

Michigan (excluding Detroit). Has 1.9 million electric, 1.8 million gas customers. Has 1,234 megawatts of nonregulated generating capacity. Sold EnerBank in '21. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 48%; commercial, 32%; industrial, 13%; other, 7%. Generating

tric, 2.9% gas, 9.4% other. Has 8,500 full-time employees. Chairman: John G. Russell. President & CEO: Garrick Rochow. Inc.: Michigan. Address: One Energy Plaza, Jackson, Michigan 49201. Tel.: 517-788-0550. Internet: www.cmsenergy.com

235 240 223 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '19-'21 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '25-'27 Revenues -1.0% 4.0% 'Cash Flow' 6.5% 6.5% 7.0% 6.5% 6.0% 6.5% 5.5% 7.5% Earnings 6.0% 7.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

8039

NA +.9

8215

NA

+1.0

7951

ΝA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2019 2020 2021 2022 2023	2059 1864 2013 2374 2400	1445 1443 1558 1700 1750	1546 1575 1725 1900 1950	1795 1798 2033 2226 2300	6845 6680 7329 8200 8400
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31	RNINGS P Jun.30	ER SHARI Sep.30	E A Dec.31	Full Year
2019 2020 2021 2022 2023	.75 .85 1.09 1.20 1.25	.33 .48 .55 .60	.73 .76 .54 . 65	.58 .55 .40 . 45	2.39 2.64 2.58 2.90 3.10
Cal- endar	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec. 31				Full Year
2018 2019 2020 2021 2022	.3575 .3825 .4075 .435 .46	.3575 .3825 .4075 .435 .46	.3575 .3825 .4075 .435	.3575 .3825 .4075 .435	1.43 1.53 1.63 1.74

CMS Energy's utility subsidiary has electric and gas rate cases pending. Consumers Energy is seeking a gas rate increase of \$233 million, based on a and a 52% 10.25% return on equity staff of the common-equity ratio. The Michigan Public Service Commission (MPSC) recommended a hike of \$172 million, based on a 9.6% ROE and a 51.05% common-equity ratio. An order from the MPSC is due by October 3rd. The utility filed for an electric tariff increase of \$272 million, based on a 10.25% ROE and a 51.5% common-equity ratio. The MPSC's ruling is expected in the first quarter of 2023. Consumers Energy needs frequent rate relief because it has a large electric and gas system with a lot of aged equipment that needs to be replaced. In recent years, Michigan regulation has usually been constructive, but the utility's last electric rate order (\$54 million at the start of 2022) was disappointing.

Earnings will likely improve substantially in 2022. The comparison with the 2021 tally is easy. The company recorded a charge of \$0.07 a share for a fleet impairment in the fourth quarter of 2021. Rate

relief is another factor; the aforementioned electric increase, though disappointing, will help. Consumers Energy will also get a quarter of the gas rate increase. Man-agement is controlling expenses effective-ly, even in the face of inflation pressures. Our estimate of \$2.90 a share is slightly above CMS Energy's guidance of \$2.85-\$2.89, which we consider conservative.

We estimate 7% earnings growth in 2023. The company will benefit from a full year's effect of gas rate relief and a partial year of the electric hike. CMS Energy's goal for annual earnings growth is 6%-8%. Consumers Energy reached a settlement on its integrated resource plan. The company had hoped to convert a nonregulated asset to a regulated one. Instead, it will issue a request for proposals for 700 megawatts of capacity. The MPSC must still rule on the settlement. Its order is expected in late June.

This stock is priced expensively. The dividend yield is below the utility average. With the recent quotation well within our 2025-2027 Target Price Range, total return potential over that time frame is low. Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 10, 2022

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '06, (\$1.08); '07, (\$1.26); '09, (7¢); '10, 3¢; '11, 12¢; '12, (14¢); '17, (53¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '06, 3¢; '07, (40¢); '09, 8¢; '10, (8¢);

'11, 1¢; '12, 3¢; '21, \$2.08; '22, 1¢. Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds historically paid late Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '21: 13.2%. Regulatory Climate: Above Average. in '19: 9.9% gas; earned on avg. com. eq., '21:

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 95

65