

152,000 customers, and gas utilities with 4.31 million customers in Texas, Minnesota, Louisiana, Mississippi, Indiana, and Ohio. Acquired Vectren 2/19. Sold nonutility operations in '20. Sold its stake

ficer: Jason P. Wells. Incorporated: Texas. Address: 1111 Louisiana, P.O. Box 4567, Houston, Texas 77210-4567. Telephone: 713-207-1111. Internet: www.centerpointenergy.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 135 252 251 ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '21-'23 Past of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 -7.0% -1.0% 3.5% Revenues -3.0% 3.5% 'Cash Flow -.5% Earnings 6.5% Dividends 7.0% Book Value 4 0% 5.5%

+2.5

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+2.0

+2.0%

Cal- endar			VENUES ( Sep. 30		Full Year
2021	2547	1742	1749	2314	8352
2022	2763	1944	1903	2711	9321
2023	2779	1875	1860	2182	8696
2024	2620	1900	1950	2330	8800
2025	2250	2250	2300	2300	9100
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
2021	.41	.29	.21	.03	.94
2022	.82	.28	.30	.19	1.59
2023	.49	.17	.40	.30	1.37
2024	.55	.20	.45	.25	1.45
2025	.50	.25	.50	.30	1.55
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2020	.29	.15	.15	.15	.74
2021	.16	.16	.16	.17	.65
2022	.17	.17	.18	.18	.70
2023	.18	.19	.19	.20	.76
2024	.20	.20			
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CenterPoint Energy registered mixed first-quarter results. The top line fell 6% year over year, to \$2.6 billion, primarily due to soft utility revenues, particularly in natural gas. However, the bottom line increased 12%, to \$0.55 per share, driven by rate recovery, favorable weather, and improved usage metrics.

The utility appears to be progressing as planned with its previously announced gas asset sales. CenterPoint filed approval applications with the regulator in April regarding the transaction involving the Louisiana and Mississippi Gas local distribution companies (LDCs). The divestiture is projected to yield approximately \$1 billion in after-cash proceeds and is expected to conclude in the first quarter of 2025. The decision to sell these LDCs reflects the company's strategic focus on jurisdictions where it maintains a notable presence in electric and gas utilities. After the sale, CenterPoint estimates its utility mix to be 66% electric and 34% gas.

We look for near-term share earnings to proceed at a mid-single-digit pace. Benefits from rate relief and new customer wins should support the bottom line. Also,

operations and maintenance cost controls have been ongoing, aimed at 1% to 2% annual cost reductions. All things considered, we expect 2024 and 2025 earnings per share to clock in at about \$1.45 and \$1.55, respectively.

CenterPoint has developed a comprehensive plan to enhance the resilience of the electric grid in Texas. The proposal includes upgrading transmission infrastructures, modernizing old transmission lines to meet current standards, and elevating substations to reduce flood risks. We believe this initiative represents a valuable capital investment, especially in light of recent power outages and restoration efforts in the region. The company anticipates making capital investments in the range of \$2.2 billion to \$2.7 billion through 2027.

Shares of CenterPoint have below average capital gains prospects over the next 18 months and the 2027-2029 time frame. The dividend yield is low for a utility, as well. Consequently, incomeoriented investors may find better selections in the sector. Emma Jalees

June 7, 2024

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40

55

(A) GAAP Dil. EPS 2022 & onwards. Excl. non-recur. gains (losses): '11, \$1.89; '12, (38¢); '13, (52¢); '15, (\$2.69); '17, \$2.56; '20, (\$2.74); gain (loss) on disc. ops.: '20, (34¢); '21, \$1.34. Ñext | (C) Incl. intang. In '23: \$6.59/sh. (D) In mill. | Regulatory Climate: TX, Avg.; IN, Above Avg. © 2024 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

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egs. report due late July. **(B)** Div'ds histor. paid in early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. 5 declarations in '17 & '20, 3 in '19. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. 11.25%; earned on avg. com. eq., '22: 8.27%.

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