

423.2 2400.5 Accts Payable Debt Due 354.0 2201.4 235.8 546.4 782.4 686.7 653.0 3510.4 3208.4 Current Liab. Fix. Chg. Cov. 1306% 1457% 1445%

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '19-'21 Past 10 Yrs. to '25-'27 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. -10.0% 7.0% 8.5% 8.0% Revenues "Cash Flow" 6.5% 7.0% 6.0% Earnings Dividends 8.5% 5.5% 7.5% 7.0% 7.5% 11.0% **Book Value**

Fiscal Year Ends	QUART Dec.31	TERLY RE\ Mar.31	/ENUES (\$ Jun.30	mill.) ^A Sep.30	Full Fiscal Year
2019	877.8	1094.6	485.7	443.7	2901.8
2020	875.6	977.6	493.0	474.9	2821.1
2021	914.5	1319.1	605.6	568.3	3407.5
2022	1012.8	1649.8	640	597.4	3900
2023	1060	1720	730	690	4200
Fiscal	EARNINGS PER SHARE A B E				_Full _
Year Ends	Dec.31	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Fiscal Year
2019	1.38	1.82	.68	.49	4.35
2020	1.47	1.95	.79	.53	4.72
2021	1.71	2.30	.78	.37	5.12
2022	1.86	2.37	.82	.45	5.50
2023	2.02	2.43	.91	.54	5.90
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2018	.485	.485	.485	.525	1.98
2019	.525	.525	.525	.575	2.15
2020	.575	.575	.575	.625	2.35
2021	.625	.625	.625	.68	2.56
2022	.68	.68			<u> </u>

sion, West Texas Division, Mid-Tex Division, Mississippi Division, Colorado-Kansas Division, and Kentucky/Mid-States Division. Gas sales breakdown for fiscal 2021: 67.9%, residential; 26.8%, com-

Atmos Energy had a decent showing through the first half of fiscal 2022 (which ended last March 31st). Share net rose 5.5%, to \$4.23, compared to \$4.01 for the same period in fiscal 2021. That was brought about partly by the distribution unit, helped by favorable rate case outcomes and an expanded customer base. A substantially diminished effective income tax rate also benefited the company. But the performance of the pipeline and storage division was held back a bit by heightened operating expenses. Nevertheless, assuming that the second half goes fairly well for Atmos, full-year earnings stand to increase around 7%, to \$5.50 a share, relative to fiscal 2021's \$5.12 total. Regarding next year, share net might grow at a similar percentage rate, to \$5.90, as operating margins widen further.

The Financial Strength rating is A+. When the second quarter concluded, cash and equivalents resided at \$582.5 million. Also, long-term debt was manageable (roughly 40% of total capital) and shortterm commitments did not appear to be a major obstacle. Furthermore, \$2.2 billion in common stock and/or debt securities

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remained available for issuance (out of \$5 billion) under a shelf registration statement expiring in June, 2024. Lastly, Atmos can access four revolving credit facilities aggregating \$2.5 billion plus a \$1.5 billion commercial paper program. So, there seems to be ample liquidity to satisfy working capital needs, capital expenditures, and other obligations for some time. Prospects out to 2025-2027 appear encouraging. The company ranks as one of the nation's largest natural gas-only distributors, with more than three million customers across several states, including Texas, Louisiana, and Mississippi. Moreover, we think the pipeline and storage segment has promising overall growth opportunities, given that it operates in one of the most-active drilling regions in the world. The healthy balance sheet is another positive.

That said, these top-quality shares hold unimpressive long-term total return potential. Capital appreciation possibilities aren't exciting. Also, the dividend yield is below the average of Value Line's Natural Gas Utility group.

Frederick L. Harris, III May 27, 2022

(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 egs. rpt. 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) Otrs may not add due to change in shrs Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A+ 95 Price Growth Persistence 70 **Earnings Predictability** 100

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