

service in WI & gas service in IL, MN, & MI. Customers: 1.6 mill. elec., 2.8 mill. gas. Acq'd Integrys Energy 6/15. Sold Point Beach nuclear plant in '07. Elec. rev. breakdown: residential, 35%; small commercial & industrial, 31%; large commercial & industrial, 21%;

rates (utility): 2.3%-3.3%. Has 8,200 employees. Chairman: Gale E. Klappa. President & CEO: Allen L. Leverett. Inc.: Wisconsin. Address: 231 W. Michigan St., P.O. Box 1331, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Tel.: 414-221-2345. Internet: www.wecenergygroup.com

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		454	364	404
ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value	Past 10 Yrs. 3.0% 5.0% 8.5% 15.0% 8.0%	Past 5 Yrs. 3.0% 6.5% 6.5% 16.0% 9.0%	to'	'14-'16 20-'22 4.5% 5.5% 6.0% 6.0% 5.0%

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA NA

NA

NA

+40.2

NA

Book value 0.070			, o o.	0,0	0.070	
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year	
2014	1695	1044	1033	1225	4997.1	
2015	1388	991	1699	1848	5926.1	
2016	2195	1602	1712	1963	7472.3	
2017	2304	1650	1700	1996	7650	
2018	2400	1700	1750	2100	7950	
Cal-	al- EARNINGS PER SHARE A					
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year	
2014	.91	.58	.56	.53	2.59	
2015	.86	.35	.58	.57	2.34	
2016	1.09	.57	.68	.61	2.96	
2017	1.12	.58	.75	.65	3.10	
2018	1.15	.62	.80	.68	3.25	
Cal-	QUAR	Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year	
2013	.34	.34	.382	.383	1.45	
2014	.39	.39	.39	.39	1.56	
2015	.422	.422	.44	.457	1.74	
2016	.495	.495	.495	.495	1.98	

WEC Energy Group's utilities in Wisconsin are awaiting a ruling on a regulatory settlement. The agreement, if approved by the Wisconsin commission, would freeze electric and through 2019. Wisconsin Public Service would adopt an earnings-sharing mechanism that is already in place for WEC's other utilities in the state. Any earnings up to half a percentage point above the allowed return on equity would be shared evenly between the utility and its customers; anything above that would be passed through to customers. The benefit to the company is that its utilities in the state would be able to retain the benefits of cost reductions. This already happened in the first quarter of 2017, when effective expense management helped offset the effects of a milder-than-usual winter.

We estimate that earnings will rise 5% this year and next. This is the low end of WEC's annual target of 5%-7%. The utilities in Wisconsin should benefit from cost reductions, and Peoples Gas in Chicago has an accelerated main replacement program, in which the utility receives a current return on this spending (estimated at

\$300 million in 2017). Our 2017 profit estimate is within management's guidance of \$3.06-\$3.12 a share.

WEC's electric utility in the upper peninsula of Michigan is seeking a certificate of need to build a gas-fired **power plant.** This would cost an estimated \$275 million and would be completed in 2019. Half of the 180-megawatt facility's costs would be recovered in rates, the other half from a large industrial customer via a 20-year contract. Once the plant is on line, the company would retire an old coal-fired plant. The Michigan commission's decision is expected in October.

The company is awaiting approval for a gas storage acquisition. WEC would pay \$230 million for a facility in Michigan. This would provide a return on investment similar to that of a utility.

This high-quality stock has a yield that is about average for a utility. The equity is suitable for conservative utility investors. However, like most utility issues, the recent price is within our 2020-2022 Target Price Range. Accordingly, 3to 5-year total return potential is low Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 16, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gains on disc. ops.: '04, 77¢; '05, 2¢; '06, 2¢; '09, 2¢; '10, 1¢; '11, 6¢. '14-'16 EPS don't sum due to rounding or chng. in shs. Next egs. report due early Aug.

.52

2017 .52

(B) Div'ds paid in early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. = Div'd reinv. avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16: 9.11%; in MI in '16: 9.9%; earned on \$19.44/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for split. (E) Rate wy. Com. eq., '16: 10.6%. Regul. Climate: WI, base: Net orig. cost. Rates all'd on com. eq. in Above Avg.; IL, Below Avg.; MN & MI, Avg.

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

A+ 95

85

85