

Minnesota (52% of retail electric revenues), North Dakota (38%), and South Dakota (10%). Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 32%; commercial & farms, 36%; industrial, 30%; other, 2%. Generating sources: coal, 38%; wind & other, 18%; purchased, 44%. Fuel

2,500 employees. Chairman: Nathan I. Partain. President & CEO: Charles S. MacFarlane. Inc.: Minnesota. Address: 215 South Cascade St., P.O. Box 496, Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538-0496. Tel.: 866-410-8780. Internet: www.ottertail.com

407 405 651 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '19-'21 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs to '25-'27 Revenues -2.0% 7.0% 3.0% 9.0% 5.0% 5.5% 4.5% 'Cash Flow' Earnings 13.0% 19.0% 4.0% 6.0% 7.0% 8.0% Dividends Book Value 2.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA NA NA

NA

NA NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2019	246.0	229.2	228.6	215.7	919.5
2020	234.7	192.8	235.8	226.8	890.1
2021	261.7	285.6	316.3	333.2	1196.8
2022	374.9	380.1	310	305	1370
2023	310	305	300	295	1210
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2019	.66	.39	.62	.51	2.17
2020	.60	.42	.87	.45	2.34
2021	.73	1.01	1.26	1.23	4.23
2022	1.72	1.68	1.10	.80	5.30
2023	1.25	1.10	.90	.75	4.00
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2018	.335	.335	.335	.335	1.34
2019	.35	.35	.35	.35	1.40
2020	.37	.37	.37	.37	1.48
2021	.39	.39	.39	.39	1.56
2022	.4125	.4125			

Otter Tail Corporation's results continue to benefit from what management describes as "unique supply and demand market conditions" experienced by its Plastics division. This is why earnings surged in 2021. The company had expected these conditions to return to normal sometime in 2022, which is why we estimated an earnings decline (to \$3.95 a share) in our March report. However, the rise in prices of the PVC pipe that the company builds has soared even more than the cost of manufacturing it, thereby lifting Otter Tail's profitability materially. Management had expected to see a price decline in the quarter.

The company raised its earnings guidance for 2022 upon reporting first-quarter results in early May. Otter Tail's previous targeted range was \$3.78-\$4.08 a share. Its revised guidance is \$5.15-\$5.45. We raised our estimate from \$3.95 to \$5.30. Management stated that it expects to see elevated earnings from its Plastics operation into 2023. Accordingly, we raised our estimate for next year from \$2.90 a share to \$4.00. Although this would be a sharp decline from the esti-

mated 2022 tally, it would still be well above Otter Tail's profits prior to 2021.

Otter Tail Power has some projects in various stages of development. A 49megawatt solar facility is expected to be completed in 2023 at a cost of approximately \$60 million. All major contracts are in place, so supply-chain problems that are affecting the solar business shouldn't be a problem. The utility is spending about \$145 million through 2024 to install advanced meters and modernize its electric grid. Otter Tail wants to exercise its option to buy a 62-mw wind farm at a cost of \$50 million. This is expected to close in early 2023. The cost of these investments will be recovered through general rate cases or riders (surcharges) on customers bills in Minnesota.

After a stellar showing in 2021, the price of this timely stock has retreated 9% this year. This is understandable after the quotation soared 68% last year, thanks to earnings that far exceeded Otter Tail's initial guidance. Total return potential is below the median for the next 18 months and low for 2025-2027. Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 10, 2022

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (loss): '10, (44¢); '11, 26¢; '13, 2¢; gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '06, 1¢; '11, (\$1.11); '12, (\$1.22); '13, 2¢; '14, 2¢; '15, 2¢; '16, 1¢; '17, 1¢. '19

plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '21: \$4.14/sh.

EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds histor. pd. in early Mar., Jun., Sept., & Dec. Div'd reinv. (D) In mill. (E) Rate all'd on com. eq. in MN in '22: 9.48%; in ND in '18: 9.77%; in SD in '19: 8.75%; earned on avg. com. eq., '21: 19.2%. Regul. Climate: MN, ND, Avg.; SD, Above Avg. Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability**

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