

United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Has 2 mill. electric, 1.2 mill. gas customers. Owns UNS Energy (Arizona), Central Hudson (New York), FortisBC Energy (British Columbia), FortisAlberta (Central Alberta), and Eastern Canada (Newfoundland). Sold com-

rate: 2.8%. Has 8,000 employees. Chairman: David G. Norris. President & CEO: Barry V. Perry. 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.

173 141 195 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues 4.0% -.5% .5% 2.0% 2.0% 5.0% 8.0% 'Cash Flow' 5.0% 4.0% 7.5% 9.0% Earnings 6.0% 4.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

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Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES ( Sep.30		Full Year
2014	1455	1056	1197	1693	5401
2015	1915	1538	1566	1708	6727
2016	1772	1485	1528	2053	6838
2017	2274	1900	1926	2150	8250
2018	2350	1950	2000	2200	8500
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.66	.22	.06	.44	1.38
2015	.71	.43	.50	.48	2.11
2016	.57	.38	.45	.49	1.89
2017	.72	.48	.58	.62	2.40
2018	.75	.52	.62	.66	2.55
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013 2014	.31 .32	.31 .32	.31	.31 .32	1.24 1.28
2014	.34	.34	.34	.32 .375	1.40
2016	.375	.375	.375	.40	1.53
2017	.40	.40	.010	٠٠٠	1.00

Fortis has announced a significant acquisition. The company has agreed to pay Teck Resources C\$1.2 billion in cash for a two-thirds interest in the Waneta Dam (a 496-megawatt hydro project in British Columbia) and related transmission assets. Teck Metals would use Fortis' stake in the plant to produce power under a 20year lease agreement. Fortis plans to fund the purchase with a combination of debt, equity, and cash on hand at the time of closing, probably in a manner that keeps its capitalization ratios near where they are now. The deal requires various regulatory approvals, including that of the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission in the United States. Completion of the transaction is expected in the fourth quarter. It should be accretive to earnings. We will not adjust our figures to reflect the acquisition until after it has closed.

Earnings are likely to improve mate**rially this year.** The comparison is easy. Last year, the costs that Fortis incurred as a result of its acquisition of ITC Holdings reduced profits by \$0.29 a share. Other unusual expenses amounted to \$0.10 a share. Fortis will also benefit from a full

year's contribution from ITC, compared with less than three months in 2016. On the regulatory front, the company's utility in Tucson, Arizona received an \$81.5 million rate increase in late February

We forecast additional bottom-line growth in 2018. ITC's earning power rises each year thanks to a federally regulated formula rate plan that accounts for expected capital spending and increases in most kinds of expenses. Fortis' Canadian utilities should benefit from rate base expansion.

Fortis has a good track record of dividend growth. The company boasts 43 consecutive years of annual hikes in the disbursement-the longest such streak of any public company in Canada. Fortis has set a goal of 6% average annual dividend growth through 2021. We think it will attain this target.

Timely Fortis stock has a dividend yield that is slightly above the utility average. However, like most utility issues, the recent price is within our 2020-2022 Target Price Range. Thus, total return potential is unspectacular. Paul E. Debbas, CFA June 16, 2017

(A) Also trades on NYSE under the symbol FTS. All data in Canadian dollars. (B) Dil. earnings. Excl. nonrec. gains: '06, 1¢; '07, 3¢; '14, 2¢; '15, 48¢. '15 EPS don't sum due to round-

ing. Next earnings report due late July. **(C)** Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. • Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (2% disc.). **(D)** Incl. intang. In '16: \$39.84/sh. FERC, Above Avg.; AZ, Avg.; NY, Below Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability R+ 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 75