

Colorado-Kansas Division, and Kentucky/Mid-States Division. Gas sales breakdown for fiscal 2023: 66.5%, residential; 28.0%, com-

Centre, Suite 1800, 5430 LBJ Freeway, Dallas, Texas 75240. Telephone: 972-934-9227. Internet: www.atmosenergy.com.

Fix. Chg. Cov. ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '21-'23 Past 10 Yrs. to '27-'29 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow" -4.0% 6.5% 5.0% 6.5% 7.0% Earnings Dividends 9.5% 7.0% 9.0% 7.0% 7.5% 4.0% Book Value 12.0%

2386.4

720.2

3602.6

1238%

Current Liab.

253 4

763.1

1352.6

1059%

9.6 677.7

1055.2

1070%

| Fiscal Year Ends | QUART Dec.31 | TERLY RE\ Mar.31 | /ENUES (\$ Jun.30 | mill.) ^A Sep.30 | Full Fiscal Year |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|----------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|
| 2021 | 914.5 | 1319.1 | 605.6 | 568.3 | 3407.5 |
| 2022 | 1012.8 | 1649.8 | 816.4 | 722.7 | 4201.7 |
| 2023 | 1484.0 | 1541.0 | 662.7 | 587.7 | 4275.4 |
| 2024 | 1158.5 | 1647.2 | 786.5 | 607.8 | 4200 |
| 2025 | 1250 | 1725 | 865 | 660 | 4500 |
| Fiscal | EARNINGS PER SHARE A B E | | | | _Full _ |
| Year Ends | Dec.31 | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Fiscal Year |
| 2021 | 1.71 | 2.30 | .78 | .37 | 5.12 |
| 2022 | 1.86 | 2.37 | .92 | .51 | 5.60 |
| 2023 | 1.91 | 2.48 | .94 | .80 | 6.10 |
| 2024 | 2.08 | 2.85 | 1.00 | .82 | 6.75 |
| 2025 | 2.26 | 2.94 | 1.10 | .90 | 7.20 |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C= | | | | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .575 | .575 | .575 | .625 | 2.35 |
| 2021 | .625 | .625 | .625 | .68 | 2.56 |
| 2022 | .68 | .68 | .68 | .74 | 2.78 |
| 2023 | .74 | .74 | .74 | .805 | 3.03 |
| 2024 | .805 | .805 | | (B) B!! ! | |

Atmos Energy has performed nicely, from an earnings standpoint, thus far in fiscal 2024 (ends September 30th). Through the first half, per-share profits of \$4.93 were 12.3% higher than the \$4.39 amount registered for the same period last year. This was brought about partially by positive rate-case outcomes. Lower baddebt expense also helped. Furthermore, results were favorably impacted by legislation to reduce property-tax expenses in Texas. But a rise in both depreciation expense and interest charges provided somewhat of an offset. Nevertheless, for the entire year, it appears that the bottom line will increase around 10%, to \$6.75 per share, relative to fiscal 2023's \$6.10 tally. Concerning fiscal 2025, share net may grow another 7% or so, to \$7.20, as operating margins expand further.

There has been action on the ratefiling front. During the first six months, Atmos managed to complete some regulatory proceedings leading to a \$138.4 million boost in annual operating income. What's more, there were ratemaking initiatives in progress at the conclusion of March seeking \$96.4 million of annual operating income. Of course, there are no guarantees that the company will receive everything it desires.

The capital spending target for fiscal 2024 was raised from \$2.9 billion to **\$3.1 billion.** The revised estimate marks a 10.5% increase from fiscal 2023's \$2.8 billion figure. Like last year, a substantial amount of the resources is being used to enhance the safety and reliability of Atmos' natural gas distribution and transmission systems. Leadership adds that it projects total capital expenditures from fiscal 2024 through fiscal 2028 to be roughly \$17 billion. A meaningful portion of the investments will continue to be deployed to where they are currently. Assuming that finances remain healthy, the company ought to have minimal difficulty accomplishing these objectives.

These top-quality shares strengthened some in price over the past six months. That's due partly, we think, to the energy firm's solid earnings of late. However, long-term total return potential looks unspectacular. The equity is untimely, as well.

Frederick L. Harris, III

May 24, 2024

(A) Fiscal year ends Sept. 30th. (B) Diluted shrs. Excl. nonrec. gains (loss): '10, 5¢; '11, (1¢); '18, \$1.43; '20, 17¢. Excludes discontinued operations: '11, 10¢; '12, 27¢; '13, 14¢;

'17, 13¢. Next earnings report due early Aug. (C) Dividends historically paid in early March, June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div. reinvestment plan. Direct stock purchase plan avail.

(D) In millions.
(E) Qtrs may not add due to change in shrs

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 60 **Earnings Predictability** 100

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