

| Cash Assets | 49.0 | 30.0 | 37.0 | BUSINESS: AGL Resources, Inc. is a public utility holding compa- |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Onntr |  |  |  |  |

ny. Its distribution subsidiaries are Atlanta Gas Light, Chattanooga Gas, and Virginia Natural Gas. The utilities have more than 2.2 million customers in Georgia (primarily Atlanta), Virginia, and in southern Tennessee. Also engaged in nonregulated natural gas marketing and other, allied services. Also wholesales and retails
AGL Resources utility business per-

Other
Current Assets
Accts Payable Debt Due Other

Current Liab. Fix. Chg. Cov. $\frac{1408.0}{1457.0} \quad \frac{2002.0}{2032.0} \quad \frac{1471.0}{1508.0}$ $\begin{array}{llll}1457.0 & 2032.0 & \frac{157.0}{1508.0}\end{array}$ $207.0 \quad 264.0 \quad 566.0$ $\begin{array}{rrr}234.0 & 522.0 & 455.0 \\ & 336.0 & 1153.0 \\ 325.0\end{array}$ $\frac{936.0}{1477.0} \quad \frac{1153.0}{1939.0} \quad \frac{329.0}{1350.0}$ | 1477.0 | 1939.0 | 1350.0 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| $510 \%$ | $442 \%$ | $470 \%$ | Past Past Est'd '03-'05 ANNUAL RAT

of change (per sh
Revenues Revenues
"Cash Flow" Earnings Earnings Dividends
Book Value

| Yrs. | 5Yrs. | to ${ }^{\prime} 09.11$ |
| :---: | ---: | ---: |
| $1.0 \%$ | $7.0 \%$ | $7.5 \%$ |
| $5.0 \%$ | $7.0 \%$ | $5.0 \%$ |
| $6.5 \%$ | $13.5 \%$ | $4.5 \%$ |
| $1.5 \%$ | $2.0 \%$ | $6.5 \%$ |
| $5.5 \%$ | $8.5 \%$ | $6.0 \%$ |

Cal- QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) A $\quad$ Full endar $\quad$ Mar. 31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 Year 2003 352.5 186.6 166.3 $278.3 \begin{array}{llll}983.7\end{array}$ \begin{tabular}{l|llll|r}
2004 \& 651.0 \& 294.0 \& 262.0 \& 625.0 \& 1832.0 \\
2005 \& 908.0 \& 430.0 \& 387.0 \& 993.0 \& 2718.0

 

2006 \& 1047.0 \& 436.0 \& 405 \& 882 \& 2770 \\
2007 \& 970 \& 480 \& 465 \& 900 \& 2815
\end{tabular}

| 2007 | 970 | 480 | 465 | 900 | 2815 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cal- | EARNINGS PER SHARE A B | Full |  |  |  |


| endar | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2003 | .98 | .29 | .27 | .54 | 2.08 |


| 2003 | .98 | .29 | .27 | .54 | 2.08 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2004 | 1.00 | .33 | .31 | .64 | 2.28 |
| 2005 | 1.14 | .30 | .19 | .85 | 2.48 |
| 2006 | 1.41 | .25 | .27 | .72 | 2.65 |
| 2007 | 1.30 | .37 | .29 | .74 | 2.70 |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C■ |  | Full |  |  |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2002 | .27 | .27 | .27 | .27 | 1.08 |
| 2003 | .27 | .28 | .28 | .28 | 1.11 |
| 2004 | .28 | .29 | .29 | .29 | 1.15 |
| 2005 | .31 | .31 | .31 | .37 | 1.30 |
| 2006 | .37 | .37 | .37 |  |  |

formed well despite warmer-thannormal temperatures and conservation by customers. Earnings before interest and taxes increased $\$ 7$ million versus the year-ago period, driven by a $\$ 6$ million decrease in operating expenses. This can be attributed to last year's workforce and facilities restructuring programs. Also, operation and maintenance expenses per customer throughout AGL's distribution segment decreased 9\% over the first six months of 2006. However, these results were offset by a lackluster performance at SouthStar, which markets natural gas and related services to retail customers on an unregulated basis, where results were also impacted by lower customer usage and higher bad debt expense.
Virginia Natural Gas (VNG) has accepted a modified performance-based rate plan. As part of the deal, VNG will freeze its base rates for five years; construct a pipeline to connect its northern and southern systems, which is expected to cost about $\$ 48$ million to $\$ 60$ million;
and will be allowed to file for a permanent weather normalization plan. Also, Chat-
propane. Nonregulated subsidiaries: Georgia Natural Gas Services markets natural gas at retail. Acq. Virginia Natural Gas, 10/00. Sold Utilipro, 3/01. Off./dir. own less than $1.0 \%$ of common; Goldman Sachs, 5.5\%; JPMorgan, 5.9\% (3/06 Proxy). Pres. \& CEO: John W. Somerhalder II. Inc.: GA. Addr.: 10 Peachtree Place N.E., Atlanta, GA 30309. Tel.: 404-584-4000. Internet: www.aglresources.com.
tanooga Gas filed for a $\$ 5.8$ million rate increase with the Tennessee Regulatory Authority to cover rising costs of financing its operations and lower consumption of natural gas. The proposal includes a plan to better align its interest with customers, by adjusting rates annually based on actual consumption versus an assumed level. We think Chattanooga will receive some, if not all, of the rate increase, which should provide a boost to earnings.
AGL's expansion of its J efferson Island storage facility has hit a road block. In early August, the Louisiana Department of Natural Resources terminated the company's mineral lease due to the timing of leasehold payments and a lack of mining activity on the site for six months. Even so, the company remains committed to resolving these issues and getting the project completed, which will increase working gas capacity, along with revenues. This neutrally ranked stock has worthwhile total return potential, thanks partly to dividend growth prospects. The good-quality shares are safe and steady, but not overly enticing.
Evan I. Blatter
September 15, 2006
A) Fiscal year ends December 31st. Ended September 30th prior to 2002.
(B) Diluted earnings per share. Excl. nonrecur- (C) Dividends historically paid early March,
ring gains (losses): '95, d\$0.83; '99, \$0.39; '00, June, Sept, and Dec. - Div'd reinvest. plan
available.
(D) Includes intangibles. In 2005: $\$ 422$ million,
\$5.43/share.


| (\$MILL.) | - 200 |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash Assets | 201.9 | 40.1 | 26.8 |
| Other | 475.2 | 1224.3 | 1023.4 |
| Current Assets | 677.1 | 1264.4 | 1050.2 |
| Accts Payable | 185.3 | 461.3 | 306.8 |
| Debt Due | 5.9 | 148.1 | 300.4 |
| Other | 223.3 | 503.4 | 407.6 |
| Current Liab. | 414.5 | 1112.8 | 1014.8 |
| Fix. Chg. Cov. | 384\% | 395\% | 400\% |
| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past Est | t'd '03-'05 |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | $5 \mathrm{Yrs}$. |  |
| Revenues | 6.0\% | 16.5\% | 11.5\% |
| "Cash Flow" | 3.5\% | 2.0\% | 8.0\% |
| Earnings | 4.0\% | 6.5\% | 7.0\% |
| Dividends | 3.0\% | 2.0\% | 2.0\% |
| Book Value | 6.5\% | 8.5\% | 5.0\% |


| Fiscal <br> Year <br> Ends | QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) A <br> Dec.31 |  |  | Full <br> Fislal |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2003 | 680.4 | 1194.1 | 488.5 | 436.9 | 2799.9 |
| Year |  |  |  |  |  |$|$

BUSINESS: Atmos Energy Corporation is engaged primarily in the distribution and sale of natural gas to 3.2 million customers via seven regulated natural gas utility operations: Louisiana Division, Mid-States Division, West Texas Division, Mid-Tex Division, Mississippi Division, Colorado-Kansas Division, and Kentucky Division. Combined 2005 gas volumes: 296 MMcf. Breakdown: 55\%, resi
It appears that Atmos Energy's earnings per share increased around 5\%, to \$1.80, in fiscal 2006 (ends September 30th). Within the non-utility division, the marketing segment benefited greatly from strategies to capture favorable arbitrage spreads created by natural gas volatility. But the performance of the utility operation was hampered by warmer temperatures, which especially affected the MidTex and Louisiana units because they did not have a weather-normalized rate structure during that time. (Combined, these units account for over 60\% of the customer base.) Also, we estimate that the aftereffects of Hurricane K atrina reduced share net by about $\$ 0.10$.
We believe that the bottom line will advance about $8 \%$, to $\$ 1.95$ a share, in fiscal 2007, assuming further expansion in operating margins. And it is important to note that weather-normalized rates will be effective for the Mid-Tex operation beginning October 1st. Moreover, a rate design calling for a partial decoupling from the impact of unfavorable temperatures will take effect for the Louisiana unit on December 1st. With these moves, some
dential; 31\%, commercial; 10\%, industrial; and 4\% other. 2005 depreciation rate $3.7 \%$. Has around 4,330 employees. Officers and directors own approximately $2.6 \%$ of common stock (12/05 Proxy). Chairman and Chief Executive Officer: Robert W. Best. Incorporated: Texas. Address: P.O. Box 650205, Dallas, Texas 75265. Telephone: 972-934-9227. Internet: www.atmosenergy.com.
$90 \%$ of the utility's margins are protected by weather-normalization adjustments (versus about 33\% previously).
Atmos looks poised to register steady, if measured, bottom-line increases over the 2009-2011 period. With the utility division now serving 3.2 million customers across 12 states, the company is not dependent on the economic climate in any one region of the country. Furthermore, the non-utility segments, particularly pipelines, have decent expansion prospects. In the present corporate configuration, share net ought to grow around 8\% annually over the 3- to 5-year horizon.
These good-quality shares offer a healthy dose of dividend income. Prospects for additional increases in the distribution seem reasonable, too, as supported by our favorable 2009-2011 projections for Atmos Energy.
But long-term total-return potential is not spectacular, as capital appreciation possibilities are limited at the current quotation. Also, the equity is ranked to perform only in line with the market in the year ahead.
Frederick L. Harris, III September 15, 2006
(A) Fiscal year ends Sept. 30th. (B) Diluted March, June, Sept., and Dec. I Div. reinvest- outstanding.
shrs. Excl. nonrec. items: '97, d534; '99, d23c; ment plan. Direct stock purchase plan avail. $\quad$ (F) ATO completed United Cities merger 7/97. '00, 12c; '03, d17c. Next egs. rpt. due early (D) In millions, adjusted for stock splits.
Nov. (C) Dividends historically paid in early (E) Qtrs may not add due to change in shrs

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


| Cash Assets | 13.9 | 6.0 | 31.9 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Other | 323.7 | 418.1 | 319.1 |
| Current Assets | 337.6 | 424.1 | 351.0 |
| Accts Payable | 68.4 | 138.4 | 118.2 |
| Debt Due | 96.5 | 110.7 | 123.4 |
| Other | 97.7 | 116.5 | 181.1 |
| Current Liab. | 262.6 | 365.6 | 304.5 |
| Fix. Chg. Cov. | 279\% | 293\% | 290\% |


| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | Est'd '03.'05 |
| :--- | ---: | :---: | :---: |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. | to ${ }^{\circ} 09.11$ |
| Revenues | $7.5 \%$ | $17.0 \%$ | $10.5 \%$ |
| "Cash Flow" | $1.0 \%$ | $1.5 \%$ | $8.0 \%$ |
| Earnings | $2.5 \%$ | $4.5 \%$ | $5.0 \%$ |
| Dividends | $1.0 \%$ | $.5 \%$ | $2.0 \%$ |
| Book Value | $3.0 \%$ | $2.5 \%$ | $7.5 \%$ |
|  |  |  |  |


| Fiscal Year Ends | QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) ${ }^{\text {A }}$ |  |  |  | Full Fiscal Year |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Dec. 31 | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 |  |
| 2003 | 280.1 | 422.2 | 186.6 | 161.4 | 1050.3 |
| 2004 | 332.6 | 475.0 | 245.1 | 197.6 | 1250.3 |
| 2005 | 442.5 | 576.5 | 311.3 | 266.7 | 1597.0 |
| 2006 | 689.2 | 708.8 | 330.5 | 281.5 | 2010 |
| 2007 | 635 | 655 | 440 | 390 | 2120 |
| Fiscal Year Ends | EARNINGS PER SHARE A b F |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \text { Full } \\ \text { Fiscal } \\ \text { Year } \end{gathered}$ |
|  | Dec. 31 | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 |  |
| 2003 | . 80 | 1.14 | . 11 | d. 21 | 1.82 |
| 2004 | . 87 | 1.12 | . 19 | d. 28 | 1.82 |
| 2005 | . 79 | 1.06 | . 29 | d. 24 | 1.90 |
| 2006 | 1.23 | 1.05 | . 13 | d. 26 | 2.15 |
| 2007 | 1.15 | 1.05 | . 25 | d. 30 | 2.15 |
| Calendar | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID ${ }^{\text {cı }}$ |  |  |  | Full |
|  | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| 2002 | . 335 | . 335 | . 335 | . 335 | 1.34 |
| 2003 | . 335 | . 335 | . 335 | . 335 | 1.34 |
| 2004 | . 335 | . 34 | . 34 | . 34 | 1.36 |
| 2005 | . 34 | . 345 | . 345 | . 345 | 1.38 |
| 2006 | . 345 | . 355 | . 355 | . 355 |  |

## (A) Fiscal year ends Sept. 30th.

(B) Based on average shares outstanding thru. 97, then diluted. Excludes nonrecurring loss: Q2 '06, 74. Next earnings report due late Oct.
(C) Dividends historically paid in early January
April, July, and October. ■ Dividend reinvestment plan available

BUSINESS: Laclede Group, Inc., is a holding company for Laclede Gas, which distributes natural gas in eastern Missouri, including the city of St. Louis, St. Louis County, and parts of 8 other counties Has more than 630,000 customers. Purchased SM\&P for $\$ 43$ million (1/02). Therms sold and transported in fiscal 2005: 1.12 mill. Revenue mix for regulated operations: residential, $60 \%$; commer
Laclede Group is on track to register healthy results in fiscal 2006 (ends September 30th). Laclede Energy Resources, the non-utility gas marketing segment, is still benefiting from supply/demand imbalances resulting from last year's Gulf Coast hurricanes, plus a surge in volumes (reflecting higher interstate pipeline wholesale transactions). Furthermore, SM\&P Utility Resources, the unregulated unit specializing in locating and marking services for underground facilities, is being aided by new business signups in existing markets. And we note that this subsidiary recently bought Reliant Services, which provides similar services. Given that both businesses have customers in the same geographic areas, synergies ought to generate decent cost savings going forward.
But the core natural gas unit has underperformed of late. This can be attributed partly to higher operation and maintenance expenses, as well as an increased provision for uncollectible accounts. A decline in volumes within the service territory has further eroded earnings. On the bright side, there have been
cial and industrial, 23\%; transportation, $2 \%$; other, $15 \%$. Has around 3,815 employees. Officers and directors own approximately $6.0 \%$ of common shares (1/06 Proxy). Chairman, Chief Executive Officer, and President: Douglas H. Yaeger. Incorporated: Missouri. Address: 720 Olive Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101. Telephone: 314-342-0500. Internet: www.lacledegas.com.
benefits from a general rate hike effective since last October, and income from entities located outside the system has been rising.
On a consolidated basis, share net ought to grow about $13 \%$, to $\$ 2.15$, in fiscal 2006. Ladede's bottom line may flatten out next year because of the difficult comparison.
We believe that unexciting results are in store for the company over the 2009-2011 timeframe. The market in which the natural gas division operates has sluggish customer growth because it is in a mature stage. Moreover, it appears that major acquisitions are not likely to take place anytime soon. Consequently, annual share-net gains may only be in the mid-single-digit range, with some volatility, over the 3- to 5 -year horizon.
The stock's good yield aside, totalreturn potential is not appealing. That is because these shares are already trading within our 2009-2011 Target Price Range, and we are assuming that future dividend increases will be moderate. Also, the Timeliness rank is 4 (Below Average). Frederick L. Harris, III September 15, 2006
(E) In millions. Adjusted for stock split.
(E) In millions. Adjusted for stock split.
(F) Qtly. egs. may not sum due to change in shares outstanding.


| Cash Assets | 5.0 | 25.0 | 4.7 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Other | 681.0 | 927.8 | 808.7 |
|  | 686.0 | 952.8 | 813.4 |
| Current Assets |  |  |  |
|  | 42.9 | 54.7 | 38.0 |
| Accts Payable | 287.4 | 177.4 | 157.0 |
| Debt Due | 357.4 | 744.2 | 510.4 |
| Other | 687.7 | 976.3 | 705.4 |
| Current Liab. | $826 \%$ | $660 \%$ | $700 \%$ |
| Fix. Chg. Cov. | 8 |  |  |


| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | Est'd '03-'05 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. | to '09-'11 |
| Revenues | $18.5 \%$ | $23.5 \%$ | $4.5 \%$ |
| "Cash Flow" | $5.5 \%$ | $6.0 \%$ | $4.0 \%$ |
| Earnings | $7.5 \%$ | $8.5 \%$ | $4.5 \%$ |
| Dividends | $2.5 \%$ | $3.0 \%$ | $4.5 \%$ |
| Book Value | $5.0 \%$ | $7.0 \%$ | $6.5 \%$ |


| Fiscal <br> Year <br> Ends | QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) <br> Dec.31 |  |  |  | Mar.31 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | Jun.30 | Sep.30 |
| :---: | | Full |
| :---: |
| Fiscal |
| Year |

(A) Fiscal year ends Sept. 30th.
(B) Diluted earnings. Next earnings report due
ate Oct.

BUSINESS: New Jersey Resources Corp. is the holding company for New Jersey Natural Gas Co., a natural gas utility (about 463,000 customers at $9 / 30 / 05$ ) in Monmouth, Ocean, and parts of other N.J. counties. Fiscal 2005 volume: 124.7 bill. cu. ft. ( $50 \%$ firm, $8 \%$ interruptible industrial and electric utility, $42 \%$ off-system and capacity release). New Jersey Natural Energy subsid. provides unregulated
New Jersey Resources results over the first nine months of fiscal 2006 (year ends September 30th) have been solid. Earnings over this timeframe increased about $14.5 \%$, to $\$ 3.23$ a share, with most of the gains being driven by an improved performance at the company's energy services subsidiary. In fact, the segment posted an earnings advance of about $90 \%$ this year due to growth in its portfolio of storage and transportation contracts. Since the unit covers many markets in the eastern half of the United States and Canada, it is able to capture additional value when prices fluctuate between regions. All told, the business now represents over 20\% of corporate earnings.
The third quarter was a weak one at the company's main subsidiary, New J ersey Natural Gas (NJ NG). It posted earnings of $\$ 1.7$ million, well below the $\$ 3.9$ million in the year-earlier period. The decrease was primarily the result of conservation by customers. The utility currently has a weather normalization plan in place to protect against temperatures that are warmer than normal, though, it is unable to protect against lower usage. There-
retail and wholesale natural gas and related energy services to customers in 17 states. 2005 deprec. rate: $2.8 \%$. Est'd plant age: 8 years. Has 551 utility employees, 16,300 stckhldrs. Off. \& dir. own about $3 \%$ of common stock (12/05 Proxy). Chairman and CEO: Laurence M. Downes. Inc.: N.J. Address: 1415 Wyckoff Road, Wall, NJ 07719. Tel.: 732-938-1000. Internet: www.rjiving.com.
fore, in December, NJ NG proposed a plan with the New J ersey Board of Public utilities to implement a conservation usage adjustment (CUA) plan to replace the normalization policy, which would provide protection against both temperature and usage changes. Management remains optimistic that the program will be approved and be in place by next winter's heating season. However, should regulatory approval not be granted, the company is exploring alternatives that includes filing for a rate increase. Meanwhile, the utility added about 7,870 new customers through the third quarter, and will likely grow at a rate above the industry average for the next few years thanks to the strong demographics of the region NJ NG serves. About a third of new customers are conversions from other fuel sources.
Though untimely, this stock offers decent total return potential. This is largely due to expanding profits from its nonutility operations. Other pluses include the likelihood of a more consistent earnings stream through the CUA proposal, and steady dividend increases.

## Evan I. Blatter

September 15, 2006

| NW |  | $N$ | YS |  |  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { ECENT } \\ & \text { RICE } \end{aligned}$ | $43 .$ | $\begin{aligned} & \hline P / E \\ & R A \end{aligned}$ | $17$ | $\left(\begin{array}{l} \mathrm{Tra} \\ \mathrm{Me} \end{array}\right.$ | $\left.\begin{array}{l} 18.6 \\ 14.0 \end{array}\right)$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { RELATIV } \\ & \text { P/E RAT } \end{aligned}$ | $1.0$ | $\begin{aligned} & \text { DIV'D } \\ & \text { YLD } \end{aligned}$ |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { LUE } \\ & \text { INE } \end{aligned}$ |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| TIMELIN | $\text { IESS } 3$ | Raised 7/7 |  | High: Low: | $\begin{aligned} & \hline 28.5 \\ & 21.8 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{r} 37.1 \\ 25.4 \\ \hline \end{array}$ | 42.9 30.0 | 44.4 37.1 | $\begin{aligned} & 42.9 \\ & 31.2 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 43.9 \\ & 29.4 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 42.4 \\ & 34.0 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 49.0 \\ & 17.3 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 39.3 \\ & 23.7 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{array}{l\|} \hline 39.7 \\ 32.0 \end{array}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 43.0 \\ & 35.5 \end{aligned}$ | $\begin{aligned} & 44.4 \\ & 38.7 \end{aligned}$ |  |  | Target Pric 2009201 | Range 2011 |
| SAFET |  | Lowered 6 | b/17/05 | LEGEN | DS |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | -120 |
|  |  |  |  |  | Divid | nds p sh |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| TECHNIC | CAL | Raised |  |  | dive brice | Streng |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 80 |
| BETA 1 | 20 (1.00 | Market) |  | 2f | - |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 80 |
|  | 9-11 PRO | JECTIO |  | Shaded | indi | recessi |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| High | Price |  | n'l Total Return 10\% |  |  |  |  |  |  | $111$ |  |  | $1^{1 / 11} \\|_{1}$ | , ${ }^{\prime}$ | י'י1 | $\cdots \cdots$ |  |  |  | -32 |
| High |  | .30\%) | $\begin{gathered} \text { 10\% } \\ \text { Nil } \end{gathered}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 碞 |  |  |  |  |  |  | -32 |
| Insider | Decisi | ons |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 20 |
|  | 0 N D | J F M | M J |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 16 |
|  | 100 | 100 | $\begin{array}{lll}1 & 0 & 0\end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 12 |
| Options to Sell | $\begin{array}{llll}1 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{llll}0 & 0 & 2 \\ 0 & 0 & 2\end{array}$ | $\begin{array}{lll}0 & 0 & 0 \\ 0 & 0 & 0\end{array}$ |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | RETURN 8/0 | -12 |
| Institut | ional | ecision |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | RETURN8/06 |  |
|  | 402005 | 102006 | 202006 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | STOCK INDEX |  |
| to Buy | 117 | 112 | 98 | shares | 12 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 1 yr 3 yr. | $\begin{array}{lr}10.4 & 7.1 \\ 49.1 & 49.4\end{array}$ |  |
| to Sell |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 49.1549 .4 |  |
| Hid's(000) | 30966 | 32581 | 32450 |  | 6 |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 5 yr . | $44.5 \quad 70.4$ |  |
| 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 | 1994 | 1995 | 1996 | 1997 | 1998 | 1999 | 2000 | 2001 | 2002 | 2003 | 2004 | 2005 | 2006 | 2007 | © VALU | LINE PUB., INC. | 09-11 |
| 26.52 | 26.46 | 28.90 | 31.02 | 31.23 | 29.42 | 37.39 | 41.33 | 30.84 | 34.45 | 50.52 | 57.30 | 43.11 | 60.46 | 62.12 | 76.00 | 73.35 | 72.30 | Revenue | per sh | 71.25 |
| 3.86 | 3.92 | 4.14 | 3.80 | 4.11 | 4.19 | 4.97 | 5.29 | 5.21 | 5.59 | 6.16 | 6.41 | 6.03 | 5.37 | 6.00 | 6.19 | 6.45 | 6.50 | "Cash F | ow" per sh | 6.80 |
| 1.93 | 1.86 | 1.92 | 1.97 | 2.07 | 1.96 | 2.42 | 2.55 | 2.31 | 2.57 | 2.94 | 3.01 | 2.88 | 2.11 | 2.22 | 2.27 | 2.45 | 2.50 | Earning | per sh A | 2.80 |
| 1.06 | 1.12 | 1.18 | 1.22 | 1.25 | 1.28 | 1.32 | 1.40 | 1.48 | 1.54 | 1.66 | 1.76 | 1.84 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.86 | 1.92 | Div'ds D | cl'd per sh ${ }^{\text {B }}$ - | 2.02 |
| 3.00 | 3.65 | 3.12 | 2.62 | 3.34 | 3.12 | 2.42 | 2.34 | 2.87 | 3.28 | 3.48 | 4.18 | 4.37 | 4.12 | 4.32 | 4.57 | 4.50 | 4.50 | Cap'ISp | nding per sh | 4.50 |
| 11.67 | 12.28 | 12.76 | 13.05 | 13.26 | 13.67 | 14.74 | 15.43 | 15.97 | 16.80 | 15.56 | 16.39 | 16.55 | 17.13 | 16.99 | 18.36 | 18.90 | 19.40 | Book Va | ue per sh | 21.60 |
| 57.93 | 57.30 | 55.77 | 53.96 | 51.54 | 50.30 | 49.49 | 48.22 | 47.51 | 46.89 | 45.49 | 44.40 | 44.01 | 44.04 | 44.10 | 44.18 | 44.50 | 44.60 | Commo | Shs Outst'g ${ }^{\text {c }}$ | 44.90 |
| 10.7 | 11.5 | 11.6 | 14.1 | 12.5 | 13.1 | 12.5 | 14.2 | 17.6 | 14.6 | 11.9 | 12.8 | 13.1 | 15.8 | 15.9 | 17.3 | Bold figu | res are | Avg A | P/E Ratio | 16.0 |
| . 79 | . 73 | . 70 | . 83 | . 82 | . 88 | . 78 | . 82 | . 92 | . 83 | . 77 | . 66 | . 72 | . 90 | . 84 | . 91 | Value | Line | Relative | P/E Ratio | 1.05 |
| 5.1\% | 5.2\% | 5.3\% | 4.4\% | 4.8\% | 5.0\% | 4.4\% | 3.9\% | 3.6\% | 4.1\% | 4.7\% | 4.6\% | 4.9\% | 5.6\% | 5.3\% | 4.7\% | estim |  | Avg Ann | I Div'd Yield | 4.5\% |
| CAPITAL STRUCTURE as of $6 / 30 / 06$ <br> Total Debt $\$ 520.2$ mill. Due in 5 Yrs $\$ 215.0$ mill. LT Debt $\$ 470.2$ mill. LT Interest $\$ 20.0$ mill. (Total interest coverage: 4.0x) |  |  |  |  |  | 1850.7 | 1992.6 | 1465.1 | 1615.2 | 2298.1 | 2544.1 | 1897.4 | 2662.7 | 2739.7 | 3357.8 | 3265 | 3225 | Revenu | (\$mill) | 3200 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 121.2 | 124.3 | 111.1 | 121.9 | 136.4 | 136.3 | 128.0 | 93.1 | 98.1 | 101.1 | 110 | 110 | Net Prof | (\$mill) | 125 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 35.8\% | 35.0\% | 34.4\% | 34.7\% | 34.8\% | 33.5\% | 31.0\% | 35.2\% | 31.8\% | 28.3\% | 27.0\% | 30.0\% | Income | ax Rate | 32.0\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 6.5\% | 6.2\% | 7.6\% | 7.5\% | 5.9\% | 5.4\% | 6.7\% | 3.5\% | 3.6\% | 3.0\% | 3.4\% | 3.4\% | Net Prof | Margin | 3.9\% |
| Pension Assets-12/05 \$424.0 mill. Oblig. \$284.4 mill. |  |  |  |  |  | 41.3\% | 42.3\% | 42.1\% | 35.5\% | 32.7\% | 37.8\% | 35.1\% | 39.6\% | 39.8\% | 37.4\% | 36.0\% | 35.0\% | Long-Te | $m$ Debt Ratio | 32.0\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 58.1\% | 57.2\% | 57.4\% | 64.0\% | 66.7\% | 61.7\% | 64.5\% | 60.3\% | 60.1\% | 62.5\% | 64.0\% | 65.0\% | Common | Equity Ratio | 68.0\% |
| Pfd Stock $\$ .6$ mill. <br> Pfd Div'd $\$ .03$ mill. <br> ( 11,681 shares of $4.48 \%$ mandatorily redeemable preferred stock) |  |  |  |  |  | 1255.1 | 1300.6 | 1322.6 | 1230.1 | 1061.2 | 1180.1 | 1128.9 | 1251.5 | 1246.0 | 1297.7 | 1310 | 1335 | Total Ca | ital (\$mill) | 1430 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 1771.9 | 1735.8 | 1731.8 | 1735.2 | 1729.6 | 1768.6 | 1796.8 | 2484.2 | 2549.8 | 2659.1 | 2750 | 2850 | Net Plan | (\$mill) | 3150 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 11.1\% | 11.1\% | 9.9\% | 10.9\% | 13.7\% | 12.3\% | 12.2\% | 8.3\% | 8.8\% | 9.4\% | 10.0\% | 9.5\% | Return | Total Cap'l | 10.0\% |
| Common Stock 44,536,603 sharesas of 4/28/06 |  |  |  |  |  | 16.4\% | 16.6\% | 14.5\% | 15.4\% | 19.1\% | 18.6\% | 17.5\% | 12.3\% | 13.1\% | 12.5\% | 13.0\% | 12.5\% | Return | Shr. Equity | 13.0\% |
|  |  |  |  |  |  | 16.6\% | 16.7\% | 14.6\% | 15.4\% | 19.2\% | 18.7\% | 17.5\% | 12.3\% | 13.1\% | 12.5\% | 13.0\% | 12.5\% | Return | Com Equity | 13.0\% |
| MARKET CAP: $\$ 1.9$ billion (Mid Cap) |  |  |  |  |  | $\begin{gathered} \hline 7.6 \% \\ 54 \% \end{gathered}$ | 7.6\% | 5.4\% | 6.2\% | 8.5\% | 7.9\% | 6.5\% | 1.5\% | 2.1\% | 2.3\% | 3.0\% | 3.0\% | Retained | to Com Eq | 3.5\% |
| CURRENT POSITION <br> (\$MMLL.). 2004 2005 $6 / 30 / 06$ |  |  |  |  |  |  | 55\% | 63\% | 60\% | 56\% | 58\% | 63\% | 88\% | 84\% | 81\% | 75\% | 77\% | All Div'd | to Net Prof | 73\% |


| Cash Assets | 83.2 | 126.9 | 226.6 | BUSINESS: Nicor Inc. is a holding company with gas distribution as |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: | :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Other | 937.7 | 1218.8 | 477.4 | its primary business. Serves |

Current Assets
Accts Payable Debt Due Other
Current Liab. Fix. Chg. Cov.

$\begin{array}{ll}937.7 & \frac{1218.8}{1345.7}\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lll}020.9 & \overline{1345.7} & 704.0\end{array}$ $\begin{array}{lll}502.9 & 658.2 & 433.9 \\ 490.2 & 63.0 & 50.0\end{array}$ | 490.2 | 636.0 |
| ---: | ---: |
| 178.3 | 328.7 | $\frac{1171.4}{1622.9}$ | 1171.4 | 1622.9 |
| ---: | ---: |
| $428 \%$ | $367 \%$ |

its primary business. Serves over 2.1 million customers in northern and western Illinois. 2005 gas delivered: 470.6 Bcf , incl. 219.4 Bcf from transportation. 2005 gas sales ( 251.2 bcf): residential, $80 \%$; commercial, $18 \%$; industrial, $3 \%$. Principal supplying pipelines: Natural Gas Pipeline, Horizon Pipeline, and TGPC. Current operations

## Nicor's core gas distribution segment

has posted mixed results. In the first six months of the year, this unit posted a modest decline in operating profits from a year ago. Excluding the cost recovery of $\$ 3.8$ million related to a mercury repair and inspection program, operating earnings declined by $1 \%$, to $\$ 70.8$ million, in the period. An increase in base rates, approved by the Illinois Commerce Commission last fall, helped to boost revenues, but was partially offset by unseasonably warm weather, which reduced the demand for gas deliveries. This decrease in demand lowered net profits by roughly $\$ 7.5$ million compared to management's forecast. In light of the weather-related losses, the gas distribution segment will probably weigh on the bottom line in the full year. Even so, this is considered a temporary issue, and an eventual return to normal weather conditions should benefit earnings. Too, operating and maintenance expenses have been running below management's expectations, with room for further cost reductions, barring an unforeseen spike in natural gas prices.
include Tropical Shipping subsidiary and several energy related ventures. Divested inland barging, $7 / 86$; contract drilling, 9/86; oil and gas E\&P, 6/93. Has about 3,700 employee. Off./dir. own about $2.8 \%$ of common stock. (3/06 proxy). Chairman and CEO: Russ Strobel. Inc.: IL. Address: 1844 Ferry Road, Naperville, IL 60563. Telephone: 630-305-9500. Internet: www.nicor.com.
ments should bolster the bottom line. Nicor's Tropical Shipping unit is generating higher revenues, due to an increase in rates. But some of those gains are likely to be mitigated, in part, by incremental payroll and transportation costs. Separately, the energy ventures segment should post better results in the second half of this year, as deferred revenue, related to its utility bill management products, are recognized.
Nicor may be able to raise its dividend following a recent legal settlement. In July, the company reached a settlement with the SEC regarding the investigation over its accounting for natural gas costs between 2000 and 2002. Under the terms of the settlement, Nicor will be subject to a $\$ 10$ million fine, without admitting or denying any wrongdoing. With the legal issues in the rearview mirror, there ought to be a greater amount of cash available to shareholders. As of J une 30th, there was nearly $\$ 227$ million in cash on the balance sheet.
These shares may interest incomeoriented accounts.
Charles W. Noh
September 15, 2006

[^0]


| Cal- <br> endar | QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) <br> Mar.31 |  |  |  | Full <br> Yun.30 |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2003 | 206.5 | 117.5 | 69.5 | 217.8 | 611.3 |  |
| 2004 | 255.5 | 109.7 | 81.4 | 262.0 | 707.6 |  |
| 2005 | 308.7 | 153.7 | 106.7 | 341.4 | 910.5 |  |
| 2006 | 390.4 | 171.0 | 130 | 333.6 | 1025 |  |
| 2007 | 375 | 185 | 140 | 350 | 1050 |  |
| Cal- <br> endar | EARNINGS PER SHARE A |  |  |  | Mar.31 | Jun.30 |
| 2003 | 1.01 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |  |  |
| 2004 | 1.24 | d.03 | d.25 | .83 | 1.76 |  |
| 2005 | 1.44 | .04 | d.31 | .95 | 1.86 |  |
| 2006 | 1.48 | .07 | d.30 | .97 | 2.11 |  |
| 2007 | 1.55 | .05 | d.30 | 1.10 | 2.22 |  |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B | 2.40 |  |  |  |  |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |  |
| 2002 | .315 | .315 | .315 | .315 | 1.26 |  |
| 2003 | .315 | .315 | .315 | .325 | 1.27 |  |
| 2004 | .325 | .325 | .325 | .325 | 1.30 |  |
| 2005 | .325 | .325 | .325 | .345 | 1.32 |  |
| 2006 | .345 | .345 | .345 |  |  |  |

BUSINESS: Northwest Natural Gas Co. distributes natural gas at retail to 90 communities, 624,000 customers, in Oregon ( $90 \%$ of custs.) and in southwest Washington state. Principal cities served: Portland and Eugene, OR; Vancouver, WA. Service area population: 2.4 mill. ( $77 \%$ in OR). Company buys gas supply from Canadian and U.S. producers; has transportation rights on Northwest
Northwest Natural's second-quarter earnings turned out a bit better than expected, despite weather that was $16 \%$ warmer than average and $12 \%$ warmer than last year's. The company's share of commodity cost savings added about $\$ 0.03$ a share in the J une period, and profits from interstate gas storage contributed an additional $\$ 0.02$. Operations and maintenance expenses were up $3 \%$ but would have risen $2 \%$ without increased bad debt costs, due to higher gas prices.
We anticipate roughly normal earnings growth over the balance of the year. Northwest $N$ atural increased its customer count by $3.3 \%$ in the 12 months ended in June, and the new accounts should boost earnings through 2006 and 2007. While the national economy is definitely slowing, Portland seems to be doing better than the nation as a whole, with little decline in new home construction. (Northwest's share of new home heating fuel is over $90 \%$.) But the company plans to lay off 50 to 100 employees in the second half of the year, and severance
costs will probably add up to around $\$ 0.04$ a share in the fourth quarter.

Pipeline system to bring gas to market. Owns local underground storage. Rev. breakdown: residential, $53 \%$; commercial, $27 \%$; industrial, gas transportation, and other, 20\%. Employs 1,305. Barclays owns $6.2 \%$ of shares; insiders, $1 \%$ (4/06 proxy). CEO:
Mark S. Dodson. Inc.: OR. Address: 220 NW 2nd Ave., Portland, OR 97209. Tel.: 503-226-4211. Internet: www.nwnatural.com.
Earnings in 2007 will likely benefit from new efficiency and cost-cutting efforts. Northwest has begun to implement a companywide plan to reduce costs by consolidating some operations, standardizing functions, and outsourcing some operations, such as new construction. The plan will take a few years to implement completely and will probably result in a workforce reduction of 200 to 250 employees, some by normal attrition.
Northwest's earnings will probably grow faster than its industry's, thanks to above-average customer growth. The area to the southeast of Portland will soon be zoned for higher density, permitting profitable installation of gas mains and significant customer growth. And the company serves less than 60\% of its market at present, allowing it to pick up new customers as old oil tanks need replacing. These neutrally ranked shares have below-average total return potential at their recent quotation. Although we like Northwest's prospects, we think investors will have an opportunity to invest at a better price.
Sigourney B. Romaine September 15, 2006

[^1]

| Cash Assets | 5.7 | 7.1 | 20.3 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Other | 329.5 | 497.8 | 431.7 |
| Current Assets | 335.2 | 504.9 | 452.0 |
| Accts Payable | 99.6 | 182.8 | 73.7 |
| Debt Due | 109.5 | 193.5 | 287.0 |
| Other | 97.1 | 152.3 | 123.0 |
| Current Liab. | 306.2 | 528.6 | 483.7 |
| Fix. Chg. Cov. | 378\% | 400\% | 390\% |


| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | Est'd '03.'05 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Y Ys. | to '03.'11 |
| Revenues | $7.5 \%$ | $11.0 \%$ | $8.5 \%$ |
| "Cash Flow" | $7.0 \%$ | $5.5 \%$ | $6.0 \%$ |
| Earnings | $5.5 \%$ | $5.0 \%$ | $6.0 \%$ |
| Dividends | $5.5 \%$ | $5.0 \%$ | $5.5 \%$ |
| Book Value | $6.5 \%$ | $6.5 \%$ | $3.0 \%$ |


| Fiscal Year Ends | QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) A |  |  |  | Full Fiscal Year |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Jan. 31 | Apr. 30 | Jul. 31 | Oct. 31 |  |
| 2003 | 493.5 | 407.8 | 140.1 | 179.4 | 1220.8 |
| 2004 | 618.8 | 482.4 | 214.7 | 213.8 | 1529.7 |
| 2005 | 680.6 | 508.0 | 232.9 | 339.6 | 1761.1 |
| 2006 | 921.4 | 483.2 | 237.9 | 307.5 | 1950 |
| 2007 | 875 | 565 | 315 | 345 | 2100 |
| Fiscal Year Ends | EARNINGS PER SHARE A B F |  |  |  | Full Fiscal Year |
|  | Jan. 31 | Apr. 30 | Jul. 31 | Oct. 31 |  |
| 2003 | . 87 | . 47 | d. 15 | d. 08 | 1.11 |
| 2004 | 1.03 | . 54 | d. 11 | d. 21 | 1.27 |
| 2005 | . 93 | . 52 | d. 06 | d. 07 | 1.32 |
| 2006 | . 94 | . 57 | d. 16 | d. 05 | 1.30 |
| 2007 | . 98 | . 57 | d. 06 | d. 09 | 1.40 |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID ${ }^{\text {cm }}$ |  |  |  | Full |
| endar | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| 2002 | . 193 | . 20 | . 20 | . 20 | . 79 |
| 2003 | . 20 | . 208 | . 208 | . 208 | . 82 |
| 2004 | . 208 | . 215 | . 215 | . 215 | . 85 |
| 2005 | . 215 | . 23 | . 23 | . 23 | . 91 |
| 2006 | . 23 | . 24 | . 24 |  |  |

BUSINESS: Piedmont Natural Gas Company is primarily a regulated natural gas distributor, serving over 990,000 customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Tennessee. 2005 revenue mix: residential (39\%), commercial (24\%), industrial (13\%), other (24\%) Principal suppliers: Transco and Tennessee Pipeline. Gas costs: $71.6 \%$ of revenues. ' 05 deprec. rate: $3.3 \%$. Estimated plant age

## Piedmont Natural Gas posted a larger

 share loss than we had anticipated. The fiscal third quarter (ended J uly 31st) was impacted by reduced margins due to rate design changes, and costs associated with the company's corporate restructuring program. In J uly, Piedmont and North Carolina's Attorney General office reached a settlement on its customer utilization tracker rate mechanism, which decouples the collection of utility margin from customer volume. This plan is favorable for both customers, who will benefit by the more efficient use of natural gas, and Piedmont shareholders, who will not suffer the negative consequences of conservation by customers. As part of the agreement, the company will fund up to $\$ 1.5$ million annually over the next few years toward customer conservation programs, in addition to the $\$ 500,000$ it had already committed to spend. Furthermore, Piedmont's initial restructuring involved offering early retirement to management-level employees and will eventually include other positions as part of an effort to streamlinebusiness processes and improve corporate efficiencies. The company should realize
8.7 years. Non-regulated operations: sale of gas-powered heating equipment; natural gas brokering; propane sales. Has about 2,125 employees. Officers \& directors own less than $1 \%$ of common stock (1/06 proxy). CEO \& President: Thomas E. Skains. Inc.: NC. Addr.: 1915 Rexford Road, P.O. Box 33068 Charlotte, NC 28233. Telephone: 704-364-3120. Internet: www.piedmontng.com.
about $\$ 5$ million to $\$ 6$ million in annual cost savings beginning in 2007.
The company's nonutility operations will likely represent a greater percentage of future profits. Over the first six months of 2006, these activities contributed earnings of $\$ 25.5$ million, which is nearly 20\% above the year-ago period. Even though regulated operations make up most of Piedmont's total income, unregulated operations such as Cardinal Pipeline, Pine Needle, and SouthStar Energy provide an added boost to the company's bottom line. We expect Piedmont to continue to pursue strategic investments to diversify its earnings stream over the next few years.
Though untimely, this stock is suitable for conservative incomeoriented investors. Piedmont offers a respectable dividend yield at $3.9 \%$ and has an Above Average Safety rank (2). Moreover, the company should benefit as it diversifies its supply portfolio away from the Gulf Coast region through agreements with Midwestern Gas Transmission Company and Hardy Storage Company. Evan I. Blatter

September 15, 2006
(A) Fiscal year ends October 31st.
(B) Diluted earnings. Excl. extraordinary item: $00,8 \mathrm{C}$. Excl. nonrecurring charge: ' $97,2 \mathrm{C}$. Next earnings report due mid-Dec.
(C) Dividends historically paid mid-January, April, July, October. - Div'd reinvest. plan available; 5\% discount.
(D) Includes deferred charges. At 10/31/05:
$\$ 4.0$ million, $5 \$ /$ share.
(E) In millions, adjusted for stock splits. (F) Quarters may not add to total due to change in shares outstanding.

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

| TIMELINESS |
| :--- |
| SAFETY |

5

Lovered 4706 | High: | 11.8 |
| :--- | ---: |
| Low: | 8 |
| LEGENDS |  | Loneed 1491 TECHNICAL 3 Rased 72106 BETA $.70 \quad(1.00=$ Market)

| 2009-11 PROJECTIONS |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Price | Gain An | nn'l Total Return |
| High | 40 ( | ( $+40 \%$ ) | 11\% |
| Low | 30 | (+5\%) | 4\% |
| Insider Decisions |  |  |  |
|  | 0 N D | J F M | A M J |
| to Buy | 010 | 000 | 000 |
| Options | 000 | 000 | 00 |
| to Sell | 000 | 00 | 00 |
| Institutional Decisions |  |  |  |
|  | $4 Q 2005$ | 1Q2006 | 202006 |
| to Buy | 63 | - 59 | 64 |
| to Sell | 49 | 52 | 46 |
| Hld's'(000) | 14085 | 14260 | 15700 |
| 1990 | 1991 | 1992 | 1993 |
| 14.40 | 15.10 | 16.67 | 17.03 |
| 1.34 | 1.37 | 1.56 | 1.54 |
| . 67 | . 64 | . 81 | . 78 |
| . 70 | . 71 | . 71 | . 72 |
| 2.11 | 2.17 | 1.69 | 1.87 |
| 6.79 | 6.77 | 6.95 | 7.17 |
| 18.06 | 18.48 | 19.00 | 19.61 |
| 13.6 | 14.5 | 13.2 | 15.8 |
| 1.01 | . 93 | . 80 | . 93 |
| 7.7\% | 7.6\% | 6.6\% | 5.9\% |

CAPITAL STRUCTURE as of 6/30/06 Total Debt $\$ 505.1$ mill. Due in 5 Yrs $\$ 175.0$ mill. LT Debt $\$ 358.1$ mill. LT Interest $\$ 20.0$ mill. (Total interest coverage: 4.8x)

Pension Assets-12/05 \$108.5 mill. Pfd Stock none
Common Stock 29,232,801 common shs. as of $8 / 1 / 06$

MARKET CAP: $\$ 850$ million (Small Cap) | $\begin{array}{c}\text { CURRENT POSITION } \\ (\text { SMILL. })\end{array}$ | 2004 | 2005 | $6 / 30 / 06$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |

Cash Assets Other
Current Assets
Accts Payable Debt Due Current Liab. Fix. Chg. Cov. ANNUAL RATES Past of change (per sh
Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Earnings
Dividends Dividends
Book Value

| 10.6 | 4.9 | 6.9 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 273.3 | 352.6 | 288.9 |
| 283.9 | 357.5 | 295.8 |
| 118.8 | 179.0 | 74.8 |
| 97.6 | 149.7 | 147.0 |
| 68.9 | 74.4 | 105.2 |
| 285.3 | 403.1 | 327.0 |
| $426 \%$ | $486 \%$ | $445 \%$ | Past Past Est'd '03-'05 | O Yrs. | 5 Yrs. |
| :--- | ---: |
| $5.5 \%$ | $7.5 \%$ |
| $4.5 \%$ | $6.5 \%$ |
| $8.0 \%$ | $11.5 \%$ |
| $1.5 \%$ | $2.5 \%$ | to '09-'11

$4.5 \%$ $4.5 \%$
$6.5 \%$
$7.0 \%$

$6.0 \%$ $6.0 \%$ | $\begin{array}{c}\text { Cal- } \\ \text { endar }\end{array}$ | MaUARTERLY REVENUES ( $\$$ mill.) | Full |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | | endar | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| :---: | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | ---: |
| 2003 | 279.9 | 1062 | 90.1 | 220.6 | 696.8 | | 2003 | 279.9 | 106.2 | 90.1 | 220.6 | 696.8 |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| 2004 | 307.6 | 136.5 | 129.5 | 245.5 | 819.1 |
| 2005 | 328.6 | 154.0 | 157.0 | 281.4 | 921.0 | | 2005 | 328.6 | 154.0 | 157.0 | 281.4 | 921.0 |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :---: |
| 2006 | 365.0 | 155.5 | 162 | 277.5 | 960 |
| 2007 | 375 | 175 | 172 | 288 | 1010 | | 2007 | 375 | 175 | 172 | 288 | 1010 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cal- | EARNINGS PER SHAREA | Full |  |  |  | | endar | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2003 | .92 | .08 | d. 07 | .44 | 1.37 |


| 2003 | .92 | .08 | d.07 | .44 | 1.37 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | ---: |
| 2004 | .91 | .15 | .02 | .50 | 1.58 |
| 2005 | .96 | .27 | .09 | .39 | 1.71 |
| 2006 | .93 | .25 | .14 | .53 | 1.85 |
| 2007 | .98 | .30 | .12 | .55 | 1.95 |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID Bı |  |  |  | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2002 | .185 | .188 | .188 | .38 | .94 |
| 2003 | -- | .193 | .193 | .395 | .78 |
| 2004 | -- | .202 | .202 | .415 | .82 |
| 2005 | -- | .213 | .213 | .438 | .86 |
| 2006 | .- | 225 | 225 |  |  |

6.9 BUSINESS: South Jersey Industries, Inc. is a holding company. Its subsidiary, South Jersey Gas Co., distributes natural gas to 322,424 customers in New Jersey's southern counties, which covers 2,500 square miles and includes Atlantic City. Gas revenue mix '05: residential, $45 \%$; commercial, $23 \%$; cogeneration and electric generation 4\%; Industrial, $23 \%$. Non-utility operations include:
South J ersey Industries' earnings comparisons have been weak over the first six months of 2006. This is largely due to warmer than normal temperatures and conservation by customers as a result of high natural gas prices. On the positive side, there is continued optimism that the company's conservation and usage adjustment proposal will be approved by the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities and be in place by next winter's heating season. Moreover, the utility added 8,740 customers during the past 12 months, which represents nearly a 3\% increase over the prior year. Due to the strength of the local economy and demand for housing in the at a rate exceeding the industry average over the next few years. For 2006, we look for earnings to advance about 8\%, to $\$ 1.85$, due to a pickup in nonregulated activities, followed by a more sustainable 6\%-7\% rate out to late decade.

## Marina Energy still has room for

 growth. It recently completed the expansion of its Atlantic City thermal plant tosupport the 500,000 -square-foot expansion to the gaming area at the Borgata Hotel

South Jersey Energy, South Jersey Resource Group, Marina Energy, and South Jersey Energy Services Plus. Has 636 employees. Off./dir. cntrl. $1.5 \%$ of com. shares; Dimensional Fund Advisors, 7.9\%; Barclays, 5.3\% (3/06 proxy). Chrmn. \& CEO: Edward Graham. Incorp.: NJ. Address: 1 South Jersey Plaza, Rte. 54, Folsom, NJ 08037. Tel.: 609-561-9000. Internet: www.sjindustries.com.
Casino \& Spa. Results should be further enhanced toward the end of next year when an 800-room tower is completed at the Borgata. Also, Marina is in the process of completing a 3.8 megawatt methane-toelectric generation project at the Warren County district landfill, which should provide additional opportunities for growth. Looking ahead, the subsidiary may be able to benefit should a casino/hotel be built on a 50-acre property owned by MGM that is located next to the Borgata.
After a slow start to the year, the Residential \& Commercial Service business may exceed its 2005 performance going forward. This is primarily due to recent additions to its portfolio of services that include propane heaters and appliances, and small commercial heating, ventilating, and air conditioning systems.
This untimely stock is best suited for investors seeking moderate yield and good dividend growth potential. Over the 2009-2011 period, we look for steady dividend increases, which should push the yield to around $3.5 \%$, along with a slight reduction in the debt-to-equity ratio.
Evan I. Blatter
September 15, 2006
(A) Based on avg. shs. Excl. nonrecur. gain 01, \$0.13. Excl gain (losses) from discont. ops.:' $96, \$ 1.14$; '97, $(\$ 0.24)$; '98, ( $\$ 0.26$ ); '99, ops.: ' $96,11.14 ;$ ' 97, , (\$0.24); '98, ( $\$ 0.26$ ); '99,
(\$0.02); '00, (\$0.04); $01,(\$ 0.02) ; \quad$ '02, (\$0.04);
'03, (\$0.09); '05, (\$0.02). Excl. gains due to late Dec. - Div. reinvest. plan avail. (2\% disc.). acct'g change: '93, $\$ 0.04$; '01, $\$ 0.14$. Next egs. $\begin{aligned} & \text { (C) Incl. regulatory assets ( } \$ 121.5 \text { mill.): at }\end{aligned}$ report due late Oct.

12/31/05, \$4.19 per shr.
(D) In millions, adjusted

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


| (\$MILL.) |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Cash Assets | 6.6 | 4.8 | 88.1 |
| Other | 426.3 | 476.2 | 454.3 |
| Current Assets | 432.9 | 481.0 | 542.4 |
| Accts Payable | 179.0 | 204.9 | 172.4 |
| Debt Due | 156.3 | 91.0 | 145.0 |
| Other | 77.6 | 115.5 | 147.8 |
| Current Liab. | 412.9 | 411.4 | 465.2 |
| Fix. Chg. Cov. | 449\% | 460\% | 450\% |
| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past Est | ' '03-'05 |
| of change (per sh) | $10 \mathrm{Yrs}$. | 5 Yrs. | '09-'11 |
| Revenues | 7.5\% | 14.5\% | 6.0\% |
| "Cash Flow" | 5.0\% | 6.5\% | 2.0\% |
| Earnings | 4.5\% | 6.0\% | 1.5\% |
| Dividends | 1.5\% | 1.5\% | 2.0\% |
| Book Value | 4.0\% | 3.0\% | 3.5\% |


| $\begin{array}{c}\text { Fiscal } \\ \text { Year }\end{array}$ | QUARTERLY REVENUES ( $\$$ mill.) |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |

 \begin{tabular}{l|llllll}
2003 \& 560.0 \& 851.1 \& 373.2 \& 279.9 \& 2064.2 <br>
2004 \& 585.3 \& 862.2 \& 356.9 \& 285.2 \& 2089.6

 

2005 \& 685.3 \& 862.2 \& 353.9 \& 205.2 \& 2099.6 <br>
20096 \& 629.8 \& 349.0 \& 284.1 \& 2186.3 <br>
2006 \& 909.3 \& 1090.4 \& 346.9 \& 293.4 \& 2620

 

2007 \& 960 \& 1010 \& 380 \& 350 \& 2700 <br>
\hline Fiscal \& \& \& $27 B 20$ <br>
\hline

 

$\begin{array}{c}\text { Fiscal } \\
\text { Yeal } \\
\text { Ends }\end{array}$ \& $\begin{array}{c}\text { EARNINGS PER SHARE A B } \\
\text { Dec. } 31 \text { Mar. } 31 \text { Jun. } 30 \text { Sep. } 30\end{array}$ \& $\begin{array}{l}\text { Full } \\
\text { Fisc } \\
\text { Yyea }\end{array}$ <br>
\hline Year
\end{tabular}

| 2003 | 1.10 | 1.61 | d. 05 | d. 36 | 2.30 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| 2004 | . 81 | 1.62 | d. 08 | d. 37 | 1.98 |
| 2005 | . 88 | 1.63 | d. 17 | d. 23 | 2.11 |
| 2006 | . 91 | 1.16 | d. 01 | d. 21 | 1.85 |
| 2007 | . 95 | 1.40 | d. 15 | d. 25 | 1.95 |
| $\begin{array}{\|l\|} \hline \text { Cal- } \\ \text { endar } \end{array}$ | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C. |  |  |  | Full |
|  | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| 2002 | . 315 | . 318 | . 318 | . 318 | 1.27 |
| 2002 | . 318 | . 32 | . 32 | . 32 | 1.28 |
| 2003 | . 32 | . 325 | . 325 | . 325 | 1.30 |
| 2004 | . 325 | . 33 | . 33 | . 333 | 1.32 |
| 2005 | 333 | 338 | 338 |  |  |

BUSINESS: WGL Holdings, Inc. is the parent of Washington Gas Light, a natural gas distributor in Washington, D.C. and adjacent areas of VA. and MD. to resident'I and comm'I users (1,032,198 meters). Hampshire Gas, a federally regulated sub., operates an underground gas-storage facility in WV. Non-regulated subs.: Wash. Gas Energy Svcs. sells and delivers natural gas and pro-
WGL Holdings posted solid results in the seasonally weak fiscal third quarter (ended J une 30th). It reported a share net loss of $\$ 0.01$, which excluded the results from the recently sold American Combustion Industries subsidiary, significantly ahead of last year's figure. The results were driven by lower operation and maintenance expense, utility customer growth, and improved performance at the retail energy-marketing business. In fact, income from this segment nearly doubled from the year-ago period, to $\$ 6.1$ million, thanks to higher gross margins from the sale of natural gas and electricity. This should help push nonutility earnings to about $\$ 0.21$ a share this year, with additional improvements likely in 2007.
WGL expects to file a pair of rate increases. One will soon be with the Virginia State Corporation Commission, and another with the Maryland Public Service Commission next spring. The primary need for the Maryland rate increase is to recover costs associated with the Prince George's County rehabilitation program. The project is scheduled to be completed in 2008 at a $\$ 144$ million price tag. If this
vides energy related products in the D.C. metro area; Wash. Gas Energy Sys. designs/installs comm'l heating, ventilating, and air cond. systems. American Century Inv. own $9.3 \%$ of common stock; Off./dir. less than 1\% (1/06 proxy). Chrmn. \& CEO: J.H. DeGraffenreidt. Inc.: D.C. and VA. Addr.: 1100 H St., N.W., Washington, D.C. 20080. Tel.: 202-624-6410. Internet: www.wglholdings.com.

## project is fully recovered through a rate in-

 crease, which is probable, WGL should realize a $\$ 0.16$-a-share boost to earnings.The company is slated to spend about $\$ 855$ million on capital improvement projects out to 2010. WGL expects to begin construction on its LNG storage facility in late 2008 pending regulatory approval, two years later than previously anticipated due to zoning and other legal challenges, and scheduled to be completed by the 2011-2012 winter. However, until approval is granted WGL will explore other opportunities to meet its peak day requirements to serve its customers.
These shares are best suited for conservative investors. The dividend yield stands at 4.5\%, above the industry average, while the stock's Safety rank is 1 (Highest). Long term, we look for Washington Gas to add about 25,000-30,000 new utility customers annually, thanks to the new home construction expected in its service areas over the next 20 years. The stock, which is not well ranked for performance is dependable for income. But its price range only inches up over time.
Evan I. Blatter
September 15, 2006

Next earnings report due early Nov.
(D) Includes deferred charges and intangibles.

Next earnings report due early Nov.
$\begin{array}{ll}\text { (C) Dividends historically paid early February, } & \text { '05: } \$ 150.0 \text { million, } \$ 3.08 / \text { sh. } \\ \text { May, August, and November. }\end{array}$ (C) Dividends historically paid early February, vestment plan available.
(E) In millions, adjusted for stock split.
A) Fiscal years end Sept. 30th tinued operations: '06, (3¢).


[^0]:    (A) Based on primary earnings thru. '96, then items from discontinued ops.: ' 93,4 , ' $96,30 \mathrm{c}$. ${ }^{\prime}$ May, August, November. - Dividend reinvest-
    diluted. Excl. nonrecurring gains/(loss): '89, 7c; Quarterly earnings may not sum to total due to ment plan available.(C) In millions, adjusted for '97, 6 ; ' ' 98,11 ¢; ' 99,$54 ;$ ' $00,(\$ 1.96$ ); '01, 16 c ; rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. stock split. '03, (27¢);' 04 , ( $52 ¢$ ); '05, 80 ¢;' '06, (17¢). Excl.' (B) Dividends historically paid early February,

[^1]:    (A) Diluted earnings per share. Excludes non- mid-May, mid-August, and mid-November
    recurring gain: '98, $\$ 0.15$; '00, $\$ 0.11$. Next - Div'd reinvestment plan available. earnings report due early November.
    (C) In millions, adjusted for stock split.

