

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-

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325 307 291 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '19-'21 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '25-'27 -2.5% 3.0% 3.0% Revenues -1.0% 4.0% 6.0% 6.5% 7.0% 6.5% 'Cash Flow' 6.0% 7.5% Earnings 4.0% 4.5% Dividends Book Value 1.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA NA

Cal-	QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.su	Dec.31	Year
2019	1556	1379	1659	1316	5910
2020	1440	1398	1628	1328	5794
2021	1566	1472	1811	1545	6394
2022	1879	1621	2000	1700	7200
2023	1900	1700	2100	1800	7500
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2019	.78	.72	1.47	.38	3.35
2020	.59	.98	1.47	.46	3.50
2021	.91	.80	1.65	.48	3.84
2022	.97	.85	1.78	.50	4.10
2023	.95	.90	1.95	.55	4.35
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2018	.4575	.4575	.4575	.475	1.85
2019	.475	.475	.475	.495	1.92
2020	.495	.495	.495	.515	2.00
2021	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2022	.59	.59			

Ameren's earnings will probably rise **solidly in 2022.** A key factor will be electric and gas rate increases (\$220 million and \$5 million, respectively) that took effect in Missouri on February 28th. The company will pick up a few cents a share from a full year's effect of a gas tariff hike in Illinois last year. Ameren also benefits annually from growth in its rate base for electric transmission (federally regulated) and for electricity in Illinois through formula rate plans. Our share-earnings estimate remains at \$4.10, which is within the company's targeted range of \$3.95-\$4.15.

We expect further profit growth in 2023. Income will include a full year's effect of the Missouri rate hikes. Ameren will obtain additional rate relief from its transmission and Illinois electric operations. Management's goal for annual earnings growth is 6%-8%, and our estimate of \$4.35 a share would produce an increase of 6% from our estimated 2022 tally.

Our estimates are based on Ameren maintaining its allowed return on **equity for transmission.** The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is thinking of eliminating a half percentage point incentive "adder" that makes its allowed ROE 10.52%. This would reduce annual profits by a nickel a share. The timing of FERC's decision is unknown.

significant. Financing needs are Ameren plans to issue about \$300 million of common equity annually through 2026, over and above the equity issued via its dividend-reinvestment and other stock plans (roughly \$100 million a year). The company is issuing debt, as well.

Ameren plans to close a coal-fired **plant.** The facility is 45 years old, so adding court-ordered (and costly) pollutioncontrol equipment wouldn't be prudent. The Midcontinent Independent System Operator is studying how the plant's retirement will affect reliability in the region. The utility intends to recover its investment in the plant by issuing securitized bonds. This will require the approval of the regulatory commission in Missouri.

The dividend yield of this untimely but high-quality stock is below the utility mean. The recent quotation is well within our 2025-2027 Target Price Range. Accordingly, total return potential is low. Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 10, 2022

(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.

cost depr. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MO in

(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%. Regulatory Climate: MO, Average; IL, Below Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability**

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