

pendent power plants & has 25% stake in National Methanol in Saudi Arabia. Acq'd Progress Energy 7/12; Piedmont Natural Gas 10/16; discontinued most int'l ops. in '16. Elec. rev. breakdown:

rates: 2.6%-3.0%. Has 29,200 empls. Chairman, President & CEO: Lynn J. Good. Inc.: DE. Address: 550 South Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202-1803. Tel.: 704-382-3853. Web: www.duke-energy.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (% 327 315 317 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '13-'15 Past 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) 2.0% 3.0% 3.0% Revenues "Cash Flow" 3.5% 5.5% Earnings Dividends 5.0% 3.5% **Book Value** 3.0% 2.0%

NA NA

+.8

NA NA

+1.0

+1.2

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

% Change Customers (avg.)

Cal-	QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	6263	5708	6395	5559	23925
2015	6065	5589	6483	5322	23459
2016	5622	5484	6821	5573	23500
2017	6250	5900	6900	5950	25000
2018	6450	6100	7150	6150	25850
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	1.05	1.02	1.25	.81	4.13
2015	1.09	.87	1.44	.70	4.10
2016	1.00	.95	1.52	.78	4.25
2017	1.15	1.00	1.60	1.05	4.80
2018	1.20	1.05	1.65	1.10	5.00
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.765	.765	.78	.78	3.09
2014	.78	.78	.795	.795	3.15
2015	.795	.795	.825	.825	3.24
2016	.825	.825	.855	.855	3.36
2017					

Duke Energy has completed the sale of most of its international operations. The company sold its Latin America businesses for \$1.9 billion in cash. It used the proceeds to retire short-term debt. Duke prefers the relative stability of its domestic utilities to the greater volatility of the Latin America businesses. Duke isn't entirely out of international investments: It retains its 25% stake in National Methanol, a Saudi Arabia company.

The South Carolina commission ap**proved a regulatory settlement.** Duke's Progress Energy subsidiary received a \$56 million (10.3%) rate increase, based on a 10.1% return on a 53% common-equity ratio. New tariffs took effect at the start of 2017. Duke's electric utilities in North Carolina have asked the regulators to defer certain costs for future recovery, and each expects to file rate applications this

We estimate that earnings will advance materially in 2017. The acquisition of Piedmont Natural Gas last fall should be accretive to earnings, especially since merger-related costs reduced profits by \$0.28 a share in the first three quarters of 2016. (Duke was scheduled to report fourth-quarter results shortly after this report went to press.) We expect additional merger-related expenses this year as Piedmont is integrated, but these will probably be lower than in 2016. The aforementioned rate hike, along with modest growth at the utility operations, should be another plus. We forecast a decent, albeit smaller, earnings increase in 2018.

Some large projects are under way. In late 2017, Duke will add 750 megawatts of gas-fired capacity in South Carolina at a cost of \$600 million. Two gas-fired units (1,640 mw) are being built in Florida at a cost of \$1.5 billion, with in-service dates next year. Duke also has a stake in three gas pipelines, which together will represent an investment of about \$3 billion.

Timely Duke stock offers an attractive dividend yield. The yield is a percentage point above the average for the electric utility industry. The earnings and dividend growth we project over the 3- to 5-year period should be enough to produce a long-term total return superior to that of most utilities.

Paul E. Debbas. CFA February 17, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. losses: '12, 70¢; '13, 24¢; '14, 67¢; '16, 21¢; gains (loss) on disc. ops.: '12, 6¢; '13, 2¢; '14, (80¢); '15, 5¢; '16, 18¢. Next earnings report due early May.

(B) Div'ds paid mid-Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ com. eq. in '13 in NC: 10.2%; in '17 in SC: Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '15: \$40.35/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for rev. split. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rates all'd on Reg. Climate: NC Avg.; SC, OH, IN Above Avg.

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

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