

United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Has 2 mill. electric, 1.3 mill. gas customers. Owns UNS Energy (Arizona), Central Hudson (New York), FortisBC Energy (British Columbia), FortisAlberta (Central Alberta), and Eastern Canada (Newfoundland). Sold com-

2.6%. Has 9,100 employees. Chairman: Douglas J. Haughey. President & CEO: David G. Hutchens. Inc.: Canada. Address: Fortis Place, Suite 1100, 5 Springdale St., PO Box 8837, St. John's, NL, Canada, A1B 3T2. Tel.: 709-737-2800. Internet: www.fortisinc.com.

204 207 211 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '19-'21 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs to '25-'27 Revenues -.5% -1.0% 3.5% 'Cash Flow' 4.0% 5.0% 6.0% 8.0% 5.0% 5.0% Earnings 6.5% 5.0% 6.0% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA NA

Cal-	QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2019	2436	1970	2051	2326	8783
2020	2391	2077	2121	2346	8935
2021	2539	2130	2196	2583	9448
2022	2835	2350	2415	2800	10400
2023	2900	2450	2500	2850	10700
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2019	.72	.54	.63	.77	2.68
2020	.67	.59	.63	.71	2.60
2021	.76	.54	.62	.69	2.61
2022	.74	.59	.67	.75	2.75
2023	.80	.62	.70	.78	2.90
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2018	.425	.425	.425	.45	1.73
2019	.45	.45	.45	.4775	1.83
2020	.4775	.4775	.4775	.505	1.94
2021	.505	.505	.505	.535	2.05
2022	.535	.535			

estimate that Fortis will steady earnings growth this year and next. The company's ITC electric transsubsidiary benefits from forward-looking regulatory mechanism that enables the utility to earn a return on its investment contemporaneously and recover most expenses. Fortis' utility in New York will receive the second and third phases of a multiyear rate increase in mid-2022 and mid-2023. This year, the company is planning lower generation maintenance costs. Even so, we trimmed our 2022 share-net estimate by a nickel, to \$2.75, because March-quarter profits were slightly below our estimate. We are sticking with our 2023 target of \$2.90.

Fortis is hampered by low allowed returns on equity for some of its utili**ties.** This can be seen in the company's earned ROEs, which are low even by utility standards. Tucson Electric Power will soon file a general rate case, and will ask that new tariffs be put into effect by September 1, 2023. Among other things, the utility will request a higher ROE than the currently allowed 9.15%. The cost of capital was reviewed in Alberta, and FortisAl-

berta will still operate under an 8.5% allowed ROE and a 37% common-equity ratio through 2023. The regulators in British Columbia are examining utilities' cost of capital. ITC's transmission business is allowed healthy ROEs, but the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission might remove a half percentage point incentive "adder" for some transmission owners. This would reduce Fortis' annual earning power by \$0.05 a share. We assume no change in ITC's allowed ROE in our estimates and projections.

We expect a dividend increase at the board meeting in September, effective with the payment in December. We look for a hike of \$0.13 a share (6.1%) in the annual disbursement. Fortis' goal for the dividend is 6% annual growth through 2025.

This stock has a dividend yield that is slightly above average for a utility. Total return potential is unspectacular for the 18-month and 3- to 5-year periods. Investors interested in dividend reinvestment should note that Fortis offers a 2% discount on its plan.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 10, 2022

(A) Also trades on NYSE (symbol FTS). All data in Canadian \$. (B) Dil. egs. Excl. non-recur. gains (loss): '07, 3¢; '14, 2¢; '15, 48¢;

sum due to chng. in shs. Next egs. report due late Jul. **(C)** Div'ds histor. pd. early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. Div'd reinv. plan avail. (2% FERC, Above Avg.; AZ, Below Avg.; NY, Below '17, (35¢); '18, 7¢. '19, \$1.12. '19 EPS don't | disc.). (D) Incl. intang. In '21: \$34.04/sh. (E) In | Avg. (G) Excl. div ds pd. via reinv. plan.

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

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