

electric and 127,000 gas customers in Missouri; 1.2 million electric and 813,000 gas customers in Illinois. Discontinued nonregulated power-generation operation in '13. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 49%; commercial, 34%; industrial, 8%; other, 9%. Gen-

9,250 employees. Chairman: Warner L. Baxter. President & CEO: Martin J. Lyons, Jr. Inc.: Missouri. Address: One Ameren Plaza, 1901 Chouteau Ave., P.O. Box 66149, St. Louis, MO 63166-6149. Tel.: 314-621-3222. Internet: www.ameren.com

325 307 291 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '20-'22 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 Revenues -1.5% .5% 4.0% 6.5% 8.0% 5.0% 5.5% 'Cash Flow' 5.5% 6.5% Earnings 4.0% 3.5% 2.0% 6.5% 6.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA NA NA

NA NA NA

Cal-	QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2021	1566	1472	1811	1545	6394
2022	1879	1726	2306	2046	7957
2023	2062	1760	2060	1618	7500
2024	1816	1830	2150	2004	7800
2025	2000	1900	2250	2100	8250
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2021	.91	.80	1.65	.48	3.84
2022	.97	.80	1.74	.63	4.14
2023	1.00	.90	1.87	.60	4.37
2024	.98	.95	2.00	.67	4.60
2025	1.20	.95	2.00	.75	4.90
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2020	.495	.495	.495	.515	2.00
2021	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2022	.59	.59	.59	.59	2.36
2023	.63	.63	.63	.63	2.52
2024	.67	.67			

Ameren's profits should rise nicely in **2024.** Higher earnings in its transmission segment from clean-energy investments, along with electric and gas rate increases, will probably be the main factors. The utility will likely also benefit from elevated power demand due to artificial intelligence innovations and data centers. earnings-per-share estimate remains at \$4.60, which is within the company's updated outlook range of \$4.52-\$4.72. Management expects significant year-over-year operations and maintenance cost reductions in the second half of this year from several savings initiatives, which should prop up the bottom line.

We look for stronger bottom-line growth in 2025. Ameren will receive additional rate relief from its transmission and Illinois electric operations, which are currently under way. The utility recently updated its goal for annual earnings growth of 6%-8%, and our estimate of \$4.90 a share represents an increase of 6% from our 2024 estimate. This target is supported by annual rate base growth of 8.2%. Ameren is making progress in a num-

ber of regulatory matters in Illinois.

In April, the utility filed an electric distribution annual rate request for \$160 million of reconciliations for 2023 actual revenue costs. A decision is expected by the end of this year, and the full amount will likely be collected in 2025. And, in its multiyear grid plan, Ameren Illinois revised its request for an annual increase from 2023 rates of \$321 million. The request is based on a return on equity of 8.72% and an equity ratio of 50%. A final order is expected by the end of 2024. Ameren Missouri is also active on the regulatory front, and recently filed a 60-day notice for its next rate review

Risk-averse, income-oriented investors may want to take a closer look here. The dividend yield of this untimely but top-quality stock is about average by utility standards. And, long-term capital appreciation potential is attractive in comparison to most of its peers. Indeed, the midpoint of our 18-month Target Price Range indicates a 20% premium over the current quotation. And, we look for the stock to trade within \$105-\$130 by 2027-2029.

Zachary J. Hodgkinson June 7, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '10, (\$2.19); '11, (32¢); '12, (\$6.42); '17, (63¢); gain (loss) from discontinued ops.: '13, (92¢); '15, 21¢. Next earnings report due early Aug.

(B) Div'ds paid late Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ '22: elec. & gas, none specified; in IL: electric, Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '21: \$6.60/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Orig. eq., '21: 10.6%. cost depr. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MO in

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A+ 95 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 100