

service in WI & gas service in IL, MN, & MI. Customers: 1.6 mill. elec., 2.9 mill. gas. Acq'd Integrys Energy 6/15. Sold Point Beach nuclear plant in '07. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 39%; small commercial & industrial, 32%; large commercial & industrial,

reported deprec. rates: 2.4%-3.1%. Has 6,900 employees. Chairman: Gale E. Klappa. President & CEO: Scott J. Lauber. Inc.: WI. Address: 231 W. Michigan St., P.O. Box 1331, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Tel.: 414-221-2345. Internet: www.wecenergygroup.com.

300 338 357 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '19-'21 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs to '25-'27 2.5% 9.0% 8.0% 7.5% 3.0% 7.5% 7.5% Revenues 5.0% 6.5% 6.0% 7.0% 4.0% 'Cash Flow' Earnings Dividends Book Value 6.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA

+.6

NA

NA

NA

+.2

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2019	2377	1590	1608	1947	7523.1
2020	2108	1548	1651	1933	7241.7
2021	2691	1676	1746	2201	8316.0
2022	2908	1800	1892	2300	8900
2023	3000	1875	1925	2450	9250
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2019	1.33	.74	.74	.77	3.58
2020	1.43	.76	.84	.76	3.79
2021	1.61	.87	.92	.71	4.11
2022	1.79	.84	.97	.80	4.40
2023	1.80	.95	1.05	.90	4.70
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2018	.5525	.5525	.5525	.5525	2.21
2019	.59	.59	.59	.59	2.36
2020	.6325	.6325	.6325	.6325	2.53
2021	.6775	.6775	.6775	.6775	2.71
2022	.7275	.7275			

WEC Energy's utilities in Wisconsin have filed general rate cases. The utilities are seeking electric increases totaling \$334.4 million, gas hikes totaling \$141.1 million, and a steam increase of \$3.3 million. The utilities want to maintain their allowed returns on equity of 10.0% (except for Wisconsin Gas' 10.2%) and raise their common-equity ratio from 52.5% to 53.0%. The company is seeking to recover capital investments. It also wants to ask for higher rates in 2024, under certain circumstances. New tariffs are expected to take effect at the start of 2023.

We raised our 2022 earnings estimate by \$0.05 a share, to \$4.40. First-quarter earnings exceeded our \$1.70-a-share estimate thanks in part to favorable weather conditions. Upon reporting March-period results in early May, WEC Energy raised its earnings target by \$0.05 a share, to \$4.34-\$4.38. We are comfortable being slightly above this range given the company's track record of exceeding its guidance. The profit growth that is likely is being driven by rate relief (including concurrent recovery of \$280 million-\$300 million of gas-main replacements for Peoples Gas in Chicago), modest volume growth, and increased income from WEC Energy's nonutility renewable-energy projects. A 190megawatt wind farm began operating in December of 2021, and two more projects (with a total capacity of 550 mw) are expected to attain commercial operation in the second half of 2022. One of these has experienced some delays, however.

WEC Energy's goal for annual earnings growth is 6%-7%. The aforementioned factors should continue to lift the company's earning power. We boosted our 2023 earnings estimate by a nickel a share, to \$4.70. This would provide an increase of 7% above our 2022 estimate.

The utility is building two liquefied natural gas facilities in Wisconsin. These are expected to come on line in 2023 and 2024 at a cost of \$370 million. This will help maintain reliability.

The dividend yield is a cut below the utility average. This reflects the company's consistency and predictability. The Safety rank is 1 (Highest), too. But total returns don't stand out for the next 18 months or the 3- to 5-year period. Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 10, 2022

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gain on discontinued ops.: '11, 6¢; nonrecurring gain: '17, 65¢. Next earnings report due early August. (B) Div'ds paid in early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd

WI in '15: 10.0%-10.2%; in IL in '21: 9.67%; in MI, Average.

reinvestment plan avail. **(C)** Incl. intang. In '21: MN in '19: 9.7%; in MI in '22: 9.85%; earned on \$20.03/sh. **(D)** In mill., adj. for split. **(E)** Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rates all'd on com. eq. in WI, Above Average; IL, Below Average; MN &

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A+ 90 Price Growth Persistence 65 **Earnings Predictability** 100