3

6927

+1.4

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2011	648.9	799.8	1124.8	667.9	3241.4
2012	620.6	878.6	1109.5	693.1	3301.8
2013	686.6	915.8	1152.4	699.8	3454.6
2014	686.3	906.3	1172.7	709.7	3475
2015	700	950	1200	750	3600
Cal-	EA	RNINGS	PER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	d.15	.78	2.24	.11	2.99
2012	d.07	1.12	2.21	.24	3.50
2013	.22	1.18	2.04	.22	3.66
2014	.14	1.19	2.20	.17	3.70
2015	.20	1.25	2.20	.20	3.85
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10
2012	.525	.525	.525	.545	2.12
2013	.545	.545	.545	.5675	2.20
2014	.5675	.5675	.5675	.595	2.30
2045	I				1

Pinnacle West's utility subsidiary received a rate increase that took effect at the start of the new year. Arizona Public Service paid \$182 million for a 739-megawatt stake in Units 4 and 5 of the Four Corners coal-fired plant. (It retired Units 1, 2, and 3.) In order to place these assets into the rate base, the utility's tariffs were raised by \$57.1 million (2.0%). The increase was below the \$65.4 million that APS had sought.

The utility will put forth a regulatory filing this year to address rate design. Like many utilities, APS believes customers that have installed solar panels on their buildings are not paying for their use of the electric grid. The Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) has opened a generic docket to address this matter. The ACC has two new members, but this isn't likely to slow the regulatory process.

We estimate that earnings will in**crease 4% this year.** The aforementioned rate increase should help. APS also receives rate relief annually for certain kinds of capital spending, such as for transmission. Customer growth is improving as the state's economy recovers from

the real estate collapse that occurred several years ago. Our 2015 shareearnings estimate is at the midpoint of Pinnacle West's targeted range of \$3.75-\$3.95.

The utility is planning to add some gas-fired generating capacity. APS intends to build 510 mw and retire 220 mw. for net incremental capacity of 290 mw. The ACC has approved the project. The company expects the project to be completed in the second quarter of 2018 at a cost of \$60 million-\$70 million.

Finances are strong. The fixed-charge coverage and common-equity ratio are well above the utility norms. Earned returns on equity have improved in recent years, too.

The dividend yield of Pinnacle West stock is about average for a utility. We project that, for at least the next few years, the company will maintain the 5% annual dividend growth rate that was established last fall. However, like several other electric utility equities, the recent price is above our 2017-2019 Target Price Range. Accordingly, total return potential is negative.

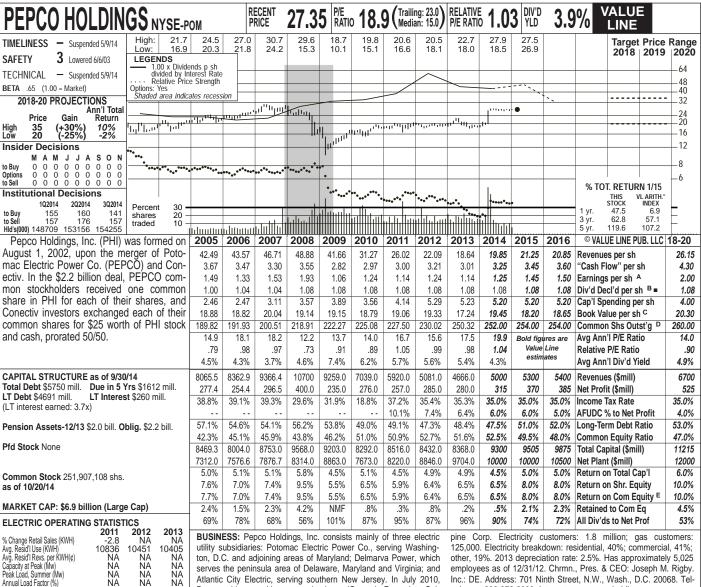
Paul E. Debbas, CFA January 30, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. 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¢; '12, (5¢). '11 EPS

don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Feb. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. There were 5 declayed by Mar., larations in '12. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. | com. eq., '13: 9.9%. Regulatory Climate: Avg.

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

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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 Calemployees as of 12/31/12. 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.

Fixed Charge Cov. (% 251 253 246 Est'd '12-'14 ANNUAL RATES Past Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '18-'20 of change (per sh) -13.5% -2.0% -6.0% 0.5% -6.5% -2.5% -4.0% 8.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" 2.5% 5.0% Earnings Dividends 8.0% Nil **Book Value** -1.0% NMF

+.7

+.3

+.6

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Cal-		QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year	
2012	1292	1179	1476	1134	5081.0	
2013	1178	1053	1344	1091	4666.0	
2014	1330	1117	1313	1240	5000	
2015	1350	1200	1500	1250	5300	
2016	1350	1200	1550	1300	5400	
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	AF	Full	
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year	
2012	.30	.27	.49	.18	1.24	
2013	.24	.22	.44	.24	1.14	
2014	.30	.21	.44	.30	1.25	
2015	.30	.30	.55	.30	1.45	
2016	.30	.30	.60	.30	1.50	
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DI	VIDENDS P	AID B =	Full	
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year	
2011	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08	
2012	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08	
2013	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08	
2014	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08	
2015						

The takeover of Pepco Holdings by Exelon Corporation is making progress, though facing some opposition from environmental groups. The \$6.8 billion all-cash acquisition of Pepco Holdings by Chicago-based Exelon, which was announced in April of 2014, is moving toward completion. The proposed merger, in which shareholders of Pepco would receive \$27.25 a share received shareholder approval on September 23, 2014. Further, the transaction received the green light from the State Corporation Commission of Virginia in November. Since our last report, the takeover has received the approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the commission in New Jersey. Although the merger is gaining momentum, it is still subject to approval by the public service commissions in Delaware, District of Columbia, and Maryland. Additionally, the union of the two companies has been facing some resistance from environmental advocates, and ratepayers in Pepco's service territory in Washington D.C. If all goes well, the companies expect the merger to be completed by the second or third quarter of 2015.

The approvals remain complex due to the size of the combined entity. Though the Pepco and Exelon union has moved closer towards completion, there is guarantee that the deal will go through. If the deal is endorsed, regulators could enforce conditions that might prove onerous, such as huge investments in renewable energy, or increased bill credits for customers. The conditions could prove to be an obstacle and cause Pepco and Exelon to walk away from the deal.

We are maintaining our share-net target for 2014. Our estimate of \$1.25 is at the high end of management's guidance for the year. Investors should note that fourth-quarter results were expected to be announced after this Issue went to press.

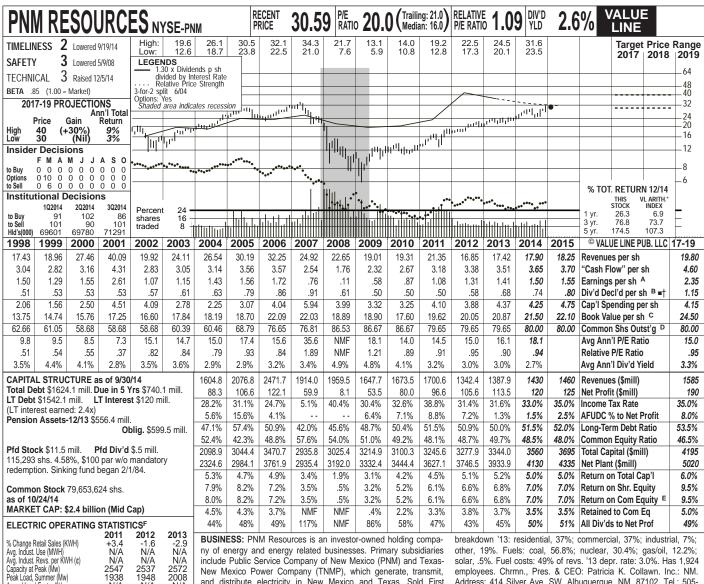
This stock remains unranked for Timeliness due to the proposed acqui**sition.** The stock has traded close to the deal price of \$27.25 per share since the announcement last April. We continue to suggest that investors sell their holdings at the current price to eliminate any downside risk in the event the deal does not go through. Saumya Ajila February 20, 2015

(A) Based on dil. shs. Excl. nonrecur. items: '03, d69¢; '04, 1¢; '05, 47¢; '06, d1¢; '08, 46¢; '10, 62¢ '13, 69¢. Next egs. rpt. due early May. (B) Div'ds paid in early March, June, Sep., and

Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan. (C) Incl. def'd chgs: '13, \$4.8 bill. or \$20.87/sh. **(D)** In mill. **(E)** Rate allowed in MD: 9.36% ('13-Pepco), 10.0% ('09-Delmarva); DC: 9.6% ('10-Pep.); DEL: 10.0%

('06-Del.); NJ: 9.75% ('13-ACE); Earned on '13 avg. com. eq., 6.5%. Reg. Clim.: Avg. (F) Qtrly egs. may not add due to chng. in shs

Company's Financial Strength B+ Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence 95 20 **Earnings Predictability**



include Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM) and Texas-New Mexico Power Company (TNMP), which generate, transmit, and distribute electricity in New Mexico and Texas. Sold First Choice Energy (9/11) and gas utility operations (1/09). Electric rev.

solar, .5%. Fuel costs: 49% of revs. '13 depr. rate: 3.0%. Has 1,924 employees. Chrmn., Pres. & CEO: Patricia K. Collawn. Inc.: NM. Address: 414 Silver Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM. 87102. Tel.: 505-241-2700. Internet: www.pnmresources.com

204 225 241 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) to '17-'19 Revenues -4.0% -7.0% 1.0% 'Cash Flow 5.0% Earnings 11 0% 0.5% 1.5% -6.0% -1.0% 12.0% 3.5% Dividends Book Value

N/A +.4

N/A

+.4

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

2008

N/A

Cal-	QUAR		VENUES (\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31		Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	387.7	415.5	549.5	347.9	1700.6
2012	305.4	323.9	390.4	322.7	1342.4
2013	317.7	347.6	399.7	322.9	1387.9
2014	328.9	346.2	413.9	341	1430
2015	335	355	440	330	1460
Cal-		RNINGS F	ER SHARI	E A	Full
endar		Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.04 .17 .18 .18	.20 .33 .38 .39	.61 .69 .64 .68	.22 .13 .21 .25	1.08 1.31 1.41 1.50 1.55
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ND B≡†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30		Dec.31	Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.125 .145 .145 .185 .20	.165	.145	.145	.50 .58 .64 .74

PNM Resources has filed a general rate case in New Mexico for rates to be effective January 1, 2016. The rate request, which is based on a future test year of 2016, seeks a revenue increase of \$107.4 million along with a ROE of 10.5%. PNM Resources is filing the increase to address the investments the company has made to reduce its reliance on coal and additional funds needed to maintain dependable service to its retail customers. It also seeks to highlight the declining sales growth within the company's service territory. The rate base of \$2.4 billion includes the costs for 40 mw of solar facilities, the 40 mw natural gas-fired La Luz plant, emission-control technology at units 1 and 4 of the San Juan generating station, the purchase of the Rio Bravo generating station natural gas plant, and the purchase of Palo Verde Unit 2 leases. The company is also recommending changes to rate design to create fair distribution of costs. If approved, the rate increase is expected to affect customers by an average increase of 7.7% across rate classes.

The board of directors recently raised the dividend. The hike was \$0.015 a

share, bringing the annualized dividend to \$0.80 an increase of approximately 8%. PNM is targeting a payout ratio of 50%-60% over the long term.

Our 2015 share-net call is at the midpoint of the company's guidance. We expect earnings to increase modestly in 2015. The company's Texas New Mexico Power Company continues to perform well, fueled by strong economic growth within its service territory. Sales advanced by 3.2%, driven by an increase in residential and commercial categories. Although load growth in the area has been of concern recently, results in New Mexico were better than expected as residential sales increased by 1.7%. Further, PNM Resources met a significant regulatory milestone earlier in October, with the approval of the revised state implementation plan for the San Juan generating station. The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission is expected to issue a final order in the first quarter of 2015.

This stock retains a favorable Timeliness rank (2). However, the current yield is below the utility average of 3.3% Saumya Ajila January 30, 2015

(A) EPS dil. Excl. n/r gains (losses): '98, (24¢); '99, 8¢; '00, 21¢; '01, (15¢); '03, 67¢; '05, (56¢); '08, (\$3.77); '10, (\$1.36); '11, 88¢. '13,(16); Excl. disc. ops.: '08, 42¢; '09, 78¢.

Egs. may not sum due to rounding. Next egs. rpt. due late Feb. (B) Div'ds hist. pd. in Feb., May, Aug., Nov. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. †

'13: \$3.49/sh. (D) In mill., adjust. for split. (E) Rate base: net orig. cost. ROE allowed in '11: 10.0%; earned on avg. com. eq., '13: 10.0%. Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. Reg. Climate: Avg. (F) Excl. First Choice.

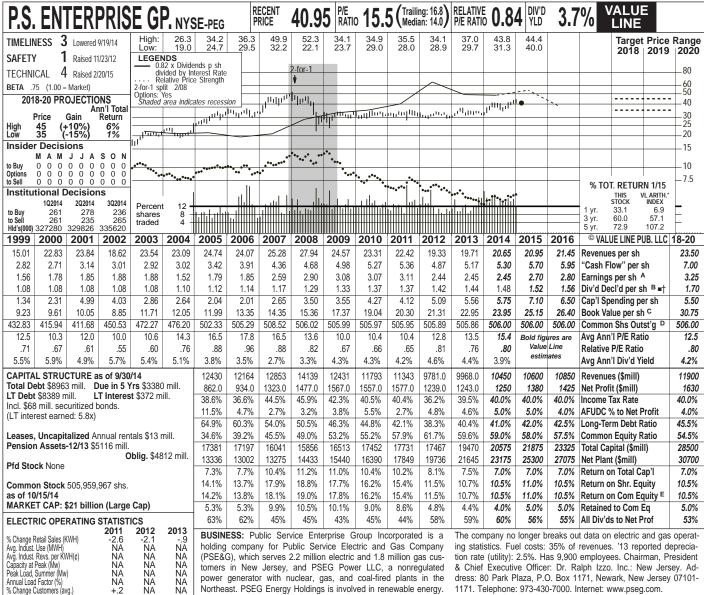
Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability**

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R 85

25

25



(PSE&G), which serves 2.2 million electric and 1.8 million gas customers in New Jersey, and PSEG Power LLC, a nonregulated power generator with nuclear, gas, and coal-fired plants in the Northeast. PSEG Energy Holdings is involved in renewable energy.

tion rate (utility): 2.5%. Has 9,900 employees. Chairman, President & Chief Executive Officer: Dr. Ralph Izzo. Inc.: New Jersey. Address: 80 Park Plaza, P.O. Box 1171, Newark, New Jersey 07101-1171. Telephone: 973-430-7000. Internet: www.pseg.com.

504 529 580 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. -4.5% 3.5% 2.0% Revenues -.5% 2.0% 5.5% 3.5% 'Cash Flow' Earnings 3.0% 3.5% 8.5% 2.5% 5.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (avg.)

NΑ

NA

NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Full Year
2012	2875	2098	2402	2406	9781.0
2013	2786	2310	2554	2318	9968.0
2014	3223	2249	2641	2337	10450
2015	3050	2400	2700	2450	10600
2016	3000	2500	2800	2550	10850
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	Dec.31	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30		Year
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	.97 .63 .76 1.05 1.00	.42 .66 .42 .45	.68 .77 .87 . 75 . 80	.37 .39 .40 .45	2.44 2.45 2.45 2.70 2.80
Cal-	QUARTI	ERLY DIVII	DENDS PA	ID B ■ †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.3425 .355 .36 .37	.3425 .355 .36 .37	.3425 .355 .36 .37	.3425 .355 .36 .37	1.37 1.42 1.44 1.48

Public Service Enterprise Group's utility subsidiary should be the driver of the company's earnings growth in the next few years. Electric transmission is 60% of Public Service Electric and Gas' capital budget. The utility expected to spend \$6.8 billion on transmission from 2014 through 2018. (A new five-year expectation should be disclosed soon.) PSE&G receives current cost recovery of these expenditures, and at an allowed return on equity that is well above its 10.3% allowed ROE for distribution. The utility's allowed ROE for transmission is 11.68%, and some projects have incentive "adders' that make this figure even higher. PSE&G is also earning a return on spending for its \$1.22 billion "Energy Strong" program to enhance system reliability. Finally, cost control has been effective. Note that PSEG was scheduled to report fourth-quarter results (and provide 2015 earnings guidance) shortly after this report went to press.

In recent years, income of PSEG's main nonutility subsidiary, PSEG Power, has been hurt by unfavorable conditions in the power markets. This is why earnings are below the 2011 level.

However, proposed changes in the region would result in higher capacity prices for owners of nonregulated generating assets, such as PSEG. In addition, PSEG Power will build a nonregulated plant in Bridgeport, Connecticut if its bid into the market this year is accepted. The cost of this 450megawatt gas-fired plant is estimated at \$500 million-\$700 million.

We think the board of directors raised the dividend shortly after this report went to press. We estimate that the board hiked the quarterly payout by a cent a share (2.7%), the same as a year ago.

Finances are strong. The fixed-charge coverage and common-equity ratio are well above the industry averages. The company will not need any equity for the next several years, at least. PSEG merits a Financial Strength rating of A++, which is our highest.

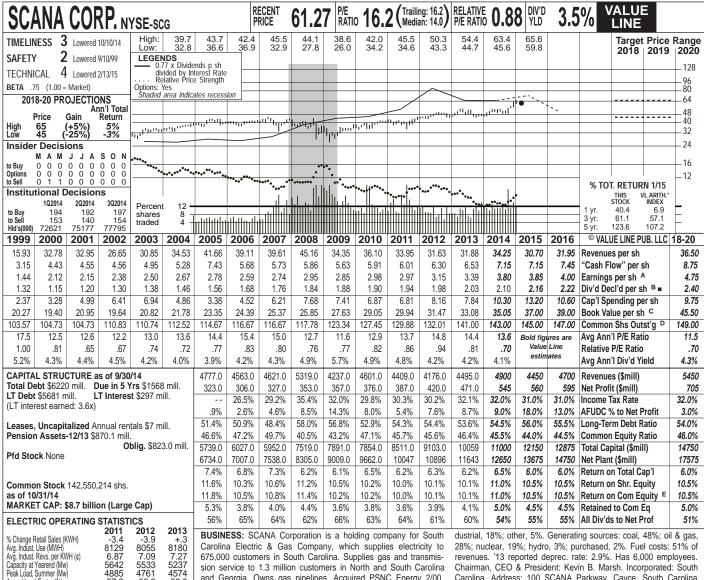
The dividend yield of this top-quality stock is a bit above average for a utility. Like most utility equities, the recent price is within our 2018-2020 Target Price Range, so total return potential is unspectacular.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 20, 2015

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gain (losses): '99, | '08, 40¢; '11, 13¢. Next egs. report due early (\$1.75); '02, (\$1.30); '05, (3¢); '06, (35¢); '08, | May. (B) Div'ds historically paid in late Mar., | adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate | (96¢); '09, 6¢; '11, (34¢); '12, 7¢; gains (loss) | June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment | allowed on com. eq. in '10: 10.3%; earned on | avg. com. eq., '13: 11.2%. Reg. Climate: Avg. © 2015 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

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

A++ 95 35 85



675,000 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, 44%; commercial, 33%; in-

Chairman, CEO & President: Kevin B. Marsh. Incorporated: South Carolina. Address: 100 SCANA Parkway, Cayce, South Carolina 29033. Tel.: 803-217-9000. Internet: www.scana.com to ask the South Carolina regulators to up-

279 281 293 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '18-'20 -4.5% 2.0% 3.0% 2.5% 4.5% Revenues .5% 1.5% 'Cash Flow' 3.0% 3.0% 5.0% 6.0% Earnings 3.0% 5.5% Dividends Book Value 4.5%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

4885

+.5

4761

+.9

4574

58.8

+1.2

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2012 2013 2014	1107 1311 1590	908 1016 1026	1038 1051 1121	1123 1117 1163	4176.0 4495.0 4900
2015 2016	1250 1325	1025 1075	1025 1075	1150 1225	4450 4700
Cal- endar			ER SHAR Sep.30	_	Full Year
2012 2013 2014 2015	.91 1.11 1.37 1.30	.54 .60 .68	.91 .94 1.01 1.05	.79 .74 .74	3.15 3.39 3.80 3.85
Cal- endar			1.05 IDENDS P		4.00 Full Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.475 .485 .495 .5075	.485 .495 .5075 .525	.485 .495 .5075 .525	.485 .495 .5075 .525	1.93 1.97 2.02 2.08

SCANA has announced the sale of two **noncore subsidiaries.** The company has sold its interstate gas pipeline and is selling its telecommunications business for a total of about \$650 million. After taxes, the proceeds are expected to amount to more than \$400 million. SCANA would use the cash in place of part of its planned equity issuances in 2015 and 2016. The company expects to record a gain on the asset sales. The telecommunications sale is likely to be completed in the current quarter.

Some delays and cost overruns are affecting the two nuclear units South Carolina Electric & Gas is building. This will provide 1,340 megawatts of capacity. The cost was estimated at \$6.1 billion, but the contractors expect each unit to be delayed about a year. The contractors' schedule would have the first unit coming on line in late 2018 or early 2019, the second 12 months later. The delay will probably raise the cost by more than 10%. However, SCE&G has not accepted the revised schedule or costs, and is in talks with the contractors. Once the company has accepted a new schedule, it will have date their previous order, which was based on a shorter construction schedule.

We estimate that earnings will increase in 2015 and 2016. Last year, favorable weather conditions made the comparisons difficult. However, we think a sharp rise in the Allowance for Funds Used During Construction, a noncash credit to earnings, will outweigh the effects of an assumed return to normal weather. Also, each year SCE&G earns a return on its additional nuclear construction work in progress.

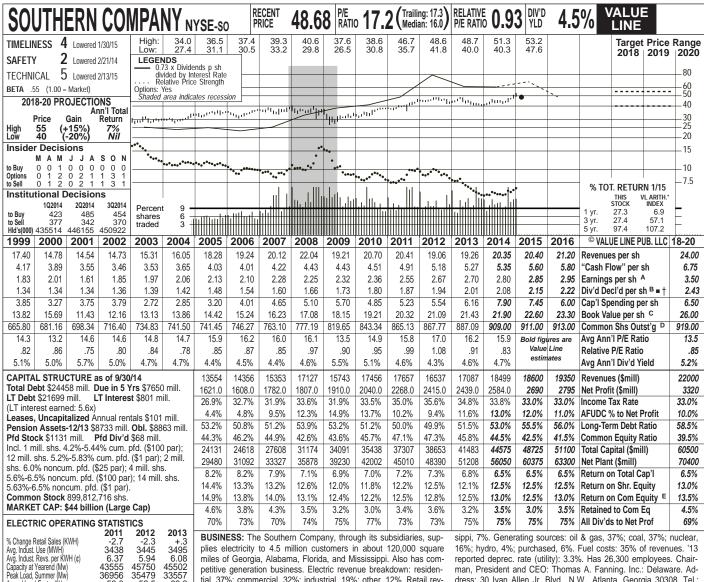
We think the directors raised the dividend shortly after this report went to press. We estimate that the annual payout was boosted by \$0.06 a share (2.9%).

uncertainty The surrounding SCE&G's nuclear construction has not hurt SCANA stock. The share price climbed 29% last year, and has risen another 1% so far in 2015. The dividend yield is only about average for a utility. The recent quotation is near the top of our 2018-2020 Target Price Range, making this issue's total return potential negligible. Paul E. Debbas, ĈFA February 20, 2015

(A) Diluted egs. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '99, 29¢; '00, 28¢; '01, \$3.00; '02, (\$3.72); '03, 31¢; '04, (23¢); '05, 3¢; '06, 9¢. '12 & '13 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due late April. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '13: \$9.65/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig.

cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in SC: 10.25% elec. in '13, 10.25% gas in '05; in NC: 10.6% in '08; earned on avg. com. eq., '13: 10.7%. Regulatory Climate: Above Average.

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



plies electricity to 4.5 million customers in about 120,000 square miles of Georgia, Alabama, Florida, and Mississippi. Also has competitive generation business. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 37%; commercial, 32%; industrial, 19%; other, 12%. Retail revenues by state: Georgia, 50%; Alabama, 34%; Florida, 9%; Missis16%; hydro, 4%; purchased, 6%. Fuel costs: 35% of revenues. '13 reported deprec. rate (utility): 3.3%. Has 26,300 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.

397 416 423 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs 3.0% 4.0% 4.0% Revenues -1.0%3.0% 4.0% 3.5% 4.0% 5.5% Cash Flow 4.0% 4.0% Earnings 3.5% 3.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

36956

35479

59.5

+.5

63.2

+.7

Cal- endar	QUA Mar.31	RTERLY R Jun.30	EVENUES Sep.30		Full Year
2012	3604	4181	5049	3703	16537
2013	3897	4246	5017	3927	17087
2014	4644	4467	5339	4049	18499
2015	4250	4650	5550	4150	18600
2016	4400	4850	5800	4300	19350
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.42	.71	1.11	.43	2.67
2013	.47	.66	1.08	.49	2.70
2014	.66	.68	1.09	.38	2.80
2015	.55	.75	1.15	.40	2.85
2016	.55	.80	1.20	.40	2.95
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.455	.4725	.4725	.4725	1.87
2012	.4725	.49	.49	.49	1.94
2013	.49	.5075	.5075	.5075	2.01
2014	.5075	.525	.525	.525	2.08
2015					

Southern Company is experiencing delays and cost overruns in two subsidiaries' large capital projects. Mississippi Power's coal gasification plant was originally expected to be in service in May of 2014. Now, the expected time frame for completion is the first half of 2016. The company has already booked nonrecurring aftertax losses totaling more than \$1.2 billion in the past two years. Separately, the contractor building two nuclear units at the Vogtle station has informed Georgia Power that each unit will be delayed by 18 months, to the second quarters of 2019 and 2020, respectively. However, the utility has not accepted the revised schedule, and believes the contractor has not done everything possible to mitigate the delay. Even if the contractor is ultimately responsible for the added construction costs (which have not been quantified), Georgia Power will incur related costs of \$40 million for every month of delay.

The bad news has affected the stock price-just not lately. Southern Company was one of the poorest-performing utility issues in 2013. In 2014, it produced a 25% total return, which was below the 30% median for this industry. However, the equity has declined slightly so far in 2015, a performance that is in line with most other electric utilities.

Little (if any) earnings growth is likely this year. Southern Company's guidance is for \$2.76-\$2.88 a share, and our estimate is within this range. The firstquarter comparison is tough due to favorable weather patterns in early 2014.

We forecast an earnings increase in line with Southern Company's 3%-4% target next year. The company should benefit from rate relief, modest kilowatthour sales growth, and increased income at the Southern Power nonutility business. Dividend growth is likely to continue at the same pace. Southern Company's board of directors has been raising the annual payout by \$0.07 a share, and management has stated that it wants to maintain this consistency. We expect a dividend hike in the second quarter.

This untimely stock has one of the highest dividend yields of any electric company. Total return potential to 2018-2020 is only modest, however.

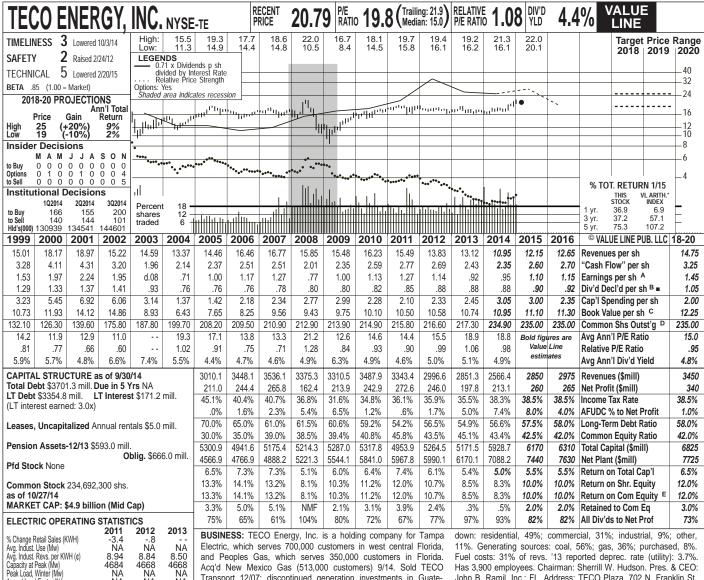
Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 20, 2015

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gain (losses): '03, 6¢; '09, (25¢); '13, (83¢); '14, (59¢). '14 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Apr. (B) Div'ds histori-

In '13: \$5.59/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: AL, GA, AL Above Average; MS, FL Average.

cally paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. MS, fair value; FL, GA, orig. cost. Allowed re-Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. avg. com. eq., '13: 12.5%. Regulatory Climate:

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



and Peoples Gas, which serves 350,000 customers in Florida. Acq'd New Mexico Gas (513,000 customers) 9/14. Sold TECO Transport 12/07; discontinued generation investments in Guatemala in '12; discontinued TECO Coal in '14. Electric revenue break-

Fuel costs: 31% of revs. '13 reported deprec. rate (utility): 3.7%. Has 3,900 employees. Chairman: Sherrill W. Hudson. Pres. & CEO: John B. Ramil. Inc.: FL. Address: TECO Plaza, 702 N. Franklin St., Tampa, FL 33602. Tel.: 813-228-1111. Web: www.tecoenergy.com.

302 301 272 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '18-'20 -3.0% 2.5% .5% Revenues -1.5% .5% 'Cash Flow' -2.0% -2.0% 3.0% Earnings -3.5% -1.5% 2.5% 3.0% 2.5% 2.0% Dividends Book Value

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (avg.)

NA

NA

NA

NA

+1.3

NA

+1.5

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2012	697.1	752.5	858.6	688.4	2996.6
2013	661.1	735.9	765.9	688.4	2851.3
2014	578.0	605.7	687.2	695.5	2566.4
2015	700	700	750	700	2850
2016	750	725	775	725	2975
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.20	.30	.42	.22	1.14
2013	.19	.24	.29	.20	.92
2014	.22	.27	.28	.18	.95
2015	.27	.28	.32	.23	1.10
2016	.29	.29	.33	.24	1.15
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.205	.215	.215	.215	.85
2012	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88
2013	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88
2014	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88
2015	.225				

The sale of TECO Energy's coalmining subsidiary has had a setback. When the company reached a deal to sell TECO Coal last year, the buyer agreed to pay \$120 million in cash (plus contingent payments of up to \$50 million if coal prices rise), and the deal was expected to close by the end of 2014. However, the closing has been delayed, and coal prices have continued to weaken. The revised transaction calls for TECO to receive just \$80 million (plus a contingency of up to \$60 million). Either party can walk away if the sale is not completed by March 13th.

We estimate significant earnings growth in 2015. The acquisition of New Mexico Gas last September should boost comparisons, especially since merger-related costs hurt earnings by \$0.08 a share in 2014. In addition, Tampa Electric and Peoples Gas are experiencing solid customer growth, and Tampa Electric is benefiting from modest rate relief. Each utility is likely to earn a return on equity in the upper half of its allowed range. TECO plans to refinance high-cost debt, too. Our earnings estimate is within management's guidance of \$1.08-\$1.11 a share.

This range is narrow because TECO is a pure utility, now that its coal-mining operation is reported as discontinued.

We forecast a more-moderate profit increase in 2016. We figure that the customer growth trends mentioned above will continue into next year. Also, the company should reap increased cost reductions stemming from the New Mexico acquisition. TECO is targeting \$20 million in the first three years, half of which will be shared with customers. Our earnings estimate is \$1.15 a share.

The board of directors raised the divi**dend.** The increase was small, at \$0.02 a share (2.3%) annually, but was still significant because this was the first hike in the disbursement in three years. The payout ratio is high (even by utility standards), but TECO is benefiting from tax-loss carryforwards that make its cash flow higher than our "cash flow" figures suggest.

This stock's dividend yield is a percentage point above the utility mean. Total return potential to 2018-2020 is modest, but still better than most other utility issues.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 20, 2015

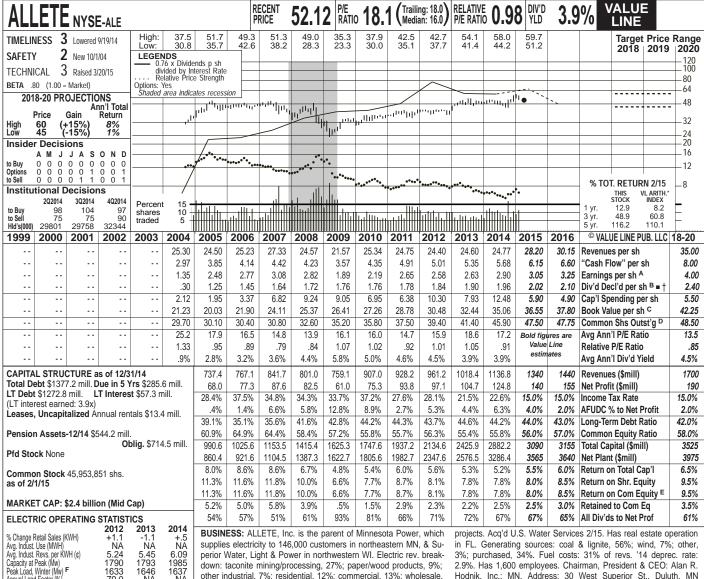
(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gain (losses): '99, (11¢); '03, (\$4.97); '07, 63¢; '10, (2¢) net; '14, (3¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: 04, (77¢); '05, 31¢; '06, 1¢; '07, 7¢; '12, (15¢); '14, (34¢). Next earnings report due early May.

(B) Div'ds paid in late Feb., May, Aug., & Nov.

□ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd chgs. In 11.75%; in NM in '12: 10% (implied); earned on

'13: \$1.93/sh. (D) In mill. (É) Rate base: Net avg. com. eq., '13: 8.6%. Regul. Climate: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 40 **Earnings Predictability** 75



perior Water, Light & Power in northwestern WI. Electric rev. breakdown: taconite mining/processing, 27%; paper/wood products, 9%; other industrial, 7%; residential, 12%; commercial, 13%; wholesale, 10% other, 22%. ALLETE Clean Energy owns renewable energy

3%; purchased, 34%. Fuel costs: 31% of revs. '14 deprec. rate: 2.9%. Has 1,600 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Alan R. Hodnik. Inc.: MN. Address: 30 West Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802-2093. Tel.: 218-279-5000. Internet: www.allete.com

345 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 341 306 ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '12-'14 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '18-'20 Revenues -.5% 6.0% 6.0% 7.0% NMF 5.5% 1.0% 2.0% 5.0% Cash Flow' 7.0% 7.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 4.0% 4.5%

Annual Load Factor (%

% Change Customers (avg.)

1646 NA

1637 NA

NA

Cal- endar			VENUES (Sep. 30		Full Year
2012	240.0	216.4	248.8	256.0	961.2
2013	263.8	235.6	251.0	268.0	1018.4
2014	296.5	260.7	288.9	290.7	1136.8
2015	320	325	345	350	1340
2016	360	345	365	370	1440
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
2012	.66	.39	.78	.75	2.58
2013	.83	.35	.63	.82	2.63
2014	.80	.40	.97	.73	2.90
2015	.85	.45	.85	.90	3.05
2016	.95	.45	.90	.95	3.25
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.445	.445	.445	.445	1.78
2012	.46	.46	.46	.46	1.84
2013	.475	.475	.475	.475	1.90
2014	.49	.49	.49	.49	1.96
2015	.505				

ALLETE's earnings are likely to advance in 2015. Minnesota Power, the company's primary utility subsidiary, will benefit from a full year of income from a 205-megawatt wind project that was completed in December at a cost of \$333 million. The utility gets current cost recovery for certain kinds of capital spending, such as a \$250 million environmental upgrade to a coal-fired generating unit. In addition, Minnesota Power is experiencing load growth as some of its large industrial customers expand their operations. Most notably, Essar Steel expects to begin producing taconite pellets in the second half of 2015. Finally, the company's real estate assets in Florida (which ALLETE intends to sell) should break even this year. It lost \$2 million in 2014. Our estimate is within management's guidance of \$3.00-\$3.20 a share.

There is some upside potential to **profits this year.** Minnesota Power plans to build a wind project for a utility in North Dakota, which would then (if the state regulators approve) buy the project. Prospective income from the sale is not included in ALLETE's guidance. If the regu-

lators do not approve the deal, then Minnesota Power will sell the output under a long-term purchased-power contract.

ALLETE has made an acquisition. The company paid \$168 million for an 87% interest in U.S. Water Services, which provides water management for industrial customers. Revenues were about \$120 million last year, and the company expects top-line growth of 10%-15% annually. However, due to amortization that AL-LETE will record under purchase accounting rules, the deal isn't likely to contribute to profits this year.

We forecast solid earnings growth in **2016.** Current recovery of some capital spending and the ongoing effects of industrial expansion should help. We figure U.S. Water Services will also make a contribution.

The board of directors raised the divi**dend this quarter.** The board increased the annual disbursement by \$0.06 a share (3.1%)

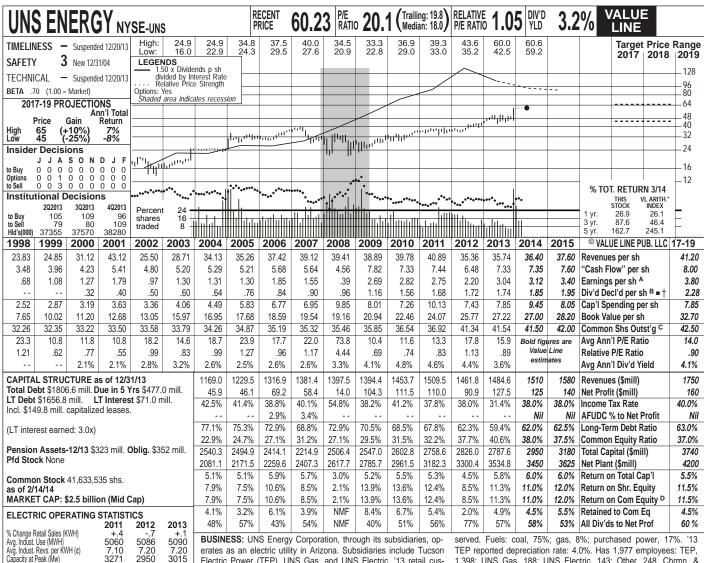
The dividend yield and 3- to 5-year total return potential for ALLETE are about average, by utility standards. Paul E. Debbas, CFA March 20, 2015

(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 early May. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept. and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred chgs. In '14:

\$7.78/sh. (**D**) In mill. (**E**) Rate base: Orig. cost deprec. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '10: 10.38%; earned on avg. com. eq., '14: 8.6%. Reg. Clim.: Avg. (F) Summer peak in '12 & '13.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 35 **Earnings Predictability** 80



BUSINESS: UNS Energy Corporation, through its subsidiaries, operates as an electric utility in Arizona. Subsidiaries include Tucson Electric Power (TEP), UNS Gas, and UNS Electric. '13 retail customers: TEP, 413,000 (in southeastern Arizona); UNS Gas, 149,000; UNS Electric, 93,000. Revenue sources: residential, 42%; commercial, 23%; industrial, 35%. Copper mining is largest industry

served. Fuels: coal, 75%; gas, 8%; purchased power, 17%. '13 TEP reported depreciation rate: 4.0%. Has 1,977 employees: TEP, 1,398; UNS Gas, 188; UNS Electric, 143; Other, 248. 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.uns.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 251 239 291 ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '11-'13 Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '17-'19 of change (per sh) -0.5% 6.0% 16.0% 1.0% 2.0% 6.5% Revenues 3.5% 7.0% 'Cash Flow Earnings Dividends **Book Value** 6.5% 6.0% 5.0%

+.4

+.5

+.8

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

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal-	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Full			
endar	IVIAI.31	Juli.30	Sep.su	Dec.31	Year			
2011	344.8	369.7	450.9	344.1	1509.5			
2012	315.4	364.0	434.1	348.3	1461.8			
2013	332.1	365.2	437.0	350.2	1484.6			
2014	325	370	450	365	1510			
2015	350	375	485	370	1580			
Cal-	EA	EARNINGS PER SHARE A						
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year			
2011	.35	.71	1.46	.22	2.75			
2012	.17	.64	1.21	.18	2.20			
2013	.27	.83	1.62	.32	3.04			
2014	.25	.75	1.67	.45	3.12			
2015	.45	.80	1.65	.50	3.40			
Cal-	QUARTI	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ID B∎†	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year			
2010	.39	.39	.39	.39	1.56			
2011	.42	.42	.42	.42	1.68			
2012	.43	.43	.43	.43	1.72			
2013	.435	.435	.435	.435	1.74			
2014	.48							

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has approved the acquisition of UNS Energy Corporation by Fortis. UNS stockholders would receive \$60.25 in cash for each of their shares. The offer is generous, at 19 times estimated 2014 earnings. Indeed, the proposed purchase has been deemed consistent with the interest of the public, which moves the acquisition one step closer to completion. In addition, the shareholders of UNS Energy approved the transaction on March 26, 2014. The acquisition is expected to be completed by the end of 2014. It is now subject to approval by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). The deal will give UNS much needed capital access to meet clean energy requirements. UNS will remain as a stand-alone company headquartered in Tucson, Arizona. One-third of Fortis' assets will be in the United States once the deal closes, and it will gain approximately 65,000 customers in Arizona. UNS Energy had a profitable year. The

UNS Energy had a profitable year. The electric utility reported net income of \$127 million and share earnings of \$3.04. The significant increase in net income was mainly due to higher revenue at UNS En-

ergy's primary subsidiary, Tucson Electric Power (TEP). The subsidiary was able to report higher revenues for the year thanks to a non-fuel base rate increase which became effective on July 1, 2013, combined with a reduction in capital lease interest expense. The company also declared a first quarter dividend of \$0.48 per share for common shareholders.

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) has started to work on a new transmission line. The 138 KV is expected to reduce electrical outages and provide more capacity for TEP. The project is expected to cost \$4.5 million and was approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission in March, 2011. The transmission line is expected to be completed in 2014.

pected to be completed in 2014.

The Timeliness rank for this issue is suspended due to the impending acquisition. There is minimal potential for capital gains at this juncture as the stock is trading just below the takeover price. We advise investors to sell their holdings at the current level in order to avoid downside risk in case the deal falls through.

Saumya Ajila

May 2, 2014

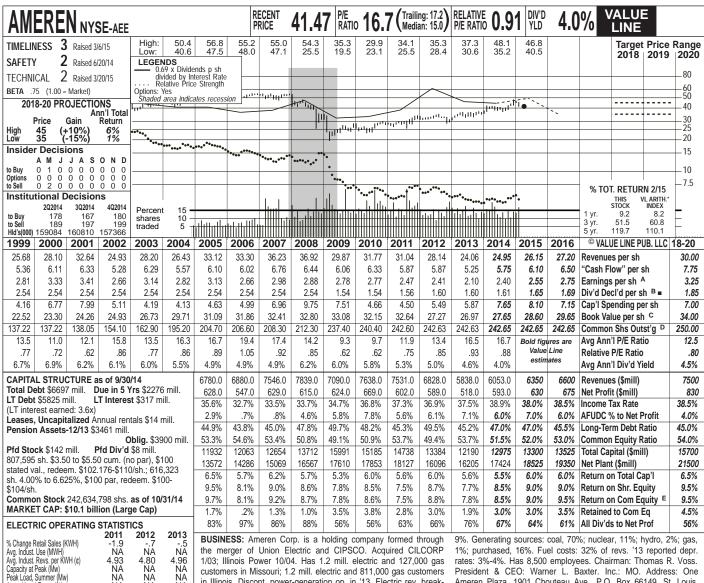
(A) EPS diluted. Excl. nonrecur. gains: '98, 19¢; '99, \$1.35; '00, 48¢; '03, \$2.00. Next earnings report due early May. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. (B) Div'ds historically

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 '13: 10.0%;

earned on avg. com. eq., '13: 8.5%. Regulatory Climate: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 90
Price Growth Persistence 80
Earnings Predictability 40

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the merger of Union Electric and CIPSCO. Acquired CILCORP 1/03; Illinois Power 10/04. Has 1.2 mill. electric and 127,000 gas customers in Missouri; 1.2 mill. electric and 811,000 gas customers in Illinois. Discont. power-generation op. in '13. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 46%; commercial, 33%; industrial, 12%; other,

1%; purchased, 16%. Fuel costs: 32% of revs. '13 reported depr. rates: 3%-4%. Has 8,500 employees. Chairman: Thomas R. Voss. President & CEO: Warner L. Baxter. Inc.: MO. Address: One Ameren Plaza, 1901 Chouteau Ave., P.O. Box 66149, St. Louis, MO 63166-6149. Tel.: 314-621-3222. Internet: www.ameren.com

295 291 289 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '18-'20 -5.0% -2.5% -4.0% Revenues -.5% 1.0% Cash Flow 4.5% 5.0% Earnings -9.0% -2.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

4.80 NA NA

NA NA

4.96 NA

NA

NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Full Year
2012	1658	1660	2001	1509	6828.0
2013	1475	1403	1638	1322	5838.0
2014	1594	1419	1670	1370	6053.0
2015	1650	1475	1800	1425	6350
2016	1725	1550	1850	1475	6600
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	E A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	d.11 .22 .40 .25 .30	.87 .44 .62 . 70	1.54 1.25 1.20 1.35 1.45	.11 .19 .19 .25	2.41 2.10 2.40 2.55 2.75
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B ■	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30		Dec.31	Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.385 .40 .40 .40 .41	.385 .40 .40 .40	.385 .40 .40 .40	.40 .40 .40 .41	1.56 1.60 1.60 1.61

Ameren has rate cases pending in Missouri and Illinois. In Missouri, the utility is seeking an electric rate increase of \$190 million, based on a return of 10.4% on a common-equity ratio of 51.8%. Ameren is asking for a continuation of various regulatory mechanisms, such as a fuel adjustment clause and a tracker for storm costs. The staff of the Missouri commission is recommending an allowed ROE of just 9.25%, and intervenor groups are proposing similar figures. A decision is expected in May, with new tariffs taking effect in June. In Illinois, Ameren is asking for a gas rate hike of \$53 million, based on a 10.0%-10.5% return on a 50% commonequity ratio. The utility is also requesting a regulatory mechanism to decouple revenues from volume for small customers. An order is expected by December, with new tariffs taking effect in January.

Earnings will probably advance this year. Ameren will benefit from the absence of a refueling outage at the Cal-laway nuclear plant, a full year's benefit from the refinancing of high-cost debt last May, and (assuming reasonable regulatory treatment) a partial year of rate relief in

Missouri. Spending on electric transmission is another plus, as Ameren earns a return on its current investment through a federally regulated formula rate plan. Our estimate is at the midpoint of management's guidance of \$2.45-\$2.65 a share.

We forecast high single-digit profit growth in 2016. Additional rate relief should be the primary factor.

Electric transmission is a key growth area for Ameren. The company's capital

budget calls for spending of \$2.3 billion through 2019. Although it appears almost certain that its allowed ROE on transmission will be cut from 12.38% currently (in fact, Ameren took an undisclosed reserve in the fourth quarter of 2014), the utility will be able to make up for part of the reduction through a half-percentage-point incentive "adder." Moreover, the allowed ROE will probably still be above its allowed ROEs in Missouri and Illinois.

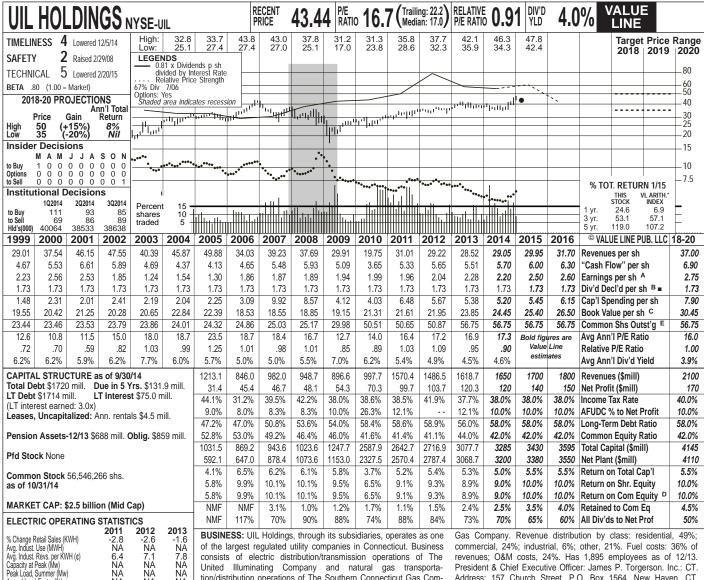
The dividend yield of Ameren stock is about average for a utility. The company has good earnings growth prospects through 2018-2020, but in our view, these are reflected in the quotation.

Paul E. Debbas, CFÂ March 20, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gain (losses): '03, 11¢; '05, (11¢); '10, (\$2.19); '11, (32¢); '12 (\$6.42); loss from disc. ops.: '13, 92¢. '14 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next egs. report due

early May. (B) Div'ds histor. paid in late Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. • Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '13: \$6.90/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Orig. cost deprec. Rate allowed on latory Climate: MO, Avg.; IL, Below Avg.

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



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 1,895 employees as of 12/13. 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.

230 249 262 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '11-'13 to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. -4.5% 0.5% 2.0% 2.0% 2.5% 4.5% Revenues -4.0%'Cash Flow' Earnings 1.0% Dividends Book Value Ńil 4.5% 1.0% 4.0% OUADTED

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA Nil

NA

+.2

NA

NA

+1.6

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2012	458.3	283.5	323.8	420.9	1486.5
2013	548.0	319.1	316.5	435.1	1618.7
2014	571.2	334.8	293.0	451	1650
2015	590	330	360	420	1700
2016	605	350	370	475	1800
Cal-			ER SHAR		Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.92	.23	.31	.56	2.02
2013	1.01	.35	.31	.61	2.28
2014	.97	.16	.22	.85	2.20
2015	1.10	.30	.35	.75	2.50
2016	1.00	.40	.45	.75	2.60
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B=	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73
2012	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73
2013	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73
2014	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73
2015					

UIL Holdings has decided to discontinue its asset purchase agreement with the city of Philadelphia. The \$1.86 billion deal to buy Philadelphia Gas Works, which faced opposition from the city council, has been terminated following UĬĽ's announcement on December 4th. The fallout was widely expected, as the Philadelphia city council did not pass an ordinance to approve the transaction. The shares of UIL Holdings have reacted positively following this event and are currently trending higher since prior to the announcement.

We are introducing our share-net estimate for 2016 at \$2.60. Growth is likely to be driven by the strengthening of the overall economy and an increase in the company's customer base. Additionally, UIL's strong capital expenditure plan should drive bottom line expansion through rate recognition in the near term. UIL Holdings is targeting growth through investments related to regulated electric and gas infrastructure. The company has been making changes to its infrastructure and expects to continue to invest in its distribution and transmis-

sion businesses. Over the next five years. UIL will work on enhancing its liquefied natural gas facilities and expanding its capabilites through investments of approximately \$113 million. UIL is also increasing its stake in renewable generation. Further, UIL has been an active participant in the New England State Committee on Energy, which is working with six New England states to increase the pipeline capacity for natural gas and electric transmission capacity. This could very likely translate into an investment opportunity for UIL Holdings over the next three to five

This equity is currently unfavorably ranked (4) for Timeliness. Based on the stock's rank, it is expected to lag the market over the next six to 12 months. Still, the current dividend yield remains favorable when compared to others in the utility industry. Hence, investors looking for income might find this stock appealing. However, due to the high payout ratio (approximately 70%), we do not expect any dividend increases over the next 3 to 5 years.

Saumya Ajila February 20, 2015

(A) EPS basic. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '00, 4¢; '03, (26¢); '04, \$2.14; '06, (\$5.07); '10, (47¢). Next egs. report due in late Feb. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early March, June,

Sept., and Dec.

Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '13: \$339.2 mill. or \$5.98/sh. (D) Rate base: orig. cost. Rate allowed on common equity in '13: 9.15%. Earned

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 90 Price Growth Persistence 50 **Earnings Predictability** 85

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RANKS	26.45 23.63	34.60	29.26	23.67	24.40	28.60	29.00	32.07	36.49	Hi
■ Below		25.08	17.75	17.50	19.28	21.84	24.15	26.01	29.05	Lo
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				***	••••••	••••				9
Financial Strength B+					••••••		****			6
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Price Stability 95										4
Price Growth Persistence 40										3
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Earnings Predictability 45										, V
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VALUE LINE PUBLISHING LLC	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015/2016
SALES PER SH	46.17	45.80	36.99	33.87	32.91	32.21	25.62	26.51		
'CASH FLOW" PER SH	4.27	4.60	3.68	3.44	3.52	4.16	3.86	4.28		
EARNINGS PER SH	1.41	1.52	1.65	1.03	.88	1.50	1.43	1.57	1.78 ^{A,B}	1.90 ^C /NA
DIV'DS DECL'D PER SH	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38		
CAP'L SPENDING PER SH	5.95	5.66	3.63	5.42	4.55	5.21	4.97	6.47		
BOOK VALUE PER SH	17.30	17.49	17.90	17.82	17.36	17.50	18.90	19.15		
COMMON SHS OUTST'G (MILL)	5.65	5.74	7.79	10.84	10.89	10.95	13.78	13.84		
AVG ANN'L P/E RATIO	17.6	18.4	15.8	20.3	25.1	16.8	18.7	18.5	19.8	18.6/NA
RELATIVE P/E RATIO	.95	.98	.95	1.35	1.60	1.05	1.20	1.04		
AVG ANN'L DIV'D YIELD	5.6%	4.9%	5.3%	6.6%	6.2%	5.5%	5.2%	4.8%		
SALES (\$MILL)	260.9	262.9	288.2	367.0	358.4	352.8	353.1	366.9		Bold figures
OPERATING MARGIN	17.4%	19.0%	18.5%	20.2%	22.7%	27.8%	27.4%	28.9%		are consensu
DEPRECIATION (\$MILL)	16.1	17.8	19.1	27.4	28.9	29.3	35.1	37.7		earnings
NET PROFIT (\$MILL)	8.0	8.7	9.7	10.0	9.6	16.4	18.2	21.6		estimates
NCOME TAX RATE	34.7%	34.1%	31.2%	34.2%	31.9%	37.9%	37.7%	37.0%		and, using th
NET PROFIT MARGIN	3.1%	3.3%	3.4%	2.7%	2.7%	4.6%	5.2%	5.9%		recent prices
VORKING CAP'L (\$MILL)	d6.8	4.8	d38.3	d22.9	d9.8	d23.2	7.2	d4.7		P/E ratios.
LONG-TERM DEBT (\$MILL)	140.2	160.1	250.0	249.8	289.0	288.5	287.7	284.8		
SHR. EQUITY (\$MILL) RETURN ON TOTAL CAP'L	99.9 5.3%	102.5 5.4%	141.5 4.0%	195.1 4.3%	191.0 4.1%	193.7 5.5%	260.6 5.2%	265.2 5.8%		
RETURN ON TOTAL CAP'L							7.0%	5.8% 8.1%		
RETURN ON SHR. EQUITY RETAINED TO COM EQ	8.0%	8.5% .8%	6.9%	5.1% NMF	5.0% NMF	8.5%	.4%	.9%		
ALL DIV'DS TO NET PROF	98%	91%	84%	NMF	NMF	93%	95%	.9%		
No of analysts changing earn est in l										

Ano. of analysts changing earn. est. in last 12 days: 0 up, 0 down, consensus 5-year earnings growth not available. Based upon 2 analysts' estimates. Cased upon 2 analysts' estimates.

	1	ANNUAL	RATES			ASSETS (\$mill.)	2012	2013	9/30/14
of chan	ge (per s	share)	5 Yrs.	1	Yr.	Cash Assets	9.8	9.4	10.1
Sales	0 11	,	-8.0%		3.5%	Receivables	104.0	108.8	73.0
"Cash I			-0.5%		1.0%	Inventory (Avg cost)	14.6	17.0	22.1
Earning			-0.5%	1	0.0%	Other	4.2	4.8	7.2
Dividen					. <u>.</u>	Current Assets	132.6	140.0	112.4
Book V	alue		1.0%		1.5%				
Fiscal	QUA	RTERLY	SALES (\$	mill.)	Full	Property, Plant			
Year	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Year	& Equip, at cost	831.6	909.1	
40/04/40	4440	00.0	74.0	00.0	353.1	Accum Depreciation	230.4 601.2	243.5 665.6	706.0
12/31/12	114.2	68.8	71.3	98.8		Net Property Other	152.8	115.0	98.1
12/31/13	118.2	66.4	72.5	109.8	366.9				
12/31/14	156.1	73.3	76.6			Total Assets	886.6	920.6	916.5
12/31/15						LIADUITIEC (¢:III)			
Fiscal	EA	RNINGS	PER SHA	RE	Full	LIABILITIES (\$mill.) Accts Payable	30.9	38.1	19.3
Year	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Year	Debt Due	50.9	62.7	3.9
40/04/44	0.4	1.00	1.45		4.50	Other	44.0	43.9	52.8
12/31/11	.81	d.08	d.15	.92	1.50	Current Liab	125.4	144.7	76.0
12/31/12	.83	d.03	.03	.66	1.43	Current Liab	123.4	144.7	70.0
12/31/13	.79	d.01	.04	.75	1.57				
12/31/14	.91	.08	.11	.68					
12/31/15						LONG-TERM DEBT Al	ND EQUIT	Y	
Cal-			IVIDENDS		Full	as 01 9/30/14			
endar	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Year	Total Debt \$337.3 mill.		Due in 5	Yrs. NA
2011	.345	.345	.345	.345	1.38	LT Debt \$333.4 mill.			
2012	.345	.345	.345	.345	1.38	Including Cap. Lease:	S NA	/EE0/	of Con'll
2013	.345	.345	.345	.345	1.38	Leases, Uncapitalized	I Annual re		of Cap'l)
2014	.345	.345	.345	.345		Leases, Olicapitalized	Allilual le	IIIais INA	
	INICTI	TUTION: 4	DEGICI	NIC.		Pension Liability \$77.3	3 mill. in '13	vs. \$103.7	mill. in '12
	INSIII		L DECISIO			Pfd Stock \$.2 mill.		Dtd Div	d Paid Nil
		1Q'14	2Q'14	3	Q'14	FIU SLOCK \$.2 IIIII.		ria Div	u raiu IVII
to Buy		51	53		46	Common Stock 13,906,	964 shares		
to Sell		38	38		49			(45%	6 of Cap'l)
Hld's(0	00)	6459	6669	6	823			,	1 /

INDUSTRY: Electric Utility (East)

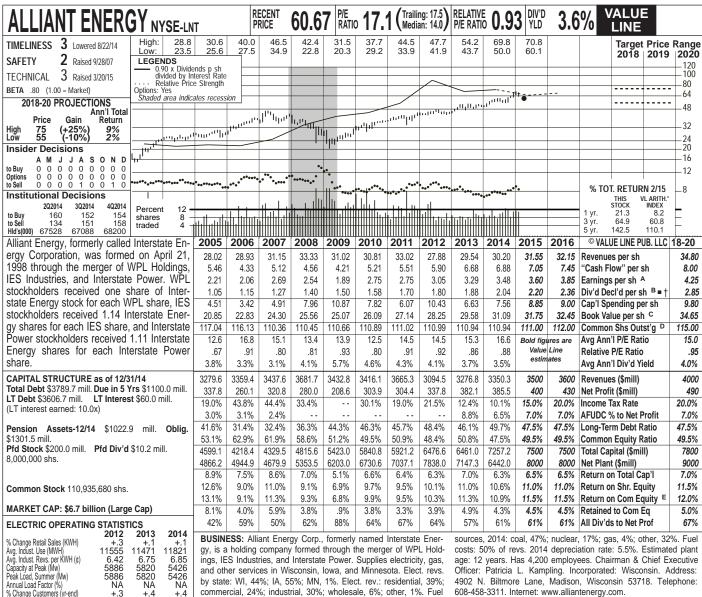
BUSINESS: Unitil Corporation engages in the retail distribution of electricity in the southeastern seacoast and state capital regions of New Hampshire. The company also is involved in the retail distribution of electricity and natural gas in the greater Fitchburg area of north central Massachusetts. In addition, it provides natural gas service in southeastern New Hampshire and portions of southern and central Maine, including the city of Portland and the Lewiston-Auburn area. Further, the company provides energy brokering and advisory services to commercial and industrial customers in the northeastern United States. Unitil Corporation operates 87 miles of underground gas transmission pipeline, primarily in Maine and New Hampshire. In addition, it provides energy brokering and advisory services to commercial and industrial customers. As of April 23, 2014, the company served approximately 102,400 electric customers and 75,900 natural gas customers. Has 477 employees. Chairman, C.E.O. & President: Robert G. Schoenberger. Inc.: NH. Address: 6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton, NH 03842. Tel.: (603) 772-0775. Internet: http://www.unitil.com.

December 26, 2014

TOTAL SHAREHOLDER RETURN

Dividends plus appreciation as of 11/30/2014

3 Mos.	6 Mos.	1 Yr.	3 Yrs.	5 Yrs.
9.15%	7.39%	20.05%	44.43%	112.56%



Fixed Charge Cov. (% 332 295 320 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '12-'14 Past 10 Yrs. to '18-'20 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) -1.5% 7.0% 6.5% 6.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" 0.5% 4.0% 4.0% 6.0% Earnings Dividends 8.0% 3.5% 6.0% 4.5% Book Value 3.5% 3.5% 4.0%

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2012 765.7 690.3 887.6 750.9 3094.5 2013 859.6 718.0 866.6 832.6 3276.8 750.3 843.1 804.1 3350.3 2014 952.8 950 800 950 800 3500 2015 850 800 3600 2016 975 975 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2012 .50 .58 1.34 .63 3.05 2013 .72 .59 1.43 .55 3.29 2014 .97 .56 1.40 .55 3.48 2015 .85 .60 1.55 .60 3.60 2016 .90 .65 1.65 .65 3.85 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =† Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 2011 .425 .425 .425 .45 .45 .45 2012 .45 2013 .47 .47 .47 .47 1.88 .51 2014 .51 .51 .55 2015

commercial, 24%; industrial, 30%; wholesale, 6%; other, 1%. Fuel

Alliant Energy is investing heavily in infrastructure. The Madison, Wisconsinbased utility deployed roughly \$1 billion in capital expenditures last year. According to management, it was one of the most active construction years in company history, with over \$335 million poured into energy delivery systems alone. The goal of that considerable investment was to keep pace with customer growth, and bring natural gas services to communities which did not have access before.

Carbon emission reductions remain a top priority. During 2014, Alliant made significant progress transitioning its coalfired facilities to produce higher levels of natural gas fueled generation (which is safer for the environment). The company also increased its use of renewable energy in many of its plants. Additionally, Alliant is constructing several new installations known as wetland systems that will improve the treatment of wastewater around its facilities.

We estimate earnings growth will be in the low-to mid-single-digit range over the next two years. Our 2015 forecast is at the midpoint of management's 608-458-3311. Internet: www.alliantenergy.com.

share-net guidance of \$3.45-\$3.75, reflecting a slight increase in revenue and fur-CapEx plans. Moreover, Alliant should benefit from the certainty several rate settlements that it achieved during the past year for its retail division. For 2016, we think the company will try for further rate increases. We're basing our forecast on reasonable regulatory treatment from state officials.

The board of directors has raised the dividend. The quarterly distribution was increased \$0.04 a share (8%), and the annualized payout is now \$2.20. For the utility sector, the equity's current yield of around 3.6% is about average for the industry. The company is targeting a payout ratio of 60%-70%.

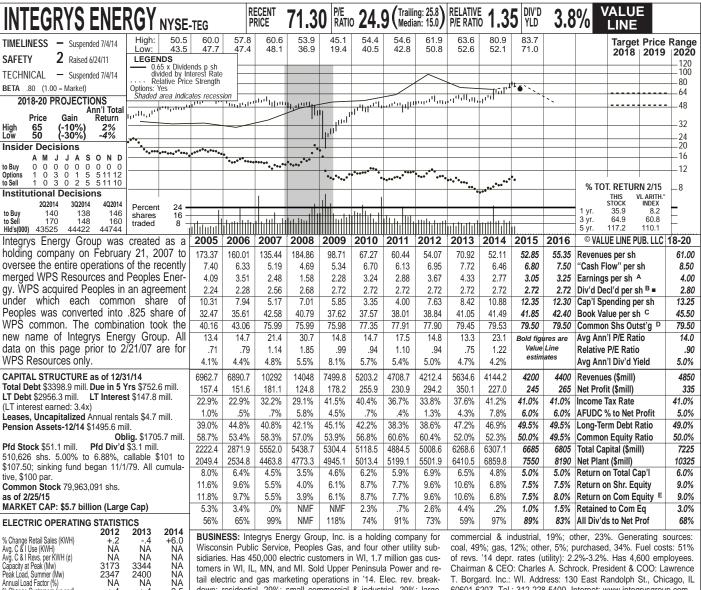
These shares may appeal to some income-oriented investors. The dividend is well supported by Alliant's predictable cash flows, and the yield is decent, though unspectacular. However, at its most recent quotation, the issue offers below average long-term capital appreciation potential. As such, subscribers seeking upside may want to look elsewhere. March 20, 2015 Daniel Henigson

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '03, net 24¢; '04, (58¢); '05, (\$1.05); '06, 83¢; '07, \$1.09; '08, 7¢; '09, (88¢); '10, (15¢); '11,

(1¢); '12, (16¢). Next egs. rpt. due early May. (C) Incl. deferred chgs. In '14: \$90.0 mill., Avg.

(B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. † WI in '14 Regul. Clim.: WI, Above Avg.; IA,

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



sidiaries. Has 450,000 electric customers in WI, 1.7 million gas customers in WI, IL, MN, and MI. Sold Upper Peninsula Power and retail electric and gas marketing operations in '14. Elec. rev. breakdown: residential, 29%; small commercial & industrial, 29%; large

of revs. '14 depr. rates (utility): 2.2%-3.2%. Has 4,600 employees. Chairman & CEO: Charles A. Schrock. President & COO: Lawrence T. Borgard. Inc.: WI. Address: 130 East Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601-6207. Tel.: 312-228-5400. Internet: www.integrysgroup.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (% 367 410 254 Est'd '12-'14 to '18-'20 ANNUAL RATES Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" -6.0% -16.0% 7.0% .5% 3.0% 1.0% 1.0% 2.5% Earnings Dividends 11.0% 2.0% **Book Value** 4.0% 2.0%

2400 NA

+.4

-9.5

ΝA

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

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	1247.9	839.6	927.7	1197.2	4212.4
2013	1678.2	1116.0	1129.7	1710.7	5634.6
2014	1638.0	836.8	657.1	1012.3	4144.2
2015	1600	850	700	1050	4200
2016	1700	875	725	1100	4400
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	1.24	.65	.93	.86	3.67
2013	2.29	d.06	.47	1.63	4.33
2014	1.73	.10	.27	.66	2.77
2015	1.80	.10	.30	.85	3.05
2016	1.90	.10	.35	.90	3.25
Cal-	QUAR1	ERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	\IDB∎	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.68	.68	.68	.68	2.72
2012	.68	.68	.68	.68	2.72
2013	.68	.68	.68	.68	2.72
2014	.68	.68	.68	.68	2.72
2015	.68				

Integrys Energy is awaiting regulatory approval for the company to be acquired by Wisconsin Energy. Integrys stockholders would receive \$18.58 in cash and 1.128 shares of Wisconsin Energy stock for each of their shares, making the deal worth \$73.12 a share at Wisconsin Energy's recent price. The transaction requires the approval of the regulators in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota, plus that of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The companies expect it to close in the second half of 2015. The Timeliness rank of Integrys stock is suspended due to the takeover agreement. We continue to advise Integrys holders to sell their shares on the open market. The recent price is less than 3% below the value of the buyout price, so there is little upside potential unless the price of Wisconsin Energy stock rises. By selling, Integrys holders avoid downside risk in case the deal fails to win regulatory approval or utility weaken—as they have so far in 2015.

Integrys' utilities received some rate hikes in the first quarter. Wisconsin Public Service's electric rates were raised by \$24.6 million and its gas tariffs were lowered by \$15.4 million, based on a 10.2% return on equity. The Illinois commission granted Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas a total of \$74.6 million, based on a 9.05% ROE. Rate relief should help Integrys' earnings advance this year and next, since the orders in Illinois didn't take effect until late February.

Wisconsin Public Service is seeking a certificate of need to build a gas-fired generating unit. The utility wants to add a 400-megawatt facility at the site of an existing plant at an expected cost of \$517 million. A ruling from the state commission is expected in the second half of 2015. Other major capital projects are already under way. A coal-fired unit is undergoing an environmental upgrade at a cost of \$345 million. A system modernization and reliability project is budgeted for \$220 million. In Illinois, the company expects to spend \$2.2 billion-\$2.6 billion over a 10-year period to replace aging gas pipelines. The utility receives current cost recovery of these expenditures through a regulatory mechanism. Paul E. Debbas, CFA March 20. 2015

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gain (losses): '09, (\$3.24); '10, (41¢); '14, 64¢; gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '07, \$1.02; '08, 6¢; '09, 4¢; '11, (1¢); '12, (12¢); '13, 6¢; '14, 2¢. '12 & '14 EPS

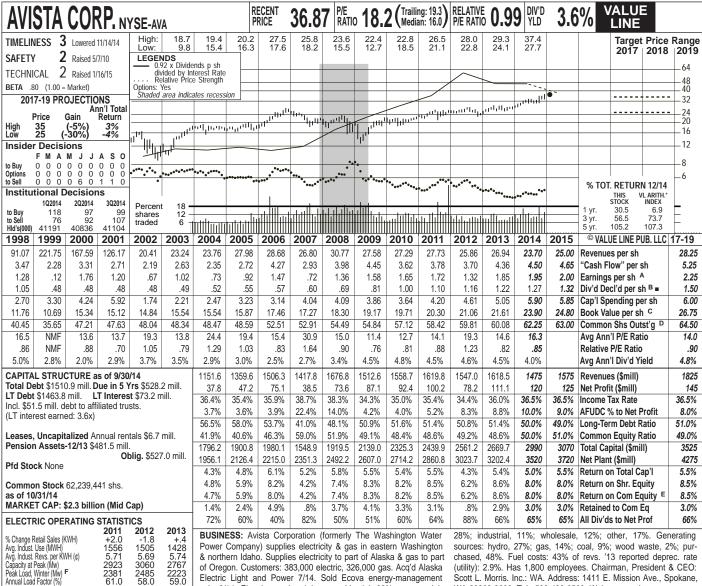
don't add due to rounding. Next egs. due early May. (B) Div'ds histor. paid mid-Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. • Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl.

base: Net orig. cost. Rate all'd on com. eq. in WI in '15: 10.2%; in IL in '15: 9.05%; in MN in '14: 9.35%; earn. on avg. com. eq, '14: 6.8%. intang. In '14: \$27.27/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate Regul. Climate: WI, Above Avg.; IL, Below Avg. © 2015 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

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

90 45

45



Electric Light and Power 7/14. Sold Ecova energy-management sub. 6/14. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 32%; commercial, Avista's regulatory settlement was approved in Washington. Electric and gas rates were raised by \$12.3 million (2.5%)

gas), instead of sales changes.

and \$8.5 million (5.6%), respectively, at the start of 2015. The order didn't address the cost of capital, but it did decouple revenues and volume. Accordingly, top-line advances will now track customer growth (currently at about 1% for electricity and

Avista has reached a settlement of its gas rate case in Oregon. If approved by the state regulatory commission, rates will be raised (effective March 1st) by \$5.0 million (5.1%), based on a 9.5% return on a 51% common-equity ratio.

More rate applications are probably on the way. Avista will likely file cases in Washington and Idaho for new tariffs in 2016. Alaska Electric Light and Power, which the company acquired in mid-2014, is also considering filing a petition.

We estimate that earnings will increase slightly in 2015. Avista should benefit from rate relief and a full year of income from the Alaska utility acquisition. On the other hand, a favorable swing in power costs helped Avista in Washington

WA 99202-2600. Tel.: 509-489-0500. Web: www.avistacorp.com. in 2014, and we do not assume that this will happen this year. Our 2015 earnings estimate is within the company's targeted

range of \$1.86-\$2.06 a share.

Scott L. Morris, Inc.: WA. Address: 1411 E. Mission Ave., Spokane.

Avista has repurchased some stock, and might buy back more. Through mid-December, the company repurchased 2.5 million shares for \$79.9 million. The board authorized a buyback for up to 800,000 more shares in the first quarter of 2015. Later this year, however, Avista will need some equity, so the company expects to issue about \$30 million. The company's financing needs also include about \$100 million of long-term debt.

We expect a dividend increase this quarter. That has been the pattern in recent years. We estimate that the board of directors will boost the annual payout by \$0.05 a share (3.9%). Avista is targeting yearly dividend growth of 4%-5%.

Avista stock offers a dividend yield that is slightly above the utility mean. Like several utility stocks, the recent price is above the upper end of our 2017-2019 Target Price Range. Accordingly, total return potential is low. Paul E. Debbas, CFA January 30, 2015

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '00, (27¢); '02, (9¢); '03, (3¢); '14, 9¢; gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '01, (\$1.00); '02, 2¢; '03, (10¢); '14, \$1.17. '13 EPS don't add due to

58.0

245

318

5 Yrs.

-1.5%

1.0% 6.5% 13.5% 3.5%

438.9

410.5

447.7

4142

Dec.31

.42

.26

.53

.57

.55

Dec.31

.275

.29

.305

.3175

425

Past

10 Yrs. -7.0%

4.5% 5.5% 9.0%

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

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

EARNINGS PER SHARE A

Jun.30 Sep.30

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =

.39

.31

.43

.43

.45

Jun.30

.275

29

.305

.3175

343.7

340.6

335.9

301.6

.18

.10

.19

.16

.15

Sep.30

.275

29

.305

.3175

325

360.6

343.6

352.0

3126

335

308

Est'd '11-'13

to '17-'19

1.0%

5.0% 5.5% 4.5%

4.0%

Year

1619.8

1547.0

1618.5

1475

1575

Year

1.72

1.32

1.85

1.95

2.00

Full

Year

1.10

1.16

1.22 1.27

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)

of change (per sh)

Cash Flow'

Revenues

Earnings

Dividends

endar

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

Cal-

endar

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

Cal-

endar

2011

2012

2013

2014

2015

Book Value

476.6

452.3

482.9

4466

Mar.31

.73

.65

.71

.79

.85

Mar.31

.275

.29

.305

.3175

490

ANNUAL RATES

rounding. Next egs. due late Feb. **(B)** Div'ds histor. paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. Div'd reinv. plan avail. **(C)** Incl. def'd chgs. In '13: \$8.08/sh. **(D)** In mill. **(E)** Rate base: Net WA, Avg.; ID, Above Avg. **(F)** Summer pk. '12.

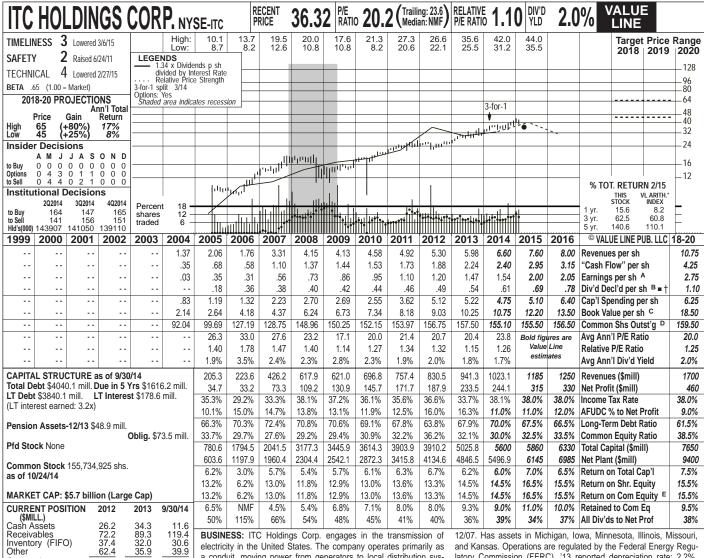
Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability**

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95

60

75



a conduit, moving power from generators to local distribution systems either through its own system or in conjunction with neighboring transmission systems. Acquired Michigan Electric Transmission Company 10/06; Interstate Power & Light's transmission assets latory Commission (FERC). '13 reported depreciation rate: 2.2%. Has about 500 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Joseph L. Welch. Inc.: Michigan. Address: 27175 Energy Way, Novi, Michigan 48377. Tel.: 248-946-3000. Internet: www.itctransco.com

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '11-'13 10 Yrs. to '18-'20 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow 12.0% 14.0% 10.5% 12.0% 12.0% 12.0% Earnings Dividends 19.0% **Book Value** 13.0% 10.5% QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 197.4 830.5 217.3 229.8 238.8 941.3 263.2 270.1 231.1 1023.0 258.6

198.2

102.5

651.9

982.8

265%

191.5

200.0

499.4

281%

201.5

115.9

200.0

470.4

322%

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Fix Chg. Cov.

2012 2013 2014 285 290 2015 300 310 1185 1250 2016 310 315 320 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year endar 2012 .29 .27 .33 .31 1.20 2013 .32 .30 .37 .48 1.47 2014 .43 .34 .47 .30 1.54 2015 .48 .50 .52 .50 2.00 .52 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar 2011 .112 .112 .118 2012 .117 .117 .126 .126 2013 .126 .126 .1425 .1425 .1425 .1425 .1625 .1625 2015 .1625

Our 2014 earnings presentation for ITC Holdings requires an explanation. In the fourth quarter, the company took a reserve of \$28.9 million after taxes (\$0.18 a share) for a possible refund of transmission revenues. This also affected revenues by \$46.9 million. Transmission users in ITC's region have complained to the Fed-Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) that transmission companies allowed returns on equity are too high. FERC's ruling isn't expected until 2016, but, based on what it did in New England, it appears probable that allowed ROEs will be reduced. We aren't assuming any additional charges in our estimates and projections, but these cannot be ruled out. Separately, ITC took a \$0.12-a-share charge in the second quarter for the early retirement of debt, and our presentation includes this item, as well.

The possibility of lower allowed ROEs has not hurt the stock much in 2015. The share price is down 6% year to date, but this is hardly noteworthy in what has been a weak year for electric utility equities. The risk to allowed transmission ROEs did not come as a surprise-it has

been anticipated for a few years, at least. Assuming no additional charges, earnings should amount to at least \$2.00 a share this year. ITC has several projects under way, and operates under a formula rate plan that enables it to earn a current return on capital investment and recover expected increases in most kinds of expenses. Our earnings estimate is at the low end of the company's targeted range of \$2.00-\$2.15 a share, which is based on currently allowed ROEs. Note that we have not included an additional share repurchase in our estimate, although ITC has \$120 million remaining (through yearend) from a \$250 million board authorization.

We forecast just modest profit growth in 2016. We are now assuming a reduction in the company's allowed ROEs, effective next year, that would reduce ITC's annual earning power by \$0.25 a share. Still . . ITC has solid growth potential through 2018-2020. The stock has decent solid potential

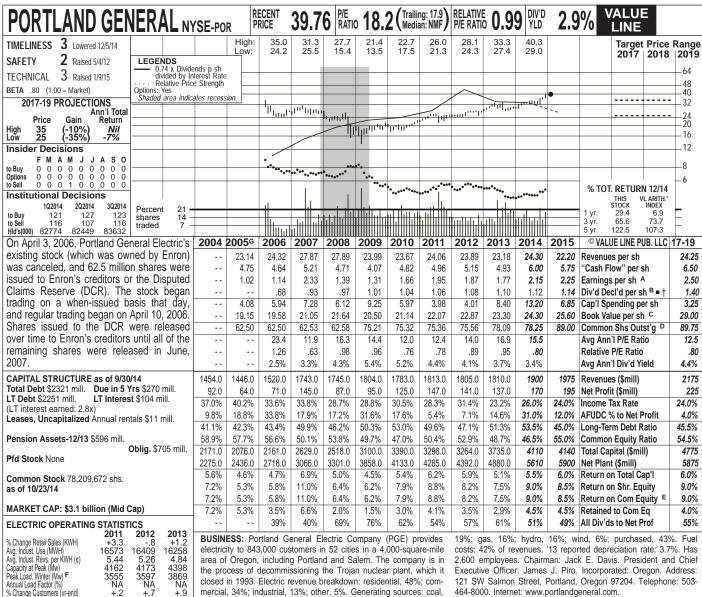
total return prospects over that time frame. Income-oriented investors should note that, unlike most utility stocks, ITC does not offer an above-average yield. Paul E. Debbas, CFA March 20, 2015

(A) Diluted earnings. Next earnings report due late April. (B) Dividends historically paid in early March, June, Sept., and Dec. Dividend reinvestment plan available. † Shareholder in-

vestment plan available. **(C)** Includes intangibles. In '13: \$1.2 billion, \$7.65/sh. **(D)** In latory Climate: Above Average. millions, adjusted for stock split. (E) Rates allowed on common equity: 12.16%-13.88%.

'13: 15.2%. Regu-

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



273 270 239 Past Est'd '11-'13 5 Yrs. to '17-'19 -2.5% .5% .5% 4.5% 3.0% 4.5% 5.0% 4.5% 2 0% 4 0%

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.3 Year 2011 484 411 439 479 1813 2012 479 413 450 463 1805 2013 473 403 435 499 1810 2014 493 423 484 500 1900 2015 525 445 485 520 1975 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2011 .92 29 .36 .38 1.95 .38 2012 65 34 50 1.87 .13 2013 .65 .40 .59 1.77 2014 .73 43 47 .52 2.15 2015 .75 .45 50 .55 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † Cal-Jun.30 Sep.30 endar Mar.31 Dec.3 Year 2011 .26 .265 1.05 .265 2012 .265 .265 .27 .27 1.07 2013 .27 .27 .275 .275 1.09 .275 .275 .28 2014 .28 .28 2015

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)

of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow"

Earnings

Dividends

Book Value

ANNUAL RATES

Past

10 Yrs.

mercial, 34%; industrial, 13%; other, 5%. Generating sources: coal,

A rate increase for Portland General Electric Company took effect at the start of 2015. Tariffs were raised by \$15 million (about 1%), based on a return of 9.68% on a common-equity ratio of 50%. The new allowed return on equity is slightly below the previous one of 9.75%. The rate order enabled PGE to place two projects, which began commercial operation in late 2014, in the rate base. A 267megawatt wind farm was completed at a cost that was expected to be \$500 million, and a 220-mw gas-fired peaking plant was built at a cost expected to be \$296 million. The rate hike was small because cost reductions and customer credits offset most of what would have been a much larger increase.

Another generating plant is under construction. The 440-mw base-load gasfired facility is expected to begin commercial operation in mid-2016 at a cost of \$450 million. PGE will file a rate application next month in order to receive rate relief in 2016. Part of the increase will take effect at the start of the year, with the remainder coming when the new plant is completed.

464-8000. Internet: www.portlandgeneral.com.

Following what was almost certainly its much-improved earnings tally in 2014, we estimate earnings will climb at a mid-single-digit pace this year. Our 2014 estimate is at the midpoint of PGE's targeted range of \$2.10-\$2.20 a share. This year, the aforementioned rate order will help boost the company's profits. In addition, PGE's service territory is experiencing load growth, despite the effects of energy efficiency measures. The industrial sector is increasing its electricity usage. Our 2015 earnings estimate is \$2.25 a share.

The share count will rise significantly this year. PGE expects to settle a forward equity sale for \$278 million in the second quarter. The company intends to use the proceeds to pay down borrowings from its credit facilities.

This stock's dividend yield is somewhat below the industry average. The share price has already risen 5% this year. Like several other utility equities, the recent price is *above* our 2017-2019 Target Price Range. Thus, total return potential is negative.

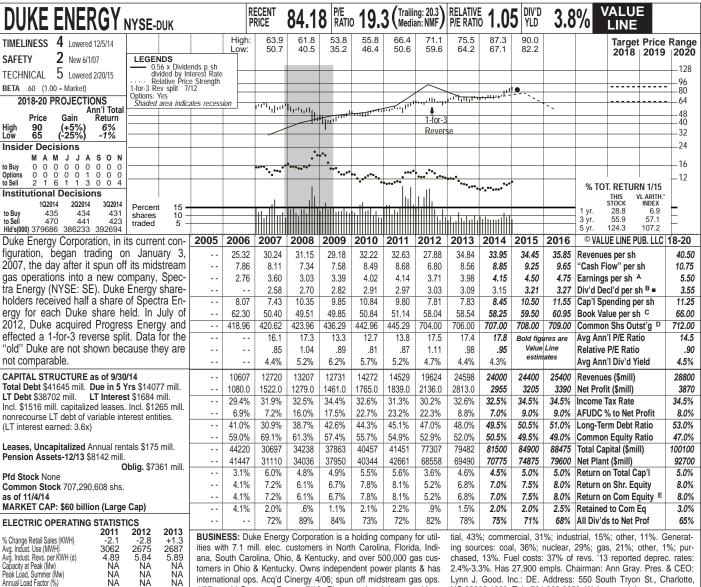
Paul E. Debbas, CFA January 30, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring loss: 42¢. Next earnings report due mid-Feb. (B) Dividends paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. Dividend reinvestment plan avail. †

Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl.

Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. eq., '13: 7.6%. Regulatory Climate: Below deferred charges. In '13: \$5.94/sh. (D) In mill. Average. (F) Summer peak in '12. (G) '05 per-share data are pro forma, based on shares outon com. eq. in '15: 9.68%; earned on avg. com. standing when stock began trading in '06.

Company's Financial Strength B++ Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence 100 50 **Earnings Predictability** 65



Fixed Charge Cov. (% 292 263 327 Est'd '11-'13 to '18-'20 ANNUAL RATES Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" 2.0% 3.5% .5% 4.5% 4.5% 11.5% Earnings Dividends 5.0% 2.5% Book Value .5% 2.5%

+.3

+.8

+.8

% Change Customers (avg.)

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2012 3630 3577 6722 5695 19624 2013 5898 5879 6709 6112 24598 2014 11971F 6395 5634 24000 2015 5900 5600 6800 6100 24400 2016 5850 7100 25400 6100 6350 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Full Mar.31 endar Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2012 .86 .99 1.01 .59 3.71 2013 .89 .74 1.40 .95 3.98 2014 2.08F 1.25 .82 4.15 2015 1.15 .85 1.55 .95 4.50 2016 1.20 .90 1.65 1.00 4.75 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 2011 2.97 .735 .735 .75 .75 .75 .765 3.03 2012 .765 2013 .765 .765 .78 .78 3.09 2014 .78 .795 2015

1/07; acq'd Progress Energy 7/12. Elec. rev. breakdown: residen-

The sale of Duke Energy's nonregulated generating assets has been de-layed. The transaction would enable the company to receive \$2.8 billion in cash for its ownership interests in 11 plants in the Midwest and its retail energy marketing business in Ohio. This operation is now treated as discontinued. However, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) has asked for additional information about the transaction, which will delay the closing beyond the current quarter. If the deal goes through, Duke will use the proceeds for capital spending, offsetting debt financing, or repurchasing stock. We will not reflect this until the deal closes.

FERC approved an asset purchase.

Duke agreed to pay \$1.2 billion for another utility's 700-megawatt stake in nuclear and coal-fired units in North Carolina. The transaction still requires the approval of state regulators and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. It has a year-end 2016 deadline for completion.

Some other large capital projects are in various stages of development. In Florida, Duke plans to build a 1,685-mw gas-fired plant at a cost of \$1.5 billion, NC 28202-1803. Tel.: 704-382-3853. Web: www.duke-energy.com.

uprate an existing facility to add 220 mw, and build or buy another plant. In South Carolina, the utility is adding 650 mw of gas-fired capacity at a cost of \$600 million. In Indiana, the company is asking the state commission to approve a seven-year, \$1.9 billion system modernization plan. And Duke has a 40% stake in a proposed \$4.5 billion-\$5.0 billion pipeline to transport gas from West Virginia to North Carolina, beginning in 2018.

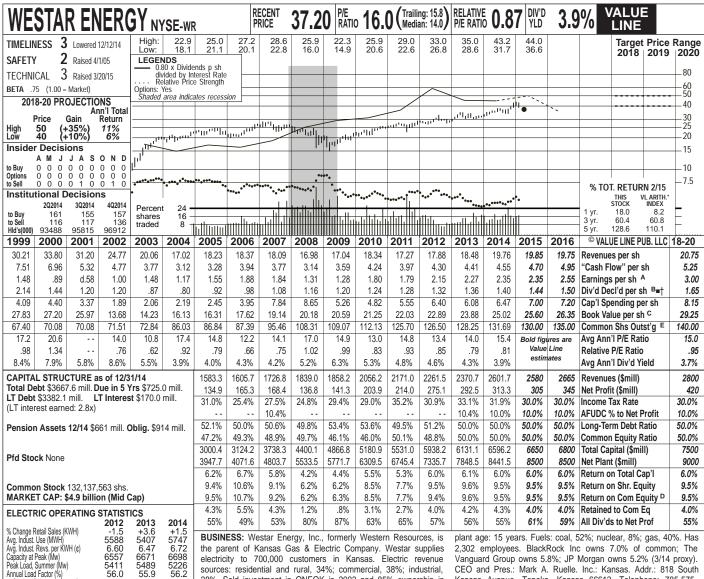
Duke is reviewing its international operations. This began before oil prices plummeted and the dollar strengthened. These factors will hurt this segment's profitability, so we have cut our 2015 earnings estimate by \$0.15 a share. We expect modest profit growth in 2016. Note that our estimates and projections include the international businesses, as well as costs that Duke is incurring to integrate Progress Energy, which it acquired in 2012.

This untimely stock's dividend yield is somewhat above average for a utility. With the recent price near the upper end of our 2018-2020 Target Price Range, total return potential is unappealing. Paul E. Debbas, CFA Februa February 20, 2015

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. losses: '12, 70¢; '13, 24¢; gains (loss) on disc. ops.: '12, 6¢; '13, 2¢; '14, (81¢). '12 EPS don't add due to chg. in shs., '13 due to rounding. Next egs. report due © 2015 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

early May. **(B)** Div'ds paid mid-Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. Div'd reinv. avail. **(C)** Incl. indextang. In '13: \$36.42/sh. **(D)** In mill., adj. for rev. com. eq., '13: 6.8%. Reg. Clim.: NC Avg.; SC, split. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rates all'd OH, IN Above Avg. (F) Restated 6-month total.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence 100 55 75 **Earnings Predictability**



sources: residential and rural, 34%; commercial, 38%; industrial, 28%. Sold investment in ONEOK in 2003 and 85% ownership in Protection One in 2004. 2013 depreciation rate: 3.8%. Estimated CEO and Pres.: Mark A. Ruelle. Inc.: Kansas. Addr.: 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612. Telephone: 785-575-6300. Internet: www.westarenergy.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 319 323 332 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '12-'14 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '18-'20 of change (per sh) -1.0% 1.5% 6.5% 2.5% 4.5% Revenues 5.0% 9.0% 'Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends 6.0% 3.5% 5.0% 3.5% 5.0% Book Value

+.2

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	475.7 546.2 628.6 630 650		695.0		2261.5 2370.7 2601.7 2580 2665
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31		ER SHARI Sep.30	-	Full Year
2012 2013 2014 2015 2016	.21 .40 .52 .50	.40 .40	1.04 1.10 1.10	.31 .33 .35	2.15 2.27 2.35 2.35 2.55
Cal- endar	QUART Mar.31		DENDS PA		Full Year
2011 2012 2013 2014 2015	.31 .32 .33 .34 .36	.32 .33 .34 .35	.32 .33 .34 .35	.32 .33 .34 .35	1.27 1.31 1.35 1.40

Westar Energy announced 2014 results. The Topeka, Kansas-based utility posted profits of \$2.35 a share for the year just ended. Higher net income was driven by greater pricing power, resulting from investments in air quality controls and transmission infrastructure. An increase in retail sales, led by industrial customers, also contributed to the underlying results. The company filed a report to increase rates. The request was submitted in early February. Management believes that the magnitude of the investments it has made over the past few years justifies a meaningful rate increase in the upper single-digit percent range. If granted, the schedule calls for an adjustment to prices in November of this year, allowing the utility to take full advantage of the rate hike in 2016.

We expect the bottom line to be flat in 2015, followed by a strong up-tick in **2016.** Our profit forecast for the current year matches the midpoint of management's share-net guidance of \$2.25-\$2.45. Westar Energy should continue to benefit from higher electric retail sales, driven by increasing demand from an improving

business environment. Our 2016 forecast is based on the expectation of reasonable treatment from regulators, pending the submitted rate request.

The board of directors authorized a **dividend increase.** The quarterly distribution was raised \$0.01 a share, to an annualized rate of \$1.44. The yield of 3.9% is slightly above the median yield for the electric utility industry. Westar Energy is targeting a payout ratio of 50%-60%.

Capital expenditures could total \$3.5 billion over the next five years. Transmission investments, the largest component, will likely exceed \$1 billion. That should allow Westar to more efficiently deliver electricity to customers.

This neutrally ranked issue is a decent choice for income-oriented investors. Although future capital appreciation is muted, we think income-focused accounts would do well owning this stock for its decent dividend yield. And, the stock's lower-than-market Beta, combined with its good marks for Price Stability and Earnings Predictability, provides some added peace of mind.

Daniel Henigson March 20, 2015

(A) EPS diluted from 2010 onward. Excl. non-recur. gains (losses): '98, (\$1.45); '99, (\$1.31); '00, \$1.07; '01, 27¢; '02, (\$12.06); '03, 77¢; '08, 39¢; '11, 14¢. Earnings may not sum due

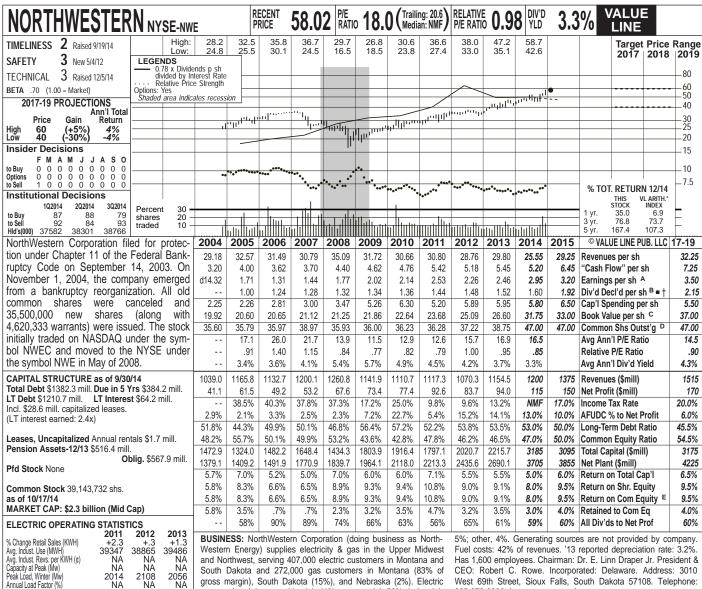
invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. reg. assets. In 2014: Clim.: Avg. (E) In mill.

to rounding. Next egs. rep't due early May.

(B) Div'ds paid in early Jan., April, July, and Oct. Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder earned on avg. com. eq., '14: 9.5%. Regul.

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

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gross margin), South Dakota (15%), and Nebraska (2%). Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 41%; commercial, 50%; industrial,

West 69th Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108. Telephone: 605-978-2900. Internet: www.northwesternenergy.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (% 237 210 217 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '11-'13 Past 10 Yrs. to '17-'19 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" -1.5% 6.5% 1.5% 5.0% Earnings Dividends 10.0% 6.5% 6.5% **Book Value** 3.5% 6.5% OHARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill)

+.6

+.8

+.7

Annual Load Factor (%)

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Cal-	QUARTERLI REVENUES (\$ IIIIII.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	338.3	251.8	244.0	283.2	1117.3
2012	309.1	244.6	235.8	280.8	1070.3
2013	313.0	260.2	262.2	319.1	1154.5
2014	369.7	270.3	251.9	308.1	1200
2015	400	310	305	360	1375
Cal-	EA	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.89	.30	.41	.93	2.53
2012	.88	.31	.30	.78	2.26
2013	1.01	.37	.40	.68	2.46
2014	1.17	.20	.77	.81	2.95
2015	1.20	.45	.55	1.00	3.20
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = †				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2012	.37	.37	.37	.37	1.48
2013	.38	.38	.38	.38	1.52
2014	.40	.40	.40	.40	1.60
2015					

NorthWestern has completed the purchase of some hydro assets. The company paid \$903 million for 633 megawatts of hydro capacity. NorthWestern wants to increase the proportion of its power that comes from its own generating assets (instead of being purchased). The transaction was completed in mid-November. A rate increase of \$117 million took effect at that time in order to place the newly purchased assets in the rate base. NorthWestern issued \$400 million of common stock and \$450 million of long-term debt to finance the deal.

Thanks to the purchase, earnings will likely rise significantly in 2015. This should occur even though the company booked \$0.43 a share of tax benefits in the third quarter of 2014. NorthWestern's preliminary 2015 earnings guidance is \$3.07-\$3.32 a share.

Shareholders can expect a sizable dividend increase soon. NorthWestern is targeting a 60% payout ratio. We estimate that the board of directors will raise the quarterly payout by \$0.08 a share (20%).

The company is seeking an electric rate hike in South Dakota. Northrate

Western filed for an increase of \$26.5 million (20.2%), based on a 10% return on a 53.6% common-equity ratio. The requested rate boost is large, but the utility hasn't had a base rate hike in 35 years. New tariffs are expected to take effect in mid-2015. NorthWestern is involved in a dispute with the Federal Energy Regulatory **Commission (FERC).** The company believes that 80% of the costs associated with one of its gas-fired plants should be allocated to its customers in Montana, with the remainder allocated to its FERCregulated wholesale customers. FERC says only 4% should be allocated to wholesale users, and ordered NorthWestern to make a refund to customers. The company already took a \$0.12-a-share charge in the June quarter of 2012. FERC has agreed to a rehearing, but when this matter will be resolved is not known.

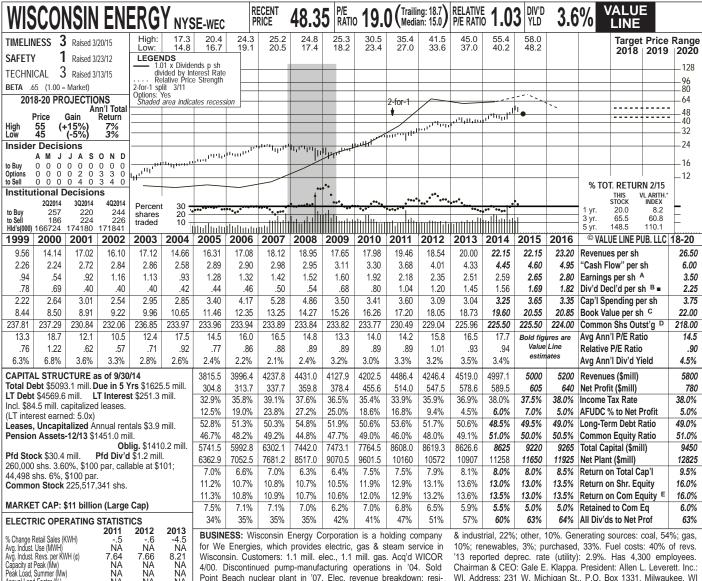
This timely stock's dividend yield (reflecting the estimated increase) is average for a utility. With the recent price near the upper end of our 2017-2019 Target Price Range, total return potential is nonexistent.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA January 30, 2015

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gain (loss) on disc. ops.: '05, (6¢); '06, 1¢; nonrec. gain: '12, 39¢ net. '12 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due mid-Feb. (B) Div'ds historically

paid in late Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd re- cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MT in '14 investment plan avail. † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd charges. In '13: none specified; in NE in '07: 10.4%; earned on \$17.34/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. avg. com. eq., '13: 9.6%. Regul. Climate: Avg. © 2015 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

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



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. Elec. revenue breakdown: residential, 36%; small commercial & industrial, 32%; large commercial

'13 reported deprec. rate (utility): 2.9%. Has 4,300 employees. Chairman & CEO: Gale E. Klappa. President: Allen L. Leverett. 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. (%)		336	377	414
ANNUAL RATES	Past	Past	Est'd	'11-'13
of change (per sh)	10 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	to '	18-'20
Revenues	1.5%	1.5%	o 4	4.5%
"Cash Flow"	3.5%	6.5%		6.0%
Earnings	8.0%	10.5%		6.0%
Dividends	12.0%	19.5%		9.0%
Book Value	7.0%	6.0%	,	3.0%

NA +.3

NA +.2

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

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2012	1191.2	944.7	1039.3	1071.2	4246.4
2013	1275.2	1012.3	1053.2	1178.3	4519.0
2014	1695.0	1043.7	1033.3	1225.1	4997.1
2015	1500	1100	1150	1250	5000
2016	1550	1150	1200	1300	5200
Cal-	EA	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.74	.51	.67	.43	2.35
2013	.76	.52	.60	.63	2.51
2014	.91	.58	.56	.53	2.59
2015	.77	.56	.68	.64	2.65
2016	.82	.59	.72	.67	2.80
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.26	.26	.26	.26	1.04
2012	.30	.30	.30	.30	1.20
2013	.34	.34	.3825	.3825	1.45
2014	.39	.39	.39	.39	1.56
2015	.4225				

Wisconsin Energy is seeking regulatory approval for its takeover of In**tegrys Energy.** The company would buy Integrys for \$4.4 billion in stock and \$1.5 billion in cash (which would be financed with debt). Integrys would fit well with Wisconsin Energy because it provides electric and gas service in the state, and would provide the company with gas service in Illinois and Minnesota. In addition, Wisconsin Energy would wind up with a 60% stake in American Transmission Company, up from 26% now. The acquisition requires the approval of the commissions in Wisconsin, İllinois, Michigan, and Minnesota, plus that of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The companies are targeting the second half of 2015 for completion of the deal. Wisconsin Energy would change its name to WEC Energy upon closing.

Management believes the combination would enhance the company's growth rate, now 4%-6%. Wisconsin Energy expects 5%-7% with the addition of Integrys. Wisconsin Energy shareholders (who saw an 8.3% dividend hike in early 2015) can expect another increase upon closing, so that Integrys shareholders can maintain their dividend income.

A rate order was issued in late 2014. Base electric rates will rise by \$43.2 million this year. Gas rates will rise by \$6.4 million in 2015 and \$21.4 million in 2016. Steam rates will climb by \$1.7 million this year. This should help Wisconsin Energy's profits improve in 2015. Note that our estimate of \$2.65 a share is below the company's guidance of \$2.67-\$2.77, which excludes merger-related costs that we include. Moreover, our estimates and projections will not include Integrys until the takeover has been completed.

We estimate higher earnings in 2016. Gas rate relief and modest volume growth should benefit the utility. Also, we assume no merger-related costs and a resumption of a share-repurchase plan in our forecast. Our profit estimate is \$2.80 a share.

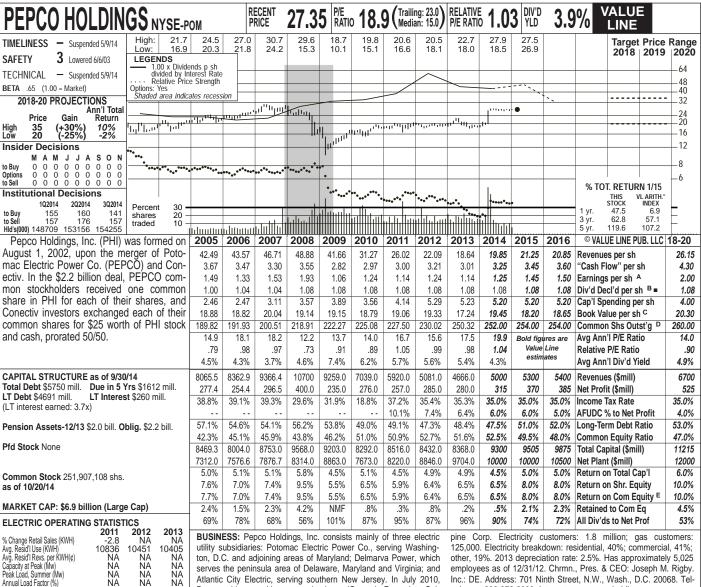
Top-quality Wisconsin Energy stock has a dividend yield that is about average for a utility. Total return potential to 2018-2020 is unspectacular, but our projections might well be raised with the addition of Integrys Paul E. Debbas, ČFA

(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¢. '14

EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early May. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd WI in '15: 10.2%-10.3%; earned on avg. com. reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '13: eq., '13: 13.6%. Regulat. Climate: Above Avg.

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

March 20, 2015



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 Calemployees as of 12/31/12. 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.

Fixed Charge Cov. (% 251 253 246 Est'd '12-'14 ANNUAL RATES Past Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '18-'20 of change (per sh) -13.5% -2.0% -6.0% 0.5% -6.5% -2.5% -4.0% 8.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" 2.5% 5.0% Earnings Dividends 8.0% Nil Book Value -1.0% NMF

+.7

+.3

+.6

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Cal-	QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	1292	1179	1476	1134	5081.0
2013	1178	1053	1344	1091	4666.0
2014	1330	1117	1313	1240	5000
2015	1350	1200	1500	1250	5300
2016	1350	1200	1550	1300	5400
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE AF				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.30	.27	.49	.18	1.24
2013	.24	.22	.44	.24	1.14
2014	.30	.21	.44	.30	1.25
2015	.30	.30	.55	.30	1.45
2016	.30	.30	.60	.30	1.50
Cal-	QUAR	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2012	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2013	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2014	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2015					

The takeover of Pepco Holdings by Exelon Corporation is making progress, though facing some opposition from environmental groups. The \$6.8 billion all-cash acquisition of Pepco Holdings by Chicago-based Exelon, which was announced in April of 2014, is moving toward completion. The proposed merger, in which shareholders of Pepco would receive \$27.25 a share received shareholder approval on September 23, 2014. Further, the transaction received the green light from the State Corporation Commission of Virginia in November. Since our last report, the takeover has received the approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and the commission in New Jersey. Although the merger is gaining momentum, it is still subject to approval by the public service commissions in Delaware, District of Columbia, and Maryland. Additionally, the union of the two companies has been facing some resistance from environmental advocates, and ratepayers in Pepco's service territory in Washington D.C. If all goes well, the companies expect the merger to be completed by the second or third quarter of 2015.

The approvals remain complex due to the size of the combined entity. Though the Pepco and Exelon union has moved closer towards completion, there is guarantee that the deal will go through. If the deal is endorsed, regulators could enforce conditions that might prove onerous, such as huge investments in renewable energy, or increased bill credits for customers. The conditions could prove to be an obstacle and cause Pepco and Exelon to walk away from the deal.

We are maintaining our share-net target for 2014. Our estimate of \$1.25 is at the high end of management's guidance for the year. Investors should note that fourth-quarter results were expected to be announced after this Issue went to press.

This stock remains unranked for Timeliness due to the proposed acqui**sition.** The stock has traded close to the deal price of \$27.25 per share since the announcement last April. We continue to suggest that investors sell their holdings at the current price to eliminate any downside risk in the event the deal does not go through. Saumya Ajila February 20, 2015

(A) Based on dil. shs. Excl. nonrecur. items: '03, d69¢; '04, 1¢; '05, 47¢; '06, d1¢; '08, 46¢; '10, 62¢ '13, 69¢. Next egs. rpt. due early May. (B) Div'ds paid in early March, June, Sep., and

Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan. (C) Incl. def'd chgs: '13, \$4.8 bill. or \$20.87/sh. **(D)** In mill. **(E)** Rate allowed in MD: 9.36% ('13-Pepco), 10.0% ('09-Delmarva); DC: 9.6% ('10-Pep.); DEL: 10.0%

('06-Del.); NJ: 9.75% ('13-ACE); Earned on '13 avg. com. eq., 6.5%. Reg. Clim.: Avg. (F) Qtrly egs. may not add due to chng. in shs

Company's Financial Strength B+ Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence 95 20 **Earnings Predictability**