

customers) 11/10. Acq'd Narragansett Electric (770,000 customers, renamed Rhode Island Energy) 5/22. Spun off power-generating

Sorgi. Inc.: PA. Address: Two North Ninth St., Allentown, PA 18101-1179. Tel.: 800-345-3085. Internet: www.pplweb.com.

154 348 NA Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '27-'29 -3.0% -8.5% -17.0% Revenues -7.5% 5.0% 3.0% 7.5% 'Cash Flow" Earnings -9.0% -4.5% 4.0% Dividends Book Value -1.0% 3.0%

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

| Cal-<br>endar | QUAR<br>Mar.31               |        | VENUES (<br>Sep.30 |        | Full<br>Year |
|---------------|------------------------------|--------|--------------------|--------|--------------|
| 2021          | 1498                         | 1288   | 1512               | 1485   | 5783         |
| 2022          | 1782                         | 1696   | 2134               | 2290   | 7902         |
| 2023          | 2415                         | 1823   | 2043               | 2031   | 8312         |
| 2024          | 2060                         | 1675   |                    | 2235   | 8100         |
| 2025          | 2245                         | 1700   | 2155               | 2250   | 8350         |
| Cal-          | EARNINGS PER SHARE A         |        |                    |        | Full         |
| endar         | Mar.31                       | Jun.30 | Sep.30             | Dec.31 | Year         |
| 2021          | .26                          | d.20   | .27                | .19    | .53          |
| 2022          | .41                          | .30    | .41                | .28    | 1.41         |
| 2023          | .48                          | .29    | .43                | .40    | 1.60         |
| 2024          | .50                          | .30    | .45                | .45    | 1.70         |
| 2025          | .50                          | .35    | .50                | .45    | 1.80         |
| Cal-          | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = |        |                    |        | Full         |
| endar         | Mar.31                       | Jun.30 | Sep.30             | Dec.31 | Year         |
| 2020          | .4125                        | .415   | .415               | .415   | 1.66         |
| 2021          | .415                         | .415   | .415               | .415   | 1.66         |
| 2022          | .415                         | .20    | .225               | .225   | 1.07         |
| 2023          | .225                         | .24    | .24                | .24    | .95          |
| 2024          | 24                           | 258    |                    |        |              |

We look for PPL Corp. to deliver solid **2024 results.** The company finished the 2023 final stanza on a good note with better-than-expected financial results. while also raising the quarterly dividend and capital expenditure plan. Too, management reaffirmed its long-term annual earnings growth target of 6%-8% through 2028 and released its 2024 earnings forecast range of \$1.63-\$1.75 per share. At \$1.70 per share, our profit call is right near PPL's midpoint and represents an increase of 6% over the \$1.60 that the Pennsylvania-based electric utility tallied last year. The company was set to release first-quarter financial results as this report went to press. We expect earnings of \$0.50 a share on revenues of \$2.06 billion.

Our full-year 2025 earnings estimate is staying put at \$1.80 per share. This represents a 6% increase from our 2024 target, and is within PPL's long-term annual profit growth estimate. Additional revenues from regulatory mechanisms and lower operating and maintenance expenses should benefit prospects over that interim. Indeed, a full year of rate relief in Kentucky, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania will likely benefit the company's bottom line. Too, the utility hopes to save \$150 million in cost savings through the end of 2025, largely due to infrastructure improvements.

The board of directors recently raised **the dividend.** The increase was \$0.018 a share (7.3%), making the quarterly distribution \$0.2575 per share. The dividend yield of 3.8% sits just above the utility median.

Shares of PPL are now ranked 3 (Average) for relative year-ahead price performance, having heen raised a notch on our Timeliness scale since February. The major draw here remains the dividend, especially after the aforementioned hike. The stock's prospects for the 18-month period are solid by utility standards. And, the total return potential for the 3- to 5-year time frame is respectable, given the strong yield and reduced risk of this equity. We recommend that conservative buy-and-hold investors seeking utility exposure take a closer look at this equity.

Zachary J. Hodgkinson

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '10, (8¢); '11, 8¢; '13, (62¢); '20, (13¢); '21, (50¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '08, 3¢; '09, (10¢); '10, (4¢); '12, (1¢); '14, 23¢; '15, (\$1.36); '21,

reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '23:

(\$1.94). '20 & '21 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next egs. rept. due early Aug. (B) Div'ds paid in early Jan., April, July, & Oct. Div'd in KY in '19: 9.725%; earned on avg. com. eq., in KY in '19: 9.725%; earned on avg. com. eq., '21: 2.8%. Reg. Clim.: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A 75 Price Growth Persistence 15 **Earnings Predictability** 45

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