

down: taconite mining/processing, 26%; wholesale, 14%; residential, 13%; commercial 13% paper/wood products, 9%; other industrial, 8%; other, 17%. ALLETE Clean Energy (ACE) owns re-

1,400 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Bethany M. Owen. Inc.: Minnesota. Address: 30 West Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802-2093. Tel.: 218-279-5000. Internet: www.allete.com.

219 220 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 230 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '21-'23 to '27-'29 3.0% of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. Revenues -3.0% 'Cash Flow' 2.0% 4.5% 6.0% 4 5% 3.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 4.5% 3.0% 3.5%

% Change Customers (avg.)

ΝA

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)			Full Year	
IVIAI.J I	Juli. 30	3ep. 30	Dec. 31	rear
339.2	335.6	345.4	399.0	1419.2
383.5	373.1	388.3	425.8	1570.7
564.9	533.4			1879.8
403.3	475	421.7	440	1740
430	480	440	450	1800
EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
.99	.53	.53	1.18	3.23
1.24	.67	.59	.90	3.38
1.02	.90	1.49	.89	4.30
.88	.85	.80	1.22	3.75
1.05	.90	.90	1.25	4.10
QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = †				Full
Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
.6175	.6175	.6175	.6175	2.47
.63	.63	.63	.63	2.52
				2.60
				2.71
		.0110	.0.70	, .
	Mar.31 339.2 383.5 564.9 403.3 430 EA Mar.31 .99 1.24 .88 1.05 QUART Mar.31 .6175 .63 .65	Mar.31 Jun. 30 339.2 335.6 383.5 373.1 564.9 533.4 403.3 475 430 480 EARNINGS P Mar.31 Jun. 30 .99 .53 1.02 .90 .88 .85 1.05 .90 QUARTERLY DIVI Mar.31 Jun.30 .6175 .63 .63 .65 .65 .6775	Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 339.2 335.6 345.4 383.5 373.1 388.3 364.9 533.4 378.8 403.3 475 421.7 430 480 440 EARNINGS PER SHARE Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 .99 .53 .53 1.24 .67 .59 1.02 .90 1.49 .88 .85 .80 1.05 .90 .90 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PA Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 .6175 .6175 .6175 .63 .63 .63 .65 .65 .65 .6775 .6775 .6775	Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 339.2 335.6 345.4 399.0 383.5 373.1 388.3 425.8 564.9 533.4 378.8 402.7 403.3 475 421.7 440 430 480 440 450 EARNINGS PER SHARE ► Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 99 .53 .53 1.18 1.24 .67 .59 .90 1.02 .90 1.49 .89 88 .85 .80 1.22 1.05 .90 .90 1.25 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 .6175 .6175 .6175 .63 .63 .63 .63 .63 .65 .65 .65 .65 .6775 .6775 .6775 .6775

ALLETE agreed to be acquired by a combination of Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Global Infrastructure Partners. ALE stockholders would receive \$67 per share in a deal to be taken private at a total value of \$6.2 billion. The stock price has risen nicely of and the transaction currently represents a very slight premium to the present quotation. The deal is expected to close in mid-2025.

The company plans to spend \$4.3 billion on renewable energy over the next five years. While utilities are well positioned to benefit from artificial intelligence innovations and data centers that boost power demand, the clean-energy transition requires raising significant investments, which is very challenging for small utilities in public markets. If approved, the buyout would allow ALLETE to take advantage of the biggest demand jump in its history, and provide the utility assistance in its long-term goals. Indeed, ALLETE's largest subsidiary, Minnesota Power, has a carbon-free mandate by 2040, among other initiatives that should be easier to obtain as a private company.

We think the deal makes sense. AL-LETE is looking to grow at a significant rate to keep up with the elevated demand from tech innovations. The pending acquisition should set up the company nicely in the long term to meet the all-time high power demand. This would likely not be possible as a small-cap utility in the currently volatile markets. The purchase price of \$67 per share is right near the midpoint of our 18-month Target Price Range, indicating a modest premium to our future projected stock price. ALLETE plans to retain its workforce and continue to operate locally in Minnesota.

The stock is inching closer to its buyout price. Investors seem enthused with the deal and the likelihood of it being completed, accounting for the recent runup. If the transaction does not go through, capital appreciation potential for the 3- to 5-year time frame is above average in comparison to most of ALLETE's peers. We look for the stock to trade around \$75-\$100 by 2027-2029. ALLETE is also ranked Above Average (2) for Safety and holds a high score for Price Stability. June 7, 2024 Zachary J. Hodgkinson

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (loss): '15, (46¢); '17, 25¢; '19, 26¢; '19 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar.,

(E) Rate base: Orig. cost depr. Rate all'd in MN

June, Sept. and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '23: \$9.60/sh. (D) In mill. deferred charges. The charges c

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 85 Price Growth Persistence 30 **Earnings Predictability** 90