

Dakota, South Dakota & Michigan & gas to Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota & Michigan; Public Service of Colorado, which supplies electricity & gas to Colorado; & Southwestern Public Service, which supplies electricity to Texas & New Mexico. Customers: 3.6 erating sources not available. Fuel costs: 40% of revs. '16 reported depr. rate: 2.9%. Has 11,500 employees. Chairman, Pres. & CEO: Ben Fowke, Inc.: MN, Address: 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Tel.: 612-330-5500. Internet: www.xcelenergy.com

344 358 342 Fixed Charge Cov. (% **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues -.5% .5% 2.5% 5.0% 6.0% 5.0% 4.5% Cash Flow 3.0% 5.0% 6.5% 4.5% Earnings 6.0% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

21429

NA +.9

20423 NA

+.9

19583

ΝA

+.9

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES ( Sep.30		Full Year
2014	3203	2685	2870	2928	11686
2015	2962	2515	2901	2646	11024
2016	2772	2500	3040	2795	11107
2017	2900	2600	3050	2900	11450
2018	3000	2650	3150	3000	11800
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.52	.39	.73	.39	2.03
2015	.46	.39	.84	.41	2.10
2016	.47	.39	.90	.45	2.21
2017	.54	.40	.90	.46	2.30
2018	.56	.41	.95	.48	2.40
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = †				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.27	.27	.28	.28	1.10
2014	.28	.30	.30	.30	1.18
2015	.30	.32	.32	.32	1.26
2016	.32	.34	.34	.34	1.34
2017	.34	.36			

**Xcel Energy's Northern States Power** subsidiary is awaiting an order from the Minnesota commission on its regulatory settlement. An administrative law judge has recommended approval of the agreement between NSP, the commission's staff, and some intervenors. This calls for electric rate hikes of \$75.0 million retroactive to the start of 2016 (along with another \$37.4 million to compensate the utility because kilowatt-hour sales were below expectations), \$59.9 million in 2017, nothing in 2018, and \$50.1 million in 2019. The allowed return on equity would be 9.2%, and the common-equity ratio would be 52.5%. An order is expected in June.

A rate case is pending in New Mexico, and filings are possible in Colorado. Southwestern Public Service is seeking an electric increase of \$41.4 million (10.9%), based on a 10.1% return on a 53.97% common-equity ratio. An order is expected in the second half of 2017. P.S. of Colorado might file separate cases for gas and electricity within the next few months.

The company has made some progress in reducing the effects of regulatory lag. Not long ago, the company's utilities

were underearning their allowed ROE (as a group) by about one percentage point. As of 2016, this gap declined to six-tenths of a percentage point. Frequent regulatory activity helps. NSP's request for a multiyear rate order is another step in this direction. We estimate earnings increases of 4% in 2017 and 2018. Rate relief should be the key factor each year. Our 2017 estimate is at the midpoint of Xcel's guidance of \$2.25-\$2.35 a share. The company's goal for yearly profit growth is 4%-6%.

The company wants to invest heavily in wind projects. In Minnesota, NSP recovers this spending via a rider on customers' bills. SPS is seeking similar recovery mechanisms in Texas and New Mexico.

The board of directors raised the dividend, effective with the secondquarter payment. The quarterly increase was two cents a share (5.9%). Xcel's goal for annual dividend growth is 5%-7%, with a targeted payout ratio of 60%-70%.

The dividend yield and 3- to 5-year to-tal return potential of this highquality stock are close to the averages for the electric utility industry. Paul E. Debbas, CFA April 28, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gain (losses): '02, (\$6.27); '10, 5¢; '15, (16¢); gains (losses) on discontinued ops.: '03, 27¢; '04, (30¢); '05, 3¢; '06, 1¢; '09, (1¢); '10, 1¢. Next

earnings report due late July. (B) Div'ds historically paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct.

Div'd reinvestment plan available. † Shareholder investment plan available. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '16: \$6.07/sh. **(D)** In mill. **(E)** Rate base: Varies. Rate allowed on com. eq. (blended): 9.8%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 10.4%. Regulatory Climate: Average

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

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