

Strategic Energy (energy-marketing subsidiary) in '08. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 40%; commercial, 39%; industrial, 9%;

dress: 1200 Main St., Kansas City, Missouri 64105. Telephone: 816-556-2200. Internet: www.greatplainsenergy.com.

261 254 307 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 -1.0% 1.0% 3.5% 3.5% 2.5% Revenues -7.5% -1.5% 4.5% Cash Flow 8.5% 4.5% Earnings -3.0% 5.0% -1.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (avg.)

NA +.9

NA +.9

NA

+1.1

endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Ye 2014 585.1 648.4 782.5 552.2 256/ 2015 549.1 609.0 781.4 562.7 250/ 2016 572.1 670.8 856.8 576.3 267/ 2017 570.7 682.6 857.2 589.5 270/ 2018 600 700 900 600 280/	2.2 6.0 0 0 ull
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EARWINGS BED SHARE A	ull
Cal- EARNINGS PER SHARE A F	
	ar
2014 .15 .34 .95 .12 1.	57
2015 .12 .28 .82 .15 1.	37
2016 .17 .20 .86 .39 1.	61
2017 d.11 d.10 .02 .09 d.	.10
2018 .08 .20 .84 .13 1.	.25
Cal- QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B ■ Fi	ull
endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Ye	ar
2013 .2175 .2175 .2175 .23	.88
2014 .23 .23 .23 .245 .	94
2015 .245 .245 .245 .2625 1.	.00
2016 .2625 .2625 .2625 .275 1.	.06
2017 .275 .275 .275	

The merger of Great Plains Energy and Westar Energy has been approved by each company's stockholders. The agreement calls for Great Plains holders to receive .5981 of a share of the new company, to be named prior to closing, for each Great Plains share in a tax-free exchange. The combination requires the approval of the Missouri and Kansas commissions, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The companies expect the deal to be completed in the first half of 2018.

We continue to advise stockholders to retain their shares. The companies' utilities are a good fit, with contiguous service areas and ample opportunities for mergerrelated cost reductions. The combined company's goals are 6%-8% annual earnings and dividend growth, with a targeted payout ratio of 60%-70%. The stock is unranked for Timeliness due to the pending transaction

Merger-related expenses will almost certainly result in a loss in 2017. Most notably, Great Plains incurred sizable costs when it unwound the financing moves it made in anticipation of its pre-

vious deal with Westar, which failed to receive regulatory approval due to the debt Great Plains took to finance the \$8.6 billion cash-and-stock proposal. Without these costs (and the shares Great Plains issued in 2016), profits would have amounted to \$1.61 a share in the first nine months of 2017. Our 2018 forecast, which is for Great Plains as a stand-alone company, includes an expectation of additional deal-related expenses in the first two quarters. Note, too, that we expect no dividend increase while the merger is pending. The company's utilities plan to file rate cases in early 2018. These will be unrelated to the pending merger. The regulatory process lasts 11 months in Missouri and eight months in Kansas, so any rate relief the utilities obtain won't have a significant effect on profits until 2019.

We would not make new commitments here. Like many utility stocks, Great Plains is priced expensively. In fact, the price has risen nearly 25% so far in 2017. The pending transaction is better for Great Plains holders than the previous one would have been, in our view.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA December 15, 2017

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '01, (\$2.01); '02, (5¢); '03, 29¢; '04, (7¢); '09, 12¢; gain (losses) on disc. ops... '03, (13¢); '04, 10¢; '05, (3¢); '08, 35¢. '14 & '16

plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16: \$5.65/sh.

EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next egs. report due late Feb. **(B)** Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. **•** Div'd reinvest. **(D)** In mill. **(E)** Rate base: Fair value. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MO in '17: 9.5%; in KS in '15: 9.3%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 6.7%. Regulatory Climate: MO, Below Avg.; KS, Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 95 Price Growth Persistence 25 **Earnings Predictability** 75