

Kentucky, Indiana, Louisiana, Michigan, Ohio, Oklahoma, Tennessee, Texas, Virginia, & West Virginia. Has a transmission subsidiary. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 43%; commercial, 23%; industrial, 18%; wholesale, 10%; other, 6%. Sold commercial

2.6%-12.5%. Has 16,700 employees. President & Chief Executive Officer: Julie Sloat. Executive Chairman: Niholas K. Akins. Incorporated: New York, Address: 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215-2373. Telephone: 614-716-1000. Internet: www.aep.com.

272 234 243 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '20-'22 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '26-'28 Revenues .5% -.5% 3.5% 'Cash Flow" 5.0% 5.0% 5.5% 5.5% 6.0% Earnings 5.0% 3.5% 5.5% 6.0% Dividends Book Value

Annual Load Factor (%)

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA

NA

+.3

NA NA

NA

+1.0

NA NA NA

| Cal-<br>endar | QUAR<br>Mar.31                 |        | VENUES (Sep.30 |        | Full<br>Year |
|---------------|--------------------------------|--------|----------------|--------|--------------|
| 2020          | 3747                           | 3494   | 4066           | 3610   | 14918        |
| 2021          | 4281                           | 3826   | 4623           | 4061   | 16792        |
| 2022          | 4593                           | 4640   | 5526           | 4881   | 19640        |
| 2023          | 4690                           | 4700   | 5350           | 4460   | 19200        |
| 2024          | 4820                           | 4750   | 5375           | 4755   | 19700        |
| Cal-          | EARNINGS PER SHARE A           |        |                |        | Full         |
| endar         | Mar.31                         | Jun.30 | Sep.30         | Dec.31 | Year         |
| 2020          | 1.00                           | 1.05   | 1.50           | .87    | 4.42         |
| 2021          | 1.15                           | 1.15   | 1.59           | 1.07   | 4.96         |
| 2022          | 1.22                           | 1.20   | 1.62           | 1.05   | 5.09         |
| 2023          | 1.11                           | 1.25   | 1.75           | 1.24   | 5.35         |
| 2024          | 1.45                           | 1.30   | 1.80           | 1.05   | 5.60         |
| Cal-          | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † |        |                |        | Full         |
| endar         | Mar.31                         | Jun.30 | Sep.30         | Dec.31 | Year         |
| 2019          | .67                            | .67    | .67            | .70    | 2.71         |
| 2020          | .70                            | .70    | .70            | .74    | 2.84         |
| 2021          | .74                            | .74    | .74            | .78    | 3.00         |
| 2022          | .78                            | .78    | .78            | .83    | 3.17         |
| 2023          | .83                            | .83    |                |        |              |

American Electric Power is meeting expectations. First-quarter earnings per share came in at \$1.11, on par with Wall Street's expectations but lower than last year's tally due to historically mild weather that restricted results. This, along with an increase in operations and maintenance costs and higher taxes, offset the benefits derived from rate increases, load growth, and more transmission revenue. Despite these challenges, effective cost management enabled management to maintain its 2023 bottom-line outlook of \$5.19 to \$5.39 and a long-term annual earnings growth target of 6-7%.

The company is aggressively managing its asset portfolio. It scrapped the potential sale of its Kentucky operations citing unattractive deal economics and an adverse regulatory environment as main causes. The unit, which recorded an underwhelming 2.9% return on equity over the past year, will be revamped with a focus on reliability and cost control. Also, new base rates will be effective from January 2024 onward. A recently announced sale of certain solar assets are expected to close by the end of 2023. Furthermore, AEP intends to divest its retail and distributed resources businesses, with the sale process to start this summer and completion expected in the first half of 2024. These assets collectively contribute around \$650 million to annual revenue.

The company is trying to get greener. Approximately 43% of AEP's 24,600 total megawatt capacity is currently fueled by coal, which is relatively bad for the environment compared to other natural resources, and a focal point of regulators and ESG investors. AEP's four-year, \$40 billion capital expenditure plan will be used to add around 17 gigawatts of cleaner power generation capacity over the next nine years. The ultimate goal is to reach "net zero" emissions by 2045, meaning balance between the amount of greenhouse gases produced and the amount removed from the atmosphere or offset elsewhere. Continued focus on debt reduction should also help the stock's valuation ahead, allowing American to become more in-line with premium-priced peers.

Risk-averse investors may want to take a closer look here. Kevin Downing June 9, 2023

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '07, (20¢); '08, 40¢; '10, (7¢); '11, 89¢; '12, (38¢); '13, (14¢); '16, (\$2.99); '17, 26¢; '19, (20¢); gains (loss) from disc. ops.: '06, 2¢; '08,

3¢; '15, 58¢; '16, (1¢); '22, (58¢); '23, (34¢). Next earnings report due late July. (B) Div'ds paid early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. † Shareholder invest.

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