

pendent power plants & has 25% stake in National Methanol in Saudi Arabia. Acq'd Progress Energy 7/12; Piedmont Natural Gas 10/16; discontinued most int'l ops. in '16. Elec. rev. breakdown:

3.6%. Has 27,600 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Lynn J. Good. Inc.: DE. Address: 550 South Tryon St., Charlotte, NC 28202-1803. Tel.: 704-382-3853. Internet: www.duke-energy.com. Carolina and Kentucky, among

285 183 209 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% 2.5% 5.0% 4.5% 3.5% 1.0% 'Cash Flow' 4.0% 3.0% 5.0% 5.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (avg.)

NA NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2020	5949	5421	6721	5777	23868
2021	6150	5758	6951	6238	25097
2022	7132	6685	7968	6983	28768
2023	7276	6200	8000	7274	28750
2024	7450	6850	7950	7250	29500
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Dec.31	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30		Year
2020	1.14	1.08	1.87	1.03	5.12
2021	1.26	1.15	1.88	.94	5.24
2022	1.30	1.14	1.78	1.11	5.27
2023	1.20	1.10	2.05	1.30	5.65
2024	1.35	1.30	2.05	1.30	6.00
Cal- endar	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31				Full Year
2019 2020 2021 2022 2023	.9275 .945 .965 .985 1.005	.9275 .945 .965 .985 1.005	.945 .965 .985 1.005	.945 .965 .985 1.005	3.75 3.82 3.90 3.98

Duke Energy's bottom-line will likely continue to benefit from rate relief throughout this year. The company has a number of cases pending. In North Carolina, the utility reached a partial settlement with the North Carolina Public Staff regarding customer rate increases. Interim rates were implemented in June, and permanent rates are expected to be put into place on October 1st. In Kentucky, the utility recently requested a \$75.2 million (17.8%) hike, as the rate case hearing nears a conclusion. The company has invested more than \$300 million in Kentucky since its last rate case. Adjusted first-quarter earnings of \$1.20 a share slightly underperformed our call of \$1.30. Our 2023 full-year estimate remains at \$5.65 a share, as we think Duke should benefit from rate relief and strong electric volume growth. Management reaffirmed a range of \$5.55 to \$5.75, and a long-term earnings growth rate of 5% to 7% through 2027.

We look for another year of solid profit growth in 2024. Rate relief and volume growth remain the key drivers. Duke is awaiting regulatory outcomes in North pending rate cases. We estimate a fullyear 2024 bottom-line of \$6.00, right around management's annual target of 5%-7% growth.

The company is focused on the boosting shareholder value. The board raised the dividend, effective with the September payment. The hike to the annualized disbursement was \$0.02, or 2%. The dividend yield of 4.4% sits above the utility median. Meanwhile, the growth rate is well below the industry average due to Duke's high payout ratio.

These shares have dropped slightly in value since our last report three months ago. The stock is now down about 15% over the past 12 months. Still, Duke's 3- to 5-year capital appreciation potential is nothing to get excited about. Indeed, the current quotation is already trading near the low end of our 2026-2028 Target Price Range of \$100-\$135. The equity has been upgraded one notch in our Timeliness ranking system to 3 (Average). Incomeoriented investors may be drawn to the high dividend payout.

Zachary J. Hodgkinson

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. net nonrec. losses: '12, 64¢; '13, 22¢; '14, 59¢; '15, 5¢; '16, 60¢; '18, 96; '20, \$3.40; '21, 30¢; 1Q22, 22¢; net nonrec gain: '17, 14¢. 2021 EPS don't sum to annual

\$41.34/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for rev. split. Reg. Clim.: NC, SC Avg.; OH, IN Above Avg.

due to rounding. Next egs. due early Nov. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate all'd on (B) Div'ds paid mid-Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '22: in '20 in FL: 9.5%-11.5%; in '20 in IN: 9.7%.

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

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August 11, 2023

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