

mill. gas customers. Owns UNS Energy (Arizona), Central Hudson (New York), FortisBC Energy (British Columbia), FortisAlberta (Central Alberta), and Eastern Canada (Newfoundland). Sold com-

ident & CEO: David G. Hutchens. 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.

207 211 215 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '20-'22 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '26-'28 Revenues -.5% 3.5% 3.5% 3.5% 5.5% 3.5% 'Cash Flow' 3.5% 4.5% 5.0% 5.0% Earnings 6.0% 4.0% Dividends Book Value 6.5%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2020	2391	2077	2121	2346	8935
2021	2539	2130	2196	2583	9448
2022	2835	2487	2553	3168	11043
2023	3319	2450	2381	2550	10700
2024	3000	2500	2550	3250	11300
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2020	.67	.59	.63	.71	2.60
2021	.76	.54	.62	.69	2.61
2022	.74	.59	.68	.77	2.78
2023	.90	.60	.65	.75	2.90
2024	.80	.65	.80	.85	3.10
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID C =				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2019	.45	.45	.45	.4775	1.83
2020	.4775	.4775	.4775	.505	1.94
2021	.505	.505	.505	.535	2.05
2022	.535	.535	.535	.565	2.17
2023	.565				

We think that Fortis will post steady earnings growth this year and next. The company's \$22.3 billion five-year capital plan is expected to rise to over \$46 billion by 2027 due to rate base increases. Rate relief will likely remain a key driver of growth and help improve upon low allowed returns, seen in many of Fortis utilities. There are currently ongoing cases in British Columbia and Arizona, and decisions in both are expected shortly. Too, in British Columbia, Fortis BC received approval to invest a record high \$155 million into energy efficiency programs.

Our 2023 bottom-line projection is staying put at \$2.90 per share. Along with rate relief, the Inflation Reduction Act will benefit earnings growth and help the transition to clean energy over the next few years. As a reminder, the new five-year capital plan includes \$5.9 billion in cleaner energy investments. Fortis also has strong Price Stability and Earnings Predictability ratings, as well as a stretch of strong financial performances of late. We expect that the aforementioned factors will remain next year, and look for full-year earnings of \$3.10 per share. .

The utility remains committed to its target of 4%-6% annual dividend growth through 2027. The company has a proven track record of dividend growth, and the distribution has been raised in 49 consecutive years. We think the Board of Directors will raise the quarterly disbursement by 6% at the third-quarter meeting

in September.

Fortis stock has outperformed nearly all the electric utility equities over the past six months. The stock is up more than 25% over that interim, largely due to better-than-expected financial results of late. As a reminder, the company also joined the S&P Small Cap 600 Index in February. Income-oriented investors likely will be drawn to the dividend yield of 4.0%, which sits well above the industry average and remains this issue's most notable feature. Meanwhile, total return potential for the 18-month and 3-to 5-year periods is solid for a utility. Indeed, the midpoint of our 18-month Target Price Range represents a 25% premium to the current quotation, which is above the *Value Line* median. Zachary J. Hodgkinson June 9, 2023

(A) Also trades on NYSE (FTS). All data in Canadian \$. **(B)** Dil. egs. Excl. nonrecur. gains (loss): '07, 3¢; '14, 2¢; '15, 48¢; '17, (35¢); '18, 7¢. '19, \$1.12. '19 EPS don't sum due to chng. | (D) Incl. intang. In '22: \$34.05/sh. (E) In mill. | Avg. (G) Excl. div'ds pd. via reinv. plan.

in shs. Next egs. report due early Aug. (C) (F) Rates all'd on com. eq.: 8.3%-10.32%; Div'ds histor. pd. early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec.
Div'd reinv. plan avail. (2% disc.). FERC, Above Avg.; AZ, Below Avg.; NY, Below

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 95

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