

lion. 2016 Electricity revenues: residential, 37%; commercial, 27%; industrial, 34%; other, 2%. 2016 Gas revenues: residential, 67%; ana. Address: One Vectren Square, Evansville, Indiana 47708. Telephone: 812-491-4000. Internet: www.vectren.com.

Past ANNUAL RATES **Past** Est'd '14-'16 10 Yrs 5 Yrs to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 2.5% 4.0% 6.0% Revenues 2.0% 4.0% 4.5% 4.0% 6.0% 6.5% Earnings 2.5% 3.0% 4.5% 6.0% Dividends Book Value 2.5% 3.0%

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)

+.6

363

428

+.8

446

Cal-	QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)F Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
2014	796.8	542.5	595.6	676.8	2611.7
2015	706.2	551.0	573.5	604.0	2434.7
2016	584.8	533.7	631.0	699.0	2448.3
2017	624.5	550	645	700.5	2520
2018	650	575	675	725	2625
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
2014	.62	.14	.57	.69	2.02
2015	.69	.43	.48	.79	2.39
2016	.58	.39	.74	.84	2.55
2017	.67	.41	.74	.83	2.65
2018	.70	.45	.77	.88	2.80
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B=†				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.355	.355	.355	.360	1.43
2014	.360	.360	.360	.380	1.46
2015	.380	.380	.380	.400	1.54
2016	.400	.400	.400	.420	1.62
2017	.420	.420			
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Shares of Vectren have continued to move higher over the past three months. The company reported good results for the March quarter. The top line increased roughly 7%, year to year. Share net advanced about 16%, to \$0.67. Results at the Utility Group benefited from ongoing investment in gas infrastructure programs in both Indiana and Ohio, though very warm weather during the period was a partial offset. Elsewhere, the Infrastructure Services' Distribution business per-formed well. This operation gained from strong demand for utility distribution infrastructure replacement and an extended construction period owing to relatively mild weather. Looking forward, earnings growth may well prove more difficult to come by for the remainder of the year.

We anticipate solid performance from **2018 onward.** The Gas Utility Services business ought to further benefit from infrastructure investment programs. Thanks to rate design, customer margin is largely unaffected by weather. Gains may be more modest at the Electric Utility Services segment. Results here are not protected by weather-normalizing mechanisms. Over-

all, though, we expect good performance on the utility side. Meanwhile, the Infrastructure Services Distribution business should continue to prosper as gas utilities make significant investments in their systems. The Infrastructure Services Transmission operation has been impacted by greater competition, though we expect this line will experience healthy demand down the road due to the need to replace aging infrastructure.

Subscribers may prefer to remain on the sidelines, for now. This equity does not stand out for year-ahead performance. Looking further out, this issue lacks longterm appreciation potential, as the shares presently trade slightly above projected range, following a run-up in the stock price that began early in 2016. Prospects for moderate growth appear to be reflected in the recent quotation.

A selloff some time in the future may offer conservative accounts a better **entry point.** Vectren earns good marks for Safety, Financial Strength, Price Stability, and Earnings Predictability. Volatility is below average, too. Michael Napoli, CFA June 16, 2017

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gain (loss): (9), 15¢. Next egs report due early August.
(B) Div'ds historically paid in early March,
June, September, and December. ■Div'd rein-

plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16, \$7.27/sh. (D) In latory Climate: Above Average. (F) Totals may millions. (E) Electric rate base determination: not sum due to rounding. fair value. Rates allowed on elect. common

equity range from 10.15% to 10.4%. Regu-

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

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