

& northern Idaho. Supplies electricity to part of Alaska & gas to part of Oregon. Customers: 411,000 electric, 377,000 gas. Acq'd Alaska Electric Light and Power 7/14. Sold Ecova energy-management sub. 6/14. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 38%; commercial,

35% of revs. '22 reported depr. rate (Avista Utilities): 3.6%. Has 1,767 employees. Chairman: Scott L. Morris. Pres. & CEO: Dennis Vermillion, Inc.: WA. Address: 1411 E. Mission Ave., Spokane, WA 99202-2600. Tel.: 509-489-0500. Internet: www.avistacorp.com.

175 222 216 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '20-'22 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '26-'28 -2.0% -0.5% 0.5% 4.0% 3.5% -2.5% 3.0% 2.5% Revenues 2.5% 'Cash Flow' 3.5% 6.5% Earnings 4.0% 3.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

+1.8

1889

ŇĀ

-1.0

+1.4

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES ( Sep.30		Full Year
2020	390.2	278.6	272.6	380.5	1321.9
2021	412.9	298.2	296.0	431.8	1438.9
2022	462.7	378.6	359.4	509.5	1710.2
2023	474.6	<b>370</b>	<b>355</b>	<b>590.4</b>	1790
2024	<b>490</b>	<b>380</b>	<b>370</b>	<b>600</b>	1840
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	E A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2020 2021 2022 2023 2024	.72 .98 .99 .73 <b>.75</b>	.26 .20 .16 .20	.07 .20 d.08 .20 .22	.85 .71 1.05 <b>1.17</b> <b>1.25</b>	1.90 2.10 2.12 <b>2.30</b> <b>2.45</b>
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P.	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2019 2020 2021 2022 2023	.3875 .405 .4225 .44	.3875 .405 .4225 .44 .46	.3875 .405 .4225 .44	.3875 .405 .4225 .44	1.55 1.62 1.69 1.76

Regardless of the first-quarter showing, Avista remains on target to reach earnings of \$2.30 a share this year. Earnings in the March period missed our expectations by a wide margin, which is not all that uncommon for utilities. Still, this situation can be fully explained. Rate cases in Washington and Idaho dating back to 2021 came with customer tax credits. These credits will be fully returned by the end of the third quarter this year. After that, the utility margin will improve, but income tax is spread throughout the year as a percentage of pretax income based on the estimated annual effective tax rate. This will alter the shape of quarterly earnings in 2023. Management has said that 35% of annual utility earnings will be recognized in the first quarter. After that, the distribution will be 5% in the second quarter, 10% in the third quarter, and 50% in the fourth quarter. All told, the provided earnings spread remains at \$2.27 to \$2.47 per share, and our figure slants toward the low end of this range. Furthermore, this seems like a good time to reiterate to our subscribers to not focus on sequential showings, as opposed to the

annual earnings for utilities.

Earnings next year are apt to grow by roughly 5% to 7%. This is a touch slower than what we are looker for in 2023, but in line with what leadership is looking for from an annual perspective. Further rate plan approvals may well be in the cards, particularly in Idaho, and the expected larger revenue base will be a welcome sight. In that vein, our \$2.45-a-share target looks doable.

Clean energy goals continue to be executed upon. A contract for new wind generation in Montana was a nice step forward. Add that to hydro pacts and 70% of Avista's peak generating capability will be produced from non-emitting resources by 2026. Factoring in some additional spending on these fronts, our capital expenditure figure for 2023 is now hovering around the \$500 million line.

This untimely selection has a yield that is more than a full percentage point above the average utility within our coverage. Longer term, appreciation potential is only about average from the stock's recent price points. Erik M. Manning July 21, 2023

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (loss): '14, 9¢; '17, (16¢); gains on discont. ops.: '14, \$1.17; '15, 8¢. EPS may not sum due to round-

ing. Next earnings report due early August. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on Avg.; ID, Above Avg.

(B) Div'ds paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept. & Dec.
■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred chgs. In '22: \$911.2 mill., \$12.16/sh. (D) In mill.

'22: \$7.1%. Regulatory Climate: WA, Below

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 75 Price Growth Persistence 40 **Earnings Predictability** 65