

electricity to 700,000 customers mostly in Kansas. Electric revenue sources: residential and rural, 33%; commercial and business, 29%; industrial, 16%; other, 22%. The company sold its investment in ONEOK in 2003 and 85% ownership in Protection One in 2004.

plovees, CEO and President: Mark A. Ruelle, Chairman: Charles Q. Chandler. Incorporated: Kansas. Address: 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612. Telephone: 785-575-6300. Internet: www.westarenergy.com

335 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 332 330 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 1.0% 3.0% 7.0% 3.0% 4.0% 0.5% 3.0% 4.0% Revenues 'Cash Flow" Earnings 6.0% Dividends Book Value

5226 56.2

+.2

5167

+.2

5184

Peak Load, Summer (Mw) Annual Load Factor (%)

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal- endar			VENUES (		Full Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	628.6 590.8 569.5 572.6 <b>585</b>	612.7 589.6 621.4 <b>630</b> <b>645</b>	764.0 732.8 764.7 <b>775</b> <b>790</b>	596.4 546.0 606.5 <b>632.4</b> <b>650</b>	2601.7 2459.2 2562.1 <b>2610</b> <b>2670</b>
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31		ER SHARI Sep.30	_	Full Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	.52 .38 .46 .42 <b>.50</b>	.46 .51	.97 1.08 <b>1.10</b>	.38 .45	2.35 2.09 2.43 <b>2.52</b> <b>2.60</b>
Cal- endar	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B=† Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31				Full Year
2013 2014 2015 2016 2017	.33 .34 .35 .38 .40	.34 .35 .36 .38 .40	.34 .35 .36 .38	.34 .35 .36 .38	1.35 1.39 1.43 1.52

Great Plains' acquisition of Westar Energy has stalled. The agreement, which calls for WR investors to receive \$60 (85% in cash, 15% in stock) for each of their shares, hit a new roadblock after the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC) rejected the merger and then denied an application for reconsideration of the terms. The agency claims that paying the agreedupon price (\$8.6 billion, or \$12.2 billion when debt is included) would create a larger but financially weakened company with consumers on the hook for its problems. The KCC also said the combination threatens more than 600 full-time positions at Westar's corporate headquarters in Topeka, Kansas. Great Plains has countered that any potential job cuts would take place over a three- to five-year period, and that net losses would actually be much smaller. Great Plains now has to decide whether it makes more sense to cancel the agreement or try to restructure the deal. If new terms are reached, it would probably mean a delay of about a year before any regulatory approval could be received. Another option, walking away from the transaction, would cost Great

Plains \$380 million in termination fees. Meantime, the company reported disappointing first-quarter results. The decline in net income was driven by mild weather in the early part of the year that resulted in weak residential and commercial business. Also contributing to the lower-than-expected results were higher depreciation expenses associated with the start of operations at the Western Plains Wind Farm. In all, share net for the March period came in at \$0.42, or down \$0.04 from the year-earlier quarter. We now expect Westar to post 2017 earnings of \$2.52 a share, down from \$2.55 previously.

This stock's Timeliness rank remains suspended due to the uncertainty surrounding the Great Plains-Westar acquisition agreement. A decision by Great Plains management on whether to restructure or abandon the deal will likely be made after this review reaches subscribers. However, with Westar shares trading approximately 12% below the value of Great Plains' offer, investors appear to be souring on the prospect of a revival of this merger.

Daniel Henigson June 16, 2017

(A) EPS diluted from 2010 onward. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '01, 27¢; '02, (\$12.06); '03, 77¢; '08, 39¢; '11, 14¢. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due

invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. reg. assets. In 2016: Clim.: Avg. (E) In mill.

early August.

(B) Div'ds paid in early Jan., April, July, and Oct. Div'd reinvest, plan avail. † Shareholder arrived on avg. com. eq., '16: 9.0%. Regul.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 85