

ers. Supplies power to most of Connecticut and gas to part of Connecticut; supplies power to three fourths of New Hampshire's population; supplies power to western Massachusetts and parts of eastern Massachusetts & gas to central & eastern Massachusetts.

of revenues. '15 reported deprec. rate: 2.9%. Has 8,200 employees. Chairman: Thomas J. May. President & CEO: Jim Judge. Inc. Massachusetts. Address: 300 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA 01104. Tel.: 413-785-5871. Internet: www.eversource.com.

427 426 447 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '13-'15 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs to '20-'22 -6.5% -1.0% 9.5% -5.5% -2.5% 6.0% Revenues 1.5% 'Cash Flow' 5.5% 7.0% Earnings 11.0% 9.0% 5.5% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA

NA NA

NA NA

Cal-	QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	2290	1677	1892	1881	7741.9
2015	2513	1817	1933	1691	7954.8
2016	2056	1767	2040	1687	7550
2017	2150	1800	1900	1700	7550
2018	2200	1850	1950	1750	7750
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.74	.40	.74	.69	2.58
2015	.80	.65	.74	.57	2.76
2016	.77	.64	.83	.71	2.95
2017	.90	.70	.85	.70	3.15
2018	.95	.75	.90	.75	3.35
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.367	.367	.367	.367	1.47
2014	.393	.393	.393	.393	1.57
2015	.417	.417	.418	.418	1.67
2016	.445	.445	.445	.445	1.78
2017	.475				

Eversource's utilities in eastern and western Massachusetts are seeking electric rate increases. The utilities filed for a total raise of \$96 million, based on a 10.5% return on a 53.3% commonequity ratio. Eversource also wants to combine the two utilities into one entity. New rates will take effect at the start of 2018

An electric rate case is upcoming in Connecticut. Eversource plans to put forth an application at the start of June, with new tariffs going into effect at the beginning of December.

We estimate solid earnings growth in 2017 and 2018. Eversource benefits from annual investments in electric transmission. Reductions in operating and maintenance expenses are another plus, as are customer conversions from oil heat to gas heat. Rate relief from the aforementioned rate cases should help next year. Our estimates would produce annual profit growth within management's targeted range of 5%-7%.

Eversource is trying to overcome opposition to two major proposed position to two major proposed projects. The company has a 40% stake in

a \$3 billion pipeline to provide a muchneeded increase in the gas supply to New England. The Massachusetts Supreme Court ruled that state law prohibits utili-ties from billing electric customers for pipelines. The original in-service date in 2018 probably won't be met. Also, Eversource wants to build a \$1.6 billion transmission line between New Hampshire and Quebec. This project has been delayed, and the projected in-service date is now late 2019.

The board of directors raised the dividend. The increase in the quarterly payout was \$0.03 a share (6.7%). Eversource's goal for annual dividend growth is 5%-7%, the same as for earnings growth.

The Massachusetts utilities received permission to build solar capacity. They will construct 62 megawatts this year at an expected cost of \$180 million-\$200 million

High-quality Eversource stock has a dividend yield that is about average for a utility. Total return potential to 2020-2022 is also close to the norm for this industry

Paul E. Debbas, CFA February 17, 2017

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '02, 10¢; '03, (32¢); '04, (7¢); '05, (\$1.36); '08, (19¢); '10, 9¢. '13 & '14 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Feb. (E) Rate all'd on com. eq. in MA: (elec) '11, | CT, Below Avg.; NH, Avg.; MA, Above Avg.

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

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