

723,000 customers in central, southern, and southwestern South Carolina. Supplies gas service to 1.4 million customers in North Carolina, South Carolina, and Georgia. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 46%; commercial, 33%; industrial, 17%; other,

'17 reported depreciation rate: 2.6%. Has 5,200 employees. CEO: Jimmy Addison. Incorporated: South Carolina. Address: 100 SCANA Parkway, Cayce, South Carolina 29033. Telephone: 803-217-9000. Internet: www.scana.com.

323 319 313 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '15-'17 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '21-'23 -2.0% 3.0% 6.0% 3.5% 5.0% -3.0% 1.0% 4.0% Revenues -.5% 'Cash Flow' -3.5% -13.0% Earnings -18.0% 1.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

5234 4970

+1.5

4807

+1.6

4701

58.6

+1.3

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES Sep.30		Full Year
2015 2016 2017 2018 2019	1389 1172 1173 1180 <b>1050</b>	967 905 1001 843 <b>850</b>	1068 1093	956 1057 1157 <b>1001</b> <b>1050</b>	4380.0 4227.0 4407.0 <b>3950</b> <b>3900</b>
Cal- endar		RNINGS	PER SHAR		Full Year
2015 2016 2017 2018 2019	1.39 1.23 1.19 1.18 .55	.69 .74 .85 .06 <b>.10</b>		.87	3.81 4.16 4.20 <b>1.85</b> <b>1.25</b>
Cal- endar	QUART Mar.31	ERLY DIVI Jun.30	DENDS PA		Full Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	.5075 .525 .545 .575 .6125			.575	2.08 2.16 2.27 2.41

SCANA stock has been weak of late due to the market's concerns about a possible unfavorable judicial ruling. Last year, the company's utility subsidiary, South Carolina Electric & Gas, canceled its nuclear construction project due to extensive cost overruns and delays. The utility had been recovering construction work in progress for this project thanks to the state's Base Load Review Act (BLRA). Recovering monies for a canceled project resulted in significant criticism from customers and politicians, and it appears as if a state judge is about to overturn the BLRA. This might result in a write-off of \$5.0 billion for revenues SCE&G has collected for the project to date. Moreover, as of year-end 2017, the utility had \$4 billion of unrecovered costs. Already, the state commission has reduced rates 15% through the end of 2018, and the regulators might make this cut permanent. This is why profits plummeted in the second and third quarters, and will be significantly lower this year.

An unfavorable court ruling would proposed acprobably threaten the quisition of SCANA by Dominion En-

ergy. This calls for Dominion to issue .669 of a share (valued at \$47.28) for each share of SCANA. However, the recent price of its stock is 15% below the value of Dominion's offer. This indicates the market's expectation that the deal will fall through. Dominion has offered an alternative proposal for SCE&G's customers, but this might not be enough to win approval. The board of directors slashed the dividend 80% earlier this year, and we

don't rule out a suspension. The decision was made to correspond to the portion of the payout that is attributable to SCE&G's electric business. Further bad news might prompt the board to eliminate the payout, in our view. Even if the dividend holds at the current level, the yield is not high enough to appeal to incomeoriented investors.

We advise investors to avoid this stock. It's true that shareholders will be amply rewarded if the Dominion acquisition goes through, but we think the potential reward is not worth the risk of additional rate reductions and/or refunds of previously collected revenues. Paul E. Ďebbas, CFA November 16, 2018

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses): '02, (\$3.72); '03, 31¢; '04, (23¢); '05, 3¢; '06, 9¢; '15, \$1.41; '17, (\$5.03). Next earnings report due late Feb. (B) Div'ds historically

paid in early Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '17: \$39.02/sh. (D) In millions. (E) Rate base: Net

original cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in SC: 10.25% elec. in '13, 10.25% gas in '05; in NC: 9.7% in '16; earned on avg. com. eq., 10.3%. Regulatory Climate: Above Average

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 75 Price Growth Persistence 30 **Earnings Predictability** 80