

nessee, Texas, Virginia, & West Virginia. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 40%; commercial, 23%; industrial, 19%; wholesale, 15%; other, 3%. Sold SEEBOARD (British utility) '02; Houston

Chairman, President & CEO: Nicholas K. Akins. Incorporated: New York. Address: 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215-2373. Telephone: 614-716-1000. Internet: www.aep.com.

374 348 356 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 2.5% 4.5% 5.0% 4.5% 4.5% Revenues .5% 1.5% Cash Flow 2.5% 3.0% 3.0% 4.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value

NA

+.3

NA

+.3

Annual Load Factor (%)

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA NA

DOOK V	aiuc	7.0	/U T.	070	5.070
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2014	4648	4044	4302	4026	17020
2015	4580	3827	4431	3615	16453
2016	4045	3893	4652	3790	16380
2017	3933	3900		3800	16150
2018	4250	3950	4550	3850	16600
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	1.15	.80	1.01	.39	3.34
2015	1.27	.88	1.04	.41	3.59
2016	1.02	1.03	1.43	.76	4.23
2017	.96	.95	1.20	.49	3.60
2018	1.10	1.00	1.25	.50	3.85
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.47	.49	.49	.50	1.95
2014	.50	.50	.50	.53	2.03
2015	.53	.53	.53	.56	2.15
2016	.56	.56	.56	.59	2.27
2017	.59	.59			

American Electric Power is becoming an almost entirely regulated company. In recent years, unfavorable market conditions have made the nonregulated generating business much less profitable. Accordingly, last fall AEP took a large nonrecurring charge to write off its nonregulated generating assets in anticipation of exiting this business. In the first quarter of 2017, the company raised \$1.2 billion through the sale of some 5,200 megawatts of capacity and recorded a nonrecurring aftertax gain of \$127.1 million. AEP will use the proceeds to invest in its regulated operations and its contracted renewable-energy business. The company plans to close a 603-megawatt coal-fired plant by June 1, 2018, and has over 2,100 mw of nonutility generating capacity (almost all coal-fired) left that it will sell or shut.

Earnings are likely to decline this year. The aforementioned asset sale was strategically desirable, but will hurt ongoing profits by more than \$0.30 a share this year. In addition, the weather conditions were favorable for AEP last year, but unfavorable in the first quarter of 2017. Our share-earnings estimate is within management's targeted range of \$3.55-\$3.75.

The company is becoming more active in the regulatory arena. SWEPCO filed in Texas for a \$69 million rate hike, based on a 10% return on a 48.5% commonequity ratio. Indiana-Michigan asked the Michigan commission for an increase of \$52 million, based on a 10.6% return on a 46.4% common-equity ratio. Kentucky Power and Public Service of Oklahoma plan to file rate applications soon.

We forecast a 7% earnings increase in

2018. Rate relief should help. Ongoing investment in AEP's transmission business is another source of growth. And the comadd contracted continues to renewable-energy projects. Our share-net estimate is at the midpoint of the company's guidance of \$3.75-\$3.95. AEP's goal is for annual profit growth of 5%-7%.

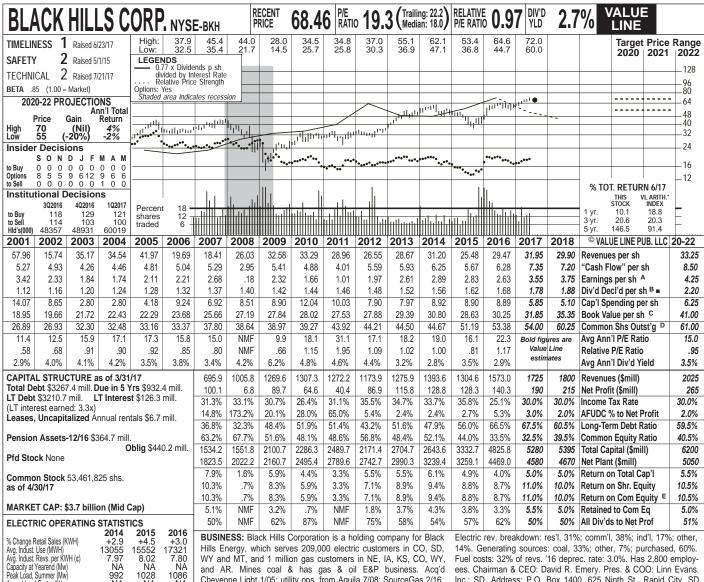
This timely stock has a dividend yield that is about equal to the industry mean. However, with the recent price near the upper end of our 2020-2022 Target Price Range, total return potential is low.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 16, 2017

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '03, (32¢); '04, 15¢; '05, 7¢; '06, 2¢; '08, 3¢; '15, | ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16: (\$1.92); '04, 24¢; '05, (62¢); '06, (20¢); '07, (20¢); '08, 40¢; '10, (7¢); '11, 89¢; '12, (38¢); rounding. Next egs. report due late July. Rates all'd on com. eq.: 9.65%-10.9%; earn. on '13, (14¢); '16, (\$2.99); '17, 24¢; disc. ops.: '03, | (B) Div'ds paid early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. | avg. com. eq., '16: 11.3%. Regul. Climate: Avg.

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

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WY and MT, and 1 million gas customers in NE, IA, KS, CO, WY, and AR. Mines coal & has gas & oil E&P business. Acq'd Cheyenne Light 1/05; utility ops. from Aquila 7/08; SourceGas 2/16. Discont. telecom in '05; oil marketing in '06; gas marketing in '11. Fuel costs: 32% of revs. '16 deprec. rate: 3.0%. Has 2,800 employees. Chairman & CEO: David R. Emery. Pres. & COO: Linn Evans. Inc.: SD. Address: P.O. Box 1400, 625 Ninth St., Rapid City, SD 57701. Tel.: 605-721-1700. Internet: www.blackhillscorp.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		357	324 236
ANNUAL RATES	Past		Est'd '14-'16
of change (per sh)	10 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	to '20-'22
Revenuës	-1.0%	-2.0%	2.5%
"Cash Flow"	2.5%	5.0%	6.0%
Earnings	3.5%	11.0%	7.5%
Dividends	2.5%	2.5%	5.0%
Book Value	2.5%	1.5%	5.5%

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

1028 NA +.9

1086 NA +.6

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2014	460.2	283.2	272.1	378.1	1393.6
2015	442.0	272.2	272.1	318.3	1304.6
2016	450.0	325.4	333.8	463.8	1573.0
2017	554.0	350	346	475	1725
2018	575	365	365	495	1800
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	1.08	.44	.60	.76	2.89
2015	1.07	.55	.58	.63	2.83
2016	.94	.31	.41	.97	2.63
2017	1.39	.56	.65	.95	3.55
2018	1.45	.60	.70	1.00	3.75
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.38	.38	.38	.38	1.52
2014	.39	.39	.39	.39	1.56
2015	.405	.405	.405	.405	1.62
2016	.42	.42	.42	.42	1.68
2017	.445	.445			

We estimate that Black Hills' earnings will rise significantly this year. In mid-February of 2016, the company acquired SourceGas, which provides gas utility service in four states. Black Hills incurred \$0.56 a share of merger-related expenses last year. These costs were just \$0.02 a share in the first quarter of 2017, and will most probably be very small over the remainder of the year. In addition, the utility benefited from a full quarter's worth of SourceGas' results in the first period this year, in what is the seasonally strongest time of year for a gas company. We have raised our 2017 share-earnings estimate by a nickel, to \$3.55, because the Marchquarter tally was above our estimate. Our revised estimate is at the midpoint of the company's targeted range of \$3.45-\$3.65.

We forecast a solid profit increase in 2018. Black Hills should benefit from modest utility growth and synergies effected from the SourceGas purchase. We figure that the losses at the gas and oil exploration and production unit will diminish as Black Hills continues to lessen its exposure to this business. Our earnings estimate of \$3.75 a share would produce a bottom-line gain of 6%.

The utility has appealed a disappointing rate order in Colorado. Black Hills requested an \$8.9 million electric rate hike, but was granted just \$1.2 million. Its request for reconsideration or a rehearing was rejected. If the company's appeal is successful, the case will be remanded back to the commission for rehearing.

Black Hills will likely make another attempt to obtain permission to place natural gas reserves in the rate base. The company believes this would provide long-term price stability for its gas utility customers, besides enhancing the utility's earning power. Black Hills would retain some of its gas properties for this purpose, and is in talks with another producer to create a joint venture using that company's assets. The company's first try with the regulators was unsuccessful last year. Filings are anticipated later this quarter.

This timely stock lacks appeal for the **3- to 5-year period.** With the recent quotation near the top end of our Target Price Range, total return potential is minuscule. The yield is subpar for a utility, too. Paul E. Debbas, CFA July 28, 2017 July 28, 2017

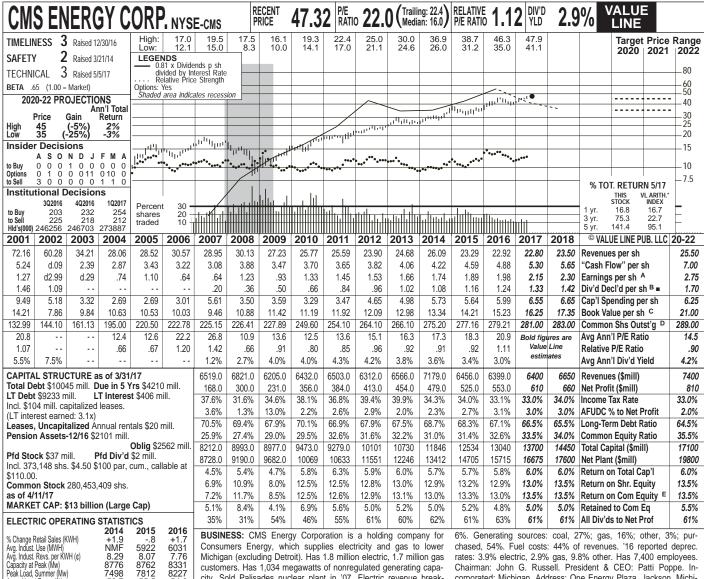
(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '08, (\$1.55); '09, (28¢); '10, 10¢; '12, 4¢; '15, (\$3.54); '16, (\$1.26); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '06, 21¢; '07, (4¢); '08, \$4.12; '09, 7¢; '11,

23¢; '12, (16¢). '14 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next egs. due early Aug. (B) Div'ds paid early Mar., Jun., Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd respectively. inv. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd chgs. In '16: com. eq., '16: 8.7%. Regulatory Climate: Avg. © 2017 Value Line, Inc. 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**

80

70



+.6 +.5 278 292 288 Past Est'd '14-'16 to '20-'22 -2.0% 3.5% 8.5% -1.5%1.0% 5.0% 8.5% 7.5% 6.5% 11.5% 4.5% 6.5% 6.5%

7812

8227

54.6

7498

Past

10 Yrs

3.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)

ANNUAL RATES

of change (per sh)

Revenues

Earnings

'Cash Flow

Book Value

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2014 1468 1758 7179.0 2523 1430 1486 2015 2111 1350 1509 6456 0 2016 1801 1371 1587 1640 6399.0 2017 1829 1371 1550 1650 6400 2018 1900 1450 1600 1700 6650 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2014 1.74 .75 .30 .35 .73 .25 .53 .38 2015 1.89 .45 .67 .28 1.98 2016 .59 71 .40 .60 .44 2.15 2017 .45 .80 .40 2018 .65 2.30 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec. 31 Year 2013 .255 255 1.02 2014 .27 .27 .27 .27 1.08 2015 .29 .29 .29 .29 1.16 2016 .31 .31 .31 .31 1.24 2017 .3325 .3325

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, 45%; commercial, 31%; industrial, 18%; other,

CMS Energy's utility subsidiary has filed an electric rate case. Consumers Energy is seeking an increase of \$173 million, based on a 10.5% return on equity. The utility will self-implement an interim rate hike at the start of October, with the final order from the Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) due by late March.

Consumers Energy is awaiting a decision on its gas rate application. The utility is seeking \$80 million, based on a 10.6% ROE. It self-implemented an increase of \$20 million in late January. The MPSC's staff recommended a hike of just \$6 million, based on a 9.5% ROE, and an administrative law judge proposed a boost of \$38 million, based on a 10.0% ROE. The MPSC's decision is due by the end of July. These rate cases are the last ones un-

der Michigan's previous regulatory law. Future applications will be decided within 10 months, with no implementation after six months.

Another matter is pending before the state commission. Consumers Energy is asking the MPSC to approve a \$172 million buyout of an above-market contract

rates: 3.9% electric, 2.9% gas, 9.8% other. Has 7,400 employees. Chairman: John G. Russell. President & CEO: Patti Poppe. Incorporated: Michigan. Address: One Energy Plaza, Jackson, Michigan 49201. Tel.: 517-788-0550. Internet: www.cmsenergy.com.

with Entergy, the owner of the Palisades nuclear plant in the state. The pact would terminate in 2018 instead of 2022. The utility would finance the payment by issuing securitized bonds. It expects a ruling from the MPSC by the end of August.

CMS Energy has produced steady earnings growth for the past several years, and we think this will continue in 2017 and 2018. Rate relief and modest demand growth should be factors in each year. Reductions in operating and maintenance expenses should offset the effects of regulatory lag. CMS Energy is also refinancing debt. Our 2017 estimate is within management's targeted range of \$2.14-\$2.18 a share. Our 2018 profit forecast of \$2.30 a share would produce a 7% bottomline increase, which is the midpoint of CMS Energy's annual 6%-8% goal.

We think this equity is expensively **priced.** The share price has risen 14% so far this year, without an apparent catalyst for such a move. The dividend yield is low for a utility. Finally, the recent quotation is above our 2020-2022 Target Price Range

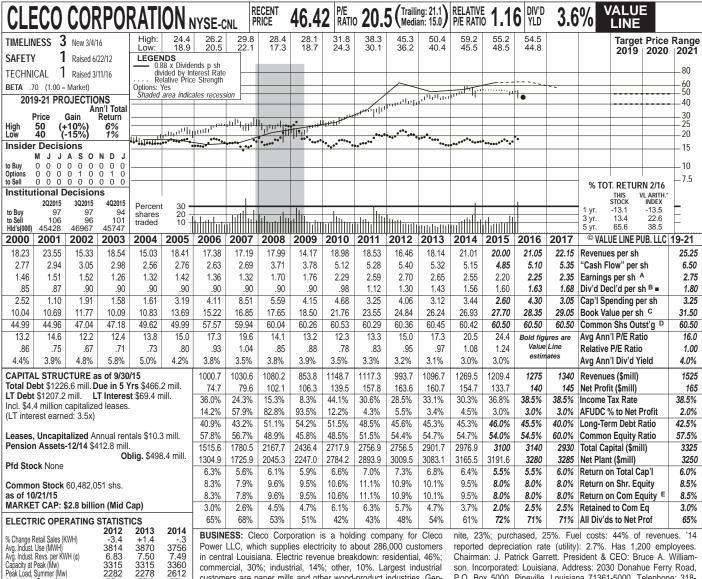
Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 16, 2017

(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¢, '16 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due late July. (B) Div'ds historically paid late Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail.

(C) Incl. intang. In '16: \$7.49/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '17: 10.1%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 13.5%. Regulatory Climate: Average

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



in central Louisiana. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 46%; commercial, 30%; industrial, 14%; other, 10%. Largest industrial customers are paper mills and other wood-product industries. Generating sources: gas & oil, 26%; petroleum coke, 26%; coal & lig-The Louisiana Public Service Com-

Chairman: J. Patrick Garrett. President & CEO: Bruce A. Williamson. Incorporated: Louisiana. Address: 2030 Donahue Ferry Road, P.O. Box 5000, Pineville, Louisiana 71361-5000. Telephone: 318-484-7400. Internet: www.cleco.com

380 326 360 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '12-'14 to '19-'21 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 2.5% 9.5% 10.5% 9.5% 8.0% Revenues 1.5% 4.5% 3.0% .5% 3.5% 3.0% Cash Flow 6.5% 7.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (avg.)

2282

+.6

3360

2612 57.1

+.5

57.0

+.6

Cal-			VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	240.9	263.9	328.8	263.1	1096.7
2014	284.4	309.1	371.4	304.6	1269.5
2015	295.4	289.1	345.5	279.4	1209.4
2016	305	310	355	305	1275
2017	320	325	375	320	1340
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.45	.69	1.09	.41	2.65
2014	.43	.60	1.17	.35	2.55
2015	.44	.50	.90	.36	2.20
2016	.35	.55	1.00	.35	2.25
2017	.40	.57	1.03	.35	2.35
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012 2013 2014	.3125 .3375 .3625		.3375 .3625 .40	.3375 .3625 .40	1.30 1.43 1.56
2015 2016	.40 .40	.40	.40	.40	1.60

(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¢.

mission (LPSC) rejected the proposed acquisition of Cleco. An investor group led by Macquarie Infrastructure Partners and British Columbia Energy agreed to pay \$55.37 a share in cash for each share of Cleco. However, some intervenors opposed the transaction, and the LPSC did not approve it. Whether the objection was more related to foreign ownership or the specific deal is uncertain.

The companies have not given up. They asked the LPSC for an immediate rehearing, and requested placement on the LPSC's Supplemental Agenda for its meeting on March 16th (in between the time this report went to press and the time it came out in print). If the companies' request proves unsuccessful, they can seek relief in the courts. However.

The stock is trading as though the deal is already dead. Due to the LPSC's rejection of the proposed combination, the share price of Cleco is down 11% year to date, in what has been a good year for most utility equities. Because the stock is no longer trading on takeover considerations, we restored its Timeliness rank.

We estimate that earnings will advance this year and next. In 2015, costs associated with the proposed acquisition (included in our earnings presentation) reduced profits by \$0.08 a share. We figure that these expenses will be lower this year, and nonexistent in 2017. In addition, the utility benefits from a formula ratemaking plan that provides some additional revenues every year without having to file a general rate case. Note that Cleco has not provided earnings guidance for 2016, nor has it stated any expectation for the dividend.

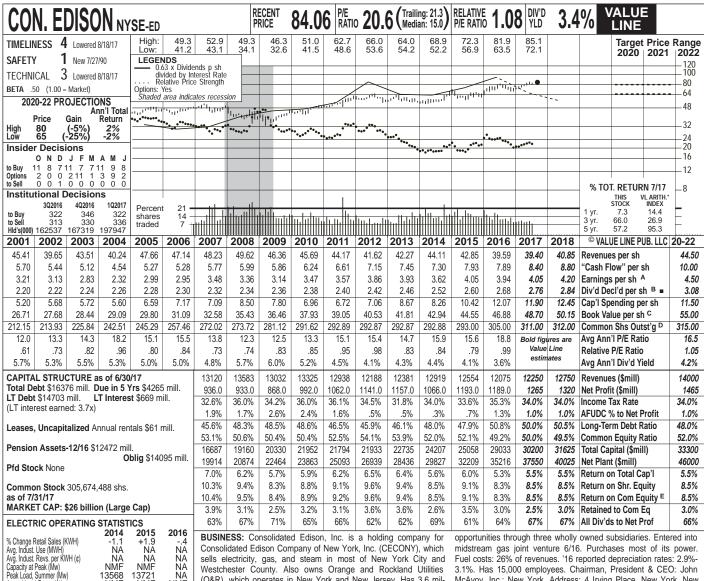
If the deal is terminated, we think there is a chance of a dividend increase in the second quarter. The board of directors has not raised the disbursement while the attempted takeover was pending. We look for an increase of a cent a share (2.5%) in the quarterly payout at the first dividend meeting following the termination of the proposed acquisition.

The dividend yield of Cleco stock is about equal to the mean for electric utilities. Total return potential over the 3- to 5-year period is unimpressive. Paul E. Debbas, CFA March March 18, 2016

'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 that the date in the part of the part

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence

Earnings Predictability 80



Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (CECONY), which sells electricity, gas, and steam in most of New York City and Westchester County. Also owns Orange and Rockland Utilities (O&R), which operates in New York and New Jersey. Has 3.6 million electric, 1.2 million gas customers. Pursues competitive energy

midstream gas joint venture 6/16. Purchases most of its power. Fuel costs: 26% of revenues. '16 reported depreciation rates: 2.9%-3.1%. Has 15,000 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

370 352 366 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues -.5% -1.5%1.0% Cash Flow 4.5% 3.5% 4.5% 4.5% 2.5% Earnings 3.0% 3.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

13568

NMF

NA

NΑ

NA NMF

NΑ

NMF

13721

NMF

NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2014	3789	2911	3390	2829	12919
2015	3616	2788	3443	2707	12554
2016	3157	2794	3417	2707	12075
2017	3228	2633	3500	2889	12250
2018	3400	2900	3550	2900	12750
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	1.23	.63	1.49	.28	3.62
2015	1.26	.74	1.45	.60	4.05
2016	1.05	.77	1.47	.64	3.94
2017	1.27	.57	1.55	.66	4.05
2018	1.30	.63	1.60	.67	4.20
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.615	.615	.615	.615	2.46
2014	.63	.63	.63	.63	2.52
2015	.65	.65	.65	.65	2.60
2016	.67	.67	.67	.67	2.68
2017	.69	.69			

that Consolidated estimate Edison's earnings will increase modestly this year and next. The company's largest utility subsidiary, Consolidated Edison Company of New York, is benefiting from electric and gas rate hikes each year from 2017 through 2019. CECONY received an electric increase of \$194.6 million (2.6%) at the start of 2017. In 2018, electric tariffs will rise \$155.3 million (2.0%). In 2019, the increase will be \$155.2 million (1.9%). The utility's gas rates were reduced by \$5.4 million in 2017, but will advance by \$92.3 million (5.6%) next year and \$89.4 million (5.1%) in 2019. But rate relief isn't the only source of profit growth for the company. It continues to benefit from customer conversions from oil heat to gas heat. Profits from ConEd's renewable energy subsidiary are rising as the company expands the number of megawatts in operation. As of mid-2017, it had 1,133 mw of solar and wind capacity in operation, and another 398 mw under construction. The transmission subsidiary is increasing its contribution, as well. ConEd entered into a midstream gas joint venture in June of 2016.

Upon releasing second-quarter results, management narrowed its earnings guidance. ConEd now expects 2017 profits to wind up in a range of \$4.00-\$4.15 a share; its previous target was \$3.95-\$4.15. We are sticking with our estimate of \$4.05 a share. Note, however, that mark-to-market gains accounting losses, which arise from ConEd's renewable energy business, can skew earnings comparisons.

Finances are strong. ConEd's fixedcharge coverage and common-equity ratio are healthy. In fact, this ratio will benefit from the upcoming issuance of more than four million shares. The company merits a Financial Strength rating of A+, and its stock is ranked 1 (Highest) for Safety.

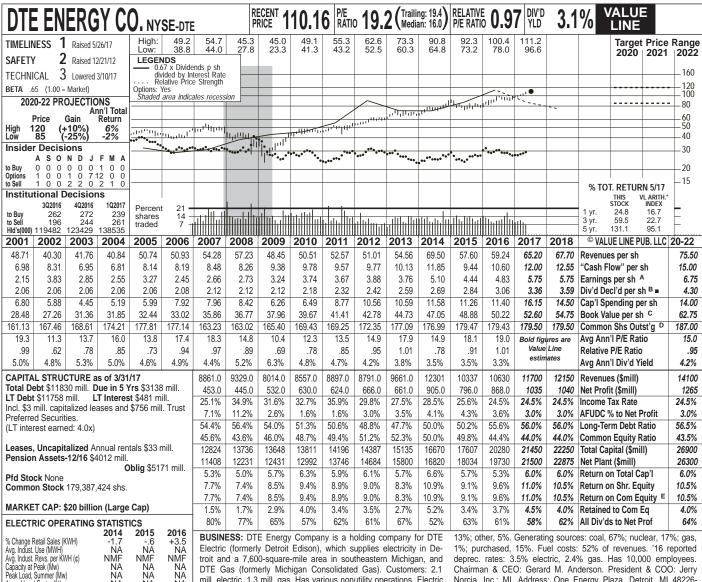
The recent price of this untimely equity is above our 2020-2022 Target Price Range. ConEd is not unique among utility issues in this regard, as many stocks in this industry are expensively priced. The dividend yield does not stand out among utilities, and 3- to 5-year total return potential is zero. Accordingly, better selections are available elsewhere Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 18, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '02, (11¢); '03, (45¢); '13, (32¢); '14, 9¢; '16, 15¢; gain on discontinued operations: '08, \$1.01. '14 & '16 EPS don't sum due to round-

avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16: \$25.29/sh. (D) In Regulatory Climate: Below Average.

ing. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) mill. (E) Rate base: net orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. for CECONY in '17: 9.0%; O&R in Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan '15: 9.0%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 8.6%.

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



DTE Gas (formerly Michigan Consolidated Gas). Customers: 2.1 mill. electric, 1.3 mill. gas. Has various nonutility operations. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 48%; commercial, 34%; industrial,

Chairman & CEO: Gerard M. Anderson. President & COO: Jerry Norcia. Inc.: MI. Address: One Energy Plaza, Detroit, MI 48226-1279. Tel.: 313-235-4000. Internet: www.dteenergy.com

357 279 300 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 4.0% 2.0% 6.0% 5.5% 4.0% 2.5% 3.5% 5.5% Revenues 3.5% 'Cash Flow' 6.0% 6.0% 7.0% 4.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 4.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA NA

NA NA

NA

NA NA

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	3930	2698	2595	3078	12301
2015	2984	2268	2598	2487	10337
2016	2566	2262	2928	2874	10630
2017	3236	2450	3014	3000	11700
2018	3250	2600	3150	3150	12150
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	1.84	.70	.88	1.68	5.10
2015	1.53	.61	1.47	.83	4.44
2016	1.37	.84	1.88	.73	4.83
2017	2.23	.92	1.50	1.10	5.75
2018	1.90	1.00	1.65	1.20	5.75
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.62	.62	.655	.655	2.55
2014	.655	.655	.655	.69	2.66
2015	.69	.69	.69	.73	2.80
2016	.73	.73	.73	.77	2.96
2017	.825	.825			

DTE Energy's electric utility subsidiary has filed a general rate case. DTE Electric expects to file applications annually through 2018, and possibly beyond then. The utility is seeking an increase of \$231 million, based on a 10.5% return on equity. It expects to self-implement an interim hike in November, with a final order due in April of 2018. This was the last case filed under Michigan's previous regulatory law. Subsequent petitions will be decided within 10 months, rather than 12, but without the self-implementation provision. As for DTE Gas, it expects to file a rate case in the next one to two years.

We have raised our 2017 earnings estimate by \$0.45 a share, despite unfavorable weather in the first quarter. The company's service area experienced a milder-than-normal winter — except for severe storms that hurt net income by \$20 million. Even so, rate relief and effective cost control helped, and should be positive factors in the remainder of 2017 and in 2018, as well. Note that we include markto-market accounting gains or losses in our earnings presentation because these are an ongoing part of DTE Energy's results.

This hurt the bottom line by \$0.39 a share last year, but boosted profits by \$0.44 a share in the March period. This is why our estimate of \$5.75 a share is above the company's targeted range of \$5.15-\$5.46. We forecast flat share net in 2018 because the first-quarter comparison will be difficult. Nonutility operations are contributing to DTE Energy's profit growth, too. The company is expanding its gas transportation and storage segment. It made an acquisition last year, and plans to build some infrastructure. A 50% stake in the NEXUS project (a \$1 billion investment) between Michigan and Ohio, with a target of late 2017, awaits the approval of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. Even if this is delayed, DTE Energy will be able to collect the allowance for funds used construction, a noncash credit to income, to offset the effect of the delay. Timely DTE Energy stock has a dividend yield that is about equal to the utility average. Like most utility equities, the recent price is within our 2020-2022 Target Price Range, so total return potential is unimpressive.

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '03, (16¢); '05, (2¢); '06, 1¢; '07, \$1.96; '08, 50¢; '11, 51¢; '15, (39¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '03, 40¢; '04, (6¢); '05, (20¢); '06,

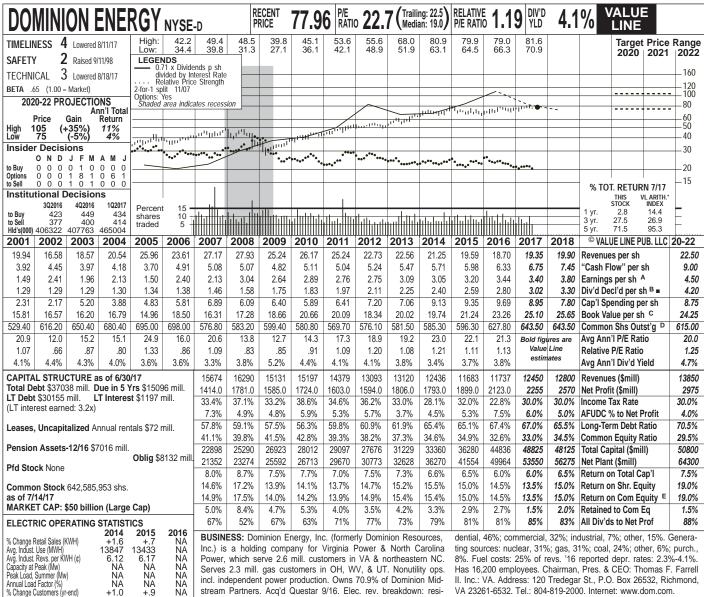
(2¢); '07, \$1.20; '08, 13¢; '12, (33¢). '16 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next egs report due late July. (B) Div'ds paid in mid-Jan., Apr., July and Oct. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. in '17: 10.1% elec.; in '16: 10.1% gas; earn. on avg. com. eq., '16: 4.9%. Reg. Clim.: Avg.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA

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

June 16, 2017

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Inc.) is a holding company for Virginia Power & North Carolina Power, which serve 2.6 mill. customers in VA & northeastern NC. Serves 2.3 mill. gas customers in OH, WV, & UT. Nonutility ops. incl. independent power production. Owns 70.9% of Dominion Midstream Partners. Acq'd Questar 9/16. Elec. rev. breakdown: resi-

ting sources: nuclear, 31%; gas, 31%; coal, 24%; other, 6%; purch. 8%. Fuel costs: 25% of revs. '16 reported depr. rates: 2.3%-4.1%. Has 16,200 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

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		266	352	310
ANNUAL RATES	Past	Past		'14-'16
of change (per sh)	10 Yrs.	5 Yrs.		20-'22
Revenues	-1.5%	-5.0%		2.0%
"Cash Flow"	3.5%	4.0%		7.0%
Earnings	5.0%	3.0%	6 8	5.5%
Dividends	7.0%	7.0%		3.5%
Book Value	2.5%	1.5%	6 2	2.0%

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

NA

+1.0

NA

NA +.9

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30`	Dec.31	Year
2014	3630	2813	3050	2943	12436
2015	3409	2747	2971	2556	11683
2016	2921	2598	3132	3086	11737
2017	3384	2813	3150	3103	12450
2018	3500	2900	3250	3150	12800
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	1.03	.60	.95	.47	3.05
2015	.91	.70	1.00	.59	3.20
2016	.88	.73	1.10	.73	3.44
2017	1.01	.62	1.02	.75	3.40
2018	1.05	.80	1.10	.85	3.80
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.562	.562	.563	.563	2.25
2014	.60	.60	.60	.60	2.40
2015	.647	.647	.648	.648	2.59
2016	.70	.70	.70	.70	2.80
2017	.755	.755			

We think Dominion Energy's share profits will decline modestly in 2017. (The company changed its name from Dominion Resources; the stock's ticker symbol remains D.) Unfavorable weather conditions hurt earnings by \$0.10 a share in the first six months of 2017. The company is incurring integration expenses associated with its acquisition of Questar last September. Tax credits for solar investments are declining; this will hurt the year-to-year comparison by \$0.20 a share. The Millstone nonregulated nuclear plant in Connecticut is receiving lower prices for the power it is producing, and will have an additional refueling outage. Average shares outstanding are rising as Dominion issues common equity. Our earnings estimate is at the low end of management's

guidance of \$3.40-\$3.90 a share.

The company expects to increase earnings by at least 10% next year. The biggest factor is the conversion of the Cove Point liquefied natural gas terminal into an export facility. This project is on track for completion in late 2017, and will add an estimated \$0.40-\$0.45 a share to the bottom line in 2018. We forecast a 12%

increase, to \$3.80 a share. We are not assuming that Connecticut will pass legislation that would provide subsidies for Millstone, but such a move would be another positive factor for Dominion.

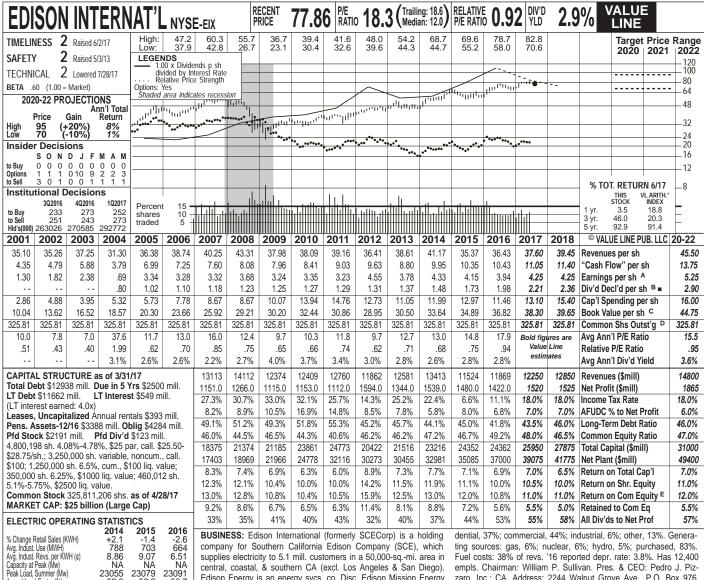
Some significant projects are in various stages of development. Virginia Power is building a 1,588-megawatt gasfired plant. This is expected to achieve commercial operation in late 2018 at a cost of \$1.3 billion. Dominion is a partner in a natural gas pipeline that is expected to be completed in late 2019. The capital spending on this project is expected at \$1.5 billion. The company plans to spend \$800 million a year on electric transmission for at least the next decade. Its long-term goal for profit growth is 6%-8% annually.

The untimely stock has an aboveaverage dividend yield, even by utility standards. Stockholders can look forward to strong dividend growth, thanks to the distributions Dominion receives from its interest in Dominion Midstream Partners, a gas master limited partnership. Total return potential over the 3- to 5-year period is superior to that of most utility equities. Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 18, 2017

(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 avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16: \$15.12/sh. (D) In & '15 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next egs. due early Nov. (B) Div'ds histor. paid in midadi, adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost, adj. Rate all'd on com. eq. in '11: 10.9%; earn. Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan on avg. com. eq., '16: 15.8%. Reg. Clim.: Avg.

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



supplies electricity to 5.1 mill. customers in a 50,000-sq.-mi. area in central, coastal, & southern CA (excl. Los Angeles & San Diego). Edison Energy is an energy svcs. co. Disc. Edison Mission Energy (independent power producer) in '12. Elec. rev. breakdown: resi-

Fuel costs: 38% of revs. '16 reported depr. rate: 3.8%. Has 12,400 empls. Chairman: William P. Sullivan. Pres. & CEO: Pedro J. Pizzaro. Inc.: CA. Address: 2244 Walnut Grove Ave., P.O. Box 976, Rosemead, CA 91770. Tel.: 626-302-2222. Web: www.edison.com.

306 247 246 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues .5% -.5% 3.0% 4.0% 5.0% 6.5% 2.5% 'Cash Flow' 5.5% 5.5% 5.0% 4.0% Earnings 9.0% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

23055 52.3

+.6

23091

50.7

+.5

23079

52.2

+.6

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	2926 2512 2440 2463 2600	3016 2908 2777 2950 3100	4356 3763 3767 3887 4050	3115 2341 2885 2950 3100	13413 11524 11869 12250 12850
Cal- endar			ER SHARI Sep.30		Full Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	.61 .91 .85 1.11 1.00	1.07 1.15 .86 .90	1.51 1.15 1.27 1.34 1.40	1.15 .94 .96 .90	4.33 4.15 3.94 4.25 4.25
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY DIV Jun.30	IDENDS P. Sep.30	AID B ■ Dec.31	Full Year
2013 2014 2015 2016 2017	.3375 .355 .4175 .48 .5425	.48	.3375 .355 .4175 .48	.3375 .355 .4175 .48	1.35 1.42 1.67 1.92

Edison International's utility subsidiary has a general rate case pending. Southern California Edison is seeking electric tariff hikes of \$196 million (2.5%) in 2018, \$480 million (3.8%) in 2019, and \$556 million (5.1%) in 2020. The utility plans capital spending of \$14.8 billion (including \$1.8 billion for grid modernization) over this three-year span. On the other hand, the California Public Utility Commission's (CPUC) Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA) is recommending a raise of just \$14 million next year, while an intervenor group is proposing an increase of \$129 million. The proposed grid modernization spending is new, compared with previous rate cases, and has been somewhat controversial, so far. Even if the CPUC's order comes after the end of 2017, it will be retroactive to the start of 2018.

The utility's cost-of-capital settlement was approved. This will lower SCE's allowed return on equity from 10.45% to 10.3%, effective in 2018 for a two-year span. We estimate that this will cut the utility's net profit by \$39 million annually. The company is still trying to resolve

a controversy over a regulatory settle-

ment pertaining to the shut Onofre nuclear station. In 2015, SCE thought it had resolved this issue, which resulted in nearly \$1.6 billion of refunds and credits for customers. However, the ORA and an intervenor complained about ex parte communications between the company and former CPUC commissioners. The parties have until August 15th to reach an agreement or put separate proposals before the CPUC. Additional refunds and/or credits cannot be ruled out.

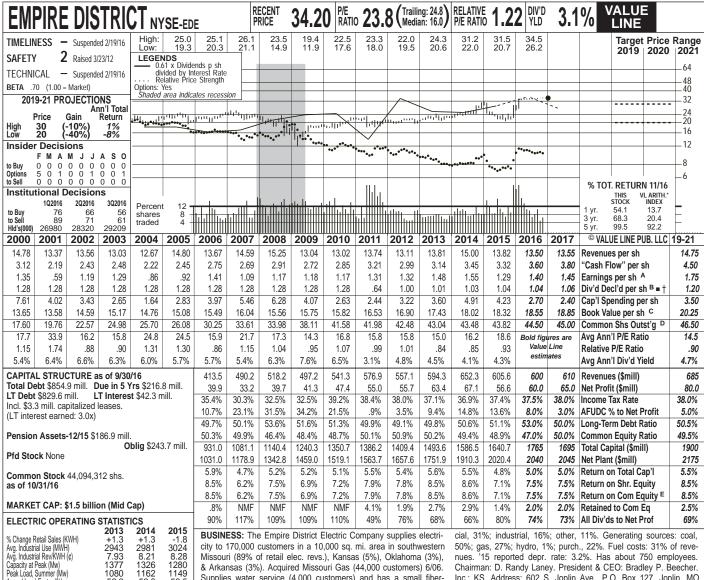
We look for higher earnings this year, but flat share net in 2018. This year, several things combined to make first-quarter profits higher than usual. This will make the comparison difficult in 2018. We assume reasonable treatment in the aforementioned general rate case, but a lowered allowed KOE will offset part of the effect of the rate hike.

This timely stock has a dividend yield that is somewhat below the utility mean. Edison International offers superior dividend growth prospects through 2020-2022, but total return potential is only about average for this industry. July 28, 2017 Paul E. Debbas, CFA

(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); '15, (\$1.18); gains (loss) from disc. ops.: '12, (\$5.11); '13,

11¢; '14, 57¢; '15, 11¢; '16, 3¢. '14 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due (E) Rate base: net orig. cost. Rate allowed on early Aug. (B) Div'ds paid late Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. eq., '16: 11.0%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

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



& Arkansas (3%). Acquired Missouri Gas (44,000 customers) 6/06. Supplies water service (4,000 customers) and has a small fiberoptics operation. Elec. rev. breakdown: residential, 42%; commer-

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.

shares on the open market. The recent

price of Empire District Electric stock is

above the buyout price. The Timeliness

rank of this equity remains suspended due

331 334 291 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '13-'15 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '19-'21 Revenues .5% .5% .5% 'Cash Flow' 3.5% 3.5% 3.0% 5.5% 3.5% Earnings 2.5% 2.0% Dividends Book Value

+.5

% Change Customers (avg.)

52.5

+.5

+.3

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2013	151.1	136.6	157.5	149.1	594.3
2014	179.7	149.8	171.5	151.3	652.3
2015	164.5	134.6	169.7	136.8	605.6
2016	151.3	139.3	175.4	134	600
2017	160	140	175	135	610
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.30	.27	.56	.35	1.48
2014	.48	.26	.55	.26	1.55
2015	.34	.15	.58	.23	1.29
2016	.32	.21	.62	.25	1.40
2017	.31	.26	.60	.28	1.45
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB≡†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.25	.25	.25	.25	1.00
2013	.25	.25	.25	.255	1.01
2014	.255	.255	.255	.26	1.03
2015	.26	.26	.26	.26	1.04
2016	.26	.26	.26	.26	

It appears as if the acquisition of **Empire District Electric Company** will be completed soon. Algonquin Power & Utilities, a Canadian company that already has some operations in the United States under the Liberty Utilities name, has agreed to pay \$34.00 in cash for each share of Empire District Electric. All shareholder and regulatory approvals have been received, except that of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). However, the companies have reached a settlement with the KCC's staff. As part of the agreement, Empire District Electric would withdraw its pending request for a \$6.4 million (25.7%) rate increase. Instead, the company would file for recovery of certain environmental costs through a rider on customers' bills. This would raise rates by \$1.2 million. A ruling from the KCC is due by January 10, 2017. If the regulators ap-prove the settlement—and there has been no significant opposition—the transaction is likely to be completed shortly thereafter. Accordingly, this might well be our last full-page report on Empire District Electric.

We advise stockholders to sell their

to the takeover agreement. Empire District Electric received a rate increase in Missouri. The Missouri Public Service Commission approved a settlement calling for a hike of \$20.4 million (4.5%), based on a return on equity in a range of 9.5%-9.9%. New tariffs took ef-

fect in mid-September. We expect higher earnings this year and next, despite the inclusion of merger-related expenses. Mergerrelated costs are expected to reduce the bottom line by \$0.10-\$0.12 a share in 2016. Even so, we think profits will wind up higher for the year because the effects of regulatory lag hurt earnings in 2015. In addition, Empire District Electric should benefit from rate relief in 2016 and 2017. Note that we have raised our 2016 earnings estimate by \$0.05 a share, to \$1.40, because a hotter-than-normal summer helped boost the bottom line in the third quarter.

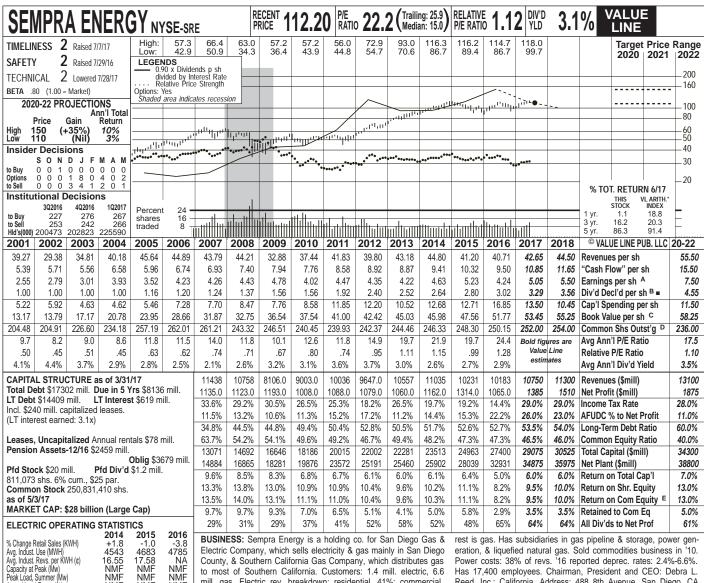
Paul E. Debbas, CFA December 16, 2016

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. loss from discontinued operations: '06, 2¢. '15 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Feb. (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 '15:

\$5.88/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Depred orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MO in '16: 9.5%-9.9%; earned on avg. com. eq., '15: 7.2%. Regulatory Climate: Below Average.

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



County, & Southern California Gas Company, which distributes gas to most of Southern California. Customers: 1.4 mill. electric, 6.6 mill. gas. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 41%; commercial, 42%; industrial, 10%; other, 7%. Purchases most of its power; the

Power costs: 38% of revs. '16 reported deprec. rates: 2.4%-6.6%. Has 17,400 employees. Chairman, President and CEO: Debra L Reed, Inc.: California, Address: 488 8th Avenue, San Diego, CA 92101. Tel.: 619-696-2000. Internet: www.sempra.com.

295 237 288 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 2.5% 4.0% 1.0% Revenues -.5% 4.5% Cash Flow 4.0% 2.0% 8.0% 8.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 11.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NMF

NMF

+.6

NMF

NMF

+.7

NMF NMF

NMF

+.6

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2014	2795	2678	2815	2747	11035
2015	2682	2367	2481	2701	10231
2016	2622	2156	2535	2870	10183
2017	3031	2250	2569	2900	10750
2018	3150	2400	2700	3050	11300
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.99	1.08	1.39	1.17	4.63
2015	1.74	1.03	.99	1.47	5.23
2016	1.61	.06	1.02	1.52	4.24
2017	1.75	1.00	1.00	1.30	5.05
2018	1.85	1.10	1.10	1.45	5.50
Cal-	QUART	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.60	.63	.63	.63	2.49
2014	.63	.66	.66	.66	2.61
2015	.66	.70	.70	.70	2.76
2016	.70	.755	.755	.755	2.97
2017	.755	.8225	.8225		

We estimate a substantial earnings increase for Sempra Energy in 2017. The comparison with the company's 2016 profit is easy, particularly in the June quarter. A year ago, Sempra recorded an aftertax charge of \$123 million for the early release of pipeline capacity for an asset it was selling. This is not the only reason for our optimism. Sempra's domestic utilities benefit from growth in their rate bases, and the South American utilities are experiencing volume growth that far exceeds that seen by electric companies in the United States. The company is expanding on the nonutility side of the business, especially in Mexico, where Sempra has made acquisitions and built pipelines. We have raised our share-earnings estimate by a nickel because the March-period tally was a bit above our expectation. Our revised estimate of \$5.05 a share is at the midpoint of management's guidance of \$4.85-\$5.25.

The company's domestic utilities have received an order regarding their cost of capital settlement. The allowed return on equity for San Diego Gas & Electric will be cut from 10.3% to 10.2%, and the allowed ROE for Southern California

will be trimmed from 10.1% 10.05%. The changes will take effect in 2018 and will remain in effect in 2019. The common-equity ratio will remain at 52%.

We forecast solid profit growth in 2018. The slight reduction in the domestic utilities' allowed ROEs (assuming the aforementioned settlement is approved by the California regulators) will hurt, but should be easily outweighed by a continuation of the positive factors boosting Sempra's bottom line this year. Our estimate is within the company's targeted range of \$5.30-\$5.80 a share.

Earnings growth should accelerate in **2019.** This is when a liquefied natural gas export facility (now under construction) is expected to begin contributing to income. Once the project is fully operating, its yearly income is projected at \$300 million-\$350 million, rising as debt is retired.

The dividend yield of this timely stock is a bit below the utility mean. However, the above-average earnings and dividend growth we project through 2020-2022 should produce a total return that exceeds most utilities.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA July 28, 2017

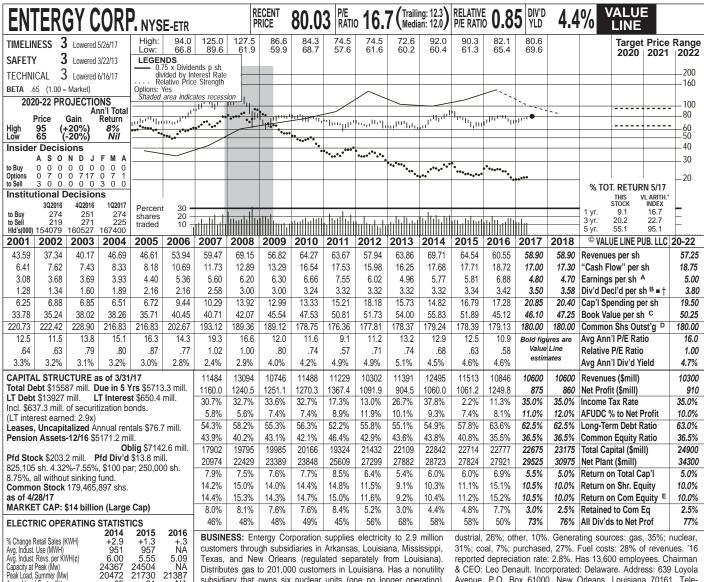
(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '05, 17¢; '06, (6¢); '09, (26¢); '10, (\$1.05); '11, \$1.15; '12, (98¢); '13, (30¢); '15, 14¢; '16, \$1.23; gain (losses) from disc. ops.: '05, (4¢);

'06, \$1.21; '07, (10¢). '14 & '16 EPS don't sum due to rounding or chg. in shs. Next egs. due early Aug. (B) Div'ds pd. mid-Jan., Apr., July, '13: 10.3%; SoCalGas in '13: 10.1%; earn. on Oct. Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In avg. com. eq., '16: 8.6%. Reg. Clim.: Avg.

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

95

85



customers through subsidiaries in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and New Orleans (regulated separately from Louisiana). Distributes gas to 201,000 customers in Louisiana. Has a nonutility subsidiary that owns six nuclear units (one no longer operating). Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 37%; commercial, 27%; in31%; coal, 7%; purchased, 27%. Fuel costs: 28% of revenues. '16 reported depreciation rate: 2.8%. Has 13,600 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.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		309	223	258
ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value	Past 10 Yrs. 3.0% 7.0% 3.0% 5.0% 3.0%	Past 5 Yrs. 1.0% 2.5% -2.0% 1.0% 1.0%	to % -	l '14-'16 '20-'22 2.0% .5% 3.5% 2.0% Nil

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

21387

ÑΑ

21730

+1.0

+.6

Cal-			VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	3208	2996	3458	2831	12494
2015	2920	2713	3371	2508	11513
2016	2610	2463	3125	2648	10846
2017	2588	2450	3100	2462	10600
2018	2550	2450	3100	2500	10600
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	А	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	2.27	1.09	1.68	.74	5.77
2015	1.65	.83	1.90	1.43	5.81
2016	1.28	3.16	2.16	.28	6.88
2017	.92	1.14	1.64	1.10	4.80
2018	1.00	1.10	1.60	1.00	4.70
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.83	.83	.83	.83	3.32
2014	.83	.83	.83	.83	3.32
2015	.83	.83	.83	.85	3.34
2016	.85	.85	.85	.87	3.42
2017	.87	.87			

Entergy is exiting almost all of its **nonregulated operations.** This strategic decision came in response to low market prices for the power produced by its non-regulated nuclear units, as well as rising nuclear operating costs. In 2014, the company closed the Vermont Yankee plant. This year, it sold FitzPatrick (in upstate New York) to Exelon. Entergy plans to close Palisades next year (if the buyout of a power contract is approved by the Michigan commission) and Pilgrim in Massachusetts in 2019. Finally, the company will shut in 2020 and 2021 the two Indian Point units, which have received much criticism from New York officials. These moves have forced Entergy to take significant nonrecurring charges in recent years, including one that amounted to \$0.46 a share (net of gains on the FitzPatrick sale) in the first quarter of 2017.

Earnings will almost certainly decline sharply in 2017, and we forecast a more modest drop in 2018. Last year, tax credits made Entergy's tax rate much lower than normal. Difficult conditions for the nonregulated business are also a concern. We think this will offset growth from the utility operations.

Entergy's utilities have some large capital projects in various stages of development. Entergy Louisiana is building a 980-megawatt gas-fired power plant at an expected cost of \$872 million. It is expected to go into service in 2019. A proposal for a similar facility, which would begin commercial operation in 2020, awaits regulatory approval. Entergy also wants to add generating capacity in its New Orleans and Texas jurisdictions. The new generating units will help the utilities meet rising demand from industrial customers, and will enhance Entergy's earning power. Finally, the company is seeking regulatory approval in each jurisdiction to build an advanced metering infrastructure. It has already received approval for this project in Mississippi.

This stock might interest income-oriented accounts. It has one of the highest yields of any utility issue, and the steps Entergy is taking with its nonregulated activities should reduce financial and operating risks. Total return potential to 2020-2022 is average for a utility.

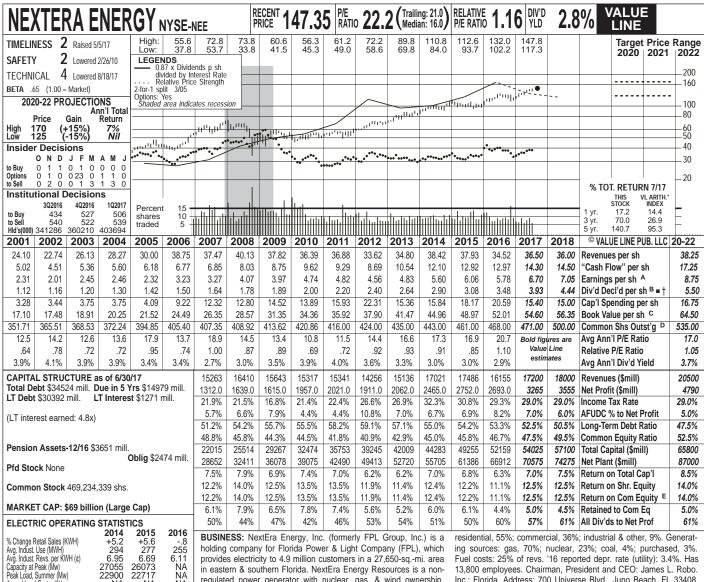
Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 16, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): due to rounding. Next earnings report due late '01, 15¢; '02, (\$1.04); '03, 33¢; '05, (21¢); '12, July. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., (\$1.26); '13, (\$1.14); '14, (56¢); '15, (\$6.99); June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd Regulatory Climate: Average.

due to rounding. Next earnings report due late July. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. • Div'd reinvest, plan avail. 10%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 12.8%.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 10 **Earnings Predictability** 65

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holding company for Florida Power & Light Company (FPL), which provides electricity to 4.9 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. Has a 79.9% stake in NextEra Energy Partners. Rev. breakdown:

ing sources: gas, 70%; nuclear, 23%; coal, 4%; purchased, 3%. Fuel costs: 25% of revs. '16 reported depr. rate (utility): 3.4%. Has 13,800 employees. Chairman, President and CEO: James L. Robo. Inc.: Florida. Address: 700 Universe Blvd., Juno Beach, FL 33408. Tel.: 561-694-4000. Internet: www.nexteraenergy.com

316 348 339 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues 1.5% .5% 'Cash Flow' 7.5% 8.0% 6.5% 5.0% 9.0% 7.5% 5.5% 7.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

6 95

27055

22900

NA +1.4

6 69

NA

+1.4

26073 22717

6.11

NΑ

NA

+1.3

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2014	3674	4029	4654	4664	17021
2015	4104	4358	4954	4070	17486
2016	3835	3817	4805	3698	16155
2017	3972	4404	4824	4000	17200
2018	4200	4600	5000	4200	18000
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.98	1.12	1.50	2.00	5.60
2015	1.45	1.59	1.93	1.10	6.06
2016	1.41	.93	1.62	1.82	5.78
2017	1.91	1.68	1.76	1.35	6.70
2018	1.85	1.90	1.90	1.40	7.05
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.66	.66	.66	.66	2.64
2014	.725	.725	.725	.725	2.90
2015	.77	.77	.77	.77	3.08
2016	.87	.87	.87	.87	3.48
2017	.9825	.9825			

NextEra Energy's earnings will probably increase in 2017 and 2018. Both the utility and nonutility sides of the business are growing. Florida Power & Light is benefiting from rate relief. The utility's tariffs were raised by \$400 million at the start of this year. Next year, FPL will receive a \$211 million rate hike. The utility is also benefiting from strong customer growth. And eight solar projects are under construction at FPL (as opposed to those at the nonutility level). On the nonutility side, NextEra Energy Resources is expanding its portfolio of contracted wind and solar projects. As of late July, the company had signed contracts for wind, solar, and wind repowering projects totaling more than 3,500 mw of capacity this year and next, and expects this figure to wind up as high as 8,000 mw by the end of 2018. But renewable energy is not this subsidiary's only area of focus. Two natural gas pipeline projects achieved commercial operation in mid-2017.

There is some uncertainty to our estimates. Our earnings presentation includes mark-to-market accounting gains or losses arising from NextEra's nonregu-

lated business. (We include these because they are an ongoing part of the company's operations.) These boosted earnings by \$0.04 a share in the first six months of 2017. NextEra's share-profit guidance of \$6.35-\$6.85 and \$6.80-\$7.30 for 2017 and 2018, respectively, excludes these items. Separately, NextEra contends that it is entitled to a \$275 million breakup fee from the owner of Oncor (a utility in Texas) because the Texas regulators rejected Next-Era's takeover agreement. We have not included this in our 2017 earnings estimate, but will include it in our earnings presentation if the company receives a breakup fee.

This timely stock has been one of the top performers among utility issues in **2017.** The price is up 23%. The market appreciates NextEra's steady performance in both sides of its business, as well as the company's good earnings and dividend growth potential. The dividend yield is a cut below the industry mean, and with the recent price within our 2020-2022 Target Price Range, total return potential is just modest.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 18, 2017

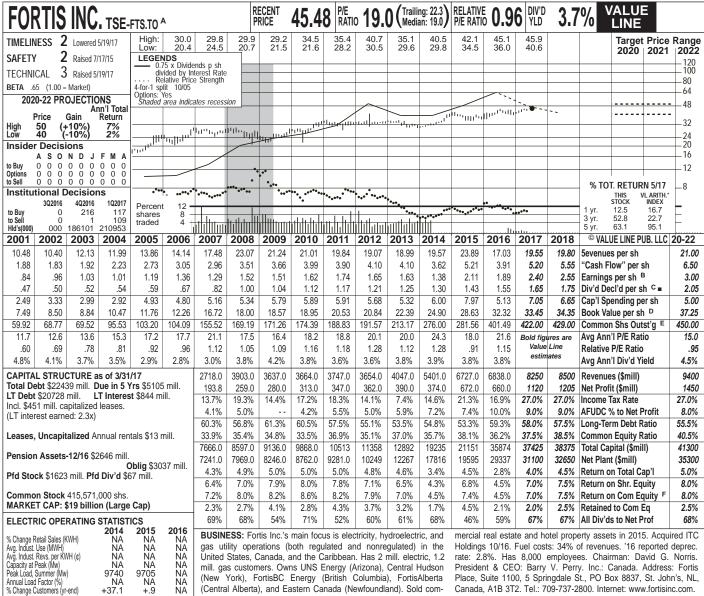
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '02, (60¢); '03, 5¢; '11, (24¢); '13, (80¢); '16, 47¢; 1Q '17, \$1.46; gain on discont. ops.: '13, 44¢. '15 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next

Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl.

earnings report due late Oct. **(B)** Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., mid-June, mid-Sept., & mid-Dec. **•** Div'd reinvestment plan avail. †

deferred charges. In '15: \$6.36/sh. **(D)** In mill., adj. for stock split. **(E)** Rate allowed on com. eq. in '17: 9.6%-11.6%; earned on avg. com. eq., '15: 12.9%. Regulatory Climate: Average

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 70 **Earnings Predictability** 65



United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Has 2 mill. electric, 1.2 mill. gas customers. Owns UNS Energy (Arizona), Central Hudson (New York), FortisBC Energy (British Columbia), FortisAlberta (Central Alberta), and Eastern Canada (Newfoundland). Sold com-

rate: 2.8%. Has 8,000 employees. Chairman: David G. Norris. President & CEO: Barry V. Perry. Inc.: Canada. Address: Fortis Place, Suite 1100, 5 Springdale St., PO Box 8837, St. John's, NL, Canada, A1B 3T2. Tel.: 709-737-2800. Internet: www.fortisinc.com.

173 141 195 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues 4.0% -.5% .5% 2.0% 2.0% 5.0% 8.0% 'Cash Flow' 5.0% 4.0% 7.5% 9.0% Earnings 6.0% 4.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

+37.1

ŇĂ

+.9

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2014	1455	1056	1197	1693	5401
2015	1915	1538	1566	1708	6727
2016	1772	1485	1528	2053	6838
2017	2274	1900	1926	2150	8250
2018	2350	1950	2000	2200	8500
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	В	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.66	.22	.06	.44	1.38
2015	.71	.43	.50	.48	2.11
2016	.57	.38	.45	.49	1.89
2017	.72	.48	.58	.62	2.40
2018	.75	.52	.62	.66	2.55
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID c =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013 2014	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2014	.32 .34	.32 .34	.32 .34	.32 .375	1.28 1.40
2016	.375	.375	.375	.40	1.53
2017	.40	.40	.010	.+0	1.00

Fortis has announced a significant acquisition. The company has agreed to pay Teck Resources C\$1.2 billion in cash for a two-thirds interest in the Waneta Dam (a 496-megawatt hydro project in British Columbia) and related transmission assets. Teck Metals would use Fortis' stake in the plant to produce power under a 20year lease agreement. Fortis plans to fund the purchase with a combination of debt, equity, and cash on hand at the time of closing, probably in a manner that keeps its capitalization ratios near where they are now. The deal requires various regulatory approvals, including that of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the United States. Completion of the transaction is expected in the fourth quarter. It should be accretive to earnings. We will not adjust our figures to reflect the acquisition until after it has closed.

Earnings are likely to improve mate**rially this year.** The comparison is easy. Last year, the costs that Fortis incurred as a result of its acquisition of ITC Holdings reduced profits by \$0.29 a share. Other unusual expenses amounted to \$0.10 a share. Fortis will also benefit from a full

year's contribution from ITC, compared with less than three months in 2016. On the regulatory front, the company's utility in Tucson, Arizona received an \$81.5 million rate increase in late February

We forecast additional bottom-line growth in 2018. ITC's earning power rises each year thanks to a federally regulated formula rate plan that accounts for expected capital spending and increases in most kinds of expenses. Fortis' Canadian utilities should benefit from rate base expansion.

Fortis has a good track record of dividend growth. The company boasts 43 consecutive years of annual hikes in the disbursement-the longest such streak of any public company in Canada. Fortis has set a goal of 6% average annual dividend growth through 2021. We think it will attain this target.

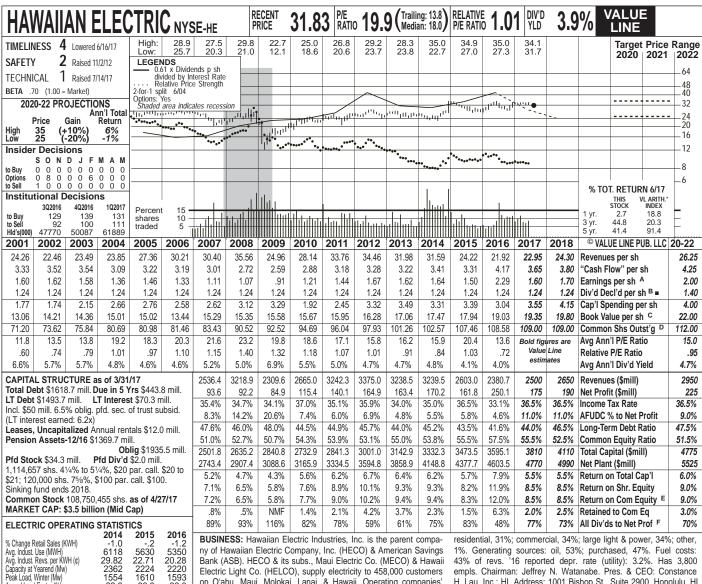
Timely Fortis stock has a dividend yield that is slightly above the utility average. However, like most utility issues, the recent price is within our 2020-2022 Target Price Range. Thus, total return potential is unspectacular. Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 16, 2017

(A) Also trades on NYSE under the symbol FTS. All data in Canadian dollars. (B) Dil. earnings. Excl. nonrec. gains: '06, 1¢; '07, 3¢; '14, 2¢; '15, 48¢. '15 EPS don't sum due to round-

ing. Next earnings report due late July. **(C)**Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June,
Sept., and Dec. • Div'd reinvest. plan avail.
(2% disc.). **(D)** Incl. intang. In '16: \$39.84/sh.

| (E) In mill., adj. for split. **(F)** Rate base: varies.
Rates all'd on com. eq.: 8.3%-10.32%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 6.2%. Regulat. Climate: (2% disc.). **(D)** Incl. intang. In '16: \$39.84/sh. © 2017 Value Line, Inc. 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 R+ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 75



Electric Light Co. (HELCO), supply electricity to 458,000 customers on O'ahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, & Hawaii. Operating companies' systems are not interconnected. Electric. revenue breakdown:

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

410 399 437 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 -2.0% 4.5% Revenues -.5% Nil 'Cash Flow' 2.5% 1.5% Earnings 2.5% 9.0% 2.0% 3.5% Dividends Book Value 2.5% 3.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

1554

+.8

1610

+.5

1593

66.6

+.5

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Full Year
2014	783.7	798.7	867.1	790.0	3239.5
2015	637.9	623.9	717.2	624.0	2603.0
2016	551.0	566.2	646.1	617.4	2380.7
2017	591.6	608.4	675	625	2500
2018	650	650	700	650	2650
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.45	.41	.46	.32	1.64
2015	.31	.33	.47	.39	1.50
2016	.30	.41	1.17	.41	2.29
2017	.31	.38	.51	.40	1.60
2018	.33	.41	.54	.42	1.70
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2014	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2015	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2016	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2017	.31	.31			

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

Two of Hawaiian Electric Industries' three utility subsidiaries have rate cases pending, and the third will file an application soon. HEI's largest utility, Hawaiian Electric Company, is seeking an increase of \$106.4 million (6.9%), based on a 10.6% return on a 57% commonequity ratio. Hawaii Electric Light Company is asking for a hike of \$19.3 million (6.5%), based on a 10.6% return on a 57.1% common-equity ratio. An interim order in the latter case is due in August, and one in the former case is due in November. HEI's other utility, Maui Electric Company, will file a petition in August, with an interim decision due in July of 2018.

The utilities have not been earning **adequate ROEs.** As a group, their ROE for the 12-month period that ended on March 31st was just 7.8%. Regulatory mechanisms designed to reduce the effects of regulatory lag have not been as beneficial as the company had hoped. Moreover, it is hard to ask for higher rates when the price of electricity in the Aloha State is already very high, which is one reason why the utilities went a few years without filing general rate cases.

We are concerned about the regulatory climate in Hawaii. Recent decisions in regulatory matters — most notably, the proposed takeover of HEI by NextEra Energy-have not gone well for the company. None of the three commissioners on the Public Utilities Commission was serving there when any of HEI's utilities last had a general rate case.

Earnings will almost certainly decline significantly in 2017. That's because HEI received a \$90 million (pretax) payment from NextEra in the third period of 2016 due to the termination of the takeover agreement. (Were this to be excluded, the company's 2016 earnings would have been \$1.75 a share.) Our 2017 estimate is within HEI's guidance of \$1.55-\$1.70 a share. Rate relief should help lift the bottom line in 2018. The company's American Savings Bank subsidiary is improving, too. We advise investors to look elsewhere. The stock is ranked unfavorably for Timeliness. Although the dividend yield is somewhat above the utility average, the lack of dividend growth and the subpar regulatory climate are negative factors. Paul E. Ďebbas, CFA July 28, 2017

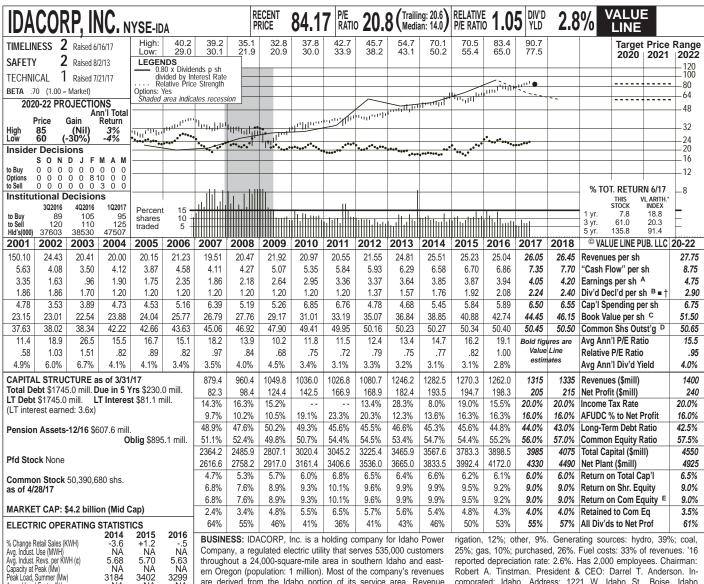
(B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16: \$9.57/sh. (D) In mill.,

lowed on com. eq. in '11: HECO, 10%; in '12: HELCO, 10%; in '13: MECO, 9%; earn. on avg. com. eq., '16: 12.4%. Regulat. Climate: Below adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Orig. cost. Rate al- Avg. (F) Excl. div'ds paid through reinv. plan. © 2017 Value Line, Inc. 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**

95

30



throughout a 24,000-square-mile area in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon (population: 1 million). Most of the company's revenues are derived from the Idaho portion of its service area. Revenue breakdown: residential, 41%; commercial, 24%; industrial, 14%; ir-

reported depreciation rate: 2.6%. Has 2,000 employees. Chairman: Robert A. Tinstman. President & CEO: Darrel T. Anderson. Incorporated: Idaho. Address: 1221 W. Idaho St., Boise, Idaho 83702. Telephone: 208-388-2200. Internet: www.idacorpinc.com other strong point for the company. Our

287 307 295 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 3.5% 4.5% 5.5% Revenues 2.0% 1.5% 'Cash Flow' 5.0% 7.0% Earnings 3.5% 7.0% 4.0% 10.0% 5.5% Dividends Book Value 5.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

3184

+1.4

3402

NA

+1.8

3299

+1.8

Cal-			VENUES(S		Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	292.7	317.8	382.2	289.8	1282.5
2015	279.4	336.3	369.2	285.4	1270.3
2016	281.0	315.4	372.0	293.6	1262.0
2017	302.5	327.5	385	300	1315
2018	310	330	390	305	1335
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.55	.89	1.73	.69	3.85
2015	.47	1.31	1.46	.63	3.87
2016	.51	1.12	1.65	.66	3.94
2017	.66	.97	1.85	.57	4.05
2018	.63	1.01	1.97	.59	4.20
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.38	.38	.38	.43	1.57
2014	.43	.43	.43	.47	1.76
2015	.47	.47	.47	.51	1.92
2016	.51	.51	.51	.55	2.08
2017	.55	.55			

utility **IDACORP's** subsidiary received a rate order related to its interest in the North Valmy coal-fired will plant. Idaho Power accelerate depreciation on the facility so that it will be fully depreciated by the end of 2025. At that point, it might be closed. The utility will recover this increased expense from customers, which will boost cash flow by \$13.3 million annually. As part of the order, \$70 million of North Valmy's capital costs that were incurred after the utility's last rate order, in 2011, will be placed in the rate base. This will not increase the company's earnings, but will lessen its use of accumulated deferred investment tax credits (see below) to augment its income.

We look for a 3% earnings increase this year and a 4% rise in 2018. Idaho Power is benefiting from rapid customer growth. For the 12-month period that ended on March 31st, the customer count rose 1.9%—well above average for an electric utility. Kilowatt-hour sales growth isn't as high as customer growth due to the effects of energy efficiency, but still exceeds 1% (when normalized for weather fluctuations). Effective cost control is an-

2017 earnings estimate is at the top end of IDACORP's guidance of \$3.90-\$4.05 a share.

A regulatory mechanism is available to stabilize earnings. Every year, Idaho Power may use up to \$25 million of these credits to bolster its income if its return on equity falls below 9.5%. In the first quarter of 2017, The utility booked these credits based on its assumption that it would need \$7.5 million this year, but it won't need as much thanks to the aforementioned rate order.

We expect a dividend increase at the September board meeting. IDACORP is targeting a 50%-60% payout ratio, and management intends to recommend to the directors annual hikes of 5% or more until the upper end of this range is reached. We estimate that the board will raise the quarterly disbursement by \$0.04 a share (7.3%), the same increase as a year ago.

This stock is timely. However, the dividend yield is below the industry mean, and the recent quotation is near the top end of our 2020-2022 Target Price Range. Paul E. Debbas, CFA July 28, 2017

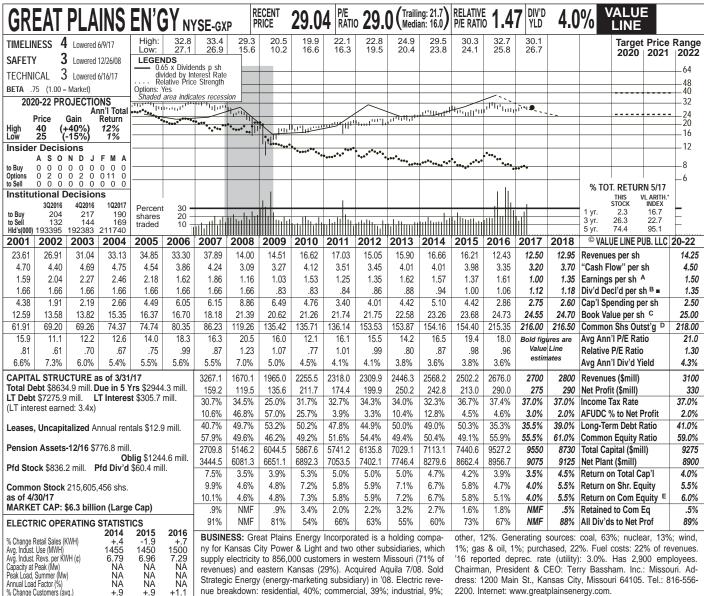
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gains (loss): '03, 26¢; '05, (24¢); '06, 17¢. '14 earnings don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds historically

'16: \$28.15/sh. (D) In millions. (E) Rate base: Above Average.

paid in late Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. • Div'd reinvestment plan available. † Shareholder investment plan available. (C) Incl. intangibles. In com. eq., '16: 9.4%. Regulatory Climate:

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

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nue breakdown: residential, 40%; commercial, 39%; industrial, 9%;

2200. Internet: www.greatplainsenergy.com.

261 254 307 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 -1.0% 1.0% 3.5% 3.5% 2.5% -7.5% -1.5% -3.0% Revenues -1.0%'Cash Flow' 3.0% Nil Earnings 5.0% 1.0% Dividends Book Value

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Full Year
2014	585.1	648.4	782.5	552.2	2568.2
2015	549.1	609.0	781.4	562.7	2502.2
2016	572.1	670.8	856.8	576.3	2676.0
2017	570.7	675	875	579.3	2700
2018	600	700	900	600	2800
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.15	.34	.95	.12	1.57
2015	.12	.28	.82	.15	1.37
2016	.17	.20	.86	.39	1.61
2017	d.11	.20	.80	.11	1.00
2018	.13	.25	.84	.13	1.35
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.2175	.2175	.2175	.23	.88
2014	.23	.23	.23	.245	.94
2015	.245	.245	.245	.2625	1.00
2016	.2625	.2625	.2625	.275	1.06
2017	.275	.275	0_0	0	

The Kansas Corporation Commission rejected Great Plains Energy's proposed acquisition of Westar Energy, but a deal isn't necessarily dead. Great Plains had agreed to pay \$8.6 billion (85% in cash, 15% in stock) for Westar, which owns utilities that serve more than 700,000 customers in Kansas. However, there was some opposition to the deal, and the KCC expressed concern about the high price Great Plains would have paid, the company's capital structure if the transaction went through, and the prospective benefits for customers. The KCC denied the companies' petition for reconsideration, so Great Plains is deciding whether to revise the terms of the agreement with Westar or proceed as a stand-alone entity. The proposed deal made earnings lower, and more unpredictable. Great Plains has already issued debt and equity in anticipation of closing the acquisition. The company is incurring merger-related costs and is recording mark-to-market accounting gains or losses resulting from an interest-rate swap. Note that our figures

are for Great Plains as a stand-alone

entity, and do not reflect the costs to un-

wind the deal (an estimated \$500 million. including a \$380 million breakup fee) if it doesn't go through.

Kansas City Power & Light received a rate order in Missouri. Effective May 28th, electric tariffs were raised \$32.5 million, based on a return of 9.5% on a common-equity ratio of 49.2%. Frequent regulatory activity is necessary to deal with the effects of regulatory lag, especially in Missouri, which lacks regulatory mechanism used in other states that track certain kinds of expenses or capital spending. Great Plains' utilities plan to put forth rate applications in each of their iurisdictions in 2018.

Will the hunter become the hunted? If Great Plains is unable to reach a revised deal with Westar, or a new merger attempt is rejected again, the possibility that another utility makes a bid for Great Plains cannot be ruled out. However, we advise against buying the untimely stock based on such a possibility. The dividend yield and 3- to 5-year total return potential are each above average for an electric utility

Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 16, 2017

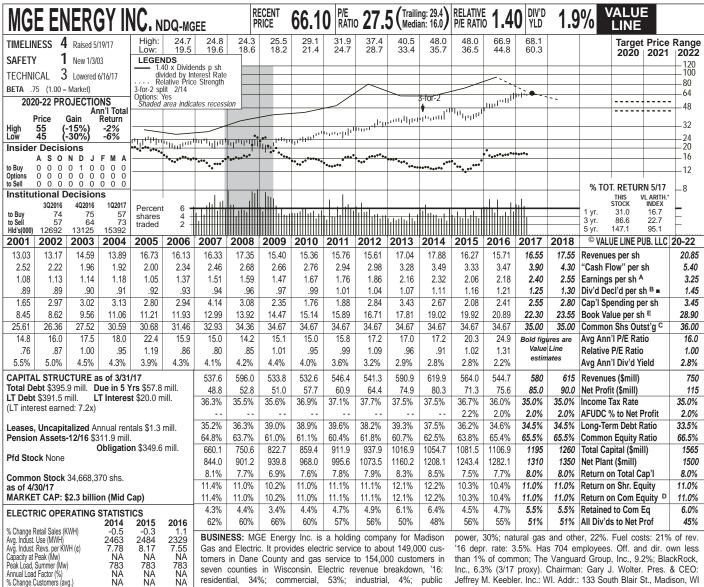
(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '01, (\$2.01); '02, (5¢); '03, 29¢; '04, (7¢); '09, 12¢; gain (losses) on disc. ops... '03, (13¢); '04, 10¢; '05, (3¢); '08, 35¢. '14 & '16

plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16: \$5.65/sh.

EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next egs. report due mid-Aug. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd reinv.

(D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Fair value. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MO in '17: 9.5%; in KS in '15: 9.3%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 6.7%. Regulatory Climate: MO, Below Avg.; KS, Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 95 Price Growth Persistence 15 **Earnings Predictability** 80



tomers in Dane County and gas service to 154,000 customers in seven counties in Wisconsin. Electric revenue breakdown, '16: residential, 34%; commercial, 53%; industrial, 4%; public authorities, 9%. Generating sources, '16: coal, 48%; purchased

than 1% of common; The Vanguard Group, Inc., 9.2%; BlackRock, Inc., 6.3% (3/17 proxy). Chairman: Gary J. Wolter. Pres. & CEO: Jeffrey M. Keebler. Inc.: WI. Addr.: 133 South Blair St., Madison, WI 53788. Tel.: 608-252-7000. Web: www.mgeenergy.com

Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 702 616 645 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '14-'16 Past Past to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. Revenues 4.0% 5.0% 6.0% 2.5% 6.0% 4.5% 6.0% 3.0% 5.5% 8.0% 7.0% 'Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value 4.0% 6.5%

NA

% Change Customers (avg.)

Cal-	QUAR		VENUES (\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31		Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	210.3	128.8	135.1	145.7	619.9
2015	170.1	122.1	140.8	131.0	564.0
2016	147.5	121.6	136.7	138.9	544.7
2017	156.8	130	145	148.2	580
2018	165	140	152	158	615
Cal-	EA		ER SHARI	E A	Full
endar	Mar.31		Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	.80 .53 .49 .56 .58	.41 .39 .47 .50	.67 .82 .80 .85	.44 .32 .42 .49 .53	2.32 2.06 2.18 2.40 2.55
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P.	AID B ■	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013 2014 2015 2016 2017	.2634 .2717 .2825 .2950 .3075	.2634 .2717 .2825 .2950 .3075	.2717 .2825 .2950 .3075	.2717 .2825 .2950 .3075	1.07 1.11 1.16 1.21

Shares of MGE Energy are trading near an all-time high. The stock has advanced nicely in price over the past couple of years. Earnings rebounded moderately in 2016, and the current year is shaping up to be a good one. The company posted moderate top-line growth for the March quarter. Earnings per share advanced roughly 14%, to \$0.56. Electric net income increased during the period, helped by lower fuel costs and savings from the company's ongoing efforts to control operating expenses. Gas net income was relatively flat year over year. Looking forward, we anticipate favorable comparisons for the coming quarters, and healthy growth in revenues and earnings for full-year 2017. MGE is seeking regulatory approval

to build its largest wind farm to date. It is looking to construct, own, and operate a 66-megawatt wind farm near Saratoga, Iowa. Assuming approval, construction of the project is expected to begin in early 2018, with an estimated capital cost of \$107 million.

Long-term prospects appear fairly good. MGE's utility businesses ought to further benefit from favorable

demographics in its service territories. Growth in the residential customer base will likely remain a performance driver. Measures to control costs should support profitability. All things considered, we look for moderate growth in revenues and earnings per share for the company over the pull to early next decade.

Investors should probably look elsewhere at this time. This stock is unfavorably ranked for year-ahead relative price performance. Looking further out, this equity lacks long-term total return potential, as the shares presently trade at a price-to-earnings multiple that is well in excess of their historical average. Also, the dividend yield is subpar for a utility.

A pullback in the stock price some time in the future may offer a more **attractive entry point.** The company has built a track record of fairly consistent bottom-line growth over the past decade, and we expect this pattern will continue in the coming years. MGE earns high marks for Safety, Financial Strength, Price Stability, and Earnings Predictability. Volatility is below average, as well. Michael Napoli, CFA June 16, 2017

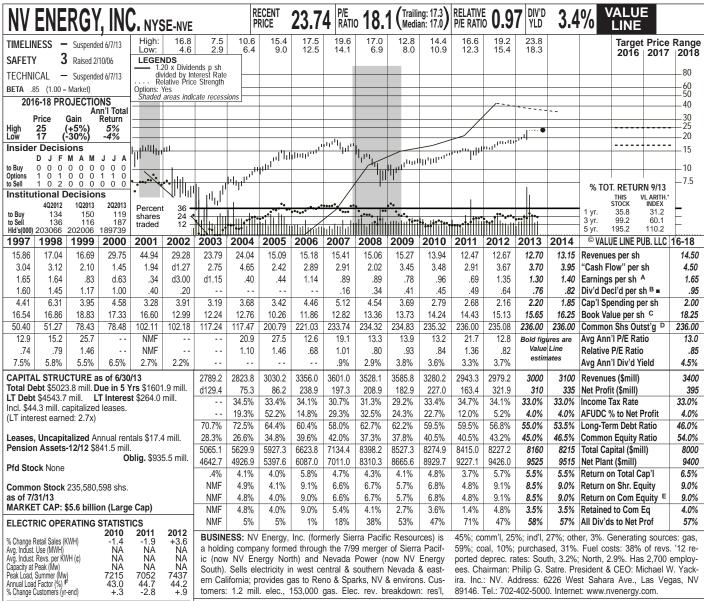
(A) Diluted earnings. Next earnings report due early August. (B) Dividends historically paid in mid-March, June, September, and December. ■ Dvd. reinvestment plan available. (C) In mil-

lions, adjusted for split. **(D)** Rate allowed on common equity in '16: 10.2%; earned on common equity, '16: 10.4%. Regulatory Climate:

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

90

70



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 .05 .08	.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

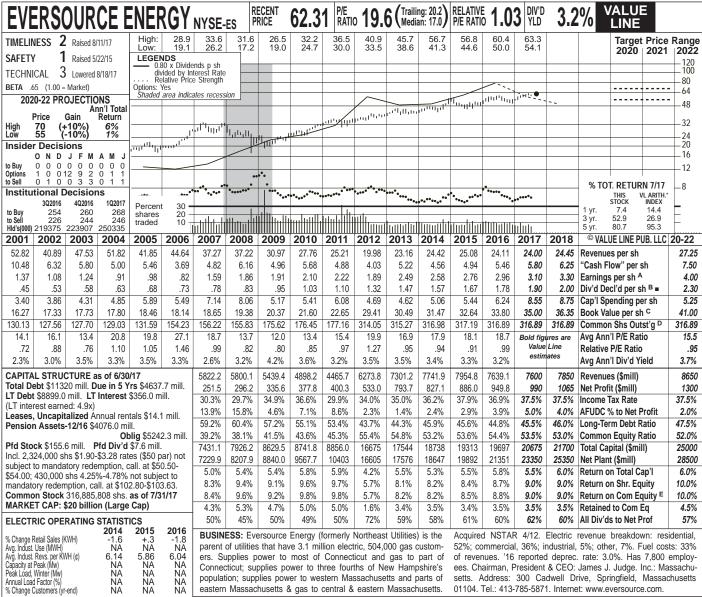
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '00, 8¢; '01, 31¢; '03, (5¢); '04, (3¢); non-rec. gain (loss): '04, (21¢); '06, 20¢. '11 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report

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



ers. Supplies power to most of Connecticut and gas to part of Connecticut; supplies power to three fourths of New Hampshire's population; supplies power to western Massachusetts and parts of eastern Massachusetts & gas to central & eastern Massachusetts.

of revenues. '16 reported deprec. rate: 3.0%. Has 7,800 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: James J. Judge. Inc.: Massachusetts. Address: 300 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, Massachusetts 01104. Tel.: 413-785-5871. Internet: www.eversource.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		426	447	436
ANNUAL RATES	Past	Past		'14-'16
of change (per sh)	10 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	to '	20-'22
Revenues	-6.0%	-2.5%		2.0%
"Cash Flow"	.5%	5%		7.0%
Earnings	12.0%	6.0%		6.5%
Dividends	9.5%	10.5%	5 5	5.5%
Book Value	6.0%	8.5%	5 4	1.0%

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

NA

NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2014	2290	1677	1892	1881	7741.9
2015	2513	1817	1933	1691	7954.8
2016	2056	1767	2040	1776	7639.1
2017	2105	1763	1932	1800	7600
2018	2200	1800	2000	1850	7850
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.74	.40	.74	.69	2.58
2015	.80	.65	.74	.57	2.76
2016	.77	.64	.83	.72	2.96
2017	.82	.72	.84	.72	3.10
2018	.90	.75	.90	.75	3.30
Cal-	QUAR1	ERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	(ID B ■	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.367	.367	.367	.367	1.47
2014	.393	.393	.393	.393	1.57
2015	.417	.417	.418	.418	1.67
2016	.445	.445	.445	.445	1.78
2017	.475	.475			

Eversource Energy has agreed to acquire a water utility. The company would pay \$880 million in cash for Aquarion Water, and would assume \$795 million of debt. Aquarion, owned by a partnership led by Macquarie Infrastructure Partners, serves about 230,000 customers in Connecticut (90% of its business), Massachusetts, and New Hampshire. This makes it a good fit geographically with Eversource's electric and gas operations. The deal requires approval of the regulatory commissions in the three states. It is expected to be completed by yearend. Eversource plans to finance the purchase with the proceeds from the sale of its generating assets in New Hampshire. Management believes the income from Aquarion will offset the lost earnings provided by the transmission assets. Our estimates and projections do not include Aquarion.

The company's utilities in Massachusetts have electric rate cases pending. Eversource's utilities in the eastern and western parts of the state (which want to combine into one entity) requested increases totaling \$96 million, based on a 10.5% return on a 53.5% common-equity

ratio. They are also asking for a regulatory mechanism that decouples electric revenues and volume. An order is expected in November on all aspects of the case except rate design, which is due in late 2017. New tariffs will take effect at the start of 2018.

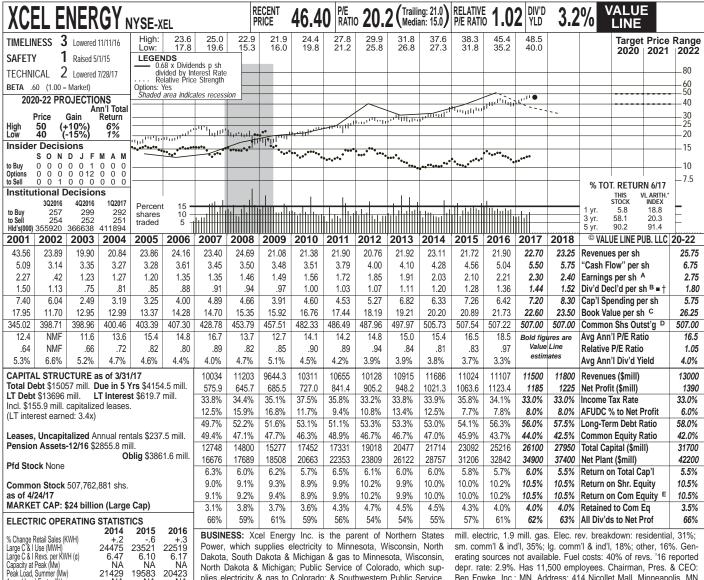
We look for solid earnings increases this year and next. Eversource is benefiting from investments in its transmission system. The allowed ROE for transmission is higher than that for the company's distribution system, despite reductions in the allowed ROE for transmission in recent years. (The ROE issue is still unsettled, given that a federal court overturned the most recent reduction, which was from 11.14% to 10.57%.) In addition, customers in the company's service area continue to convert from oil heat to gas heat. Our 2017 earnings estimate is within Eversource's guidance of \$3.05-\$3.20 a share. We forecast a rise in profits in 2018 in line with the company's annual goal of 5%-7%.

The dividend yield and 2020-2022 total return potential of this high-quality stock are average for a utility. Paul E. Debbas, ČFA August 18, 2017

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '02, 10¢; '03, (32¢); '04, (7¢); '05, (\$1.36); '08, (19¢); '10, 9¢. '14 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) | all'd on com. eq. in MA: (elec) '11, 9.6%; (gas) | Avg.; NH, Avg.; MĂ, Above Avg.

Div'ds historically paid late Mar., June, Sept., & 1'16, 9.8%; in CT: (elec.) '15, 9.02%; (gas) '15, Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd chgs. In '16: \$22.59 sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate eq., '16: 9.0%. Regulatory Climate: CT, Below

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 80 **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: 3.6

erating sources not available. Fuel costs: 40% of revs. '16 reported depr. rate: 2.9%. Has 11,500 employees. Chairman, Pres. & CEO: Ben Fowke, Inc.: MN, Address: 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Tel.: 612-330-5500. Internet: www.xcelenergy.com

344 358 342 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues -.5% .5% 2.5% 5.0% 6.0% 5.0% 4.5% 'Cash Flow' 3.0% 5.0% 6.5% 4.5% Earnings 6.0% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

21429

NA +.9

20423 NA +.9

19583

ΝA

+.9

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (Sep.30	mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30		Dec.31	Year
2014	3203	2685	2870	2928	11686
2015	2962	2515	2901	2646	11024
2016	2772	2500	3040	2795	11107
2017	2946	2604	3050	2900	11500
2018	3000	2650	3150	3000	11800
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Dec.31	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30		Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	.52 .46 .47 .47 . 56	.39 .39 .39 . 42 . 41	.73 .84 .90 .94	.39 .41 .45 .47	2.03 2.10 2.21 2.30 2.40
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ID B ■ †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013 2014 2015 2016 2017	.27 .28 .30 .32 .34	.27 .30 .32 .34 .36	.28 .30 .32 .34 .36	.28 .30 .32 .34	1.10 1.18 1.26 1.34

Xcel Energy's utility in Minnesota has received a rate order. Northern States Power's electric rates were raised by \$75.0 million, retroactive to the start of 2016. The utility was granted an additional \$60.0 million as a "true-up" to compensate for a shortfall in kilowatt-hour sales. Retroactive to the start of 2017, rates were boosted by an additional \$59.9 million. There will be no increase next year, but tariffs will rise by \$49.9 million in 2019. There will also be annual true-ups for sales and property taxes. The decision was based on a return of 9.2% on a commonequity ratio of 52.5%.

Some other rate cases are pending. In Wisconsin, NSP filed for electric and gas rate hikes of \$24.7 million and \$12.0 million, respectively. based on a return of 10.0% on a common-equity ratio of 52.53%. New tariffs should take effect at the start of 2018. Public Service of Colorado requested gas revenues of \$63.2 million in 2018, \$32.9 million in 2019, and \$42.9 million in 2020, based on a return of 10.0% on a common-equity ratio of 55.25%. New rates are expected to take effect in February. Southwestern Public Service filed a

motion with the New Mexico Supreme Court after the commission rejected its request for a \$41.4 million electric rate hike. It plans to file another case this summer.

Frequent regulatory activity enabled Xcel to reduce its problem of underearning its allowed ROE. Not long ago, the gap was about a percentage point, but this shortfall has been narrowed to six-tenths of a percentage point. Rate increases are also producing earnings growth for Xcel. Our 2017 share-net estimate is at the midpoint of the company's guidance of \$2.25-\$2.35. We forecast a 4% profit increase in 2018.

Renewable energy projects will ex-pand the rate bases of Xcel's utilities. Projects in Colorado, Minnesota, and the Dakotas have been approved. In all, by 2020 Xcel intends to add 2,750 megawatts of capacity at a cost of \$4.2 billion.

High-quality Xcel stock has a dividend yield that does not stand out **among utilities.** Like most utility equities, the recent quotation is well within our 2020-2022 Target Price Range. Thus, total return potential is low.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA July 28, 2017

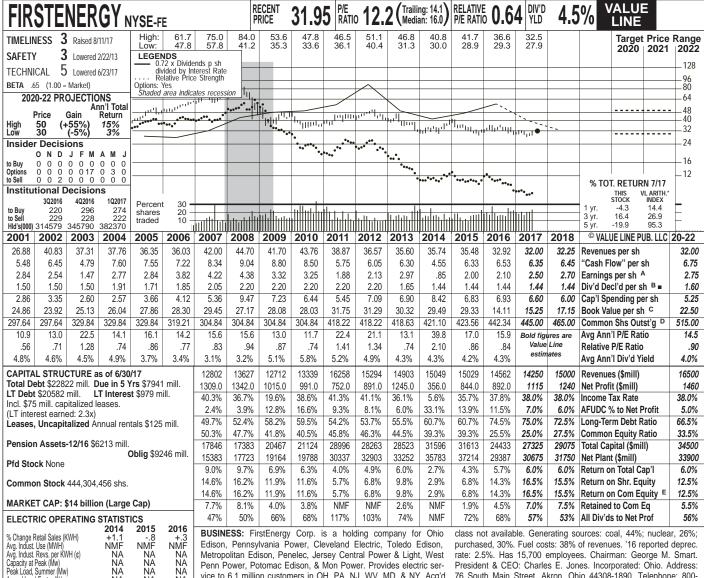
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gain (losses): '02, (\$6.27); '10, 5¢; '15, (16¢); gains (losses) on discontinued ops.: '03, 27¢; '04, (30¢); '05, 3¢; '06, 1¢; '09, (1¢); '10, 1¢. Next

earnings report due late Oct. **(B)** Div'ds historically paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct.

Div'd reinvestment plan available. † Shareholder investment plan available. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '16: \$6.07/sh. **(D)** In mill. **(E)** Rate base: Varies. Rate allowed on com. eq. (blended): 9.6%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 10.4%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

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

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Metropolitan Edison, Penelec, Jersey Central Power & Light, West Penn Power, Potomac Edison, & Mon Power. Provides electric service to 6.1 million customers in OH, PA, NJ, WV, MD, & NY. Acq'd Allegheny Energy 2/11. Electric revenue breakdown by customer

rate: 2.5%. Has 15,700 employees. Chairman: George M. Smart. President & CEO: Charles E. Jones. Incorporated: Ohio. Address: 76 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308-1890. Telephone: 800-736-3402. Internet: www.firstenergycorp.com

206 208 118 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 -3.5% -5.5% -10.0% Revenues -.5% -1.5%-2.5% -6.0% -2.5% -1.0% 'Cash Flow' 2.5% 9.0% Earnings -8.0% -3.5% 2.0% -1.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA +.3

NA

NA +.5

NA

+.3

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	4182	3496	3888	3483	15049
2015	3897	3468	4123	3541	15029
2016	3869	3401	3917	3375	14562
2017	3547	3309	3944	3450	14250
2018	3800	3500	4150	3550	15000
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.34	.27	.79	d.55	.85
2015	.53	.46	.95	.06	2.00
2016	.77	.34	.89	.10	2.10
2017	.69	.58	.82	.41	2.50
2018	.80	.60	.85	.45	2.70
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B ■	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2014	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2015	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2016	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2017	.36	.36	.36		

FirstEnergy has asset sales pending. In January, the company agreed to sell 1,572 megawatts of nonregulated generating capacity for \$925 million. This is a step toward exiting its nonutility operations and becoming an entirely regulated company by mid-2018. However, due to worsening market conditions, the buyers are negotiating with FirstEnergy to lower the price. The company, which took a sizable noncash impairment charge in 2016 to write down the value of its nonregulated assets, took additional writedowns totaling \$0.42 a share in the first two quarters of 2017. (These items are *excluded* from our earnings presentation.) This deal is expected to close by yearend. Separately, one of FirstEnergy's utilities is buying a 1,300mw coal-fired plant from a nonutility sibling in a transaction that is seeking regulatory approval by early 2018. Together, these deals are expected to raise \$350 million for the nonregulated side of the business after the retirement of debt.

The company's nonregulated activities remain troubled. FirstEnergy is still deciding how to exit the remainder of these operations. The company is seeking

legislation in Ohio that would provide subsidies for its nuclear generating assets there, similar to laws in place in New York and Illinois. Whether this will be enacted into law is questionable. Finally, the company's nonutility arm is involved in disputes with some railroads that supply coal. A significantly negative outcome might well result in a bankruptcy filing (by the nonutility subsidiary, not First-Energy as a whole)

The prospects of FirstEnergy's regulated operations are much better. The company is benefiting from rate increases that took effect in Ohio, New Jersey, and Pennsylvania in January. FirstEnergy's transmission business will now benefit from a federally regulated, forwardlooking formula rate plan.

This stock has a dividend yield that is more than a percentage point above the utility average. This reflects the uncertainties surrounding FirstEnergy's nonregulated businesses, as well as the lack of near-term dividend growth potential. We suggest that conservative utility investors look elsewhere.

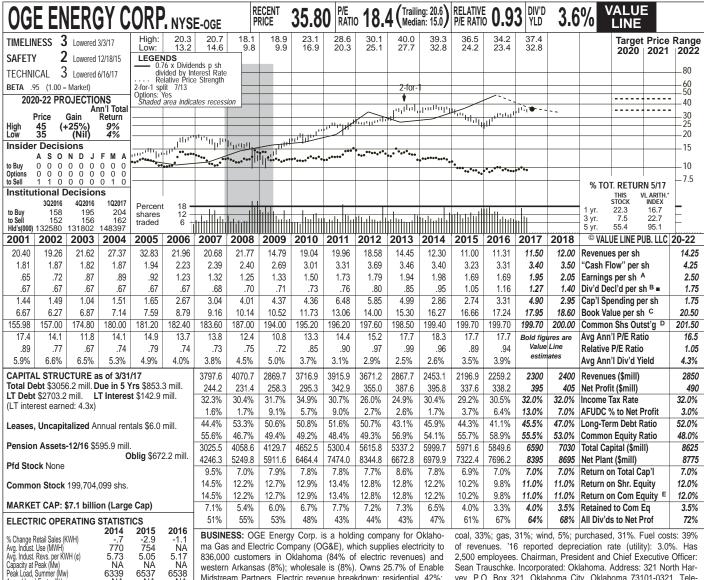
Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 18, 2017

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '10, (68¢); '11, 33¢; '12, (29¢); '13, (\$2.07); '14, (17¢); '15, (63¢); '16, (\$16.59); '17, (42¢); gain

due to rounding. Next egs. report due late Oct. (E) Rate base: Depr. orig. cost. Rates all'd on (B) Div'ds paid early Mar., June, Sep. & Dec. 5 div'ds decl. in '04, 3 in '13. ■ Div'd reinv. avail. eq., '16: 7.0%. Regulatory Climate: OH Above from disc. ops.: '14, 20¢. '14 EPS don't sum | (C) Incl. intang.: In '16: \$14.99/sh. (D) In mill. | Avg.; PA, NJ Avg.; MD, WV Below Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 85 Price Growth Persistence 10 **Earnings Predictability** 40

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836,000 customers in Oklahoma (84% of electric revenues) and western Arkansas (8%); wholesale is (8%). Owns 25.7% of Enable Midstream Partners. Electric revenue breakdown: residential. 42%: commercial, 25%; industrial, 15%; other, 18%. Generating sources:

2,500 employees. Chairman, President and Chief Executive Officer: Sean Trauschke. Incorporated: Oklahoma. Address: 321 North Harvey, P.O. Box 321, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-0321. Telephone: 405-553-3000. Internet: www.oge.com.

356 314 336 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 -8.5% 2.0% 3.5% 7.5% 7.5% Revenues -8.5% 3.5% 'Cash Flow' 5.0% 6.0% Earnings 5.5% 9.0% 3.5% Dividends Book Value 8.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

6339

+1.0

6537

ŇÄ

+1.2

6538

+1.1

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30		Dec.31	Year
2014	560.4	611.8	754.7	526.2	2453.1
2015	480.1	549.9		447.1	2196.9
2016	433.1	551.4		530.8	2259.2
2017	456.0	550		544	2300
2018	475	575		550	2400
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	Dec.31	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30		Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	.25 .22 .13 .18 .20	.50 .44 .35 .47 .50	.94 .88 .92 1.00 1.05	.29 .15 .29 . 30	1.98 1.69 1.69 1.95 2.05
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		IDENDS PA	AID B ■ Dec.31	Full Year
2013 2014 2015 2016 2017	.209 .225 .25 .275 .3025	.209 .225 .25 .275 .3025	.209 .225 .25 .275	.209 .25 .275 .3025	.84 .93 1.03 1.13

Energy's utility subsidiary received a disappointing rate order in Oklahoma. The commission granted Oklahoma Gas and Electric a rate increase of just \$8.8 million, based on a return of 9.5% on a common-equity ratio of 53%. This was well below the utility's request for a \$92.5 million increase, based on a 10.25% ROE, and fell far short of even an administrative law judge's recommendation of a \$40.7 million hike, based on a 9.87% ROE. What's more, the regulators reduced OG&E's depreciation by \$36.4 million annually. This will not affect the company's earnings, but will hurt cash flow. The order was retroactive to July 1, 2016.

OG&E is hoping for a better outcome in its next rate case. This is planned for the fourth quarter, with new tariffs taking effect in mid-2018. The utility will seek recovery of a project to modernize a gasfired generating plant, which is expected to cost \$425 million.

The regulatory news was better in Arkansas. The state commission approved a settlement calling for a rate hike of \$7.1 million, based on a 9.5% return on a 50% common-equity ratio. New tariffs took ef-

fect on June 1st.

We have cut our 2017 earnings estimate by \$0.10 a share, to \$1.95. This is due to the disappointing rate order in Oklahoma. The company now believes profits are likely to come in at the low end of its targeted range of \$1.93-\$2.09. We have also trimmed our 2018 forecast by \$0.05 a share, to \$2.05. Even this might prove optimistic if OG&E gets a disappointing ruling in its next rate case in Oklahoma.

We expect a hefty increase at the board's next dividend meeting, in late September. OGE has reiterated its expectation of 10% annual dividend growth through 2019. Despite the reduction in our earnings estimates, the company's payout ratio is still moderate for a utility. Also, OGE benefits from distributions (probably at least \$140 million this year) from its 25.7% stake in Enable Midstream Partners, a natural gas master limited partnership.

This stock has a dividend yield that is slightly above the utility average. Total return potential to 2020-2022 is greater than that of most utilities.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 16, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring losses: '02, 20¢; '03, 7¢; '04, 3¢; '15, 33¢; gains on discontinued operations: '02, 6¢; '05, 25¢; '06, 20¢. Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds

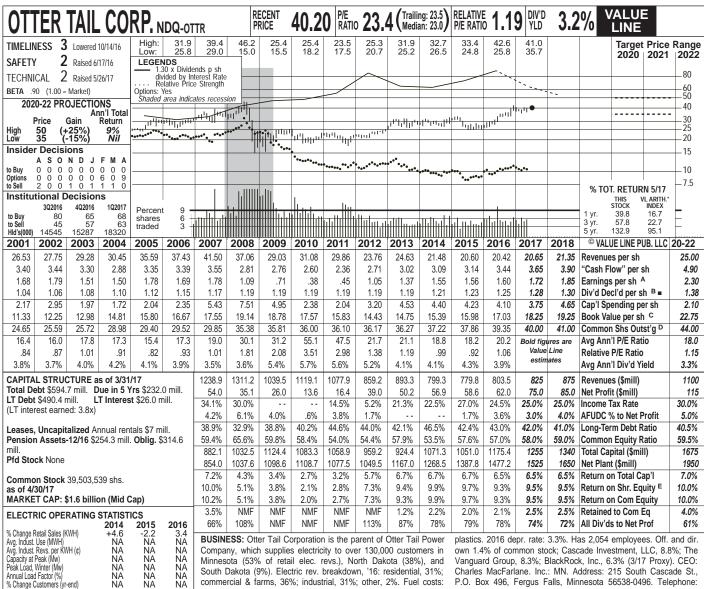
adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Net original cost.

historically paid in late Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. Rate allowed on com. eq. in OK in '16: 9.5%; in Div'd reinvestment plan available. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '16: \$2.03/sh. (D) In millions, 10.0%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

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

85

65



Minnesota (53% of retail elec. revs.), North Dakota (38%), and South Dakota (9%). Electric rev. breakdown, '16: residential, 31%; commercial & farms, 36%; industrial, 31%; other, 2%. Fuel costs: 14.7% of revenues. Also has operations in manufacturing and

Vanguard Group, 8.3%; BlackRock, Inc., 6.3% (3/17 Proxy). CEO: Charles MacFarlane. Inc.: MN. Address: 215 South Cascade St., P.O. Box 496, Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538-0496. Telephone: 866-410-8780. Internet: www.ottertail.com

350 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 336 348 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '14-'16 Past Past 5 Yrs. -7.0% 4.5% 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 3.0% 7.0% 6.5% Revenues -5.0% 'Cash Flow' - 5% Earnings 25.0% Dividends Book Value 2.0% 6.0% .5% 1.5%-

NA

Annual Load Factor (%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA

) Full
.31 Year
.4 799.3
.8 779.8
.6 803.5
.9 825
875
Full
.31 Year
28 1.55
11 1.56
14 1.60
14 1.72
48 1.85
■ Full
.31 Year
1.19
3 1.21
1.23
3 1.25

Shares of Otter Tail have traded in a fairly narrow range over the past six months. The company reported solid results for the March quarter. The top line advanced roughly 4%, on a year-to-year basis. Earnings per share of \$0.49 were well above the prior-year tally. Performance was largely driven by interim revenue increases in Minnesota that Otter Tail Power Company began collecting in April of last year. Weather was also slightly more favorable for the utility in the recent quarter, compared with the year-ago period. The Manufacturing segment reported a measure of improvement. while the Plastics line benefited from an increase in pounds of polyvinyl chloride pipe sold. Interest costs declined, as well.

There has been a development on the **regulatory front.** The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission granted Otter Tail Power Company an annual revenue increase of \$12.3 million. Moreover, the commission set return on equity at 9.41%.

Investment in operations ought to drive growth in the coming years. Otter Tail Power expects to spend \$862 million overall through 2021. This includes

major investments in regional transmission projects already under way. Two 345kilovolt transmission projects remain on schedule and on budget. The company is a 50% owner in both the Big Stone South-Brookings line (which is expected to be completed later this year) and the Big Stone South-Ellendale project (scheduled for completion in 2019). All things considered, the utility rate base is expected to increase about 7.5% per annum through 2021. Otter Tail Power will add more wind, natural gas, and solar generation to prepare for the closing of its coal-fired Hoot Lake Plant early next decade.

This stock is neutrally ranked for year-ahead performance. The dividend yield here is respectable for a utility. But ľong-term total return potential is subpar, as the equity presently trades within our Target Price Range. Prospects for moderate bottom-line growth are reflected in the recent quotation. That said, a selloff some time in the future may offer investors a more attractive entry point. Otter Tail earns good marks for Safety, Financial Strength, and Price Stability.

Michael Napoli, CFA June 16, 2017

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses): '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¢;

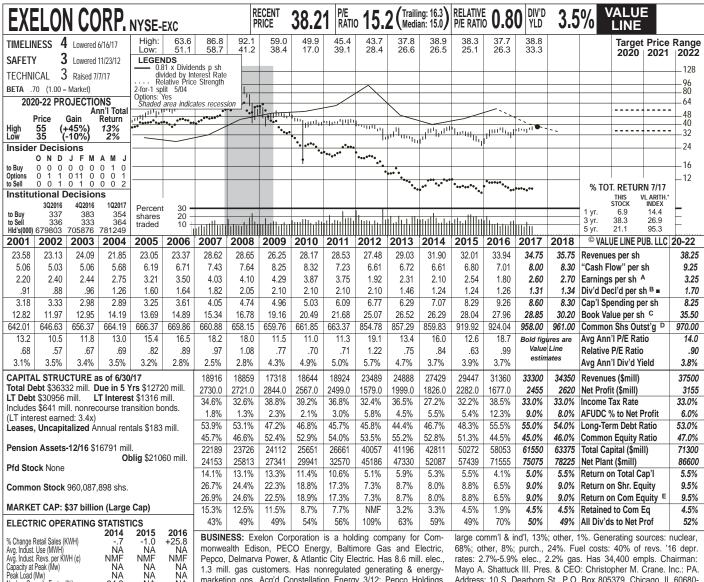
March, June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest- | age.

'14, 2¢; '15, 2¢; '16, 1¢. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early August. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Climate: MN, ND, Average; SD, Above Aver-

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

85

25



Pepco, Delmarva Power, & Atlantic City Electric. Has 8.6 mill. elec., 1.3 mill. gas customers. Has nonregulated generating & energymarketing ops. Acq'd Constellation Energy 3/12; Pepco Holdings 3/16. Elec. rev. breakdown: res'l, 63%; small comm'l & ind'l, 23%;

rates: 2.7%-5.9% elec., 2.2% gas. Has 34,400 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

263 367 238 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs to '20-'22 3.5% -3.0% -11.5% Revenues 3.5% 1.0% 3.0% 'Cash Flow' 5.5% 7.0% Earnings -4 0% -10.0% 6.0% 5.5% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

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

NA 94.3

+.6

NA NA

NA

+1.1

NΑ

+33.7

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2014	7237	6024	6912	7256	27429
2015	8830	6514	7401	6702	29447
2016	7573	6910	9002	7875	31360
2017	8757	7623	9020	7900	33300
2018	9000	7900	9250	8200	34350
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.10	.68	.96	.36	2.10
2015	.80	.74	.69	.33	2.54
2016	.26	.45	.76	.32	1.80
2017	.83	.44	.85	.48	2.60
2018	.75	.55	.90	.50	2.70
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.525	.31	.31	.31	1.46
2014	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2015	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2016	.31	.318	.318	.318	1.26
2017	.3275	.3275			

Some of Exelon's utilities have received rate increases this year, while others have rate cases pending. The utilities that Exelon owns through the Pepco Holdings acquisition last year are not earning adequate returns on equity. In the first quarter, Delmarva Power received a \$38.3 million electric rate hike in Maryland, based on a 9.6% ROE. In the second period, this utility was granted electric and gas tariff increases totaling \$36.4 million, based on a 9.7% ROE. Last month, Pepco was granted a \$36.9 million increase in Washington, DC, based on a 9.5% ROE. The second cycle of rate cases has begun, with Pepco seeking a \$68.6 million rate hike in Maryland. An order is expected in October. Atlantic City Electric is asking the New Jersey regulators for a \$72.6 million raise. A ruling is expected in the first quarter of 2018. Finally, Del-marva requested an electric increase of \$27.0 million in Maryland. A decision is due in mid-February. All three of these filings are based on a 10.1% ROE.

Earnings should advance sharply this year and modestly in 2018. This year, costs associated with the Pepco deal will

likely be below the 2016 level of \$0.59 a share. Rate relief should be a positive factor each year. Note that ongoing and unpredictable accounting items, such as mark-to-market gains or charges and changes in the value of the nuclear decommissioning trust, can affect earnings.

Exelon's nonregulated business is operating in a difficult environment. Low natural gas prices, subsidized renewable energy, and weak demand for power are hurting this operation. In May, two nuclear plants (Quad Cities in Illinois and Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania) were unsuccessful bidders in the annual auction in their power pool. There are programs in place in Illinois and New York to subsidize nuclear energy to recognize their environ-mental benefits, but this did not help Quad Cities. Exelon plans to shut Three Mile Island (which is unprofitable, even on a cash flow basis) in 2019 unless a similar

program is initiated in Pennsylvania.

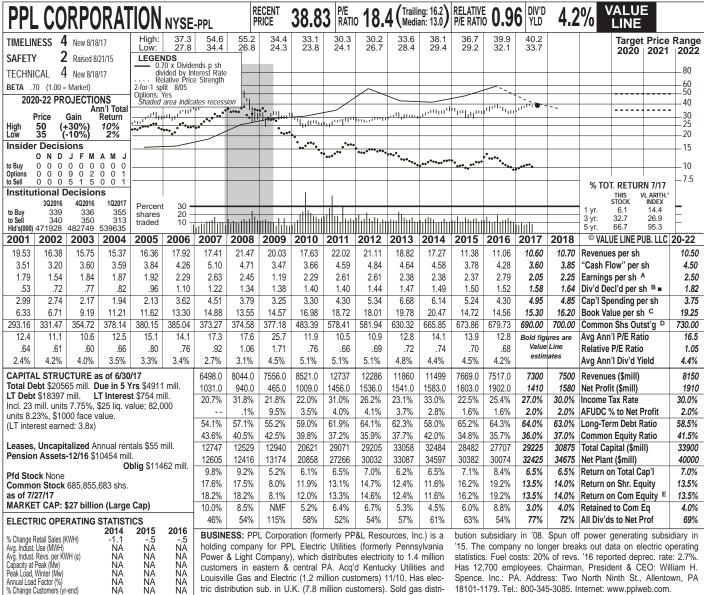
This untimely stock has a dividend vield that is about average for a utility. Total return potential to 2020-2022 is above average for this industry.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 18, 2017

(A) Dil. egs. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '03, (\$1.06); '05, (\$1.85); '06, (\$1.15); '09, (20¢); '12, (50¢); '13, (31¢); '14, 23¢; '16, (58¢); '17, (60¢). '14-'16 EPS don't add due to rounding or

chg. in shs. Next egs. report due early Nov. **(B)**Div'ds paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec.
MD in '16: 9.75% elec., 9.65% gas; in NJ in Div'd reinv. plan avail. **(C)** Incl. def'd chgs. In '16: 9.75%; earn. on avg. com. eq., '16: 6.4%. '16: \$18.58/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for split. (E) Reg. Clim.: PA, NJ Avg.; IL, MD, Below Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 80 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 55



Power & Light Company), which distributes electricity to 1.4 million customers in eastern & central PA. Acq'd Kentucky Utilities and Louisville Gas and Electric (1.2 million customers) 11/10. Has electric distribution sub. in U.K. (7.8 million customers). Sold gas distri-

statistics. Fuel costs: 20% of revs. '16 reported deprec. rate: 2.7%. Has 12,700 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.

309 321 339 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 -2.0% 1.0% 2.0% -8.0% 1.5% 4.5% Revenues NMF 'Cash Flow" NMF NMF Earnings 3.5% NMF Dividends Book Value 1.5%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA NA

NA

NA NA

Cal- endar			VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2014	1194	2833	3449	4023	11499
2015	2230	1781	1878	1780	7669
2016	2011	1785	1889	1832	7517
2017	1951	1725	1850	1774	7300
2018	2000	1775	1900	1825	7500
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.50	.32	.73	.82	2.38
2015	.82	.37	.59	.60	2.37
2016	.71	.71	.69	.68	2.79
2017	.59	.43	.54	.49	2.05
2018	.65	.50	.57	.53	2.25
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.36	.3675	.3675	.3675	1.46
2014	.3675	.3725	.3725	.3725	1.49
2015	.3725	.3725	.3725	.3775	1.50
2016	.3775	.38	.38	.38	1.52
2017	.38	.395	.395		

We estimate that PPL Corporation's earnings will decline significantly this **year.** The comparison with the 2016 tally is difficult. Last year, PPL booked income of \$0.30 a share from the settlement of currency contracts. The company is hedging its exposure to the British pound, which arises from its ownership of utilities in the United Kingdom. PPL recorded some tax benefits in 2016, which are not expected in 2017. And average shares outstanding are rising as the company issues common equity (an expected \$330 million this year). Note that our earnings presentation *includes* the effect of currency hedges, even though PPL excludes these from its definition of operating earnings. These hedges reduced the bottom line by \$0.13 a share in the first six months of 2017. We have lowered our 2017 estimate by a dime a share, partly because the June-quarter tally fell short of our estimate. Our revised estimate of \$2.05 a share is within management's guidance (on a GAAP basis) of \$1.92-\$2.12.

PPL's utilities in Kentucky received rate increases, effective July 1st. Louisville Gas and Electric was granted

electric and gas tariff hikes of \$57 million and \$7 million for electricity and gas, respectively. Kentucky Utilities' electric rates were boosted by \$52 million. The orders were based on a 9.7% return on a 53.3% common-equity ratio. In addition, the utilities' environmental cost recovery mechanism (which enables it to earn a return on this spending without filing a general rate case) will also have a 9.7% ROE, slightly below the previous level. The amounts granted-and the allowed return on equity—are slightly below those that the utility agreed to in a settlement.

We look for a partial earnings recovery in 2018. PPL will benefit from a full year of rate increases in Kentucky, along with modest growth at the company's utility operations. We are not estimating any gains or losses from currency hedges, since these are impossible to predict.

This untimely stock has a dividend yield that is above the utility mean.
The modest dividend growth we project over the 3- to 5-year period should produce a total return that is slightly above the utility average.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 18, 2017

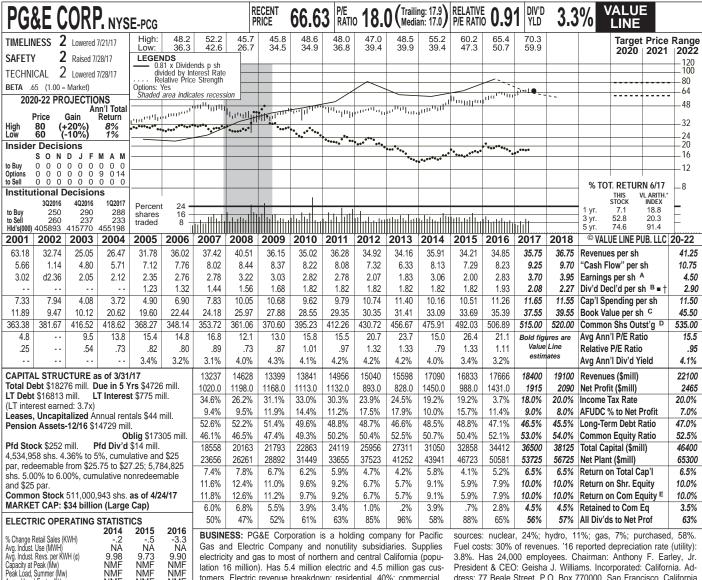
(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '07, (12¢); '10, (8¢); '11, 8¢; '13, (62¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '07, 19¢; '08, 3¢; '09, (10¢); '10, (4¢); '12, (1¢); '14, 23¢; '15, (\$1.36). '14 & '15 EPS don't sum to rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds histor. pd. in early Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16:

\$8.35/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Fair val. Rate all'd on com. eq. in PA in '16: none spec.; in KY in '17: 9.7%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 19.2%. Regul. Climate: Avg. Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability**

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B++ 95

15



Gas and Electric Company and nonutility subsidiaries. Supplies electricity and gas to most of northern and central California (population 16 million). Has 5.4 million electric and 4.5 million gas customers. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 40%; commercial, 39%; industrial, 11%; agricultural, 9%; other, 1%. Generating

Fuel costs: 30% of revenues. '16 reported depreciation rate (utility): 3.8%. Has 24,000 employees. Chairman: Anthony F. Earley, Jr. President & CEO: Geisha J. Williams. Incorporated: California. Address: 77 Beale Street, P.O. Box 770000, San Francisco, California 94177. Telephone: 415-973-1000. Internet: www.pgecorp.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		304	189 242
ANNUAL RATES	Past	Past	Est'd '14-'16
of change (per sh)	10 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	to '20-'22
Revenues	1.0%	5%	3.0%
"Cash Flow"	1.5%	-1.0%	5.5%
Earnings	1.0%	-2.0%	
Dividends	8.0%	1.0%	
Book Value	5.0%	3.5%	5.0%

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

9.98 NMF

NMF

+.6

9.73 NMF

NMF

NMF

9.90 NMF NMF

NMF

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30		Dec.31	Year
2014	3891	3952	4939	4308	17090
2015	3899	4217	4550		16833
2016	3974	4169	4810		17666
2017	4268	4432	4900		18400
2018	4400	4600	5150		19100
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	Dec.31	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30		Year
2014	.49	.57	1.71	.27	3.06
2015	.27	.83	.63	.27	2.00
2016	.22	.46	.77	1.36	2.83
2017	1.13	. 70	1.17	. 70	3.70
2018	1.10	. 75	1.35	. 75	3.95
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ID B ■ †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013 2014 2015 2016 2017	.455 .455 .455 .455 .455	.455 .455 .455 .455 .455	.455 .455 .455 .455 .49	.455 .455 .455 .49	1.82 1.82 1.82 1.89

PG&E has received a ruling in its general rate case. The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) approved a settlement calling for electric and gas rate hikes totaling \$88 million in 2017 (retroactive to the start of the year), \$444 million in 2018, and \$361 million in 2019.

The utility also got an order regarding its cost of capital. (In California, this is reviewed separately from a general rate case.) PG&E's allowed return on equity will be cut from 10.4% to 10.25%, beginning in 2018 and staying in effect in 2019. The common-equity ratio will remain 52%. We estimate that the change will lower the utility's annual earning power by \$29 million. Even after this reduction, the allowed return on equity will still be above those in many other states.

We believe earnings will be signifi-cantly higher in 2017, followed by further growth in 2018. Since 2010, PG&E's income has been hurt by unrecov-2010, ered costs associated with a pipeline explosion in San Bruno, California in September of that year. These expenses are winding down, and should be concluded this

vear (and well below the 2016 level). Accordingly, with the risks of San Bruno behind the company, we have raised PG&E's Financial Strength rating and the stock's Safety rank a notch each, to B++ and 2 (Above Average), respectively. In 2018, the benefit of the general rate increase and continued growth in the rate base should outweigh the effect of a probable decline in the allowed ROE.

PG&E faces some uncertainty stemming from a wildfire in 2015. The companys estimate of third-party claims is \$750 million, and PG&E has also incurred cleanup and legal costs. The utility believes the claims are covered by insurance, but the net expenses of the fire hurt profits by \$0.27 in 2016. The board of directors raised the divi-

dend, effective with the July payment. As we had estimated, the quarterly increase was \$0.04 a share (8.2%). PG&E's goal is a payout ratio of 55%-65%. This timely stock has a dividend yield

that is average for a utility. Total return potential to 2020-2022 is also about average for the group. Paul E. Debbas, CFÂ July 28, 2017

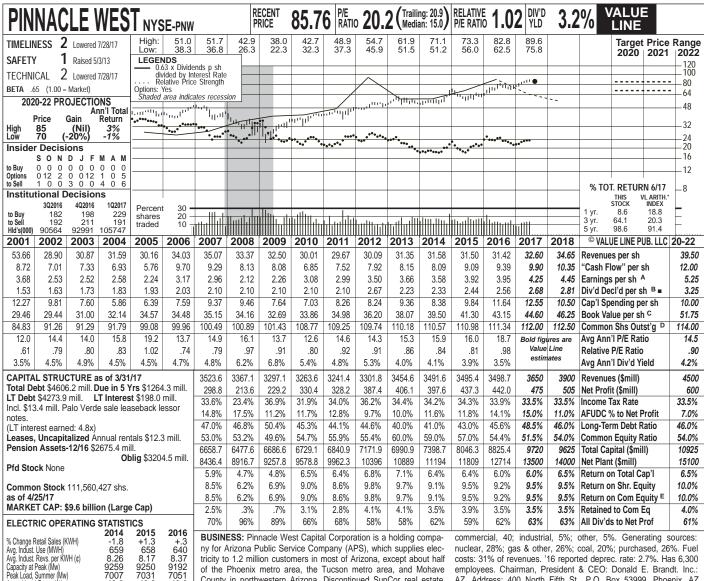
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '04, \$6.95; '09, 18¢; '11, (68¢); '12, (15¢); '15,

(21e); '16, (5e); gain from disc. ops: '08, 41e. | Apr., July, and Oct. | Div'd reinvest. plan avail. | in '15: 10.4%; earned on avg. con '14 & '16 EPS don't sum due to change in shs. | † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. | 8.2%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

outstanding. Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. • Div'd reinvest. plan avail. in '15: 10.4%, earned on avg. com. eq., '16:

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

35



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, 50%;

employees. 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.

404 438 416 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues .5% 4.0% 3.5% 6.5% 3.0% 4.0% 'Cash Flow' 1.5% 3.5% 5.0% 5.5% Earnings 2.5% 2.0% 5.0% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

7007

+1.2

7031

+1.3

7051

48.0

+1.3

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	686.2	906.3	1172.7	726.4	3491.6
2015	671.2	890.7	1199.1	734.4	3495.4
2016	677.2	915.4	1166.9	739.2	3498.7
2017	677.7	950	1247.3	775	3650
2018	750	1000	1325	825	3900
Cal-	EA	RNINGS	PER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.14	1.19	2.20	.05	3.58
2015	.14	1.10	2.30	.37	3.92
2016	.04	1.08	2.35	.47	3.95
2017	.21	1.24	2.40	.40	4.25
2018	.20	1.25	2.60	.40	4.45
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.545	.545	.545	.5675	2.20
2014	.5675	.5675	.5675	.595	2.30
2015	.595	.595	.595	.625	2.41
2016	.625	.625	.625	.655	2.53
2017	.655	.655			

Pinnacle West's utility subsidiary is still awaiting an order on its regulatory settlement. Arizona Public Service (APS) filed for a rate increase of \$165.9 million (5.7%), based on a 10.5% return on a 55.8% common-equity ratio. The utility also asked for changes in rate design so that solar customers would not be subsidized by nonsolar users to the extent they are today. APS, the commission's staff, and intervenors reached a settlement that (if approved by the commission) will raise rates by \$94.6 million (3.3%), based on a 10% return on a 55.8% common-equity ratio. The solar subsidization problem would be reduced initially, with less subsidization each subsequent year. Finally, there would be a rate moratorium through mid-2019. An administrative law judge will put forth a recommendation before the commission issues its order. The company had hoped that new tariffs would go into effect on July 1st, but this will happen whenever the regulators decide they will take effect.

We have trimmed our 2017 earnings **estimate by \$0.05 a share.** We had based our estimate on a midyear rate hike, but

the delay will affect the company's income. (Management is not providing earnings guidance while the rate case is pending.) We are sticking with our profit forecast for 2018, as next year will have a full year's effect of the rate decision.

Two significant projects are under construction. The utility is adding pollution control equipment to two units of a coal-fired plant. The \$400 million project is expected to be completed in the spring of 2018. APS is building five gas-fired units to replace old facilities and increase generating capacity by 220 megawatts. The \$500 million project is scheduled for completion by the spring of 2019. Costs associated with these projects will be deferred for recovery in a future rate case, if the aforementioned regulatory settlement is approved.

This timely stock is ranked 1 (Highest) for Safety. However, the dividend yield does not stand out among utility stocks, and with the recent price above the upper end of our 2020-2022 Target Price Range, total return potential is uninspiring.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA July 28, 2017

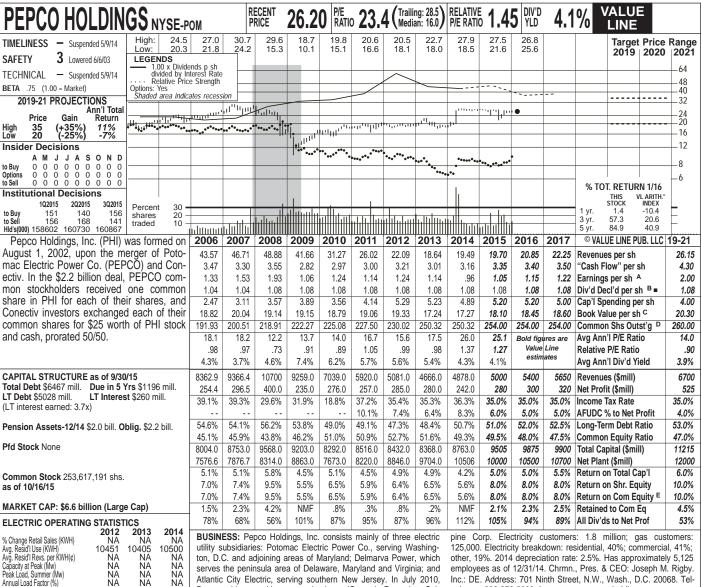
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. losses: '02, 77¢; '09, \$1.45; excl. gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '05, (36¢); '06, 10¢; '08, 28¢; '09, (13¢); '10,

Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. losses: '02, 77¢; sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due (\$1.45; excl. gains (losses) from disc. ops.: (36¢); '06, 10¢; '08, 28¢; '09, (13¢); '10, Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. There were 5 declarations in '12. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred chgs. In '16: \$14.54/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Fair value. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '12: 10%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 9.4%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

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

A+ 95

70



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

employees as of 12/31/14. 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. (% 253 246 250 ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '12-'14 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '19-'21 of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" -7.0% -15.0% -0.5% 2.5% 5.0% -1.0% Earnings Dividends 8.0% Nil -6.0% 3.0% **Book Value** -1.5% NMF

+.3

% Change Customers (yr-end)

NA

+.6

+1.7

Cal- endar	QUAI Mar.31	RTERLY RI Jun.30	EVENUES Sep.30	· _ /	Full Year
2013	1178	1053	1344	1091	4666.0
2014	1330	1117	1313	1118	4878.0
2015	1371	1140	1362	1127	5000
2016	1350	1200	1550	1300	5400
2017	1410	1270	1610	1360	5650
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	AF	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.24	.22	.44	.24	1.14
2014	.30	.21	.31	.14	.96
2015	.21	.21	.36	.27	1.05
2016	.23	.23	.39	.30	1.15
2017	.25	.25	.41	.31	1.22
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DI	VIDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2013	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2014	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2015	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2016					

March 4th may be make or break for **Pepco Holdings' acquisition by Exelon Corp.** Indeed, Christopher Crane, the CEO of Exelon, said during a recent conference call with equity analysts that his company will walk away from its planned merger with Pepco if the District of Columbia Public Service Commission (DCPSC) doesn't issue a ruling on the deal by that date. The DCPSC had previously suggested that it would make a decision by March 4th only to backtrack later, saying that it was under no obligation to meet the deadline. For his part, Mr. Crane has said that, absent a March 4th ruling, Exelon will begin buying back the nearly 58 million shares that it issued to help fund the \$6.8 billion deal. This which would effectively end the 20-month courtship. That said, it is possible that CEO Crane was posturing a bit, given what's been a rather - and likely exhausting – merger lengthy review.

We still believe that a deal could get done. Underpinning our confidence is a belief that the long list of proposed merger concessions is sufficient enough to allay concerns that the marriage is not in the

public interest. To that point, the two utilities have already said that they'll provide affordable rates for low-income households and invest further in clean, renewable en-Chicago-based Exelon has also agreed to relocate a portion of the postmerger utility's headquarters to the DC

Our Timeliness rank for Pepco shares remains suspended due to the pending merger. At the recent quotation, the stock is trading approximately 4% below Exelon's \$27.25-a-share, all-cash takeover offer. That said, we still recommend that investors take profits here, given the odds however slim - that the deal is blocked. Were that to happen, a reversion to Pepco's premerger announcement trading levels (of \$19 and change per share) is possible in our view, partly reflecting the unwinding of large arbitrage-related positions. It is also worth noting that, with its lackluster earnings record, Pepco hasn't increased its dividend in more than seven years. Accordingly, income-seeking investors should look elsewhere for utility industry exposure. Nils C. Van Liew February 19, 2016

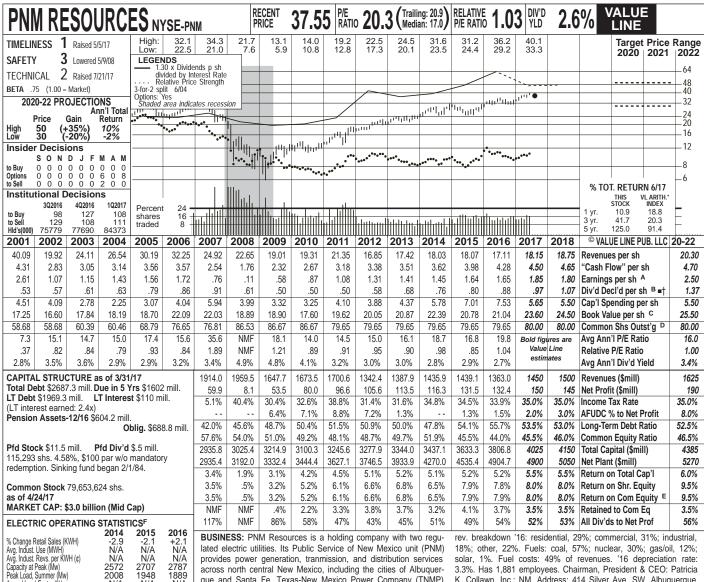
(A) Based on dil. shs. Excl. nonrecur. items: '05, 47¢; '06, d1¢; '08, 46¢; '10, 62¢ '13, 69¢. Next egs. rpt. due early March. **(B)** Div'ds paid in early March, June, Sep., and Dec. ■ Div'd | Delmarva); DC: 9.6% ('10-Pep.); DEL: 10.0%

bill. or \$17.80/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate allowed avg. com. eq., 5.6%. Reg. Clim.: Avg. (F) Qtrly in MD: 9.62% ('14-Pepco), 10.0% ('09- egs. may not add due to chng. in shs.

reinvest. plan. (C) Incl. def'd chgs: '14, \$4.5 ('06-Del.); NJ: 9.75% ('14-ACE); Earned on '14 egs. may not add due to chng. in shs

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

B+



across north central New Mexico, including the cities of Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Texas-New Mexico Power Company (TNMP) transmits and distributes power throughout New Mexico. Electric

3.3%. Has 1,881 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Patricia K. Collawn. Inc.: NM. Address: 414 Silver Ave. SW, Albuquerque, NM. 87102. Tel.: 505-241-2700. Internet: www.pnmresources.com.

241 250 N/A Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs to '20-'22 -2.5% 8.0% 13.5% Revenues -5.0% 1.5% 'Cash Flow' 1.5% 5.0% 9.0% Earnings 0.5% 1.0% 10.0% 2.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

2008

1889

N/A

+.9

N/A

+.6

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Full Year
2014	328.9	346.2	413.9	346.9	1435.9
2015	332.9	352.9	417.4	335.9	1439.1
2016	311.0	315.4	400.4	336.2	1363.0
2017	330.2	335	425	359.8	1450
2018	340	345	440	375	1500
Cal-			ER SHAR		Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.16	.36	.69	.24	1.45
2015	.21	.44	.76	.23	1.64
2016	.13	.40	.78	.34	1.65
2017	.28	.42	.79	.36	1.85
2018	.27	.41	.77	.35	1.80
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ID B∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.145	.165	.165	.165	.64
2014	.185	.185	.185	.185	.74
2015	.20	.20	.20	.20	.80
2016	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88
2017	.242				

PNM Resources has filed a proposed settlement agreement in a general rate case. Indeed, in early May, the holding company's regulated power unit (Public Service of New Mexico) submitted a revised plan to increase retail electricity rates that apparently has the backing of key constituencies, including Wal-Mart and the Sierra Club. Notably, it is our understanding that the rate hike will now likely be phased in over a two-year period (+3,9% in 2018; +3.4% in 2019), rather than all at once, and that the slower implementation will make 2018 something of a transitional year. With that in mind, we have lowered our share-net call for next year by \$0.20, to \$1.80.

We still look for earnings to reach \$2.50 a share within the next three to **five years.** Key to achieving that goal will be the utility's ability to both earn authorized returns on its regulated businesses and minimize regulatory lag. A better regional economy should help, as well. On that front, certain leading indicators of residential and commercial growth recentturned positive. What's more, Facebook's recent decision to build a data

center in Los Lunas (south of Albuquerque) may spur other companies to consider the Land of Enchantment for major projects.

PNM will next review its dividend policy sometime in December. At that meeting, we expect the board of directors to raise the quarterly distribution by roughly 10%, to 26.7 cents a share. What's more, it appears that PNM remains committed to increasing the dividend at a rate that's slightly above targeted earnings growth of 8% or so, as it looks to potentially reach a payout ratio that is closer to 60%

Shares of PNM Resources are now ranked 1 (Highest) for relative yearahead price performance, having moved up a notch on our Timeliness scale since late April. At the stock's recent quotation, however, long-term total return potential is unremarkable. At 2.6%, the dividend yield is nearly 70 basis points below that of the leading utility ETF (the XLU). What's more, the issue is already trading within our 3- to 5-year Target Price Range. Nils C. Van Liew July 28, 2017

(A) EPS dil. Excl. n/r gains (losses): '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.

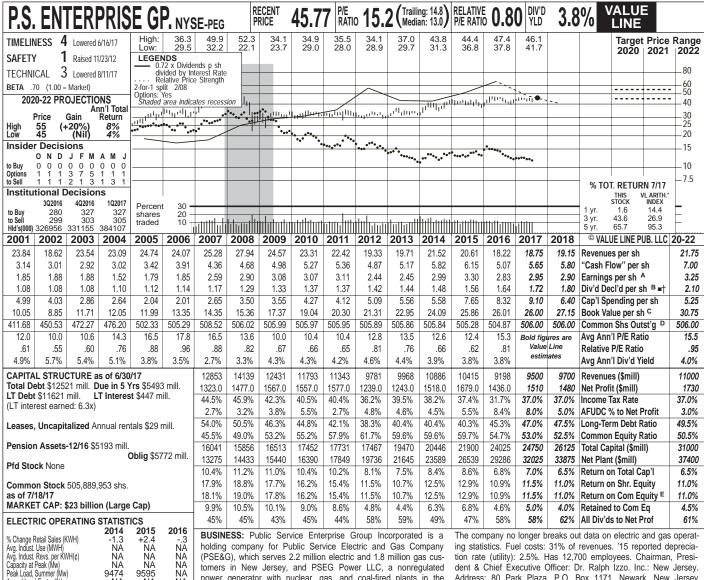
Incl. intang. '15: \$3.49/sh. (D) In mill., adjust. First Choice.

Next egs. rpt. due early Aug. (B) Div'ds hist. pd. in Feb., May, Aug., Nov. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) | 13: 10.0%. Reg. Climate: Below Avg. (F) Excl.

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

R 90

65



(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 12,700 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.

705 522 635 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 -3.0% 2.0% -.5% Revenues -1.5% 1.5% 5.0% 6.0% Cash Flow 3.5% 1.0% Earnings 3.0% 6.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (avg.)

NA 9474

NA 9595

NA NA

NA

NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2014	3223	2249	2641	2773	10886
2015	3135	2314	2688	2278	10415
2016	2616	1905	2587	2090	9198
2017	2592	2133	2525	2250	9500
2018	2750	2100	2550	2300	9700
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.76	.42	.87	.94	2.99
2015	1.15	.68	.87	.60	3.30
2016	.93	.37	.94	.59	2.83
2017	.94	.69	.81	.51	2.95
2018	1.00	.60	.80	.50	2.90
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVII	DENDS PA	ID B∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2014	.37	.37	.37	.37	1.48
2015	.39	.39	.39	.39	1.56
2016	.41	.41	.41	.41	1.64
2017	.43	.43			

We expect Public Service Enterprise Group's earnings will remain in a narrow range in 2017 and 2018. The company's utility subsidiary, Public Service Electric and Gas, is benefiting from regulatory mechanisms in New Jersey that allow concurrent recovery of certain kinds of capital spending (e.g., a system-hardening program). PSE&G also benefits from a federally regulated forward-looking mechanism for transmission expenditures — and the utility's allowed return on equity for transmission is above that on distribution. On the other hand, the earning power of PSEG Power, the primary nonutility subsidiary, is being squeezed due to unfavorable market conditions. The company is focusing on what it can control, such as plant performance and operating expenses. Our 2017 earnings estimate is within PSEG's targeted range of \$2.80-\$3.00 a share.

Some regulatory matters are pending or upcoming. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities is proposing changes in regulation that would allow utilities to seek approval of capital investment programs that would last up to five years.

Recent programs have been approved for two or three years, with a possibility of an extension. Along these lines, PSE&G is proposing to continue its accelerated gas main replacement program for a five-year period. The utility expects to spend \$2.7 billion over this span. Separately, PSE&G is required to file a general rate case by November 1, 2017. Its last general rate case was settled in 2010.

Despite the conditions in the power markets, there are still opportunities for investment. PSEG Power is building three gas-fired or dual-fuel (gas or oil) plants in Maryland, New Jersey, and Connecticut to replace old units. The total cost of the projects is estimated at \$1.875 billion-\$2.120 billion. The plants are expected to be completed next year in Maryland and New Jersey and in 2019 in Connecticut.

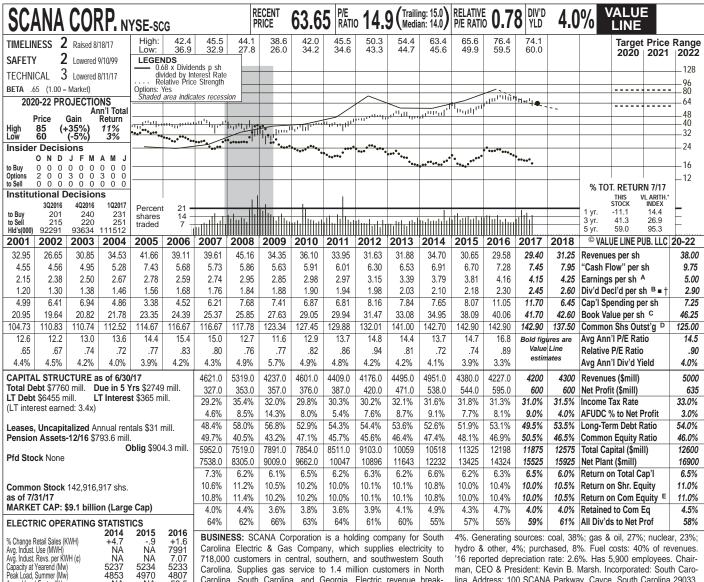
This stock is untimely, but has appeal for conservative income-oriented investors. It is ranked 1 (Highest) for Safety. The dividend yield and 3- to 5-year total return potential are above the norms for the electric utility industry. Paul E. Debbas, CFĂ August 18, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gain (losses): '02, (\$1.30); '05, (3¢); '06, (35¢); '08, (96¢); '09, 6¢; '11, (34¢); '12, 7¢; '16, (30¢); '17, (\$1.20); gains (loss) from disc. ops.: '05, (33¢);

'06, 12¢; '07, 3¢; '08, 40¢; '11, 13¢. Next egs. (C) Incl. intang. In '16: \$6.80/sh. (D) In mill., report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds histor. paid in late Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinallowed on com. eq. in '10: 10.3%; earned on vest. plan avail. † Sharehold. invest. plan avail. | avg. com. eq., '16: 10.8%. Reg. Climate: Avg. © 2017 Value Line, Inc. 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 A++ 90 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 65

To subscribe call 1-800-VALUELINE



Carolina. Supplies gas service to 1.4 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 46%; commercial, 33%; industrial, 17%; other,

man, CEO & President: Kevin B. Marsh. Incorporated: South Carolina. Address: 100 SCANA Parkway, Cayce, South Carolina 29033. Telephone: 803-217-9000. Internet: www.scana.com.

307 323 319 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs to '20-'22 -2.0% 3.5% 6.0% 3.0% 5.5% -2.0% 1.5% 4.0% Revenues 3.0% 'Cash Flow' Earnings 4 0% 3.5% 5.0% 5.0% 3.5% **Book Value** OLIABTED

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NΑ

+1.4

4807

+1.6

NA

+1.5

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30		(\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2014	1590	1026	1121	1214	4951.0
2015	1389	967	1068	956	4380.0
2016	1172	905	1093	1057	4227.0
2017	1173	1001	1026	1000	4200
2018	1250	950	1050	1050	4300
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	1.37	.68	1.01	.73	3.79
2015	1.39	.69	1.04	.69	3.81
2016	1.23	.74	1.32	.87	4.16
2017	1.19	.85	1.25	.86	4.15
2018	1.30	.80	1.30	.85	4.25
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	\ID¤=†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.495	.5075	.5075	.5075	2.02
2014	.5075	.525	.525	.525	2.08
2015	.525	.545	.545	.545	2.16
2016	.545	.575	.575	.575	2.27
2017	.575	.6125	.6125		

SCANA's electric utility subsidiary has abandoned its nuclear construction project. South Carolina Electric & Gas had planned to build two units at the site of the Summer nuclear plant. However, the project had cost overruns and extensive delays. This led to the bankruptcy filing of the contractor, Westinghouse. The utility will receive a guarantee from Toshiba, Westinghouse's parent, but the \$1.1 billion won't be nearly enough to complete the project. Considering that the coowner did not want to proceed with construction, SCE&G had little choice but to abandon construction of both units.

SCE&G believes the project's costs are recoverable under the state's Base Load Review Act. The utility filed with the state commission to certify that abandonment was the best option. The commission's decision is due by February 1st. In November, SCE&G will file for revised rates, which should be effective in April. In order to mitigate the effect on customers' bills, the company proposes to amortize the cost of the project over a 60-year span and offset this with the proceeds from Toshiba. SCANA didn't take a write-

down when it reported second-quarter results, but there is still regulatory uncertainty here. Note that 15 months of construction work in progress are not currently reflected in rates. In addition, the abandonment is politically unpopular.

The company's capital spending and financing plans have changed considerably. Instead of issuing common stock, SCANA expects to begin a buyback in 2018. The company tentatively plans to repurchase \$1.2 billion through 2021. The reduction in shares outstanding should enable share net to approximate what it would have been had construction of the nuclear units continued. SCANA also plans to maintain its dividend policy, with a targeted payout ratio of 55%-65%.

Timely SCANA stock has performed

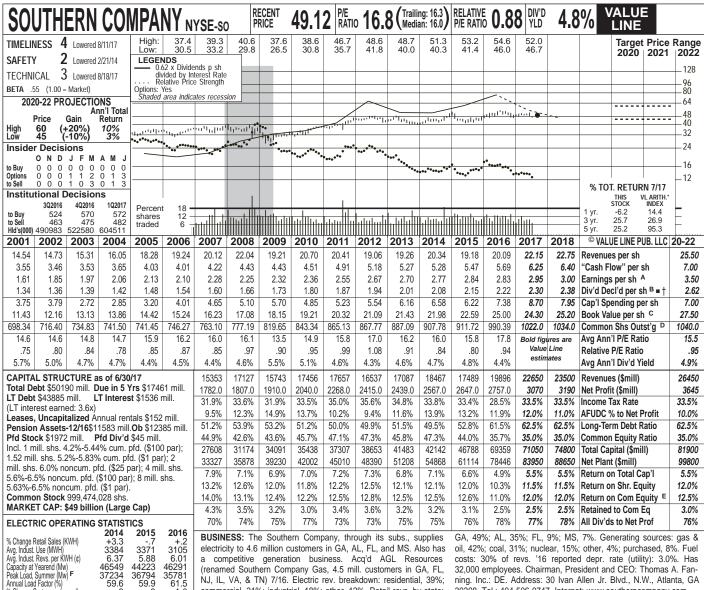
poorly this year. Due to the problems surrounding the nuclear project, the price has declined more than 10% in what has been an excellent year for most utility issues. Although the dividend yield and 3- to 5-year total return potential are above the utility averages, investors need to be aware of the regulatory risks.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 18, 2017

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses): '01, \$3.00; '02, (\$3.72); '03, 31¢; '04, (23¢); '05, 3¢; '06, 9¢; '15, \$1.41. Next earnings report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. **•** Div'd reinvestment plan available. †Shareholder investment plan available. **(C)** Incl. intangibles. In NC: 9.7% in '16; earned on avg. com. eq., '16:

'16: \$14.91/sh. (D) In millions. (E) Rate base: | 10.7%. Regulatory Climate: Above Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 50 **Earnings Predictability** 100



37234 59.6 59.9 61.5 +.9 433 330 Est'd '14-'16 to '20-'22 4.0%

35781

36794

Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 417 ANNUAL RATES Past of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. Revenues 1.0% 3.5% 3.0% 3.5% 4.0% 3.5% 3.5% Cash Flow' 3.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 5.0% 4.0% 3.0%

% Change Customers (yr-end)

46549

Cal-			EVENUES		Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	4644	4467	5339	4017	18467
2015	4183	4337	5401	3568	17489
2016	3992	4459	6264	5181	19896
2017	5771	5430	6200	5249	22650
2018	6050	5600	6400	5450	23500
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.66	.68	1.08	.36	2.77
2015	.56	.71	1.16	.42	2.84
2016	.57	.71	1.22	.33	2.83
2017	.73	.73	1.06	.43	2.95
2018	.70	.75	1.10	.45	3.00
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.49	.5075	.5075	.5075	2.01
2014	.5075	.525	.525	.525	2.08
2015	.525	.5425	.5425	.5425	2.15
2016	.5425	.56	.56	.56	2.22
2017	.56	.58			

electricity to 4.6 million customers in GA, AL, FL, and MS. Also has a competitive generation business. Acq'd AGL Resources (renamed Southern Company Gas, 4.5 mill. customers in GA, FL, NJ, IL, VA, & TN) 7/16. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 39%; commercial, 31%; industrial, 18%; other, 12%. Retail revs. by state:

Southern Company's largest utility subsidiary is deciding whether to proceed with its nuclear construction project. Georgia Power is building two units at the site of the Vogtle nuclear station. The project has had delays and cost overruns, and received a blow when the contractor, Westinghouse, filed for bank-ruptcy protection. Westinghouse's parent, Toshiba, has agreed to pay the utility \$1.7 billion whether or not it decides to complete the units. However, this is not nearly enough to complete the project. Georgia Power believes construction costs will exceed the \$5.7 billion estimate it agreed to last year with the state regulators by \$1.0 billion-\$1.7 billion. The company expects to make a decision later this month. Our estimates and projections are based on a continuation of construction.

Another large construction project has had significant cost overruns. Mississippi Power was building a coalgasification plant, but has been writing off construction costs that exceeded a \$2.88 billion cap. Finally, the utility-prompted by the state commission—decided to cancel the gasifier and run the facility as a gasoil, 42%; coal, 31%; nuclear, 15%; other, 4%; purchased, 8%. Fuel costs: 30% of revs. '16 reported depr. rate (utility): 3.0%. Has 32,000 employees. Chairman, President and CEO: Thomas A. Fanning. Inc.: DE. Address: 30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30308. Tel.: 404-506-0747. Internet: www.southerncompany.com.

fired plant. This resulted in a \$2.0 billion aftertax (\$2.09 a share) nonrecurring charge in the June quarter. Mississippi Power is trying to reach a settlement it can present to the commission regarding issues related to the plant. Moreover, Southern Company will issue an additional \$1 billion in common equity in 2017 as a result of the writedown. This is one reason why we lowered our 2017 and 2018 share-earnings estimates by \$0.05 and \$0.10, respectively.

The aforementioned problems have weighed on the price of Southern Company stock. The share price has barely moved in 2017 in what has been an excellent year for most utility equities. Despite the problems, the company has stated that it has the earning power to continue raising the dividend by \$0.08 a share annually. Southern Company's size and financial strength help in this regard.

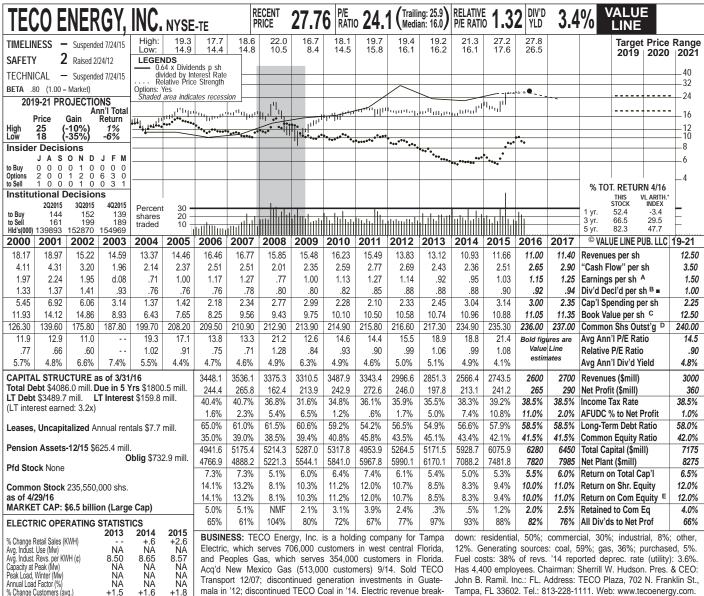
This untimely stock has the highest dividend yield of any electric utility under our coverage. It has appeal for income-oriented investors who can tolerate the construction and regulatory risks. Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 18, 2017

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '03, 6¢; '09, (25¢); '13, (83¢); '14, (59¢); '15, (25¢); '16, (28¢); '17, (\$2.18). '14 & '15 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next egs. report due early

Nov. (B) Div'ds paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shrhldr. invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd chgs. In '16: eq., '16: 11.8%. Regul. Climate: GA, AL Above \$17.26/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: AL, MS,

Avg.; MS, FL Avg. (F) Winter peak in '14 & '15.

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



Transport 12/07; discontinued generation investments in Guatemala in '12; discontinued TECO Coal in '14. Electric revenue break-

John B. Ramil. Inc.: FL. Address: TECO Plaza, 702 N. Franklin St., Tampa, FL 33602. Tel.: 813-228-1111. Web: www.tecoenergy.com.

272 287 288 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '13-'15 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '19-'21 Revenues -1.5% -5.5% 1.0% 1.0% 'Cash Flow' 1.0% 6.5% 7.5% Earnings 2.0% 2.0% 2.0% 2.5% Dividends Book Value 3.5%

+1.5

+1.6

+1.8

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	Full Year				
2013	661.1	735.9	765.9	688.4	2851.3	
2014	578.0	605.7	687.2	695.5	2566.4	
2015	693.0	680.6	693.8	676.1	2743.5	
2016	659.5	640.5	650	650	2600	
2017	675	675	675	675	2700	
Cal-	EA	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year	
2013	.19	.24	.29	.20	.92	
2014	.22	.27	.28	.18	.95	
2015	.27	.26	.28	.22	1.03	
2016	.31	.24	.34	.26	1.15	
2017	.35	.26	.36	.28	1.25	
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full	
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year	
2012	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88	
2013	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88	
2014	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88	
2015	.225	.225	.225	.225	.90	
2016	.23					

It appears as if the acquisition of TECO Energy might be completed within the next several weeks. Emera, a Canadian company, has agreed to pay \$27.55 in cash for each share of TECO Energy. Just one more regulatory approval is required: that of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC). companies and various intervenors have reached an unopposed settlement that will be presented to the NMPRC. In early May, a hearing examiner conducted hearings on the proposed combination, and will make a recommendation by early June, before the NMPRC issues its ruling. The current time line suggests that July is the best estimate for the closing date of the transaction. Thus, this might well be our last full-page report on TECO Energy.

We advise TECO Energy stockholders to sell their shares on the open market. The recent price of TECO Energy stock is slightly *above* the buyout price, so stockholders have no incentive to await completion of the takeover. Emera's offer is generous, at 24 times estimated 2016 earnings. The Timeliness rank of TECO Energy stock remains suspended due to the pending acquisition.

TECO Energy's utilities are performing well. Tampa Electric and Peoples Gas are benefiting from healthy customer growth, thanks to the solid economy in the utilities' service territory, and each utility is likely to earn a return on equity in the upper half of its allowed ROE range in 2016. (The allowed ROEs are shown in Footnote E.) New Mexico Gas, which TECO Energy bought in September of 2014, is benefiting from effective cost controls. Because first-quarter results were better than we expected, we have raised our 2016 share-earnings estimate by a nickel, to \$1.15. A continuation of current trends, plus rate relief that Tampa Electric will receive for a project to expand a gas-fired power plant, points to higher profits in 2017.

Our earnings presentation includes costs associated with the Emera deal. These were negligible in the first period of 2016, but reduced the bottom line by \$0.06 a share in 2015. We are not estimating any such expenses over the remainder of 2016.

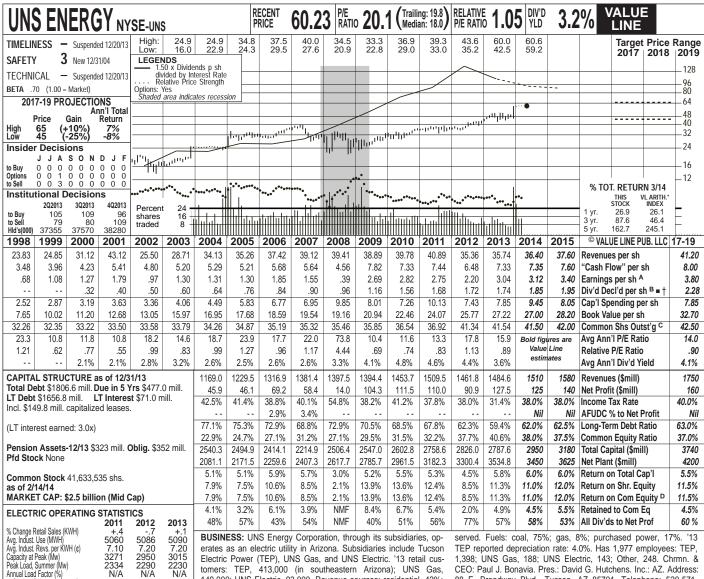
Paul E. Debbas, CFA May 20, 2016

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '03, (\$4.97); '07, 63¢; '10, (2¢); '14, (3¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '04, (77¢); '05, 31¢; '06, 1¢; '07, 7¢; '12, (15¢); '14, (34¢); '15, (29¢).

Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds paid in late Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '15: \$3.86/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig.

cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '13 (elec.): 10.25%-12.25%; in '09 (gas): 9.75%-11.75%; in NM in '12: 10% (implied); earned on avg. com. eq., '15: 9.4%. Regulatory Climate: Avg. © 2016 Value Line, Inc. 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 50 **Earnings Predictability** 80



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

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

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal- endar						
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		350.2	1484.6	
2014	325	370	450	365	1510	
2015	350	375	485	370	1580	
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full	
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	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-	QUART	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

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 Energy'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 ex-

pected to be completed in 2014.

The Timeliness rank for this issue is suspended due to the impending ac**quisition.** 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

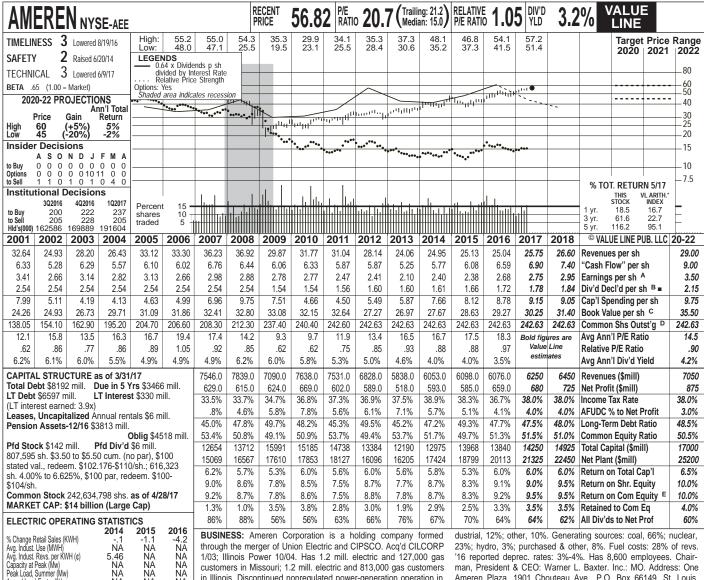
(A) EPS diluted. Excl. nonrecur. gains: '98, 19¢; '99, \$1.35; '00, 48¢; '03, \$2.00. Next earnings report due early May. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. (B) Div'ds historically

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 B+ 90 Price Growth Persistence 80 **Earnings Predictability** 40

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through the merger of Union Electric and CIPSCO. Acq'd CILCORP 1/03; Illinois Power 10/04. Has 1.2 mill. electric and 127,000 gas customers in Missouri; 1.2 mill. electric and 813,000 gas customers in Illinois. Discontinued nonregulated power-generation operation in 13. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 45%; commercial, 33%; in-

23%; hydro, 3%; purchased & other, 8%. Fuel costs: 28% of revs. '16 reported deprec. rates: 3%-4%. Has 8,600 employees. Chairman, 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.

351 355 343 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs to '20-'22 Revenues -2.0% -4.0% 2.5% 'Cash Flow' .5% -1.5% 6.5% 6.0% Earnings -1 5% -4.0% -1.0% 1.5% 4.5% 3.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

5.46 NA NA

NΑ

NA NA NA NA

NΑ

NA NA NA

Cal- QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full							
Cal-		Full					
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year		
2014	1594	1419	1670	1370	6053.0		
2015	1556	1401	1833	1308	6098.0		
2016	1434	1427	1859	1356	6076.0		
2017	1514	1500	1836	1400	6250		
2018	1550	1550	1900	1450	6450		
Cal-	EA	EARNINGS PER SHARE A					
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year		
2014	.40	.62	1.20	.19	2.40		
2015	.45	.40	1.41	.12	2.38		
2016	.43	.61	1.52	.13	2.68		
2017	.42	.80	1.33	.20	2.75		
2018	.50	.85	1.35	.25	2.95		
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full		
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year		
2013	.40	.40	.40	.40	1.60		
2014	.40	.40	.40	.41	1.61		
2015	.41	.41	.41	.425	1.66		
2016	.425	.425	.425	.44	1.72		
2017	.44						

Ameren received an electric rate increase in Missouri. Effective April 1st, tariffs rose \$92 million. In addition, the utility will benefit from a \$54 million reduction in energy costs and a \$26 million reduction in amortization and other expenses. This rate order arose from a "black box" settlement in which an allowed return on equity and common-equity ratio were not specified, but the commission indicated that an implicit ROE of 9.2%-9.7% is reasonable. (The utility's previous allowed ROE, established in 2015, was 9.53%.) The effects of the rate order should help earnings increase in 2017 and 2018. Forward-looking rate plans in Illinois and the company's federally regulated transmission business are positive factors, as well. Our 2017 estimate, which we cut by \$0.05 a share due to a milder-than-usual winter in Missouri, is at the midpoint of Ameren's targeted range of \$2.65-\$2.85 a share.

We forecast that earnings will rise 7%, to \$2.95 a share, in 2018. This is within Ameren's goal of 5%-8% annual profit growth. Note that the Callaway nuclear unit will not have a refueling and maintenance outage next year.

Electric transmission is a source of **profit growth for Ameren.** Of the company's \$10.8 billion capital spending plan for the 2017-2021 period, \$2.8 billion is slated for transmission. This is noteworthy because the utility's allowed ROE for transmission (set by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission at 10.82%) is well above what it can reasonably expect to earn on its state-regulated operations. The allowed ROE for transmission is likely to remain superior, even if FERC reduces it. Some customers have complained to FERC that allowed ROEs for transmission are too high, but this matter is on hold because the five-man commission temporarily lacks a quorum.

Åmeren stock has a dividend yield that is about average, by utility standards. Like many utility equities, the recent quotation is near the upper end of our 2020-2022 Target Price Range. Accordingly, total return potential over the 3- to 5-year period is low, despite our expectation of decent dividend growth over that

time frame

Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 16, 2017

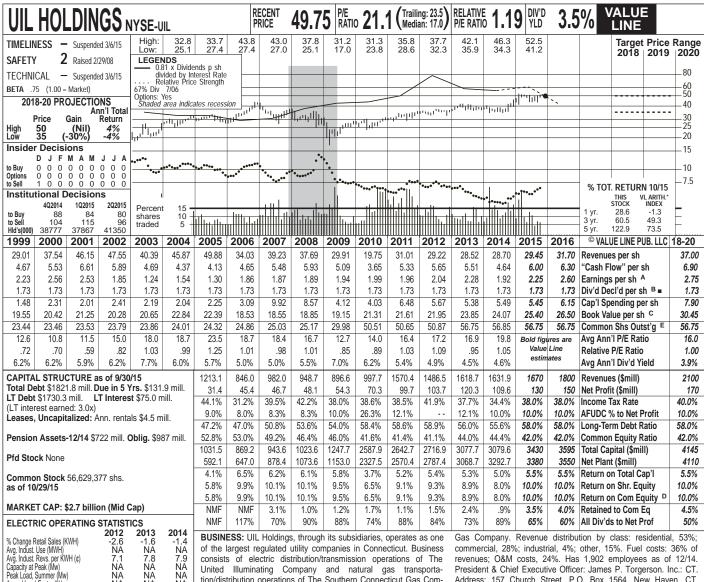
(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '05, (11¢); '10, (\$2.19); '11, (32¢); '12, (\$6.42); gain (loss) from disc. ops.: '13, (92¢); '15, 21¢. '14 & 16 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next egs.

report due early Aug. **(B)** Div'ds histor. paid in late Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. **(C)** Incl. intang. In '16: \$7.62/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Orig. cost depr. Rate | com. eq., '16: 9.3%. Reg. Climate: Below Avg. © 2017 Value Line, Inc. 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**

95

25



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 1,902 employees as of 12/14. 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.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		249	262	257
ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value	Past 10 Yrs. -4.5% 0.5% 3.0%	Past 5 Yrs. -4.0% -1.0% 2.0%	to	1 '12-'14 '18-'20 4.5% 4.5% 5.0% Nil 4.5%
DOOK VAIGE	1.070	4.57		7.070

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

NA NA +.8

NA

+1.6

Cal-	QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)				Full	
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	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		1631.9	
2015	584.1	312.0	330.5	443.4	1670	
2016	605	350	370	475	1800	
Cal-	EA	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year	
2012	.92	.23	.31	.56	2.04	
2013	1.01	.35	.31	.61	2.28	
2014	.97	.16	.22	.57	1.92	
2015	1.01	.28	.27	.69	2.25	
2016	1.00	.40	.45	.75	2.60	
Cal-	QUAR	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				
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	.432	.432				

UIL Holdings expects to soon become part of Iberdrola. Indeed, the Connecticut electric and gas utility is still targeting a year-end closing for its merger with the Spanish company's U.S. unit (Iberdrola U.S.), which includes New York State Electric & Gas and the secondlargest wind-power portfolio in the United States. Under terms of the proposed transinvestors are slated to receive \$10.50 in cash and one share of newly issued stock in the merged company, worth up to \$44.03, for each share of UIL that they own. Current UIL stakeholders would own 18.5% of the yet-to-be-named newco, which plans to list on the New York Stock Exchange, while Iberdrola S.A. would control the remaining 81.5%.

Left standing in the merger's way is, among other things, approval by the **Connecticut Public Utility Regulatory** Authority (CPURA). That body's draft decision in July would have denied the change of control, which prompted UIL to withdraw its original submission. A subsequent settlement agreement, promising concessions to ratepayers and other constituences, should help clear the path for approval. That said, CPURA is expected to issue a final ruling on December 9th.

Reported earnings rose sharply in the September quarter, as a one-time reserve made for an easy year-ago comparison. Still, the headline growth figure was significantly less than we envisioned, due to higher uncollectable billings at the utility's gas distribution unit. Ahead of the merger, UIL has also put off a rate case, further limiting near-term growth.

Shares of UIL remain unranked for year-ahead Timeliness due to the utilĭty's pending merger with Iberdrola. Investors may want to stay pat here with the intention of participating in the cashand-stock exchange. That option, in our view, will provide good exposure to what looks to be a relatively fast-growing, shareholder-friendly newco. Indeed, earnings at the merged company are expected to increase approximately 10% per year through 2019, partly reflecting the accelerated utilization of existing tax benefits. A competitive dividend and aboveaverage payout increases also appear to be in the cards.

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

June, Sept., and Dec.

Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '14: \$321.9 mill. or \$5.66/sh. (D) Rate base: orig. cost. Rate allowed on common equity in '13: 9.15%.

Nils C. Van Liew

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

November 20, 2015

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UNITIL CORP. AMEXUTL RECENT 49.05 TRAILING 24.0 RELATIVE 1.14 PICT 2.9% VALUE LINE										
RANKS	29.26	23.67	24.40	28.60	29.00	32.07	38.55	39.00	46.00	50.08 High
♠ Above	17.75	17.50	19.28	21.84	24.15	26.01	29.05	32.63	34.70	43.03 Lov
PERFORMANCE 2 Above Average		ENDS os Mov Avg								45
Technical 3 Average	Rel Pr	ice Strength					<u>,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,</u>	11	1111111111	30
	Shaded area inc	dicates recession			<u>'</u>					22.5
SAFETY 2 Above Average	• • ,''	111114444	-++-							22.3
BETA .65 (1.00 = Market)	••••									13
(•••								13
		•••	••••		•					9
Financial Strength B+			••••••		****	••••				6
Deine Otabilita				•		*****	••••••	·····		
Price Stability 95		.1.			1					4
Price Growth Persistence 50										3
Familiana Bandista I III			1.11	 	.		111	II . I I	ilii te	130
Earnings Predictability 60										VOL (thou:
			111111111111111111111111111111111111111			11111111111111				
© VALUE LINE PUBLISHING LLC	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017/2018
SALES PER SH	36.99	33.87	32.91	32.21	25.62	26.51	30.60	30.51	27.26	
"CASH FLOW" PER SH	3.68	3.44	3.52	4.16	3.86	4.28	4.80	5.15	5.24	
EARNINGS PER SH	1.65	1.03	.88	1.50	1.43	1.57	1.79	1.89	1.94	2.09 A,B/2.20 C
DIV'DS DECL'D PER SH	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.39	1.40	1.42	
CAP'L SPENDING PER SH	3.63	5.42	4.55	5.21	4.97	6.47	6.65	7.43	6.97	
BOOK VALUE PER SH	17.90	17.82	17.36	17.50	18.90	19.15	19.62	20.20	20.82	
COMMON SHS OUTST'G (MILL)	7.79	10.84	10.89	10.95	13.78	13.84	13.92	13.99	14.07	
AVG ANN'L P/E RATIO	15.8	20.3	25.1	16.8	18.7	18.5	18.4	18.5	21.0	23.5/22.3
RELATIVE P/E RATIO	.95	1.35	1.60	1.05	1.20	1.04	.97	.95	1.15	
AVG ANN'L DIV'D YIELD	5.3%	6.6%	6.2%	5.5%	5.2%	4.8%	4.2%	4.0%	3.5%	
SALES (\$MILL)	288.2	367.0	358.4	352.8	353.1	366.9	425.8	426.8	383.4	Bold figures
OPERATING MARGIN	18.5%	20.2%	22.7%	27.8%	27.4%	28.9%	28.0%	29.6%	34.3%	are consensus
DEPRECIATION (\$MILL)	19.1	27.4	28.9	29.3	35.1	37.7	42.1	45.7	46.6	earnings
NET PROFIT (\$MILL)	9.7	10.0	9.6	16.4	18.2 37.7%	21.6	24.7	26.3	27.1	estimates
INCOME TAX RATE	31.2%	34.2%	31.9%	37.9% 4.6%		37.0%	36.2%	36.9%	36.2%	and, using the
NET PROFIT MARGIN	3.4%	2.7% d22.9	2.7% d9.8	4.6% d23.2	5.2% 7.2	5.9% d4.7	5.8% 15.8	6.2% d18.7	7.1% d45.3	recent prices,
WORKING CAP'L (\$MILL) LONG-TERM DEBT (\$MILL)	d38.3 250.0	249.8	289.0	288.5	7.2 287.7	284.8	336.4	319.1	325.1	P/E ratios.
SHR. EQUITY (\$MILL)	250.0 141.5	195.1	289.0 191.0	288.5 193.7	287.7 260.6	284.8 265.2	273.3	282.8	293.1	
RETURN ON TOTAL CAP'L	4.0%	4.3%	4.1%	5.5%	5.2%	5.8%	5.7%	6.2%	6.1%	
RETURN ON SHR. EQUITY	6.9%	5.1%	5.0%	8.5%	7.0%	8.1%	9.0%	9.3%	9.2%	
RETAINED TO COM EQ	1.1%	NMF	NMF	.6%	.4%	.9%	2.0%	2.4%	2.4%	
ALL DIV'DS TO NET PROF	84%	NMF	NMF	93%	95%	88%	78%	75%	74%	
AND of analysts changing earn est in I										

Ano. of analysts changing earn. est. in last 12 days: 0 up, 0 down, consensus 5-year earnings growth not available. Based upon one analyst's estimate. CBased upon one analyst's estimate.

	A	NNUAL	RATES			ASSETS (\$mill.)	2015	2016	3/31/17
of chan	ge (per s	hare)	5 Yrs.	1	l Yr.	Cash Assets	8.7	5.8	8.8
Sales			-2.0%		0.5%	Receivables	49.8	52.9	57.6
"Cash I			6.5%		2.0%	Inventory	.8	.6	.3
Earning			10.5%		2.5%	Other	66.6	72.3	59.4
Dividen			0.5%		1.5%	Current Assets	125.9	131.6	126.1
Book V	alue		3.0%		3.0%				
Fiscal	QUAI	RTERLY	SALES (\$	mill.)	Full	Property, Plant	40000		
Year	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Year	& Equip, at cost	1080.6	1173.4	
40/04/44	450.4	70.0	70.0	440.0	405.0	Accum Depreciation	271.7	290.0 883.4	000.0
12/31/14	156.1	73.3	76.6	119.8	425.8	Net Property Other	808.9	883.4 113.2	890.9
12/31/15	170.6	77.1	74.7	104.4	426.8		111.6		117.4
12/31/16	125.8	74.5	78.8	104.3	383.4	Total Assets	1046.4	1128.2	1134.4
12/31/17	126.0								
Fiscal	EA	RNINGS	PER SHA	RE	Full	LIABILITIES (\$mill.)	00.0	00.4	00.4
Year	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Year	Accts Payable	33.3	32.4	28.1
	-				1.000	Debt Due Other	62.5 48.8	101.7 42.8	109.6
12/31/13	.79	d.01	.04	.75	1.57				39.3
12/31/14	.91	.08	.11	.69	1.79	Current Liab	144.6	176.9	177.0
12/31/15	.98	.12	.12	.67	1.89				
12/31/16	.78	.18	.25	.73	1.94				
12/31/17	.88	.21	.21	.79		LONG-TERM DEBT A	ND EQUIT	Υ	
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY D	IVIDENDS	PAID	Full	as of 3/31/17			
endar	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Year	Total Debt \$420.6 mill	l.	Due in 5	Yrs. NA
2014	.345	.345	.345	.345	1.38	LT Debt \$311.0 mill.	- NIA		
2015	.35	.35	.35	.35	1.40	Including Cap. Lease	S NA	/E10/	of Cap'l)
2016	.355	.355	.355	.355	1.42	Leases, Uncapitalize	d Δnnual re		or Cap i)
2017	.36	.36				Leases, Officapitalize	u Alliual le	illais INA	
	INSTIT	UTIONA	L DECISIO	ONS		Pension Liability \$149	9.0 mill. in '16	6 vs. \$124.4	mill. in '15
		3Q'16	4Q'16	5 1	Q'17	Pfd Stock None		Pfd Div'd F	Paid None
to Buy		61	54		65	Common Stock 14,108.	000 shares		
to Sell		41	50		47	Johnnon Stock 14,100	,000 3110163	(49%	6 of Cap'l)

Hld's(000)

8447

8859

9778

INDUSTRY: Electric Utility (East)

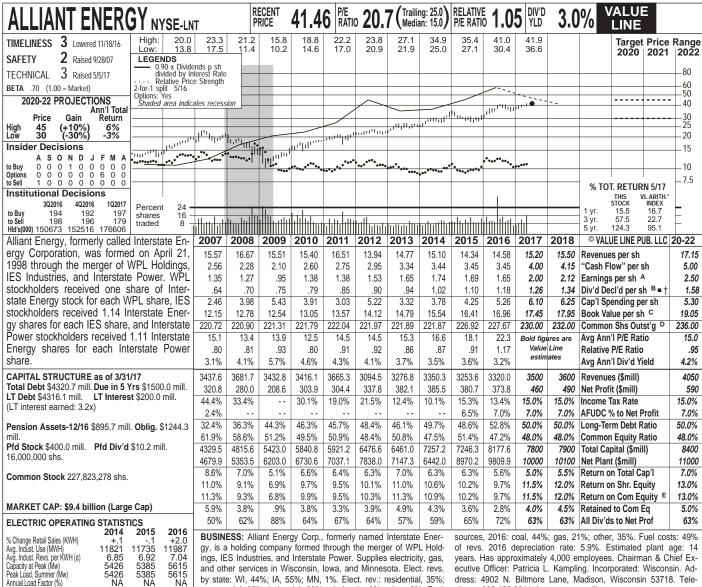
BUSINESS: Unitil Corporation, a public utility holding company, engages in the distribution of electricity and natural gas in the United States. The company distributes electricity in the southeastern seacoast and state capital regions of New Hampshire, and the greater Fitchburg area of north central Massachusetts; and distributes natural gas in southeastern New Hampshire, portions of southern Maine to the Lewiston-Auburn area, and in the greater Fitchburg area of north central Massachusetts. The company also operates 86 miles of interstate underground natural gas transmission pipeline that provides interstate natural gas pipeline access and transportation services primarily in Maine and New Hampshire. In addition, it provides energy brokering and advisory services to commercial and industrial customers; and real estate management services. As of June 2017, Unitil's operating utilities serve approximately 104,300 electric customers and 79,900 natural gas customers. Has 498 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.

June 23, 2017

TOTAL SHAREHOLDER RETURN

Dividends plus appreciation as of 5/31/2017

3 Mos.	6 Mos.	1 Yr.	3 Yrs.	5 Yrs.
7.51%	13.81%	24.08%	58.76%	116.93%



% Change Customers (yr-end) +.4 +.3 +1.0Fixed Charge Cov. (% 320 325 342 Est'd '14-'16 ANNUAL RATES Past 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) -1.5% 6.5% 6.5% 6.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" 0.5% 4.0% 3.5% 5.0% 7.5% 6.0% Earnings Dividends 6.0% 4.5%

4.5%

4.0%

4.0%

Book Value

ÑΑ

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2014 952.8 750.3 843.1 804.1 3350.3 2015 897.4 717.2 898.9 740.1 3253.6 843.8 754.2 925.0 797.0 3320.0 2016 853.9 765 975 906.1 3500 2017 880 905 3600 2018 810 1005 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2014 .49 .28 .70 .27 1.74 2015 .44 .30 .80 .15 1.69 2016 .43 .37 .57 .28 1.65 2017 .44 .36 .88 .32 2.00 2018 .47 .38 .92 2.12 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =† Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 2013 .94 .235 .255 .255 .255 .255 1.02 2014 2015 .275 .275 .275 .275 1.10 .295 .295 .295 .295 2016 1.18 .315 .315 2017

and other services in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. Elect. revs. by state: WI, 44%; IA, 55%; MN, 1%. Elect. rev.: residential, 35%; commercial, 25%; industrial, 29%; wholesale, 9%; other, 2%. Fuel

Alliant Energy has filed a rate case with the Iowa Utilities Board. The company is seeking an increase of approximately \$176 million (11.6%), based on a 10.3% return on a 49% common-equity ratio. Under Iowa law, Alliant was able to implement a temporary rate hike on April 13th for \$102 million (58%) of the request. The temporary rates collected are subject to refund if the board rejects the application. A final decision is expected later this year or in early 2018 (the IUB has 10 months from the date of the filing to issue a ruling). Alliant said it would use the funds to upgrade power grids and improve facilities such as the Marshalltown natural gas generating station.

The rate case should help lift earnings this year and next. The aforementioned hike plus an earlier increase at Wisconsin Power and Light ought to help boost 2017 share net by \$0.35, to \$2.00. Note that last year's tally included \$0.23 per share in charges related to the revaluation of the Franklin County wind farm. In addition, Alliant is set to benefit from improved electric and gas distribution systems

(thanks to investments made in previous

dress: 4902 N. Biltmore Lane, Madison, Wisconsin 53718. Telephone: 608-458-3311. Internet: www.alliantenergy.com. years), as well as renewed cost-efficiency efforts. Looking ahead, we have modeled EPS of \$2.12 in 2018 (+6% year over year),

which is in line with management's stated

5%-7% growth target. The company is making good progress on renewable energy. At the end of the first quarter, LNT was generating 1,200 megawatts of clean energy across three different states. It plans to invest about \$1.4 billion over the next four years on various wind and solar projects to further boost its renewable portfolio.

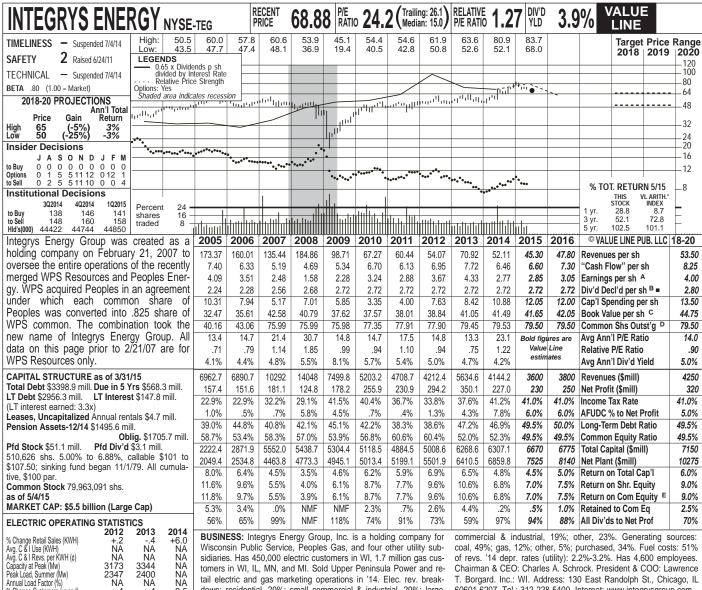
The balance sheet is in good shape. The fixed-charge coverage is above average for the utility industry, and the capitalization ratio is healthy. Alliant merits a Financial Strength rating of A, and its stock is ranked 2 (Above Average) for Safety.

This stock has a dividend yield that is slightly below the industry mean. In addition, the equity appears expensively priced. Its price-to-earnings ratio (20.7) is well above the 10-year average of about 15. Investors may want to wait for a better entry point before deploying funds here. Daniel Henigson June 16, 2 June 16, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '07, 55¢; '08, 4¢; '09, (44¢); '10, (8¢); '11, (1¢); '12, (8¢). Next earnings report due early August. (B) Dividends historically paid in mid-

Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. • Div'd reinvest. Rate base: Orig. cost. Rates all'd on com. eq. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) in IA in '16: 10.5%; in WI in '16 Regul. Clim.: Incl. deferred chgs. In '16: \$22.6 mill., WI, Above Avg.; IA, Avg. \$0.10/sh. (D) In millions, adjusted for split. (E)

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence **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% NMF 1.0% 1.0% 2.5% 2.5% 2.0% Earnings Dividends 11.0% **Book Value** 1.5%

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	1163.2	800	636.8	1000	3600
2016	1250	825	675	1050	3800
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	1.61	.10	.29	.85	2.85
2016	1.70	.10	.35	.90	3.05
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	(ID B ■	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	.68			

Integrys Energy is awaiting two more regulatory approvals before the acq-uisition of the company by Wisconsin Energy can be completed. Integrys stockholders would receive \$18.58 a share in cash and 1.128 shares of Wisconsin Energy stock for each of their shares, valuing the deal at \$69.57 a share at Wisconsin Energy's recent price. The regulatory commissions in Minnesota and Illinois still need to rule on the combination. The due date for a decision in Illinois is July 6th, and the companies hope to get a written order in Minnesota by then. If all goes well, the transaction will close shortly thereafter. Accordingly, this might well be our last full-page report on Integrys. The stock's Timeliness rank is suspended due to the pending takeover.

We tĥink shareholders should sell their stock on the open market. The stock price of Integrys is now just 1% below the value of the buyout, leaving little upside potential for shareholders. Integrys holders also have some downside risk that the deal will fall through, or that the price of Wisconsin Energy stock (like that of most utility equities) continues to weaken.

Like many electric utility issues, Wisconsin Energy's stock price has fallen more than 10% so far this year. In fact, the value of the deal for Integrys holders has dropped below the \$71.47-a-share value when the acquisition was announced nearly a year ago.

Peoples Gas in Illinois has received some criticism for its management of its accelerated main-replacement pro**gram.** The cost of the project is much more than expected when it was proposed several years ago. A consultant made 95 recommendations, many of which the utility is already implementing. How this will affect the proposed takeover is unknown. The Illinois commission might welcome a new parent company for Peoples Gas.

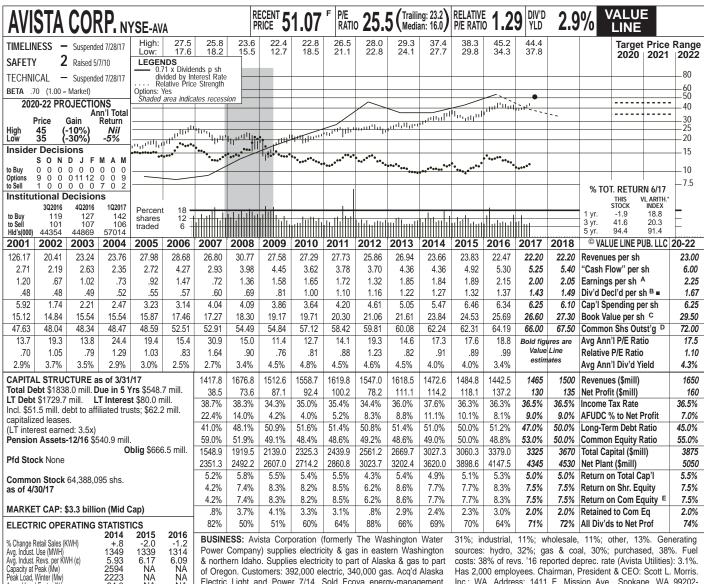
Rate relief should help earnings advance this year and next. Tariffs of Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas (also in Illinois) were raised in early 2015. Wisconsin Public Service has filed for electric and gas rate hikes of \$96.9 million and \$9.1 million, respectively, based on a return of 10.2% on a common-equity ratio of 50.52%. New rates should take effect in early 2016. June 19, 2015 Paul E. Debbas, CFA

(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 Aug. (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, Inc. 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**



of Oregon. Customers: 392,000 electric, 340,000 gas. Acq'd Alaska Electric Light and Power 7/14. Sold Ecova energy-management sub. 6/14. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 35%; commercial,

Has 2,000 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Scott L. Morris. Inc.: WA. Address: 1411 E. Mission Ave., Spokane, WA 99202-2600. Tel.: 509-489-0500. Internet: www.avistacorp.com

315 333 322 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 -3.5% 4.0% 3.5% Revenues -1.5% Nil 'Cash Flow' 4.5% 6.5% 3.5% 2.5% Earnings 6.5% 4.5% Dividends Book Value 3.0% 4 0%

+5.5

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

+1.3

NA

+.6

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2014	446.6		301.6		1472.6
2014					
	446.5	337.3	313.7	387.3	1484.8
2016	418.2		303.4	402.1	1442.5
2017	436.5	320	305	403.5	1465
2018	430	330	320	420	1500
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.79	.43	.16	.48	1.84
2015	.74	.40	.21	.54	1.89
2016	.92	.43	.19	.62	2.15
2017	.96	.39	.15	.50	2.00
2018	.85	.45		.60	2.05
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B .	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.305	.305	.305	.305	1.22
2014	.3175	.3175	.3175	.3175	1.27
2015	.33	.33	.33	.33	1.32
2016	.3425				1.37
2017	.3575	.3575	.0420	.0 120	1.07

Avista has accepted a takeover offer. Hydro One, a Canadian company, has agreed to pay US\$53 in cash for each share of Avista. The transaction requires the approval of Avista's stockholders, the regulatory commissions in Washington, Idaho, Oregon, Alaska, and Montana, plus the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The companies expect the deal to be completed in the second half of 2018.

We advise stockholders to sell their **shares on the open market.** The offer is generous, at more than 26 times estimated 2017 earnings. However, with the need for regulatory approvals from five state commissions, there is a good deal of regulatory uncertainty. Accordingly, stockholders can avoid downside risk by selling now. The stock's Timeliness rank is suspended due to the takeover agreement.

Avista filed a multiyear rate case in Washington. First, the utility sought a \$15.0 million adjustment to reflect increased power costs, effective on September 1st. Then, it requested electric increases of \$61.4 million on May 1, 2018, \$14.0 million on May 1, 2019, and \$14.4 million on May 1, 2020, along with gas

hikes of \$8.3 million in year one, \$4.2 million in year two, and \$4.4 million in year three. This is based on a 9.9% return on a 50% common-equity ratio.

We expect a partial earnings recovery in 2018, after a decline this year. The lack of rate relief in Washington will hurt 2017 profits by an estimated \$0.20-\$0.30 a share. Assuming reasonable orders in the pending rate cases, we think Avista's earnings will exceed \$2.00 a share in 2018.

Avista filed a multiyear rate case in **Idaho.** The utility sought electric hikes of \$18.6 million and \$9.9 million at the start of 2018 and 2019, respectively, and gas increases of \$3.5 million next year and \$2.1 million in 2019. This is based on a 9.9% return on a 50% common-equity ratio.

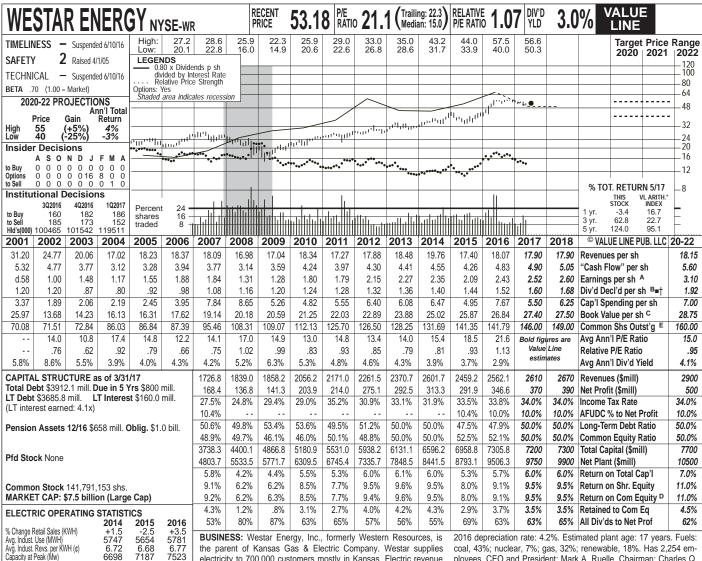
Other rate cases are pending. In Oregon, Avista reached a settlement calling for a \$3.5 million gas rate increase, based on a 9.4% return on a 50% common-equity ratio. New rates would take effect on October 1st. In Alaska, the company is seeking an electric hike of \$2.8 million, based on a 13.8% return on a 58% common-equity ratio. A ruling is due by February 8th.

Paul E. Debbas, CFĂ July 28, 2017

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '02, (9¢); '03, (3¢); '14, 9¢; gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '01, (\$1.00); '02, 2¢; '03, (10¢); '14, \$1.17; '15, 8¢. Next earnings report due early

Aug. (B) Div'ds paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd reinv. avail. (C) Incl. def'd chgs. In '16: \$11.33/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate all'd on com. eq. in WA in '16: AW (EDT) on 7/20/17.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 60 **Earnings Predictability** 75



electricity to 700,000 customers mostly in Kansas. Electric revenue sources: residential and rural, 33%; commercial and business, 29%; industrial, 16%; other, 22%. The company sold its investment in ONEOK in 2003 and 85% ownership in Protection One in 2004.

plovees, CEO and President: Mark A. Ruelle, Chairman: Charles Q. Chandler. Incorporated: Kansas. Address: 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612. Telephone: 785-575-6300. Internet: www.westarenergy.com

335 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 332 330 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 1.0% 3.0% 7.0% 3.0% 4.0% 0.5% 3.0% 4.0% 2.5% 4.5% Revenues 'Cash Flow" Earnings 6.0% Dividends Book Value

5226 56.2

+.2

5167

+.2

5184

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

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal- endar		TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2014	628.6	612.7	764.0	596.4	2601.7
2015	590.8	589.6	732.8	546.0	2459.2
2016	569.5		764.7	606.5	2562.1
2017	572.6		775	632.4	2610
2018	585	645	790	650	2670
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.52	.40	1.10	.33	2.35
2015	.38	.46	.97	.28	2.09
2016	.46	.51	1.08	.38	2.43
2017	.42	.55	1.10	.45	2.52
2018	.50	.54	1.12	.44	2.60
Cal-	QUAR1	ERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	\ID B = †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.33	.34	.34	.34	1.35
2014	.34	.35	.35	.35	1.39
2015	.35	.36	.36	.36	1.43
2016	.38	.38	.38	.38	1.52
2017	.40	.40			
l					

Great Plains' acquisition of Westar Energy has stalled. The agreement, which calls for WR investors to receive \$60 (85% in cash, 15% in stock) for each of their shares, hit a new roadblock after the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) rejected the merger and then denied an application for reconsideration of the terms. The agency claims that paying the agreedupon price (\$8.6 billion, or \$12.2 billion when debt is included) would create a larger but financially weakened company with consumers on the hook for its problems. The KCC also said the combination threatens more than 600 full-time positions at Westar's corporate headquarters in Topeka, Kansas. Great Plains has countered that any potential job cuts would take place over a three- to five-year period, and that net losses would actually be much smaller. Great Plains now has to decide whether it makes more sense to cancel the agreement or try to restructure the deal. If new terms are reached, it would probably mean a delay of about a year before any regulatory approval could be received. Another option, walking away from the transaction, would cost Great

Plains \$380 million in termination fees. Meantime, the company reported disappointing first-quarter results. The decline in net income was driven by mild weather in the early part of the year that resulted in weak residential and commercial business. Also contributing to the lower-than-expected results were higher depreciation expenses associated with the start of operations at the Western Plains Wind Farm. In all, share net for the March period came in at \$0.42, or down \$0.04 from the year-earlier quarter. We now expect Westar to post 2017 earnings of \$2.52 a share, down from \$2.55 previously.

This stock's Timeliness rank remains suspended due to the uncertainty surrounding the Great Plains-Westar acquisition agreement. A decision by Great Plains management on whether to restructure or abandon the deal will likely be made after this review reaches subscribers. However, with Westar shares trading approximately 12% below the value of Great Plains' offer, investors appear to be souring on the prospect of a revival of this merger.

Daniel Henigson June 16, 2017

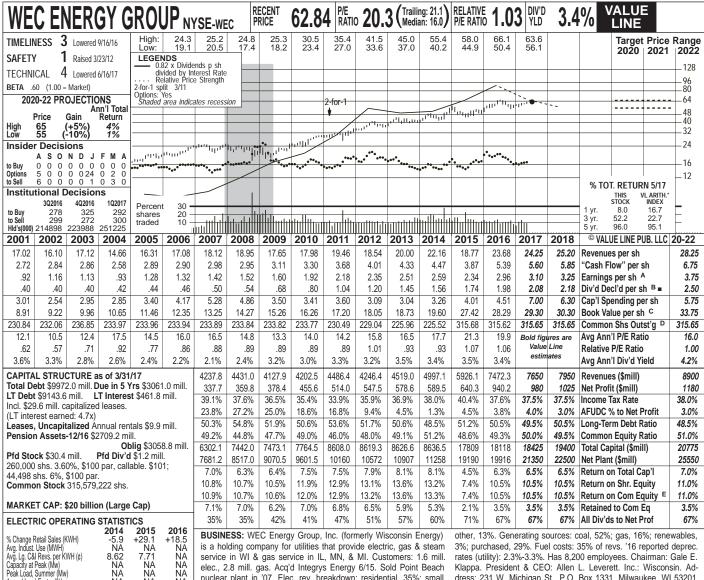
(A) EPS diluted from 2010 onward. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '01, 27¢; '02, (\$12.06); '03, 77¢; '08, 39¢; '11, 14¢. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due

invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. reg. assets. In 2016: Clim.: Avg. (E) In mill.

early August.

(B) Div'ds paid in early Jan., April, July, and Oct. Div'd reinvest, plan avail. † Shareholder earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 9.0%. Regul.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 85



service in WI & gas service in IL, MN, & MI. Customers: 1.6 mill. elec., 2.8 mill. gas. Acq'd Integrys Energy 6/15. Sold Point Beach nuclear plant in '07. Elec. rev. breakdown: residential, 35%; small commercial & industrial, 31%; large commercial & industrial, 21%; rates (utility): 2.3%-3.3%. Has 8,200 employees. Chairman: Gale E. Klappa. President & CEO: Allen L. Leverett. Inc.: Wisconsin. Address: 231 W. Michigan St., P.O. Box 1331, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Tel.: 414-221-2345. Internet: www.wecenergygroup.com

	454	364 404
Past 0 Yrs.	Past 5 Yrs.	Est'd '14-'16 to '20-'22
3.0% 5.0%		
8.5% 15.0%	16.0%	6.0%
	3.0% 5.0% 8.5%	Past Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 3.0% 6.5% 6.5% 6.5% 15.0% 16.0%

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

NA NA NA

NA

NA

+40.2

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Full Year
2014 2015 2016	1695 1388 2195	1044 991 1602	1033 1699 1712	1225 1848 1963	4997.1 5926.1 7472.3
2017 2018	2304 2400	1650 1700	1700 1750	1996 2100	7650 7950
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31		ER SHARI Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	.91 .86 1.09 1.12 1.15	.58 .35 .57 .58	.56 .58 .68 .75	.53 .57 .61 .65	2.59 2.34 2.96 3.10 3.25
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		IDENDS PA		Full Year
2013 2014 2015 2016 2017	.34 .39 .422 .495 .52	.34 .39 .422 .495 .52	.382 .39 .44 .495	.383 .39 .457 .495	1.45 1.56 1.74 1.98

WEC Energy Group's utilities in Wisconsin are awaiting a ruling on a regulatory settlement. The agreement, if approved by the Wisconsin commission, would freeze electric and through 2019. Wisconsin Public Service would adopt an earnings-sharing mechanism that is already in place for WEC's other utilities in the state. Any earnings up to half a percentage point above the allowed return on equity would be shared evenly between the utility and its customers; anything above that would be passed through to customers. The benefit to the company is that its utilities in the state would be able to retain the benefits of cost reductions. This already happened in the first quarter of 2017, when effective expense management helped offset the effects of a milder-than-usual winter.

We estimate that earnings will rise 5% this year and next. This is the low end of WEC's annual target of 5%-7%. The utilities in Wisconsin should benefit from cost reductions, and Peoples Gas in Chicago has an accelerated main replacement program, in which the utility receives a current return on this spending (estimated at

\$300 million in 2017). Our 2017 profit estimate is within management's guidance of \$3.06-\$3.12 a share.

WEC's electric utility in the upper peninsula of Michigan is seeking a certificate of need to build a gas-fired **power plant.** This would cost an estimated \$275 million and would be completed in 2019. Half of the 180-megawatt facility's costs would be recovered in rates, the other half from a large industrial customer via a 20-year contract. Once the plant is on line, the company would retire an old coal-fired plant. The Michigan commission's decision is expected in October.

The company is awaiting approval for a gas storage acquisition. WEC would pay \$230 million for a facility in Michigan. This would provide a return on investment similar to that of a utility.

This high-quality stock has a yield that is about average for a utility. The equity is suitable for conservative utility investors. However, like most utility issues, the recent price is within our 2020-2022 Target Price Range. Accordingly, 3to 5-year total return potential is low Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 16, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gains on disc. ops.: '04, 77¢; '05, 2¢; '06, 2¢; '09, 2¢; '10, 1¢; '11, 6¢. '14-'16 EPS don't sum due to rounding or chng. in shs. Next egs. report due early Aug.

(B) Div'ds paid in early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. = Div'd reinv. avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16: 9.11%; in MI in '16: 9.9%; earned on \$19.44/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for split. (E) Rate wy. Com. eq., '16: 10.6%. Regul. Climate: WI, base: Net orig. cost. Rates all'd on com. eq. in Above Avg.; IL, Below Avg.; MN & MI, Avg.

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

A+ 95

85

All of the major electric utilities located in the eastern region of the United States are reviewed in this Issue; western electrics, in Issue 11; and the remaining utilities, in Issue 5.

Two companies in Issue 1 have or had plans to build nuclear units. Due to extensive delays and cost overruns that led to the bankruptcy filing of the contract, one project has been canceled, and the other is uncertain.

Nonregulated nuclear facilities are facing difficult market conditions. Some companies have received or are seeking remedies from state governments.

Most electric utility equities have performed very well in 2017. We continue to believe this group is expensively priced.

Nuclear Construction Problems

For the past several years, Georgia Power and South Carolina Electric & Gas, electric utility subsidiaries of Southern Company and SCANA, respectively, have each been building two nuclear units at the site of an existing plant. Georgia Power is adding two units to the Vogtle station, and SCE&G was (note the past tense) building two units at the Summer plant. The utilities have been earning a return on their construction work in progress; were it not for regulatory provisions that enabled them to do so, they would not have proceeded with the projects. There is a lot of construction risk associated with building nuclear facilities, and these projects are no exception. Each has had extensive delays and cost overruns. In fact, the rising costs became so severe that the contractor building the units, Westinghouse, filed for bankruptcy protection in late March. Westinghouse's parent, Toshiba, is providing each utility with guarantees that are stipulated in the construction agreements, but these aren't nearly enough to cover the remaining construction expenditures.

In late July, SCE&G decided to abandon the project once it realized that the cost overruns and delays (based on information from Westinghouse) were even greater than the utility had estimated. A portion of the construction work in progress is still not reflected in rates, and SCE&G will seek recovery of them under South Carolina regulatory law. The abandonment decision is turning out to be politically unpopular, as construction was providing many jobs and economic benefits to the area. In addition, the new units would have been a source of emissions-free electricity. Georgia Power still has not decided whether to proceed with construction, but will likely announce its decision soon. The chief executive officer of the utility's parent, Southern Company, has stated that "there are a host of differences between our project and the Summer project," so we would not assume that this one will be canceled just because it has the same contractor as Summer. No matter what happens here, we will be surprised if any other investorowned utilities decide to build nuclear units.

Nuclear Financial Problems

Nonregulated nuclear facilities are operating in a difficult environment. Low natural gas prices have led to low market power prices. Other problems facing mer-

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 65 (of 97)

chant nuclear plants are subsidized renewable energy and weak demand for power in many parts of the United States. And current market structures do not provide any recognition of nuclear energy's nonemitting environmental benefits, as well as the benefits of fuel diversity. Two nuclear facilities (one owned by *Dominion Energy*) have already been shut for economic reasons, and some others are slated for closing in the next few years.

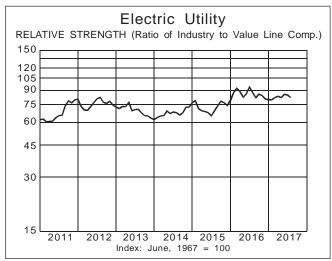
The owners of troubled nuclear plants are looking for ways to avoid shutting their assets. New York and Illinois have initiated "zero-emissions credits" to subsidize certain nuclear plants in the state for their environmental benefits. (So far, legal challenges to these credits have been unsuccessful.) FirstEnergy in Ohio and Dominion Energy in Connecticut are seeking similar help; whether they will get it is questionable. And Exelon has stated that it will close its unprofitable Three Mile Island unit in Pennsylvania in 2019 unless the state provides subsidies. Some plants owned by a Public Service Enterprise Group nonutility subsidiary are facing difficulties, as well.

Investors should note that *regulated* nuclear assets are not threatened with shutdowns for economic reasons. This includes the aforementioned Vogtle and Summer plants. Some companies, such as *NextEra Energy, Dominion Energy*, and Entergy (covered in Issue 5) have both regulated and nonregulated nuclear facilities.

Conclusion

This year has been good for most electric utility stocks, despite a rise in interest rates and an expectation of further increases. Rates remain very low, by historical standards. Returns on cash are negligible, so some investors are "reaching for yield" by buying stocks with good dividend yields, such as electric companies. This has made the valuations of many of these equities higher than normal. Today, it is not unusual to see a utility stock trading at a market price-earnings multiple. And it is not unusual to see a utility quotation that is within our 2020-2022 Target Price Range for that issue. In fact some stocks, including *AVANGRID* and *Consolidated Edison*, and trading above this range.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA



All of the major electric utilities located in the central region of the United States are reviewed in this Issue; eastern electrics, in Issue 1; and the remaining utilities, in Issue 11.

There has been a lot of merger and acquisition activity in the electric utility industry in recent years, but this has slowed lately.

Due to unfavorable market conditions for owners of merchant (i.e., noncontracted) generating assets, some companies are trying to reduce or eliminate their exposure to this business.

Most electric utility equities have performed well so far this year. We continue to believe that valuations are high.

Mergers And Acquisitions

In recent years, there have been several mergers and acquisitions in the Electric Utility Industry. Eversource Energy (formerly Northeast Utilities) purchased NStar in 2012. Exelon bought Constellation Energy in 2012 and Pepco Holdings in 2016. WEC Energy Group (formerly Wisconsin Energy) acquired Integrys Energy in 2015. Fortis purchased ITC Holdings last year. Three electric companies (Duke Energy, Southern Company, and Dominion Resources) bought gas utilities in 2016.

Historically, obtaining regulatory approval for electric utility mergers has been a challenge. Numerous proposed combinations did not get completed, either because at least one regulatory commission denied permission or because the conditions the surviving company would have had to agree to were deemed onerous by that company. This has not changed. In 2016, NextEra Energy's attempted buyout of Hawaiian Electric Industries was rejected by the regulators in the Aloha State. This year, NextEra saw its proposed acquisition of Oncor, a Texas distribution utility, turned down by the state commission. NextEra has not yet given up, but if the company attempt is ultimately unsuccessful this would be the fourth fruitless attempt by NextEra or its predecessor company, FPL Group. The proposed merger of Great Plains Energy and Westar Energy was rejected by the Kansas commission. *Great Plains* is deciding whether to restructure the agreement with Westar and make another attempt, or drop the idea. There is a precedent for a utility deal going through after the companies submitted a revised proposal to the regulators. This is what happened in the aforementioned Exelon purchase of Pepco, which was initially rejected by the commission in Washington, DC.

Exiting Nonregulated Businesses

For the past several years, conditions for owners of nonregulated "merchant" (i.e., noncontracted) generating assets have faced unfavorable market conditions. Low natural gas prices and subsidized renewable energy have reduced the prices that these assets can command on the open market. In some cases, the bids of plants' expected output failed to clear the market. And weakening demand for electricity, due to energy efficiency measures and the aftereffects of the 2007-2009 recession haven't helped. Efforts to obtain subsidies for threat-

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 33 (of 97)

ened plants, or return to reregulation, have been unsuccessful or are just beginning.

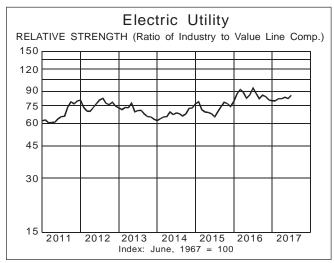
American Electric Power, Entergy, and FirstEnergy (covered in Issue 1) intend to exit their nonregulated activities (or at least the vast majority of these) and return to their roots as regulated electric utilities. However, the route to this goal isn't smooth, and these companies have already had to take substantial writedowns of their nonutility generating assets. Some asset sales have already closed—the buyers, in most instances, are private equity companies—but there is still a lot of work to be done before these companies can reach their target. In the case of Entergy, its last major nonregulated asset won't be shut until 2021.

Conclusion

Most electric utility stocks have fared well in the first half of 2017. The prices of most issues have risen at a high single-digit or low double-digit percentage. (The exceptions can be attributed to company-specific reasons.) Investors are still reaching for yield, and are not fearful of the expectation that the Federal Reserve will raise interest rates.

The high valuation of stocks in the Electric Utility Industry is evident by a few ways of measuring this. The group's average dividend yield, at 3.3%, is comfortably above the median of all stocks under our coverage. However, this yield is low, by historical standards. In addition, for many years electric utility equities had a price-earnings ratio well below that of the market. Thus, the relative price-earnings ratio shown on our pages was below 1.00. Last year, this figure was right around 1.00 for many electric utility stocks. Today, many issues have a price-earnings ratio above 20. We also note that the majority of electric utility equities are trading within their 3- to 5-year Target Price Range. A few, such as ALLETE and CMS Energy, have recent prices above their 2020-2022 Target Price Range. As a result, the long-term total return potential of this group is just 3%, despite the likelihood of annual dividend growth from most of these companies. Income-oriented investors should keep this in mind.

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.

Occasionally, we show our regulatory climate rankings for most states, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

We provide a brief update on mergers and acquisitions in the Electric Utility Industry.

Most utility stocks have performed well in 2017. Valuations remain high.

Ranking The Regulators

From time to time, *The Value Line Investment Survey* presents its rankings of regulatory climates for most states, the District of Columbia, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC). This is important because all utilities have a significant proportion, if not all, of their business subject to regulatory oversight. Electric companies file rate cases to place new capital expenditures in the rate base, recover increased expenses, and adjust rate design (i.e., the rate structure among customer classes and the portion of customers' bills that is subject to fixed monthly charges).

Note that a ranking of a regulatory climate does not merely reflect the commission in that jurisdiction. We also consider the governor, legislature, and courts. All of these play a role in determining regulatory procedures or regulatory outcomes for electric companies.

We do not include every state in the table below. We do not rank Nebraska, Nevada, Rhode Island, Tennessee, Utah, and Vermont because we do not cover an electric utility serving that state or because investor-owned utilities have little or no presence in the state. For instance, Nebraska is served by electric cooperatives, and Tennessee by the Tennessee Valley Authority, a corporate agency of the federal government. Since we last ran this table, we have added Maine (served by AVANGRID, covered in Issue 1).

- Above Average: Alabama, Alaska, California, Colorado, Georgia, Idaho, Indiana, Massachusetts, Ohio, South Carolina, Wisconsin, FERC.
- Average: Arizona, Delaware, Florida, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Maine, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, Montana, New Hampshire, New Jersey, North Carolina, North Dakota, Oklahoma, Oregon, Pennsylvania, South Dakota, Texas, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming.
- Below Average: Arkansas, Connecticut, District of Columbia, Hawaii, Illinois, Maryland, Missouri, New Mexico, New York, West Virginia.

We are considering changing the climates of a few states. Within the past several months, *Avista* and *Black Hills* were hit with unfavorable rate orders in Washington and Colorado, respectively. One negative regulatory decision normally doesn't prompt us to lower a state's regulatory climate, but we are keeping an eye on *Avista's* newly filed rate case and *Black Hills'* court appeal of the commission's rate order. In addition, the utility subsidiary of OGE Energy (covered in Issue 5) received a

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 1 (of 97)

disappointing decision in Oklahoma. On the other hand, a new regulatory mechanism in Illinois is working well, so far, so that state might eventually get an upgrade. We are also keeping an eye on Michigan, where a new regulatory law took effect in April. We want to see how this works out before raising the state's regulatory climate.

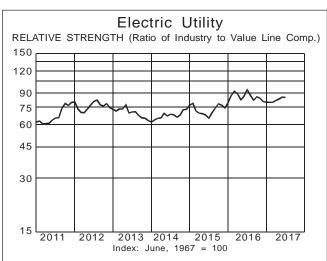
Merger And Acquisition Update

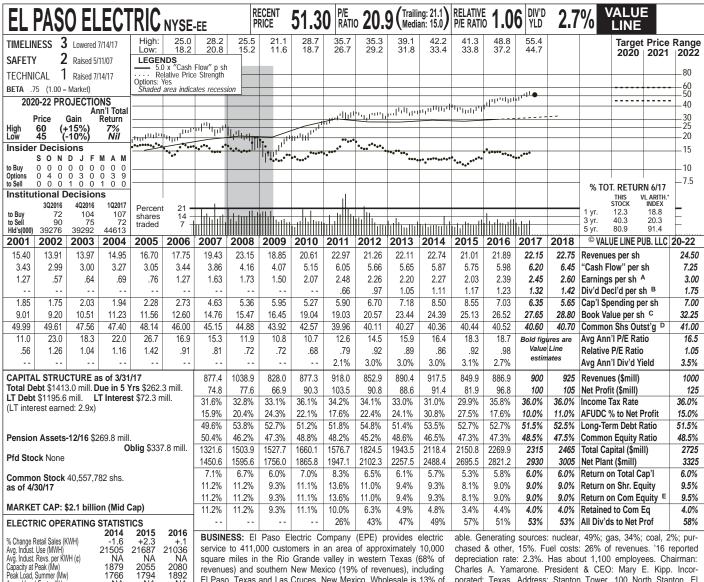
This has not been a good year for utility mergers and acquisitions. It got off to a good start when the takeover of Empire District Electric Company was approved in early January. Since then, two proposed combinations failed to win regulatory approval. The Texas commission rejected NextEra Energy's (covered in Issue 1) proposed takeover of Oncor (the former TXU), and the Kansas commission rejected the proposed acquisition of Westar Energy by Great Plains Energy (each covered in Issue 5). Great Plains and Westar are trying again, having restructured the deal as a merger of equals, with neither company paying a premium for its midwestern counterpart. Meanwhile, Berkshire Hathaway, which already owns some electric utilities, and hedge fund Elliott Management have made bids for Oncor. Last week, Avista accepted a takeover offer from Hydro One, a Canadian company.

Conclusion

Most equities in the Electric Utility Industry have performed well so far in 2017. Almost every issue has risen in price, and a few (including Black Hills and Sempra Energy) have advanced more than 10%. (Hawaiian Electric Industries is one of the few companies to see a decline in the price of its stock.) This has occurred despite the raising of interest rates by the Federal Reserve, and the expectation of further increases. Even after the Fed's moves, interest rates are still low by historical standards, and investors are "reaching for yield" because banks and money-market funds are paying little. Today, many electric utility stocks are trading at or above the market's price-earnings ratio. In addition, the recent prices of several stocks in this industry are trading near or above the upper end of their 3- to 5-year Target Price Range. Among these equities are IDACORP, Pinnacle West, and Portland General Elec-

Paul E. Debbas, CFA





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 availCharles A. Yamarone. President & CEO: Mary E. Kipp. Incorporated: Texas. Address: Stanton Tower, 100 North Stanton, El Paso, TX 79901. Tel.: 915-543-5711. Internet: www.epelectric.com.

251 218 267 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) to '20-'22 1.0% Revenues 3.0% 2.0% 3.5% 5.0% 7.0% 4.0% 'Cash Flow' 3.0% Earnings 9.5% Dividends Book Value 8.0% 7.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

1766

+1.3

1892

+1.6

ÑΑ

+1.4

Cal-			VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	185.5	251.8	283.6	196.6	917.5
2015	163.8	219.5	289.7	176.9	849.9
2016	157.8	217.9	323.2	188.0	886.9
2017	171.3	228.7	295	205	900
2018	175	235	315	200	925
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.11	.75	1.30	.11	2.27
2015	.09	.52	1.40	.02	2.03
2016	d.14	.55	1.84	.14	2.39
2017	d.10	.65	1.60	.30	2.45
2018	d.10	.70	1.80	.20	2.60
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DI	VIDENDS F	PAID B	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.25	.265	.265	.265	1.05
2014	.265	.28	.28	.28	1.11
2015	.28	.295	.295	.295	1.17
2016	.295	.31	.31	.31	1.23
2017	.31	.335			

El Paso Electric Company has a rate case pending in Texas. The utility requested an increase of \$42.5 million, based on a 10.5% return on a 48.35% commonequity ratio. EPE wants to place units 3 and 4 of a gas-fired generating station in the rate base, as well as other capital expenditures it has made since its last rate case, in 2012. The company also wants changes in rate design so that tariffs for each customer class reflect (or come close to) the cost of service for that customer class. EPE also wants to address the subsidization of solar customers by nonsolar users. The staff of the Texas commission is recommending a hike of \$11.0 million, based on a 9.3% return on a 48.35% common-equity ratio. The commission's order is due in the fourth quarter (most likely in November or December), but will be retroactive to July 18, 2017. Because fourth-period results will include the portion of revenues that is retroactive to the third, December-quarter profits will be higher than usual, in what is normally a seasonally weak period.

We look for modest earnings growth in 2017, followed by a greater increase

in 2018. Because units 3 and 4 of the aforementioned gas-fired plant are not in the rate base, regulatory lag is hurting EPE's income. Our estimates are based on the assumption that the rate order in Texas is reasonable. Note that the utility will still feel some effects of regulatory lag until it receives a rate order in New Mexico. (This filing might not occur until 2019.) Note, too, that management isn't providing earnings guidance due to the uncertainty surrounding the rate case.

Dividend growth has accelerated. In the second quarter, the board of directors raised the annual dividend by \$0.10 a share (8.1%), greater than the \$0.06-ashare increases in recent years. EPE has set a goal of achieving a payout ratio in a range of 55%-65% by 2020. We think the company will attain this target.

This stock has a low dividend yield for a utility. This is almost a percentage point below the industry average. Like most utility equities, the recent price is within our 2020-2022 Target Price Range. Accordingly, total return potential is subpar.

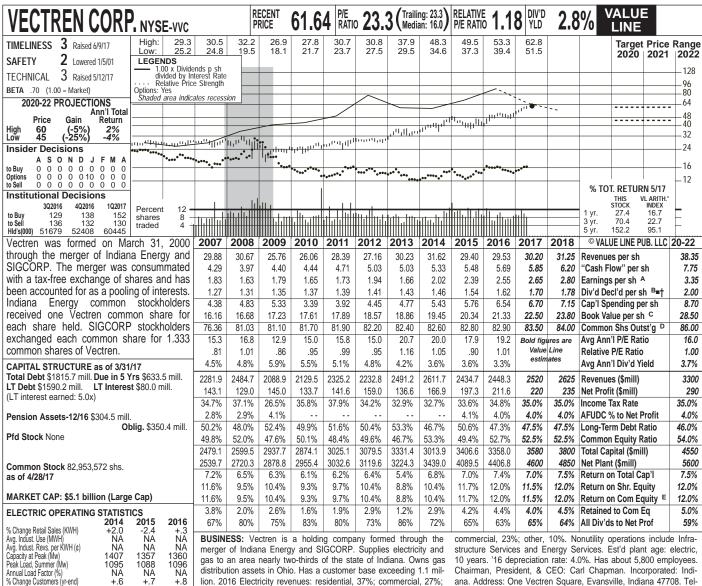
Paul E. Debbas, CFA July 28, 2017

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses): '01, (4¢); '03, 81¢; '04, 4¢; '05, (2¢); '06, 13¢; '10, 24¢. '14 earnings don't sum to full-year total due to rounding. Next earnings © 2017 Value Line, Inc. 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

report due early Aug. **(B)** Initial dividend declared 4/11; payment dates in late March, June, Sept., and Dec. **(C)** Incl. deferred charges. In '16: \$118.9 mill., \$2.93/sh. **(D)** In Climate: TX, Average; NM, Below Average.

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

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lion. 2016 Electricity revenues: residential, 37%; commercial, 27%; industrial, 34%; other, 2%. 2016 Gas revenues: residential, 67%; ana. Address: One Vectren Square, Evansville, Indiana 47708. Telephone: 812-491-4000. Internet: www.vectren.com.

ANNUAL RATES Pa	st Past	
of change (per sh) 10	Yrs. 5 Yrs	. to '20-'22
"Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends	2.0% 2.5 4.5% 4.0 4.0% 6.0 2.5% 2.5 3.0% 3.0	% 6.0% % 6.5% % 4.5%

ived Charge Cov. (0/)

Cal- endar			/ENUES (\$ Sep. 30		Full Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018		551.0 533.7	573.5 631.0 645	604.0 699.0 700.5	2611.7 2434.7 2448.3 2520 2625
Cal- endar			ER SHARE Sep. 30		Full Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	.62 .69 .58 .67	.14 .43 .39 .41 .45	.48	.69 .79 .84 .83	2.02 2.39 2.55 2.65 2.80
Cal- endar	QUART Mar.31		DENDS PA Sep.30	ID B∎† Dec.31	Full Year
2013 2014 2015 2016 2017	.355 .360 .380 .400 .420	.355 .360 .380 .400 .420	.355 .360 .380 .400	.360 .380 .400 .420	1.43 1.46 1.54 1.62

Shares of Vectren have continued to move higher over the past three months. The company reported good results for the March quarter. The top line increased roughly 7%, year to year. Share net advanced about 16%, to \$0.67. Results at the Utility Group benefited from ongoing investment in gas infrastructure programs in both Indiana and Ohio, though very warm weather during the period was a partial offset. Elsewhere, the Infrastructure Services' Distribution business per-formed well. This operation gained from strong demand for utility distribution infrastructure replacement and an extended construction period owing to relatively mild weather. Looking forward, earnings growth may well prove more difficult to come by for the remainder of the year.

We anticipate solid performance from **2018 onward.** The Gas Utility Services business ought to further benefit from infrastructure investment programs. Thanks to rate design, customer margin is largely unaffected by weather. Gains may be more modest at the Electric Utility Services segment. Results here are not protected by weather-normalizing mechanisms. Over-

all, though, we expect good performance on the utility side. Meanwhile, the Infrastructure Services Distribution business should continue to prosper as gas utilities make significant investments in their systems. The Infrastructure Services Transmission operation has been impacted by greater competition, though we expect this line will experience healthy demand down the road due to the need to replace aging infrastructure.

Subscribers may prefer to remain on the sidelines, for now. This equity does not stand out for year-ahead performance. Looking further out, this issue lacks longterm appreciation potential, as the shares presently trade slightly above projected range, following a run-up in the stock price that began early in 2016. Prospects for moderate growth appear to be reflected in the recent quotation.

A selloff some time in the future may offer conservative accounts a better **entry point.** Vectren earns good marks for Safety, Financial Strength, Price Stability, and Earnings Predictability. Volatility is below average, too.

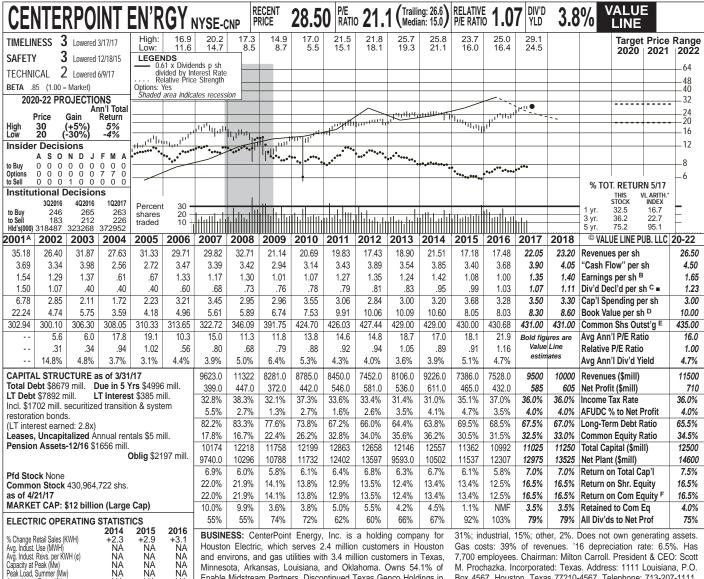
Michael Napoli, CFA June 16, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gain (loss): (9), 15¢. Next egs report due early August.
(B) Div'ds historically paid in early March,
June, September, and December. ■Div'd rein-

plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16, \$7.27/sh. (D) In latory Climate: Above Average. (F) Totals may millions. (E) Electric rate base determination: not sum due to rounding. fair value. Rates allowed on elect. common

equity range from 10.15% to 10.4%. Regu-

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



and environs, and gas utilities with 3.4 million customers in Texas, Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana, and Oklahoma. Owns 54.1% of Enable Midstream Partners, Discontinued Texas Genco Holdings in '04. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 52%; commercial,

7,700 employees. Chairman: Milton Carroll. President & CEO: Scott M. Prochazka. Incorporated: Texas. Address: 1111 Louisiana, P.O. Box 4567, Houston, Texas 77210-4567. Telephone: 713-207-1111. Internet: www.centerpointenergy.com.

194 200 219 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 -4.5% 2.5% 3.0% -2.0% 3.0% 1.0% Revenues 6.0% 'Cash Flow' 3.5% 6.0% Earnings 3.5% 2.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (avg.)

NA

NA +2.4

NA NA

NA

+2.1

NA

NA

+2.3

Cal- endar			VENUES (Sep. 30		Full Year
2014	3163	1884	1807	2372	9226.0
2015	2433	1532	1630	1791	7386.0
2016	1984	1574	1889	2081	7528.0
2017	2735	2050	2065	2650	9500
2018	2900	2150	2150	2800	10000
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	В	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
2014	.43	.25	.33	.41	1.42
2015	.30	.18	.34	.26	1.08
2016	.36	d.01	.41	.23	1.00
2017	.44	.21	.39	.31	1.35
2018	.39	.23	.43	.35	1.40
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	VID c ■	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.2075	.2075	.2075	.2075	.83
2014	.2375	.2375	.2375	.2375	.95
2015	.2475	.2475	.2475	.2475	.99
2016	.2575	.2575	.2575	.2575	1.03
2017	.2675	.2675			

CenterPoint Energy expects to disclose its plans for its stake in Enable Midstream Partners by the time it reports second-quarter results in early August. Enable, a midstream natural gas master limited partnership, is faring reasonably well in an operating environment made difficult by low gas and oil prices. CenterPoint likes the stability of its regulated utilities and its retail energy-services business. By contrast, the value of its stake in Enable can fluctuate depending on commodity prices, because Énable's customers produce less when prices are unfavorable. Among its options are selling its stake in Enable, which would create a sizable tax liability; spinning it off; or retaining it, while working with Enable's management to reduce the MLP's exposure to commodity prices.

. We estimate a material earnings increase in 2017. Mark-to-market accounting items hurt profits by \$0.16 a share in 2016, but provided a \$0.07-a-share benefit in the first quarter this year. (We include these even though CenterPoint excludes them from its guidance of \$1.25-\$1.33 a share.) In addition, the company's utilities

are benefiting from rate relief (see below) and good customer growth. Finally, the retail energy services unit has grown via acquisitions made in 2016 and 2017.

CenterPoint's utilities have received rate relief this year. Most of this is from regulatory mechanisms rather than general rate cases. Houston Electric received a \$7.8 million transmission increase in February and is seeking a \$44.6 million distribution hike, which is expected to take effect in September. In May, the Texas regulators approved a settlement calling for a gas increase of \$16.5 million, based on a 9.6% return on equity. All of this will help lift earnings next year, even though the March-quarter comparison will be difficult. Finally, the company is seeking increases of \$9.3 million and \$7.6 million in Arkansas and Texas, respectively, through regulatory mechanisms in each state.

CenterPoint stock has a dividend yield that is about half a percentage point above the utility average. With the recent price near the upper end of our 2020-2022 Target Price Range, total return potential is low.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA

June 16, 2017

(A) Pro forma data. (B) Diluted EPS. Excl. extraordinary gains (losses): '04, (\$2.72); '05, 9¢; '11, \$1.89; '12, (38¢) net; '13, (52¢); '15, (\$2.69); losses on disc. ops.: '04, 37¢; '05, 1¢.

16 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Aug. (C) Div'ds historicalings report due early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd 10%; (gas): 9.45%-11.25%; earned on avg. reinvestment plan avail. (D) Incl. intang. In '16: com. eq., '16: 12.4%%. Regulat. Climate: Avg. © 2017 Value Line, Inc. 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 50 **Earnings Predictability** 85

AVANGRID, INC.	NYSE	-AGR		F	ECENT PRICE	46.93	P/E RATIO	21.	(Traili Medi	ng: 21.5) an: NMF)	RELATIVE P/E RATIO	1.10	DIV'D YLD	3.7	'% \	/ALU LINE	E	
TIMELINESS 1 New 8/18/17							<u>'</u>			High: Low:	38.9 32.4	46.7 35.4	47.0 37.4				Price	
SAFETY 2 Raised 2/17/17	LEGE									LOW.	32.4	33.4	31.4			2020	2021	
TECHNICAL 5 New 8/18/17	Options:	Yes	e Strength															128
BETA NMF (1.00 = Market)	Shaded	area indic	ates recess	ion														96 80
2020-22 PROJECTIONS																		64
Ann'l Total Price Gain Return					-							1Ph	111111					48
High 45 (-5%) 3%											l l	 						40
Low 35 (-25%) -2% Insider Decisions																		24
ONDJFMAMJ																		1,
to Buy 1 3 1 0 2 0 0 0 1 Options 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0												••••						16 12
to Sell 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0 0											1	•	*****		% TO	T. RETUR	RN 7/17	12
Institutional Decisions 3Q2016 4Q2016 1Q2017	_															THIS STOCK	/L ARITH.* INDEX	
to Buy 110 106 121	Percen shares	6 -													1 yr.	3.8	14.4 26.9	F
to Sell 86 109 80 HId's (000) 38903 39830 43670	traded	3 -										Hullida	IIII		3 yr. 5 yr.	_	95.3	-
AVANGRID, Inc. was formed			2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	© VAL	UE LINE P	UB. LLC	20-22
merger between Iberdrola U	ISA, In	c. and									14.14	19.48	19.90	20.70		es per sh		23.25
UIL Holdings Corporation in	Decem	iber of									3.44	4.74	4.95	5.20		low" per		6.00
2015. Iberdrola S.A., a world the energy industry, own	wide lea	ader in									1.05	1.98	2.15	2.30	_ ~	s per sh		2.75
AVANGRID. The predecessor	compa	nv was									3.50	1.73 5.52	1.73 6.80	1.76 6.45		ecl'd per s pending p		1.90 5.75
founded in 1852 and is hea											48.74	48.90	49.35	49.90		alue per si		52.25
New Gloucester, Maine. It was	incorp	ortated									308.86	308.99	309.00	309.00	Commo	n Shs Out	tst'g D	309.00
in 1997 in New York under the											33.5	20.5	Bold figu			n'I P/E Rat		14.5
Resources, Inc. AVANGRID on the NYSE on December 17	began	trading									1.69	1.08	Value estim			P/E Ratio		.90
												4.3%				n'l Div'd Y	ieia	4.7%
CAPITAL STRUCTURE as of 6/30, Total Debt \$5399 mill. Due in 5 Y		7 mill								4594.0	4367.0	6018.0	6150	6400	l	es (\$mill)		7150 845
LT Debt \$4773 mill. LT Interes										424.0 39.9%	267.0 11.3%	611.0 37.4%	675 35.0%	35.0%		fit (\$mill) Tax Rate		35.0%
Incl. \$104 mill. capitalized leases.										6.8%	12.7%	7.5%	7.0%			% to Net I	Profit	6.0%
(LT interest earned: 4.7x) Leases, Uncapitalized Annual rent	tals \$106	mill.								16.8%	23.1%	23.0%	24.0%	24.5%		rm Debt F		24.0%
•										83.2%	76.9%	77.0%	76.0%			n Equity F		76.0%
Pension Assets-12/16 \$2672 mill.	Oblig \$34	IA8 mill								14956	19583	19619	20075	20400		pital (\$mi	II)	21200
Pfd Stock None										17099 3.7%	20711	21548 3.8%	22800 4.0%	23900 4.0%		nt (\$mill) on Total C	an'l	26300 4.5%
Common Stock 200 005 272 aba										3.4%	1.8%	4.0%	4.0% 4.5%	4.0% 4.5%	l	on Total C		4.5% 5.0%
Common Stock 309,005,272 shs. as of 7/31/17										3.4%	1.8%	4.0%	4.5%			on Com E		5.0%
MARKET CAP: \$15 billion (Large	Cap)									3.4%	1.8%	1.4%	1.0%			d to Com		1.5%
ELECTRIC OPERATING STATISTI	CS											66%	79%	76%	All Div'd	ls to Net F	Prof	69%
% Change Retail Sales (KWH) NA	2015 NA	2016 NA	BUSIN	ESS: A	/ANGRID), Inc., for	merly Ib	erdrola	USA, Ind	c., is a	tomer cl	ass not a	available	. Genera	ating sou	urces not	availabl	e. Fuel
Avg. Indust. Use (MWH) / NA	NA	NA				tility comp					costs: 21% of revenues. '16 depreciation rate: 3.0%. Iberdrola owns 81.5% of stock. Has 6,800 employees. Chairman: José Ignacio							
Avg. Indust. Revs. per KWH (¢) Capacity at Peak (Mw) NA	NA NA	NA NA				'ork, Conn / York, C										cnairmar son. Inco		
Peak Load, Summer (Mw) NA Annual Load Factor (%) NA	NA NA	NA NA	0			ted genera		,							-	aven, Cor		
% Change Customers (yr-end) NA NA +.5						s of capac										vangrid.co		
					mate that AVANGRID will post at the st						tart of 2018.							
ANNUAL DATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 solid p				l pro	rofit growth in 2017 and 2018. mpany's regulated utility business				It appears as if a dividend increase will occur sooner than we had expect-									
of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues NMF 'Cash Flow'' NMF						regula om rate										ve ha c high		
					TIO IT	110 1211	- 1.611	คเลกเ	. 6116		62 E I		11 A	VAINL	R 11/5	riior		√out
"Cash Flow"		NMF																
		NMF NMF NMF NMF	expe	nse	mana	gemen ating r	t. Ir	n Co	nnect	icut,	ratio,	we h	ad fo	recas	t no l	hike i of th	n thể	dis-

at the start of this year, and will get additional increases in 2018 and 2019. In New York, the company's two utilities received electric and gas increases on May 1st of 2016 and 2017, and additional rate boosts will occur on May 1, 2018. AVANGRID's

renewables subsidiary is benefiting from the addition of wind and solar projects. In 2017, the company expects to add some 600 megawatts of renewable capacity. Southern Connecticut Gas filed a rate

case. It requested a total increase of \$19 million over a three-year period, based on a return of 9.95% on a common-equity ratio of 52%. The utility is also asking for regulatory mechanisms to recover the cost gas main replacement automatically (without filing a general rate case) and decouple revenues and volume. AVAN-GRID's other utility in the state, Connecticut Natural Gas, already has these mechanisms. New rates should take effect However, management has stated a commitment to increase the dividend by 2018. We now look for a modest boost next year. AVANGRID is still deciding what to do about its gas storage business. This operation is a drag on earnings. It lost \$0.14 a share in 2016, and management estimates the deficit will be \$0.08-\$0.12 a share this year. The company is excluding this from its 2017 share-net guidance of \$2.10-\$2.35 because it is noncore, but we are including it in our earnings presentation. AVANGRID expects to make a decision by yearend.

This timely stock has a dividend yield that is about half a percentage point above the utility average. With the recent price above our 2020-2022 Target Price Range, total return potential is negligible. We think the quotation reflects some takeover speculation.

Paul E. Debbas. CFA August 18, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gain: '16, 6¢. Next earnings report due mid-Oct. (B) Div'ds paid in early Jan., April, July, and Oct. ■ Dividend reinvestment plan available. (C) Incl. in '17: 9.1% elec.; in CT in '16: 9.36% gas; in

.432

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

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

EARNINGS PER SHARE A

Jun.30 Sep.30

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =

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

- -

.432

982

1048

1418

1461

1500

.22

.35

.34

.35

938

939

1439

1331

1400

.33

.39

.40

Full

Year

4594.0

4367.0

6018.0

6150

6400

Full

Year

1.05

1.98

2.15

2.30

Full

1.30

1118

1153

1491

1600

1650

Dec.31

.37

.67

.65

.70

- -

.432

1556

1227

1670

1758

1850

Mar.31

.42

.63

.77

- -

.432

Cal-

endar

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Cal-

endar

2014

2015

2016

2017

2018

Cal-

endar

2013

2014

2015

2016

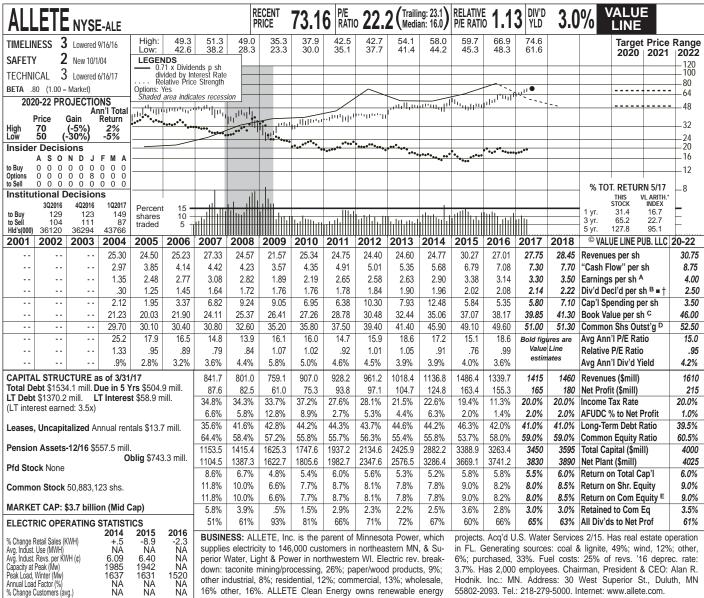
2017

millions. **(E)** Rate base: net original cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in NY in '16: 9.0%; in CT

intangibles. In '16: \$6.8 bill., \$21.86/sh. (D) In ME in '14: 9.45%; earned on avg. common eq.,

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

NMF NMF NMF



other industrial, 8%; residential, 12%; commercial, 13%; wholesale, 16% other, 16%. ALLETE Clean Energy owns renewable energy ALLETE's primary utility subsidiary

Hodnik. Inc.: MN. Address: 30 West Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802-2093. Tel.: 218-279-5000. Internet: www.allete.com.

345 381 318 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 2.5% 9.0% 7.0% Revenues 1.0% 2.5% 6.0% 3.5% 7.5% 'Cash Flow' Earnings 5.0% 2.5% 6.0% 4.5% 5.5% **Book Value** OLIADTEDLY DEVENUES (\$ mill.)

% Change Customers (avg.)

Cal- endar	Mar.31	Full Year			
2014	296.5	260.7	288.9	290.7	1136.8
2015	320.0	323.3	462.5	380.6	1486.4
2016	333.8	314.8	349.6	341.5	1339.7
2017	365.6	335	359.4	355	1415
2018	370	345	375	370	1460
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
2014	.80	.40	.97	.73	2.90
2015	.85	.46	1.23	.83	3.38
2016	.93	.50	.81	.89	3.14
2017	.97	.50	1.03	.80	3.30
2018	1.00	.55	1.10	.85	3.50
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.475	.475	.475	.475	1.90
2014	.49	.49	.49	.49	1.96
2015	.505	.505	.505	.505	2.02
2016	.52	.52	.52	.52	2.08
2017	.535	.535			
-011	.000	.000			

is awaiting an order on its general rate case. Minnesota Power is asking the state commission for an increase of \$39 million (6.1%), based on a 10.25% return on a 53.8% common-equity ratio. The utility is currently collecting an interim hike of \$32.2 million (5.1%). New tariffs are expected to go into effect in the first half of

A rate case is pending in Wisconsin. Superior Water, Light & Power filed for an increase of \$2.7 million (3.1%), based on a 10.9% return on a 55% common-equity ratio. The company expects new rates to take effect in mid-2017

Earnings will probably increase this year and next. Rate relief will help. Minnesota Power's mining customers are using more electricity. In fact, the increased volume enabled the utility to reduce its requested rate hike from \$55 million initially. And Minnesota Power is building a \$330 million transmission line that is expected to be in service in 2020. This will enable it to import power from Manitoba Hydro. The utility will earn a return on the construction work in progress.

ALLETE's nonutility subsidiaries should increase their contribution to the bottom line. In particular, ALLETE Clean Energy is expanding a 100-megawatt windfarm, which it built for a utility in North Dakota in 2015, by 50 mw, and has secured turbines for additional projects. Our 2017 share-net estimate is at the midpoint of ALLETE's targeted range of \$3.10-\$3.50 a share. This would produce a 5% bottomline increase, which is the company's goal for annual profit growth. We forecast a 6% earnings increase in 2018.

Finances are sound. The common-equity ratio is among the highest in the electric utility industry. The fixed-charge coverage is solid. ALĽETE merits a Financial

Strength rating of A.

ALLETE stock is expensively priced. The dividend yield is somewhat low for a utility. The recent price is above our 2020-2022 Target Price Range. Thus, 3- to 5year total return potential is negative. Although the company is performing well, we think more-attractive selections are available elsewhere due to the equity's valuation.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 16, 2017

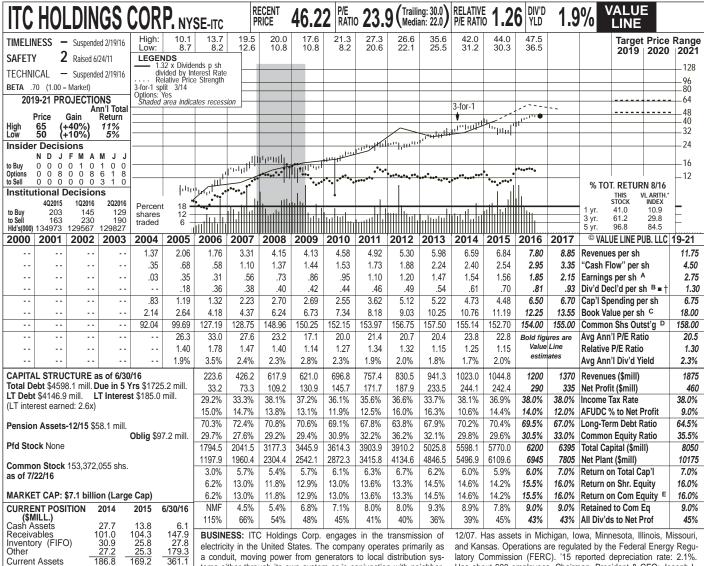
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. losses: '04, 25¢ net; '05, \$1.84; '15, 46¢; gain (losses) on disc. ops.: '04, \$2.57, '05, (16¢); '06, (2¢). '15 & '16 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings

ment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In

report due early Aug. **(B)** Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept. and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. † Shareholder invest-10.38%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 8.3%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 90 Price Growth Persistence 40 **Earnings Predictability** 85

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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). '15 reported depreciation rate: 2.1%. Has about 600 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Joseph L. Welch. Inc.: Michigan. Address: 27175 Energy Way, Novi, Michigan 48377. Tel.: 248-946-3000. Internet: www.itctransco.com

Fix Chg. Cov. 309% 266% 262% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '13-'15 10 Yrs. to '19-'21 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow 14.0% 16.5% 8.5% 10.5% 10.5% 11.0% 23.0% 21.5% 12.5% 8.0% 10.5% 13.0% Earnings Dividends **Book Value** 16.0% 9.0% QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 217.3 229.8 941.3 258.6 263.2 270.1 1023.0

395.3

719.2

146.9

451 2

186.8

785.0

108.0 175.0

180.0

463.0

2013 2014 272.5 275.1 273.2 224.0 1044.8 2015 298.0 306.9 2016 280.1 315 1200 2017 340 345 350 1370 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year endar 2013 .32 .30 .37 .48 1.47 2014 .43 .34 .47 .30 1.54 2015 .43 .46 .42 .24 1.56 2016 .42 .46 .49 1.85 .48 .55 .55 2017 2.15 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar 2012 .1175 .1175 .126 .126 .49 2013 .126 .126 .1425 .1425 2014 .1425 .1425 .1625 .1625 .61 .1625 .1625 .1875 .1875 2016 .1875 .1875 .2155

Accts Payable Debt Due

Other Current Liab.

The acquisition of ITC Holdings is **progressing.** Fortis, a Canadian company with utilities in the U.S., would pay US\$22.57 in cash plus .752 of a Fortis share for each ITC share. The Fortis shares trade on a Canadian exchange, so the value of the deal will fluctuate based not only on the price of Fortis stock, but on the exchange rate between the U.S. and Canadian dollars. The transaction is now valued at almost \$47.00 a share. Each company's stockholders have approved the combination, as have the regulators in Oklahoma and Illinois. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the commissions in three other states must still rule on the deal. The companies ex-

pect it to be completed by yearend.

We advise ITC holders to sell their **shares on the open market.** The recent price is just 2% below the value of the buyout, so there isn't much upside potential for ITC holders. There is downside risk if the deal fails to win regulatory approval, however. The Timeliness rank of ITC stock is suspended due to the pending acquisition.

ITC is taking charges associated with

the Fortis deal and for the possible refund of previously collected revenues. Merger-related costs reduced earnings by \$0.14 a share in the first half of 2016. More significantly, over the past several quarters, the company has been taking reserves for the probable refund of pre-viously collected revenues. This lowered profits by \$0.11 a share in the first two quarters of 2016. Transmission users have filed two complaints with FERC against transmission owners in the Midwest, contending that allowed returns on equity are too high and should be reduced. An administrative law judge has recommended cuts in the allowed ROEs, but FERC has yet to rule on either complaint. Each percentage point reduction in ITC's allowed ROE would reduce the company's earning power by \$30 million after taxes.

The board of directors has raised the dividend. The increase was \$0.11 a share (14.9%) annually. However, unlike most utilities, ITC's dividend yield is still below the market median. Of course, ITC is not like other utilities, being the sole publicly traded transmission-only company.

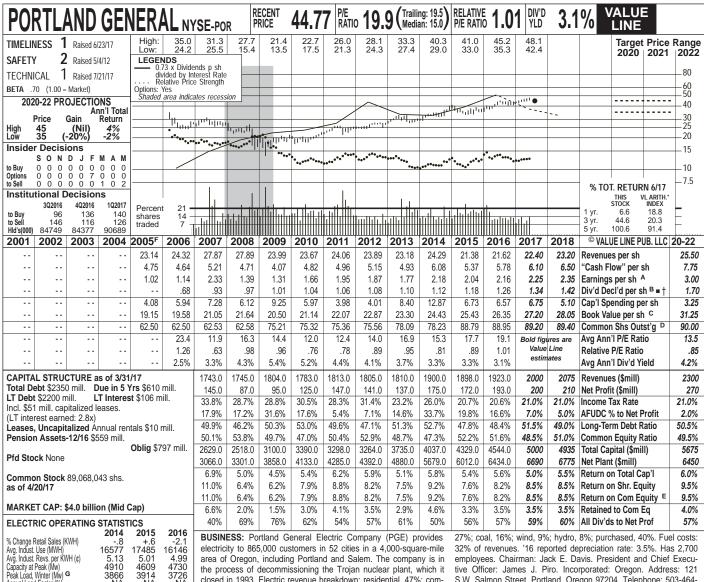
Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 16, 2016

(A) Diluted earnings. '15 earnings don't add to full-year total due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Oct. (B) Dividends historically paid in early March, June, Sept., and Dec.

millions, adjusted for stock split. (E) Rates al-

Dividend reinvestment plan available. † Shareholder investment plan available. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '15: \$1.26 billion, \$8.24/sh. (D) Intangibles. In '15: \$1.26 billion, \$8.24/sh. (D) Intangibles. In '16: \$1.26 billion, \$1.26

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



area of Oregon, including Portland and Salem. The company is in the process of decommissioning the Trojan nuclear plant, which it closed in 1993. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 47%; commercial, 35%; industrial, 11%; other, 7%. Generating sources: gas.

employees. Chairman: Jack E. Davis. President and Chief Executive Officer: James J. Piro. Incorporated: Oregon. Address: 121 S.W. Salmon Street, Portland, Oregon 97204. Telephone: 503-464-8000. Internet: www.portlandgeneral.com.

243 271 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 248 **ANNUAL RATES** Past Est'd '14-'16 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues -.5% -1.5% 2.0% 2.0% 7.0% 13.5% 3.0% 4.5% 5.5% 3.0% 'Cash Flow' 5.0% 6.0% Earnings 6.0% 3.5% Dividends 3.5% Book Value

% Change Customers (yr-end)

3866 NA +.7

3914 NA

+1.2

3726 NA

+1.2

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	493	423	484	500	1900
2015	473	450	476	499	1898
2016	487	428	484	524	1923
2017	530	440	505	525	2000
2018	545	460	525	545	2075
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.73	.43	.47	.55	2.18
2015	.62	.44	.40	.57	2.04
2016	.68	.42	.38	.68	2.16
2017	.82	.40	.38	.65	2.25
2018	.83	.42	.42	.68	2.35
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.27	.27	.275	.275	1.09
2014	.275	.275	.28	.28	1.11
2015	.28	.28	.30	.30	1.16
2016	.30	.30	.32	.32	1.24
2017	.32	.32	.34		

Portland General Electric has a gen**eral rate case pending.** The utility is seeking an increase of \$99.9 million, based on a 9.75% return on a 50% commonequity ratio. The staff of the Public Utility Commission of Oregon (PUC) is proposing a rate decrease of \$3.2 million, based on a 9.2% return on a 49.5% common-equity ratio. The schedule calls for PGE to receive an order in late December, with new tariffs taking effect at the start of 2018. Note that the PUC has two new commissioners and some new staff members. This adds uncertainty to the regulatory process. Still, the possibility of a settlement exists.

We have raised our 2017 earnings estimate by \$0.05 a share, to \$2.25. Firstquarter profits were better than we expected due to favorable weather condi-Our revised estimate is within tions. PGE's targeted range of \$2.20-\$2.35 a share. We forecast a modest earnings increase in 2018, assuming a reasonable order in the aforementioned rate case.

The company estimates that resolving a legal matter will take two to four years. PGE's Carty gas-fired plant began

operating in July of 2016 after the utility had problems with the original contractor. In December of 2015, PGE declared that contractor in default of the construction agreement. The company is suing the contractor's insurers to collect a performance bond of \$145.6 million, plus damages.

The Carty dispute is hurting earnings.

The cost of the plant is \$640 million, but just \$514 million is reflected in the rate base. Costs associated with the unrecovered portion of the facility, along with legal expenses, reduced the bottom line by \$0.06 a share in 2016. Management estimates that the drag on profits will be \$0.09 a share this year.

The board of directors increased the dividend. The raise was two cents a share (6.25%) quarterly. PGE's goals are 5%-7% annual dividend growth and a payout ratio of 50%-70%.

Even after the dividend hike, the yield of this timely stock is below the utility average. The recent quotation is at the upper end of our 2020-2022 Target Price Range. Thus, total return potential over that time frame is minimal.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA July 28, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring loss: '13, 42¢. '15 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. ■ Div'd reinvest-

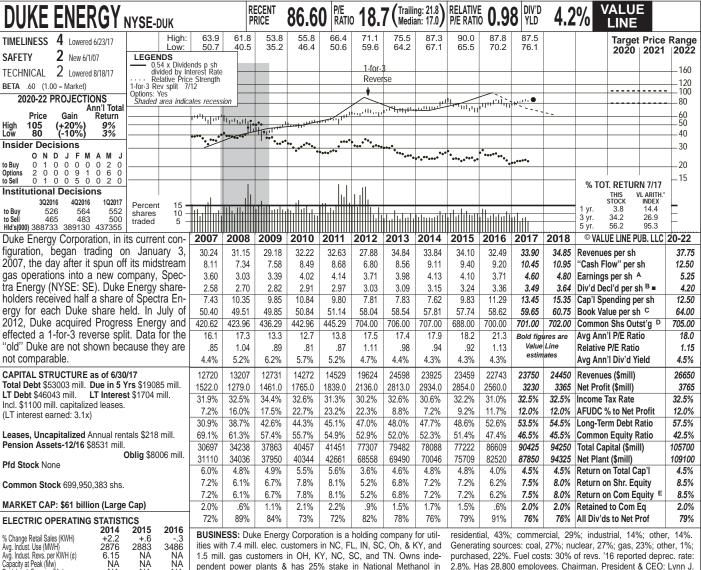
ment plan avail. † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred chgs. In '16: \$5.60/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate base on shs. outstanding when stock began allowed on com. eq. in '16: 9.6%; earned on trading in '06. (G) Summer peak in '15 & '16.

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

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B++ 95

70



NA NA NA NA pendent power plants & has 25% stake in National Methanol in Saudi Arabia. Acq'd Progress Energy 7/12; Piedmont Natural Gas 10/16; discontinued most int'l ops. in '16. Elec. rev. breakdown: +1.4 264

2.8%. Has 28,800 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Lynn J. Good. Inc.: DE. Address: 550 South Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202-1803. Tel.: 704-382-3853. Internet: www.duke-energy.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (% 315 317 Est'd '14-'16 ANNUAL RATES Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 1.5% 2.5% .5% Revenues "Cash Flow" 3.0% 2.0% 5.0% Earnings Dividends 3.5% **Book Value** -.5% 3.0% 1.5%

NA NA

+1.0

NA

NA

+1.2

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

% Change Customers (avg.)

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	6263	5708	6395	5559	23925
2015	6065	5589	6483	5322	23459
2016	5377	5213	6576	5577	22743
2017	5729	5555	6750	5716	23750
2018	5900	5700	6950	5900	24450
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	1.05	1.02	1.25	.81	4.13
2015	1.09	.87	1.44	.70	4.10
2016	.83	.90	1.44	.53	3.71
2017	1.02	.98		1.00	4.60
2018	1.05	1.05	1.65	1.05	4.80
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.765	.765	.78	.78	3.09
2014	.78	.78	.795	.795	3.15
2015	.795	.795	.825	.825	3.24
2016	.825	.825	.855	.855	3.36
2017	.855	.855	.89		

Duke Energy's earnings are likely to wind up significantly higher in 2017. The company will have a full year's contribution from Piedmont Natural Gas, which it acquired last fall. Merger-related costs will be lower, too. These reduced share net by \$0.48 last year, but just \$0.05 in the first six months of 2017. Duke's utilities in South Carolina and Florida are benefiting from rate relief. These positive factors should far outweigh the effects of unfavorable weather conditions in the first quarter and the loss of income from the international operations that were sold because Duke wanted to avoid the volatility of these businesses. Our 2017 earnings estimate is at the midpoint of the company's targeted range of \$4.50-\$4.70 a share.

The company has filed a rate case in North Carolina, and additional ap**plications are upcoming.** The former Progress Energy is seeking an increase of \$477 million (14.9%), based on a 10.75% return on a 53% common-equity ratio. The main drivers of the petition are capital investments the utility has made since its last rate order, in 2013, and the cost of closing coal ash ponds. New tariffs are ex-

pected to take effect at the start of February. Duke's legacy utility in the state is planning to file a rate case shortly. Another application in Kentucky is expected at the start of September.

Some significant projects are under construction. Duke's utilities are building gas-fired capacity in Florida, North Carolina, and South Carolina. These projects are on schedule and on budget. Its utilities in Indiana and Ohio are modernizing the electric grid, and earning a return on their investment through riders (surcharges) on customers' bills. Duke also has stakes in some natural gas pipeline projects, one of which entered service in early July.

The board of directors raised the dividend. Effective with the September payment, the annual payout was raised by \$0.14 a share (4.1%). Ďuke's goal is yearly dividend growth of 4%-6%.

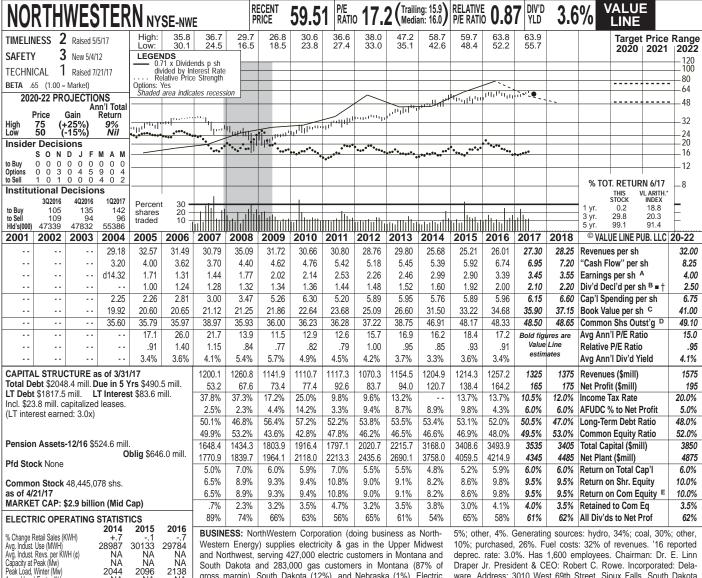
This untimely stock has an aboveaverage dividend yield, even for a utility. Total return potential to 2020-2022 is a cut above the norm for this industry

Paul E. Debbas, CFA August 18, 2017

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. losses: '12, 70¢; '13, 24¢; '14, 67¢; gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '12, 6¢; '13, 2¢; '14, (80¢); '15, 5¢; '16, (60¢). '16 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next egs.

report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds paid mid-Mar., Rates all'd on com. eq. in '13 in NC: 10.2%; in June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. '17 in SC: 10.1%; in '09 in OH: 10.63%; in '04 (C) Incl. intang. In '16: \$46.17/sh. (D) In mill., in IN: 10.3%; earn. on avg. com. eq., '16: 6.3%. adj. for rev. split. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. | Reg. Clim.: NC Avg.; SC, OH, IN Above Avg.

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



and Northwest, serving 427,000 electric customers in Montana and South Dakota and 283,000 gas customers in Montana (87% of gross margin), South Dakota (12%), and Nebraska (1%). Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 40%; commercial, 51%; industrial,

deprec. rate: 3.0%. Has 1,600 employees. Chairman: Dr. E. Linn Draper Jr. President & CEO: Robert C. Rowe. Incorporated: Delaware. Address: 3010 West 69th Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108. Tel.: 605-978-2900. Internet: www.northwesternenergy.com.

217 252 253 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs to '20-'22 Revenues -2.0% -4.0%4.0% 'Cash Flow" 4.0% 7.0% 5.5% Earnings 4.5% 6.0% 8.0% 5.0% 3.5% 9.5% 5.0% **Book Value**

% Change Customers (vr-end)

2044

NA

+1.0

2138

+1.2

2096

ŇĀ

+1.3

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2014	369.7	270.3	251.9	313.0	1204.9
2015	346.0	270.6	272.7	325.0	1214.3
2016	332.5	293.1	301.0	330.6	1257.2
2017	367.3	310	310	337.7	1325
2018	375	325	325	350	1375
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	1.17	.20	.77	.85	2.99
2015	1.09	.38	.51	.93	2.90
2016	.82	.73	.92	.92	3.39
2017	1.17	.50	.75	1.03	3.45
2018	1.15	.50	.80	1.10	3.55
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.38	.38	.38	.38	1.52
2014	.40	.40	.40	.40	1.60
2015	.48	.48	.48	.48	1.92
2016	.50	.50	.50	.50	2.00
2017	.525	.525			

NorthWestern has reached a settlement of its gas rate case in Montana. The utility initially requested an increase of \$10.9 million, based on a 10.35% return on a 46.8% common-equity ratio. agreement calls for a hike of \$5.7 million, based on a 9.55% return on the same common-equity ratio. The Montana Public Service Commission (MPSC) must still rule on the settlement. Its decision is expected soon.

The utility might file an electric case in Montana this year. This would not be NorthWestern's choice, but might be required by the MPSC. The utility is underearning its allowed ROE.

We have raised our 2017 earnings estimate by a nickel a share, to \$3.45. First-quarter profits, aided by favorable weather conditions, were better than we expected. Our revised estimate is still within NorthWestern's targeted range of \$3.30-\$3.50 a share. We are sticking with our 2018 earnings forecast of \$3.55 a share.

NorthWestern continues to wait for the resolution of some legal matters. The company is seeking relief in the U.S.

Circuit Court of Appeals following an unfavorable ruling from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, which ruled that only 4% of the cost of a new gas-fired generating plant could be allocated to wholesale customers. NorthWestern believes 20% of these costs should be allocated to wholesale customers, with the other 80% allocated to Montana power users. A ruling is unlikely until the fourth quarter of 2017, at the earliest. This order forced the utility to take a charge of \$0.12 a share in 2012. Separately, the company has filed appeals in two Montana district courts concerning the MPSC's disallowance of certain costs, which hurt earnings by \$0.13 a share in the first quarter of 2016. NorthWestern believes decisions are likely by the end of 2017 or in early 2018. The charges in each of these matters were included in our earnings presentation.

Timely NorthWestern stock has a dividend yield that is average for a utility. Like most utility issues, the recent price is within our 3- to 5-year Target Price Range. Accordingly, total return potential is unimpressive.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA July 28, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gain (loss) on disc. ops.: '05, (6¢); '06, 1¢; nonrec. gains: '12, 39¢ net; '15, 27¢. '15 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds

historically paid in late Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. | cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MT in '14 | Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd charges. In '16: | none specified; in NE in '07: 10.4%; earned on

\$19.87/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. | avg. com. eq., '16: 10.1%. Regul. Climate: Avg. © 2017 Value Line, Inc. 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**

B+ 95

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