

nessee, Texas, Virginia, & West Virginia. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 41%: commercial, 24%: industrial, 19%: wholesale, 8%; other, 8%. Sold SEEBOARD (British utility) '02; Houston

Chairman, President & CEO: Nicholas K. Akins. Incorporated: New York. Address: 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215-2373. Telephone: 614-716-1000. Internet: www.aep.com.

254 374 354 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 Revenues -.5% 1.0% 1.0% 4.0% 5.0% 5.0% 3.5% 4.5% 4.0% 5.5% 4.0% Cash Flow 2.0% 3.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 4 0%

Annual Load Factor (%)

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	4045	3893	4652	3790	16380
2017	3933	3577	4105	3810	15425
2018	4048	4013	4333	3801	16196
2019	4057	3573	4500	3870	16000
2020	4200	3800	4600	3900	16500
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	1.02	1.03	1.43	.76	4.23
2017	.94	.76	1.11	.81	3.62
2018	.92	1.07	1.17	.74	3.90
2019	1.16	.93	1.25	.76	4.10
2020	1.10	1.00	1.40	.90	4.40
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.53	.53	.53	.56	2.15
2016	.56	.56	.56	.59	2.27
2017	.59	.59	.59	.62	2.39
2018	.62	.62	.62	.67	2.53
2019	.67	.67	.67		

American Electric Power has made another try at a major investment in wind power. Last year, the company canceled a proposed \$4.5 billion, megawatt project after this did not receive approval in all four states (Texas, Oklahoma, Louisiana, and Arkansas) where approval was needed. AEP is proposing to spend \$2 billion for 1,485 mw. Besides the smaller size, this proposed project differs from the one that was rejected in 2018 because this time there was an RFP process and the project is scalable. (It could be as small as 810 mw.) The company expects to receive all approvals by July of 2020.

As usual, the company is active in the regulatory arena. AEP Texas is seeking an increase of \$35 million, based on a 10.5% return on a 45% common-equity ratio. Indiana Michigan Power filed in each state, requesting \$172 million in Indiana, based on a 10.5% return on a 46.8% common-equity ratio, and \$58 million in Michigan, based on a 10.5% return on a 46.4% common-equity ratio. In Arkansas, SWEPCO is asking for a hike of \$34 million, based on a 10.5% return on a 50.5% common-equity ratio. Orders on each of

these cases are expected in the first four months of 2020.

Rate relief is a key reason for AEP's continuing earnings improvement. Our 2019 and 2020 share-earnings estimates remain within the company's targeted ranges of \$4.00-\$4.20 and \$4.25-\$4.45, respectively. We note, however, that some of AEP's industrial customers are feeling the effects of the trade war, but management believes it can adjust expenses if volume slows. The company's goal for long-term annual earnings growth is 5%-7%.

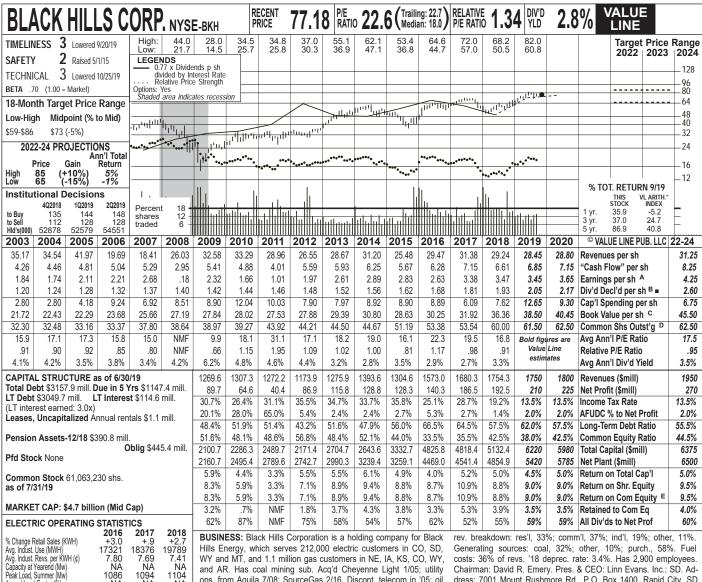
We expect a dividend increase at the board meeting next month. We estimate the directors will boost the quarterly disbursement \$0.04 a share (6.0%). AEP expects dividend growth to be in line with profit growth, and to maintain a payout ratio in a range of 60%-70%.

This high-quality stock has a dividend yield that does not stand out among utilities. The recent quotation is near the upper end of our 2022-2024 Target Price Range, so total return potential is unspectacular.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 13, 2019

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '03, (32¢); '04, 15¢; '05, 7¢; '06, 2¢; '08, 3¢; '15, inv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '18: (\$1.92); '04, 24¢; '05, (62¢); '06, (20¢), '07, (20¢), '08, 40¢; '10, (7¢); '11, 89¢; '12, (38¢); ing. Next egs. report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds Rates all'd on com. eq.: 9.3%-10.9%; earn. on '13, (14¢); '16, (\$2.99); '17, 26¢; disc. ops.: '03, and early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reave.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 85



WY and MT, and 1.1 million gas customers in NE, IA, KS, CO, WY, and AR. Has coal mining sub. Acq'd Cheyenne Light 1/05; utility ops. from Aquila 7/08; SourceGas 2/16. Discont. telecom in '05; oil marketing in '06; gas marketing in '11; gas & oil E&P in '17. Electric

costs: 36% of revs. '18 deprec. rate: 3.4%. Has 2,900 employees. Chairman: David R. Emery. Pres. & CEO: Linn Evans. Inc.: SD. Address: 7001 Mount Rushmore Rd., P.O. Box 1400, Rapid City, SD 57709-1400. Tel.: 605-721-1700. Internet: www.blackhillscorp.com.

236 296 276 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '22-'24 Revenues 3.5% 1.5% .5% 3.5% 5.0% 6.5% 5.5% Cash Flow 4.0% 6.5% 5.0% 11.0% Earnings 4.0% 3.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

1086

NA +.6

1094

ÑΑ

+.8

1104

NA +.8

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	450.0 547.5 575.4 597.8 610	325.4 341.9 355.7 333.9 350	333.8 335.6 322.0 343.3 350	463.8 455.3 501.2 475 490	1573.0 1680.3 1754.3 1750 1800
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31		ER SHARI Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	.94 1.42 1.59 1.73 1.70	.31 .41 .45 .24	.41 .52 .32 .48	.97 1.03 1.11 1.00 1.05	2.63 3.38 3.47 3.45 3.65
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY DIV Jun.30	IDENDS P. Sep.30	AID B ■ Dec.31	Full Year
2015 2016 2017 2018 2019	.405 .42 .445 .475 .505	.405 .42 .445 .475 .505	.405 .42 .445 .475 .505	.405 .42 .475 .505	1.62 1.68 1.81 1.93

Black Hills has some rate cases pending or upcoming. The utility filed for a \$2.5 million gas rate increase in Colorado, based on a return of 10.3% on a commonequity ratio of 50.1%. In Wyoming, Black Hills is seeking a gas tariff hike of \$16.1 million, based on a return of 10.3% on a common-equity ratio of 50.2%. New rates are expected to take effect in Colorado at the start of March and in Wyoming at the start of April. The filings followed the consolidation of multiple gas companies into one legal entity in each state. Black Hills is asking the Nebraska commission to approve a similar consolidation, and will file a rate case there in 2020. A gas application is upcoming in Arkansas, as well

We have trimmed our 2019 earnings estimate by \$0.10 a share, to \$3.45. profits were June-quarter well below normal, due in part to unfavorable weather conditions (a cool spring and flooding). Our revised estimate remains Black Hills' targeted range of \$3.40-\$3.60 a share.

We look for record earnings in 2020. Black Hills should benefit from rate relief, including revenues annually from formula

rate plans. Our estimate remains \$3.65 a share, the midpoint of the company's guidance of \$3.50-\$3.80.

The capital budget is higher than usual in 2019. Among the significant projects are a transmission line, a gas pipeline, and a wind farm. Black Hills expects to issue \$80 million-\$100 million of common equity this year and \$40 million-\$80 million in 2020. The company issued \$700 million of long-term debt in October, taking advantage of the low interest-rate environment.

We expect a dividend increase in the current quarter. We estimate the board will raise the quarterly disbursement \$0.03 a share (5.9%), the same increase as in each of the past two years. Black Hills is targeting a payout ratio in a range of 50%-60%

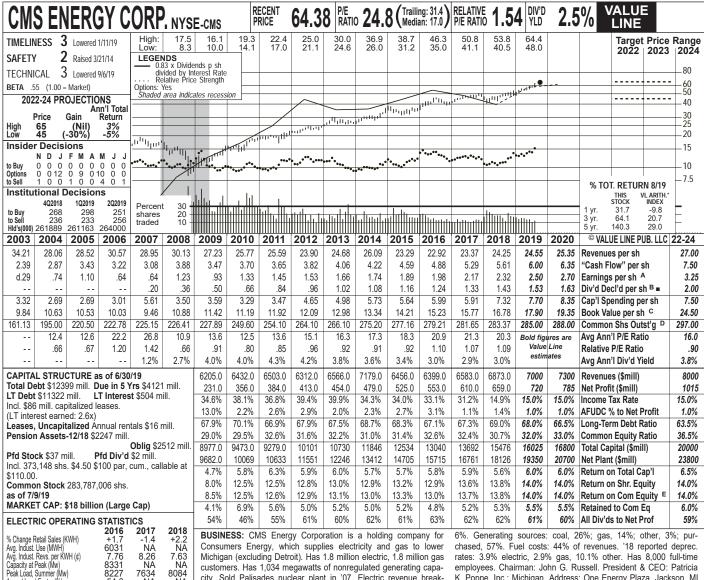
Black Hills stock has a modest dividend yield, for a utility. We look for negative total returns over the 18-month period and unexciting total returns over the 3- to 5-year period. Like most utility issues, the recent quotation is well within our 2022-2024 Target Price Range.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA October 25, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '08, (\$1.55); '09, (28¢); '10, 10¢; '12, 4¢; '15, (\$3.54); '16, (\$1.26); '17, 14¢; '18, \$1.31; gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '06, 21¢; '07, (4¢); '08, © 2019 Value Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product

\$4.12; '09, 7¢; '11, 23¢; '12, (16¢); '17, (31¢); '18: \$25.82/sh. (**D**) In mill. (**E**) Rate base: Net '18, (12¢). Next earnings report due early Nov. (**B**) Div'ds paid early Mar., Jun., Sept., & Dec. none specified; in CO in '17: 9.37%; earned on ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd chgs. In avg. com. eq., 18: 10.1%. Regul. Climate: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 80 Price Growth Persistence 65 **Earnings Predictability** 60



Michigan (excluding Detroit). Has 1.8 million electric, 1.8 million gas customers. Has 1,034 megawatts of nonregulated generating capacity. Sold Palisades nuclear plant in '07. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 45%; commercial, 34%; industrial, 15%; other,

rates: 3.9% electric, 2.9% gas, 10.1% other. Has 8,000 full-time employees. Chairman: John G. Russell. President & CEO: Patricia K. Poppe. Inc.: Michigan. Address: One Energy Plaza, Jackson, MI 49201. Tel.: 517-788-0550. Internet: www.cmsenergy.com

292 301 250 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) to '22-'24 -2.5% 4.5% 10.0% Revenues -1.0% 2.5% 6.5% 7.0% 7.0% 5.5% 'Cash Flow' 6.0% 7.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value

+.5

% Change Customers (vr-end)

7634

ΝA

+1.2

8084

NA

+.3

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2016	1801	1371	1587	1640	6399
2017	1829	1449	1527	1778	6583
2018	1953	1492	1599	1829	6873
2019	2059	1445	1646	1850	7000
2020	2100	1600	1700	1900	7300
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.59	.45	.67	.28	1.98
2017	.71	.33	.61	.52	2.17
2018	.86	.49	.59	.38	2.32
2019	.75	.33	.80	.62	2.50
2020	.85	.50	.80	.55	2.70
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec. 31	Year
2015	.29	.29	.29	.29	1.16
2016	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2017	.3325	.3325	.3325	.3325	1.33
2018	.3575	.3575	.3575	.3575	1.43
2019	.3825	.3825	.3825		

CMS Energy's earnings are likely to wind up higher in 2019, despite unfavorable comparisons in the first half **of the year.** The weather was the main culprit in the first half, as storms and mild weather hurt profits. The year-to-year comparisons should turn favorable in the last six months of 2019 thanks to a planned decline in operating and mainte-nance expenses. CMS Energy's utility subsidiary, Consumers Energy, is also benefiting from increased demand (when not held back by mild weather) from residential and commercial customers. And the company will likely see increased income from a nonutility asset. Our 2019 earnings estimate remains at \$2.50 a share. This is within management's typically narrow range of \$2.47-\$2.51 a share

Consumers Energy should get an or-der on its gas rate case by the end of this month. The utility is seeking an increase of \$204 million, based on a return of 10.75% on a 52.5% common-equity ratio. The staff of the Michigan commission recommended a hike of \$146 million, based on a return of 9.65% on a commonequity ratio of 52%. An administrative law

judge proposed a raise of \$144 million. based on a return of 9.8% on a commonequity ratio of 52%. Consumers Energy is also asking for the decoupling of volume and revenues. This is supported by both the staff and the ALJ. The utility has been spending a lot of capital to upgrade its system, so it plans to put forth another gas-rate application in late 2019, with an order due 10 months after the filing date. On the electric side, Consumers Energy plans to file a case in the first quarter of 2020.

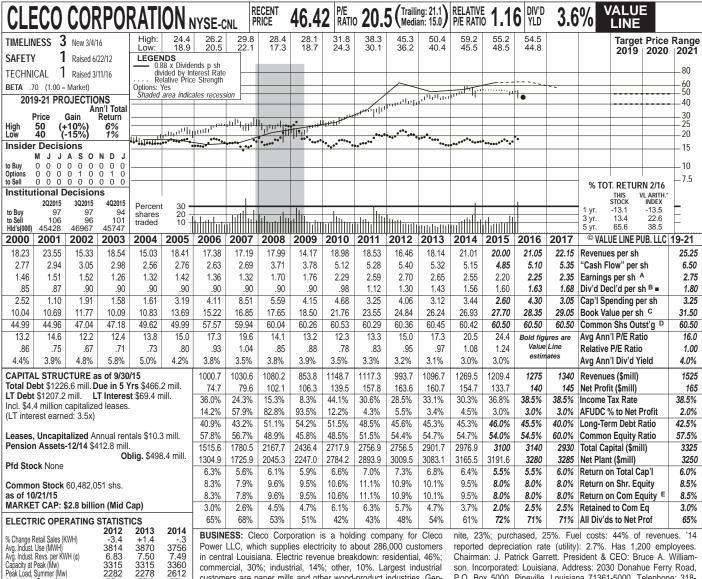
We estimate an 8% profit increase next year. The company will benefit from effective expense control and a full year's effect of rate relief from the gas case.

The Michigan commission approved Consumers Energy's integrated resource plan. The utility will retire two coal-fired units, add 1,100 megawatts of solar capacity, and increase spending on energy efficiency. Half of the solar energy will come from purchased-power contracts. The stock's valuation is high. The dividend yield is well below average for a utility, and the recent price is near the high end of our 2022-2024 Target Price Range. Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 13, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '05, (\$1.61); '06, (\$1.08); '07, (\$1.26); '09, (7¢); '10, 3¢; '11, 12¢; '12, (14¢); '17, (53¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '05, 7¢; '06, 3¢; '07,

 (40ϕ) ; '09, 8¢; '10, (8¢); '11, 1¢; '12, 3¢. '16 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds historically paid

plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '18: \$6.15/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate report due late Oct. (B) Div'ds historically paid allowed on com. eq., '18: 14.3%. Reg. Clim.: Above Avg. Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 85



in central Louisiana. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 46%; commercial, 30%; industrial, 14%; other, 10%. Largest industrial customers are paper mills and other wood-product industries. Generating sources: gas & oil, 26%; petroleum coke, 26%; coal & lig-The Louisiana Public Service Com-

Chairman: J. Patrick Garrett. President & CEO: Bruce A. Williamson. Incorporated: Louisiana. Address: 2030 Donahue Ferry Road, P.O. Box 5000, Pineville, Louisiana 71361-5000. Telephone: 318-484-7400. Internet: www.cleco.com

380 326 360 Fixed Charge Cov. (% **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '12-'14 to '19-'21 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 2.5% 9.5% 10.5% 9.5% 8.0% Revenues 1.5% 4.5% 3.0% .5% 3.5% 3.0% Cash Flow 6.5% 7.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (avg.)

2282

+.6

3360

2612 57.1

+.5

57.0

+.6

Cal-			VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	240.9	263.9	328.8	263.1	1096.7
2014	284.4	309.1	371.4	304.6	1269.5
2015	295.4	289.1	345.5	279.4	1209.4
2016	305	310	355	305	1275
2017	320	325	375	320	1340
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.45	.69	1.09	.41	2.65
2014	.43	.60	1.17	.35	2.55
2015	.44	.50	.90	.36	2.20
2016	.35	.55	1.00	.35	2.25
2017	.40	.57	1.03	.35	2.35
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.3125		.3375	.3375	1.30
2013	.3375		.3625	.3625	1.43
2014	.3625	.40	.40	.40	1.56
2015	.40	.40	.40	.40	1.60
2016	.40				

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '00, 5¢; '02, (5¢), '03, (\$2.05); '05, \$2.11; '07, \$1.22; '10, \$1.91; '11, 63¢; losses from discontinued operations: '00, 14¢; '01, 4¢.

mission (LPSC) rejected the proposed acquisition of Cleco. An investor group led by Macquarie Infrastructure Partners and British Columbia Energy agreed to pay \$55.37 a share in cash for each share of Cleco. However, some intervenors opposed the transaction, and the LPSC did not approve it. Whether the objection was more related to foreign ownership or the specific deal is uncertain.

The companies have not given up. They asked the LPSC for an immediate rehearing, and requested placement on the LPSC's Supplemental Agenda for its meeting on March 16th (in between the time this report went to press and the time it came out in print). If the companies' request proves unsuccessful, they can seek relief in the courts. However.

The stock is trading as though the deal is already dead. Due to the LPSC's rejection of the proposed combination, the share price of Cleco is down 11% year to date, in what has been a good year for most utility equities. Because the stock is no longer trading on takeover considerations, we restored its Timeliness rank.

We estimate that earnings will advance this year and next. In 2015, costs associated with the proposed acquisition (included in our earnings presentation) reduced profits by \$0.08 a share. We figure that these expenses will be lower this year, and nonexistent in 2017. In addition, the utility benefits from a formula ratemaking plan that provides some additional revenues every year without having to file a general rate case. Note that Cleco has not provided earnings guidance for 2016, nor has it stated any expectation for the dividend.

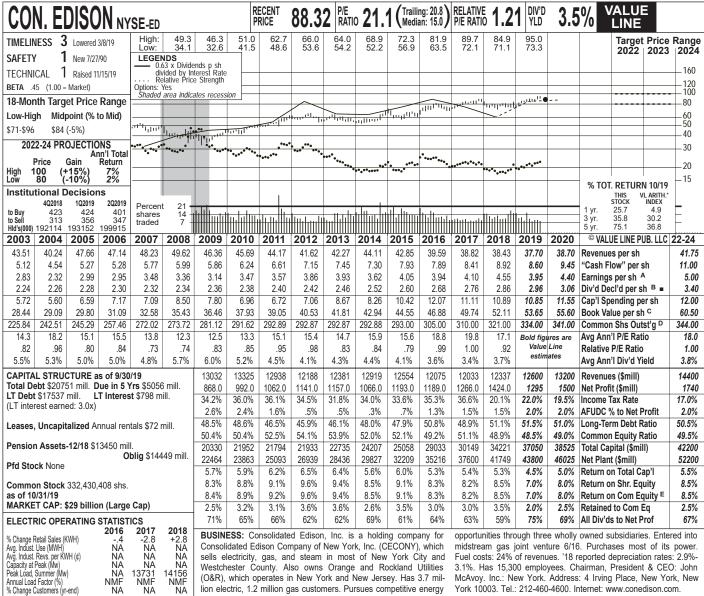
If the deal is terminated, we think there is a chance of a dividend increase in the second quarter. The board of directors has not raised the disbursement while the attempted takeover was pending. We look for an increase of a cent a share (2.5%) in the quarterly payout at the first dividend meeting following the termination of the proposed acquisition.

The dividend yield of Cleco stock is about equal to the mean for electric utilities. Total return potential over the 3- to 5-year period is unimpressive. Paul E. Debbas, CFA March March 18, 2016

'13 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early May. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Feb., May, Aug. and Nov. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred that the date in the part of the part

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence

Earnings Predictability 80



sells electricity, gas, and steam in most of New York City and Westchester County. Also owns Orange and Rockland Utilities (O&R), which operates in New York and New Jersey. Has 3.7 million electric, 1.2 million gas customers. Pursues competitive energy

Fuel costs: 24% of revenues. '18 reported depreciation rates: 2.9%-3.1%. Has 15,300 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: John McAvoy. Inc.: New York. Address: 4 Irving Place, New York, New York 10003. Tel.: 212-460-4600. Internet: www.conedison.com

352 354 306 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 -2.0% 3.5% 2.0% Revenues -2.0% 1.0% 4.5% 3.0% 3.5% 3.5% Cash Flow 4.0% 2.5% Earnings 2.5% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

Annual Load Factor (%)

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NMF

NA

13731

NMF

NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2016	3157	2794	3417	2707	12075
2017	3228	2633	3211	2961	12033
2018	3364	2696	3328	2949	12337
2019	3514	2744	3365	2977	12600
2020	3600	2850	3550	3200	13200
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	1.05	.77	1.47	.64	3.94
2017	1.27	.57	1.48	.78	4.10
2018	1.37	.60	1.52	1.06	4.55
2019	1.31	.46	1.42	.76	3.95
2020	1.40	.60	1.60	.80	4.40
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.65	.65	.65	.65	2.60
2016	.67	.67	.67	.67	2.68
2017	.69	.69	.69	.69	2.76
2018	.715	.715	.715	.715	2.86
2019	.74	.74	.74		

Consolidated Edison's largest utility subsidiary reached a settlement of its general rate case. Consolidated Edison Company of New York struck the agreement, which covers 2020 through 2022, with the staff of the New York commission and intervenor groups. This would raise electric rates by \$113 million, \$370 million, and \$326 million in 2020, 2021, and 2022, respectively. Gas tariffs would be increased by \$84 million, \$122 million, and \$167 million in years one, two, and three, respectively. The utility will also benefit from amortizations to income of net regulatory liabilities: \$312 million in 2020, \$312 million in 2021, and \$282 million in 2022. There are also performance-based measures that could add—or subtract—revenues. The return on equity would be 8.8% and the common-equity ratio would be 48%. A ruling is expected in early 2020. Earnings should be much improved in **2020.** This is partly due to an easy comparison. In 2019, ConEd is booking \$0.20 a share of charges for the effects of hypothetical liquidation at book value for

investments

in

projects.

market accounting adjustments reduced share net by \$0.13 in the first nine months of 2019. We assume the New York regulators approve the settlement.

The cost of the Mountain Valley Pipeline has increased again. ConEd has a 12.5% stake in the project, which has been delayed by litigation. The total cost is now estimated at \$5.3 billion-\$5.5 billion, up from \$5.0 billion. Completion is expected in late 2020. ConEd plans to limit its contribution to \$530 million, which would drop its stake to 10%, at most.

There is another cause for concern. The renewable-energy subsidiary faces risks related to the bankruptcy filing of Pacific Gas and Electric, which buys power

from some ConEd projects.

We expect a dividend hike in the first **quarter of 2020.** We estimate an increase of \$0.10 a share in the annual payout, the same as in each of the past two years. The yield is slightly above the utility mean, but we suggest investors look elsewhere due to the aforementioned uncertainties and unimpressive total return potential for the 18-month and 3- to 5-year periods. Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 15, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '03, (45¢); '13, (32¢); '14, 9¢; '16, 15¢; '17, 84¢; '18, (13¢); gain on discontinued operations: '08, \$1.01. '16 EPS don't sum due to

rounding. Next earnings report due mid-Feb. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan '19: 9.0%; earned on avg. com. eq., '18: 8.8%.

renewable-energy

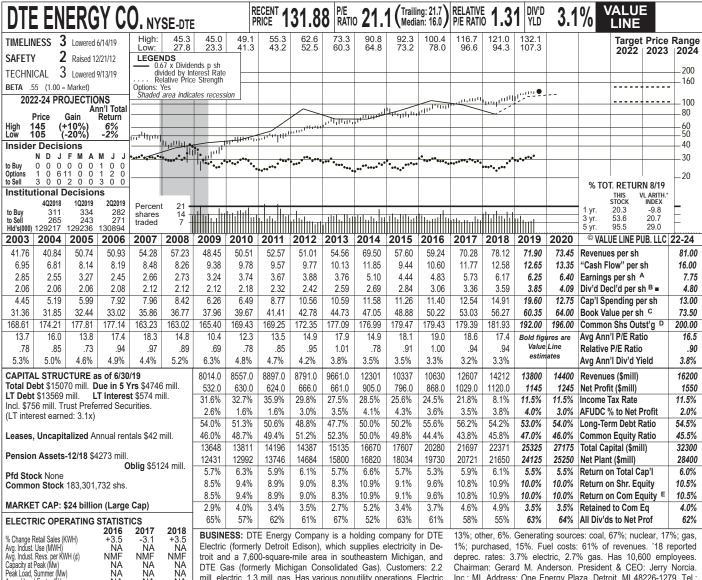
tax-equity

avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '18: \$20.38/sh. (D) In Regulatory Climate: Below Average

certain

Mark-to-

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 40 **Earnings Predictability** 100



DTE Gas (formerly Michigan Consolidated Gas). Customers: 2.2 mill. electric, 1.3 mill. gas. Has various nonutility operations. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 47%; commercial, 34%; industrial,

Chairman: Gerard M. Anderson. President & CEO: Jerry Norcia. Inc.: MI. Address: One Energy Plaza, Detroit, MI 48226-1279. Tel.: 313-235-4000. Internet: www.dteenergy.com

278 300 300 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '22-'24 5.5% 3.5% 8.0% 2.5% 3.5% 8.0% Revenues 2.5% Cash Flow 5.5% 5.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA

NA NA

NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2016	2566	2262	2928	2874	10630
2017	3236	2855	3245	3271	12607
2018	3753	3159	3550	3750	14212
2019	3514	2888	3600	3798	13800
2020	3650	3050	3750	3950	14400
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	А	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	1.37	.84	1.88	.74	4.83
2017	2.23	.99	1.51	1.00	5.73
2018	2.00	1.29	1.84	1.05	6.17
2019	2.19	.99	1.87	1.20	6.25
2020	2.20	1.10	1.90	1.20	6.40
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.69	.69	.69	.73	2.80
2016	.73	.73	.73	.77	2.96
2017	.825	.825	.825	.825	3.30
2018	.8825	.8825		.8825	3.53
2019	.945	.945	.945		

DTE Energy's electric utility subsidiary has filed a general rate case. DTE Electric requested an increase of \$351 million (7%), based on a return of 10.5% (up from the current 10%) on a common-equity ratio of 50%. New tariffs are expected to take effect in May of 2020. The utility received a \$273 million rate increase in May this year, and has come under criticism in Michigan (including some from the state's attorney general) for frequent rate hikes. We note, too, that the commission has a new member. Thus, we would not assume that the rate order will be as constructive as the one earlier in 2019 or those in previous years.

Earnings this year might well rise just slightly from the 2018 result. Favorable weather patterns helped the income of DTE Electric and DTE Gas last year. Also, average shares outstanding will be higher in 2019. Our estimate is within the company's guidance of \$6.02-\$6.38 a share.

We expect earnings improvement in 2020. The company will benefit from rate relief at DTE Électric, unless it receives a harsh order. DTE Gas recovers certain capital expenditures through a regulatory

mechanism that provides revenues without having to file a general rate case. DTE Energy is also experiencing growth from new projects and assets in its nonutility husinesses

DTE Energy has completed the acquisition of some midstream gas assets, and another deal is pending. The company paid \$275 million for a 30% stake in a gas gathering system in West Virginia. It now owns 85% of this asset. DTE Energy also agreed to pay \$150 million-\$200 million (the seller didn't want to be more specific) for a pipeline in Ohio. The purchase will likely be completed in the next several weeks

A healthy dividend increase is likely, effective with the payment in early 2020. We estimate that the board will raise the quarterly payout \$0.065 a share (6.9%). DTE Energy has stated its expectation of 7% annual dividend growth through 2020.

DTE Energy stock has a modest dividend yield, by utility standards. Total return potential over the 3- to 5-year period is negligible.

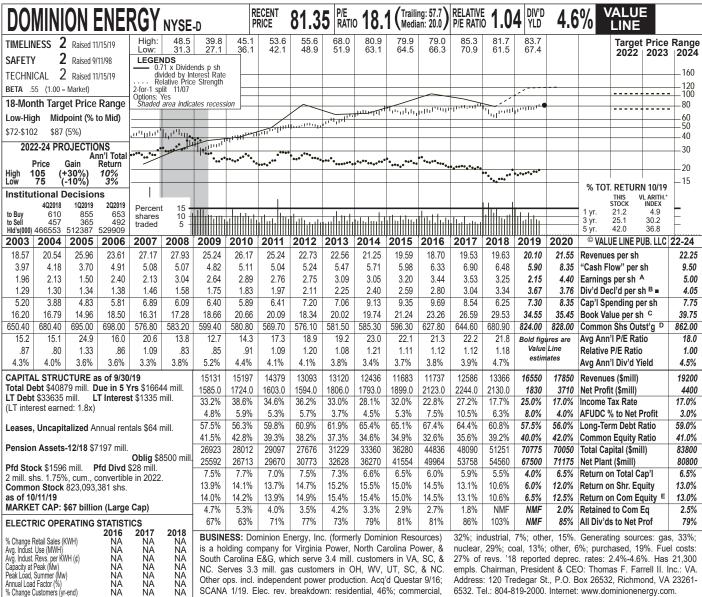
Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 13, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '03, (16¢); '05, (2¢); '07, \$1.96; '08, 50¢; '11, 51¢; '15, (39¢); '17, 59¢; gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '03, 40¢; '04, (6¢); '05, (20¢); '06,

 (2ϕ) ; '07, \$1.20; '08, 13 ϕ ; '12, (33 ϕ). '17-'18 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next egs. due late Oct. (**B**) Div'ds pd. mid-Jan., Apr., July & Oct. Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. in-

tang. In '18: \$42.63/sh. (**D**) In mill. (**E**) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate all'd on com. eq. in '18: 10% elec.; in '16: 10.1% gas; earn. on avg. com. eq., '18: 11.3%. Regul. Clim.: Above Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 85



NA NA NA NA NA NA NA NA 287 219 Est'd '16-'18 to '22-'24 2.5%

of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. -4.0% 4.5% 3.5% 7.5% 6.5% -3.0% 2.5% 3.0% 7.5% Revenues 'Cash Flow' 6.5% 6.5% Earnings 5.0% 7.0% 4.5% Book Value QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

Past

310

Past

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Fixed Charge Cov. (%

ANNUAL RATES

endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	2921	2598	3132	3086	11737
2017	3384	2813	3179	3210	12586
2018	3466	3088	3451	3361	13366
2019	3858	3970	4269	4453	16550
2020	4550	4200	4500	4600	17850
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.88	.73	1.10	.73	3.44
2017	1.01	.62	1.03	.87	3.53
2018	.77	.82	1.22	.44	3.25
2019	d.34	.14	1.17	1.18	2.15
2020	1.25	.90	1.15	1.10	4.40
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.6475	.6475	.6475	.6475	2.59
2016	.70	.70	.70	.70	2.80
2017	.755	.755	.755	.77	3.04
2018	.835	.835	.835	.835	3.34
2019	.9175	.9175	.9175		

NC. Serves 3.3 mill. gas customers in OH, WV, UT, SC, & NC. Other ops. incl. independent power production. Acq'd Questar 9/16; SCANA 1/19. Elec. rev. breakdown: residential, 46%; commercial,

We expect Dominion Energy's earnings to return to a more typical level in 2020. In 2019, earnings were depressed by some charges, such as a \$1 billion re-fund of previously collected revenues, associated with the company's takeover of SCANA in January and a \$316 million aftertax charge for an early retirement program. Management is excluding many of these items from its "operating" earnings guidance of \$4.15-\$4.30 a share. We assume no such charges in our 2020 estimate. Dominion expects profit growth of 5% off its operating base in 2020, and at least 5% annually beyond next year.

There are positive developments in both the regulated and nonregulated parts of the business. Virginia Power is benefiting from the solid economy of its service area and regulatory mechanisms that enable the utility to recover certain capital expenditures without having to file a general rate case. Rate relief in other jurisdictions is another plus. (Note that a rate case in South Carolina is planned for 2020.) On the nonregulated side, on October 1st the Millstone nuclear plant in Connecticut began a 10-year power contract empls. Chairman, President & CEO: Thomas F. Farrell II. Inc.: VA. Address: 120 Tredegar St., P.O. Box 26532, Richmond, VA 23261-6532. Tel.: 804-819-2000. Internet: www.dominionenergy.com.

with the state.

The company is selling a 25% stake in its Cove Point liquefied natural gas storage facility. The deal is expected to close by yearend and will raise \$2.1 billion. This will offset some of the company's annual equity needs beginning in 2020.

The U.S. Supreme Court will hear an appeal regarding the Atlantic Coast Pipeline. This is good news for Dominion, a 48%-owner of this project that has been delayed by litigation. A ruling is expected by June. A favorable verdict should enable the project to be completed by year-end 2021 at a cost of \$7.3 billion-\$7.8 billion.

We expect a modest dividend increase in the first quarter of 2020. We estimate the board of directors will raise the annual payout \$0.09 a share (2.5%). The

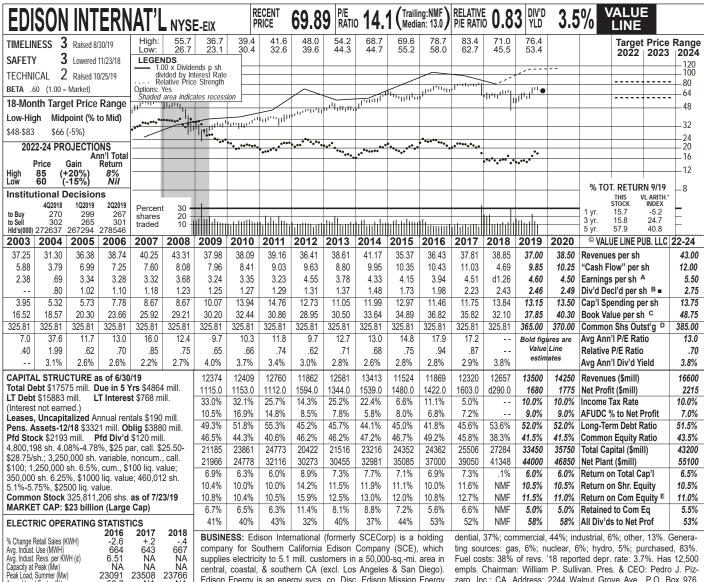
payout ratio is high, even for a utility. This timely stock is attractive income-oriented investors. The dividend yield is more than one percentage point above the average for the electric utility industry. Total returns over the 18month and 3- to 5-year periods are likely to be just moderate, however.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 15, 2019

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): ${}^{\prime}06$, (18ϕ) , ${}^{\prime}07$, \$1.67; ${}^{\prime}08$, 12ϕ , ${}^{\prime}09$, (47ϕ) ; ${}^{\prime}10$, \$2.18; ${}^{\prime}11$, (7ϕ) ; ${}^{\prime}12$, (\$1.70); ${}^{\prime}14$, (76ϕ) ; ${}^{\prime}17$, \$1.19; ${}^{\prime}18$, 43ϕ ; ${}^{\prime}19$, (58ϕ) ; losses

from disc. ops.: '06, 26¢; '07, 1¢; '10, 26¢; '12, intang. In '18: \$14.33/sh. (**D**) In mill., adj. for 4ϕ ; '13, 16¢. Next earnings report due early split. (**E**) Rate base: Net orig. cost, adj. Rate Feb. (**B**) Div'ds paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept., & all'd on com. eq. in '11: 10.9%; earned on avg. Dec. Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. com. eq., '18: 11.5%. Regulat. Climate: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 60



supplies electricity to 5.1 mill. customers in a 50,000-sq.-mi. area in central, coastal, & southern CA (excl. Los Angeles & San Diego). Edison Energy is an energy svcs. co. Disc. Edison Mission Energy (independent power producer) in '12. Elec. rev. breakdown: resi

Fuel costs: 38% of revs. '18 reported depr. rate: 3.7%. Has 12,500 empls. Chairman: William P. Sullivan. Pres. & CEO: Pedro J. Pizzaro. Inc.: CA. Address: 2244 Walnut Grove Ave., P.O. Box 976, Rosemead, CA 91770. Tel.: 626-302-2222. Web: www.edison.com.

ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh)	Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		246	241	NMF
Revenues -1.0% - 2.0% "Cash Flow" 1.5% -1.0% 5.5% Earnings -3.5% -9.0% <i>NMF</i> Dividends 6.5% 11.0% 3.5%					
	Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends	-1.0% 1.5% -3.5% 6.5%	-1.0% -9.0% 11.0%	- 0 0 0 0	2.0% 5.5% NMF 3.5%

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (vr-end)

23091

50.7

23766

23508

NA +.7

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2016	2440	2777	3767	2885	11869
2017	2463	2965	3672	3220	12320
2018	2564	2815	4269	3009	12657
2019	2824	2812	4500	3364	13500
2020	2900	3100	4700	3550	14250
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.85	.86	1.27	.96	3.94
2017	1.11	.85	1.43	1.12	4.51
2018	.82	.84	1.57	d4.49	d1.26
2019	.63	1.58	1.45	.94	4.60
2020	1.00	.95	1.55	1.00	4.50
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.4175	.4175	.4175	.4175	1.67
2016	.48	.48	.48	.48	1.92
2017	.5425	.5425	.5425	.5425	2.17
2018	.605	.605	.605	.605	2.42
2019	.6125	.6125	.6125	.6125	

A law was passed in California that addresses future wildfire liabilities for utilities, including Edison International's subsidiary. The new law established a \$21 billion fund (half of which is supplied by the utilities) to pay for future liabilities. Southern California Edison's contribution was \$2.4 billion, which the parent raised through an equal split of debt and equity. (How this will be accounted for is still unclear.) The law also changed the way liability is determined so that it is not as easy as it was previously to place the blame on utilities. However, the law does not affect liabilities associated with previous wildfires. In the fourth quarter of 2018, the company took a charge of \$5.60 a share as a reserve for its minimum estimate of these liabilities. So far, it has not taken any additional charges, but this cannot be ruled out.

We no longer think there is a risk of a **dividend cut.** In fact, we estimate the board will raise the dividend modestly at its meeting in December, effective with the payment in the first quarter of 2020.

Financing needs are significant. Besides the cash needed for SCE's contribu-

tion to the wildlife liability fund, the company is issuing additional common equity and long-term debt for its high (and rising) capital budget. Capital spending needs for wildfire prevention are considerably higher, but the utility is also spending additional monies for other functions, such as modernization of the electric grid.

We reduced our 2019 and 2020 shareearnings estimates by \$0.15 and \$0.30, respectively. The main reason for the cuts is the significant rise in average shares outstanding, which is much greater than we had estimated three months ago.

A cost-of-capital filing is pending with the California commission. SCE is requesting an allowed return on equity of 11.45% and a common-equity ratio of 52% (up from the currently allowed 48%). An order is due in time for it to take effect at the start of 2020.

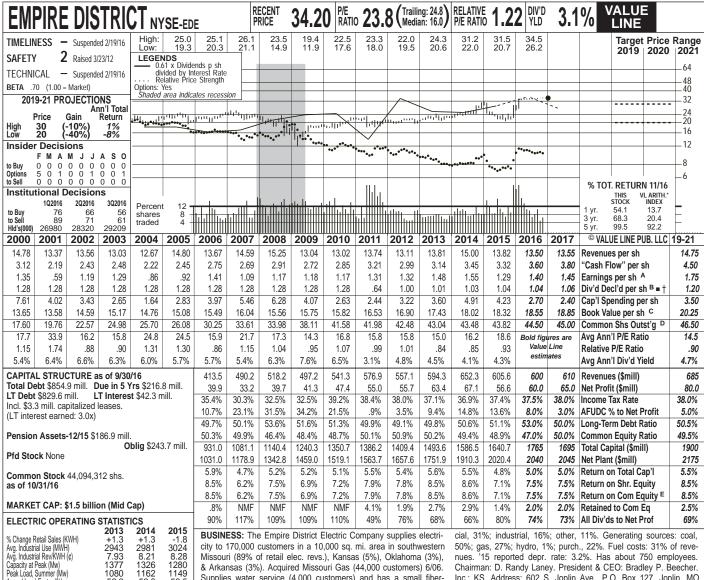
This stock has a dividend yield that is slightly above the industry average. However, total return potential is unappealing for the 18-month and 3- to 5-year periods. And the company still faces risks related to past wildfires.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA October 25, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '04, \$2.12; '09, (64¢); '10, 54¢; '11, (\$3.33); '13, (\$1.12); '15, (\$1.18); '17, (\$1.37); '18, (15¢); 1Q '19, 22¢; 2Q '19, (38¢); gains (loss)

from disc. ops.: '12, (\$5.11); '13, 11¢; '14, 57¢; charges. In '18: \$16.51/sh. (**D**) In millions. (**E**) '15, 11¢; '18, 10¢. Next earnings report due late Oct. (**B**) Div'ds paid late Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (**C**) Incl. deferred '18: NMF. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 85 Price Growth Persistence 55 **Earnings Predictability** 15



& Arkansas (3%). Acquired Missouri Gas (44,000 customers) 6/06. Supplies water service (4,000 customers) and has a small fiberoptics operation. Elec. rev. breakdown: residential, 42%; commer-

Chairman: D. Randy Laney. President & CEO: Bradley P. Beecher. Inc.: KS. Address: 602 S. Joplin Ave., P.O. Box 127, Joplin, MO 64802-0127. Tel.: 417-625-5100. Internet: www.empiredistrict.com.

shares on the open market. The recent

price of Empire District Electric stock is

above the buyout price. The Timeliness

rank of this equity remains suspended due

331 334 291 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '13-'15 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '19-'21 Revenues .5% .5% .5% 'Cash Flow' 3.5% 3.5% 3.0% 5.5% 3.5% Earnings 2.5% 2.0% Dividends Book Value

+.5

% Change Customers (avg.)

52.5

+.5

+.3

QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
151.1	136.6	157.5	149.1	594.3
179.7	149.8	171.5	151.3	652.3
164.5	134.6	169.7	136.8	605.6
151.3	139.3	175.4	134	600
160	140	175	135	610
EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
.30	.27	.56	.35	1.48
.48	.26	.55	.26	1.55
.34	.15	.58	.23	1.29
.32	.21	.62	.25	1.40
.31	.26	.60	.28	1.45
QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB≡†	Full
Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
.25	.25	.25	.25	1.00
.25	.25	.25	.255	1.01
.255	.255	.255	.26	1.03
.26	.26	.26	.26	1.04
.26	.26	.26	.26	
	Mar.31 151.1 179.7 164.5 151.3 160 Mar.31 .30 .48 .34 .32 .31 QUART Mar.31 .25 .25 .25 .26	Mar.31 Jun.30 151.1 136.6 179.7 149.8 164.5 134.6 151.3 139.3 160 140 EARNINGS P Mar.31 Jun.30 .30 .27 .48 .26 .34 .15 .32 .21 .31 .26 QUARTERLY DIVI Mar.31 Jun.30 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .26 .26	Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 151.1 136.6 157.5 179.7 149.8 171.5 164.5 134.6 169.7 151.3 139.3 175.4 160 140 175 EARNINGS PER SHARI Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 .30 .27 .56 .48 .26 .55 .34 .15 .58 .32 .21 .62 .31 .26 .60 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PA Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .26 .26 .26	151.1 136.6 157.5 149.1 179.7 149.8 171.5 151.3 164.5 134.6 169.7 136.8 151.3 139.3 175.4 134 160 140 175 135 EARNINGS PER SHARE ← Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 30 .27 .56 .35 .48 .26 .55 .26 .34 .15 .58 .23 .32 .21 .62 .25 .31 .26 .60 .28 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID ■ ■ † Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .25 .255 .255

It appears as if the acquisition of **Empire District Electric Company** will be completed soon. Algonquin Power & Utilities, a Canadian company that already has some operations in the United States under the Liberty Utilities name, has agreed to pay \$34.00 in cash for each share of Empire District Electric. All shareholder and regulatory approvals have been received, except that of the Kansas Corporation Commission (KCC). However, the companies have reached a settlement with the KCC's staff. As part of the agreement, Empire District Electric would withdraw its pending request for a \$6.4 million (25.7%) rate increase. Instead, the company would file for recovery of certain environmental costs through a rider on customers' bills. This would raise rates by \$1.2 million. A ruling from the KCC is due by January 10, 2017. If the regulators ap-prove the settlement—and there has been no significant opposition—the transaction is likely to be completed shortly thereafter. Accordingly, this might well be our last full-page report on Empire District Electric.

We advise stockholders to sell their

to the takeover agreement. Empire District Electric received a rate increase in Missouri. The Missouri Public Service Commission approved a settlement calling for a hike of \$20.4 million (4.5%), based on a return on equity in a range of 9.5%-9.9%. New tariffs took ef-

fect in mid-September. We expect higher earnings this year and next, despite the inclusion of merger-related expenses. Mergerrelated costs are expected to reduce the bottom line by \$0.10-\$0.12 a share in 2016. Even so, we think profits will wind up higher for the year because the effects of regulatory lag hurt earnings in 2015. In addition, Empire District Electric should benefit from rate relief in 2016 and 2017. Note that we have raised our 2016 earnings estimate by \$0.05 a share, to \$1.40, because a hotter-than-normal summer helped boost the bottom line in the third quarter.

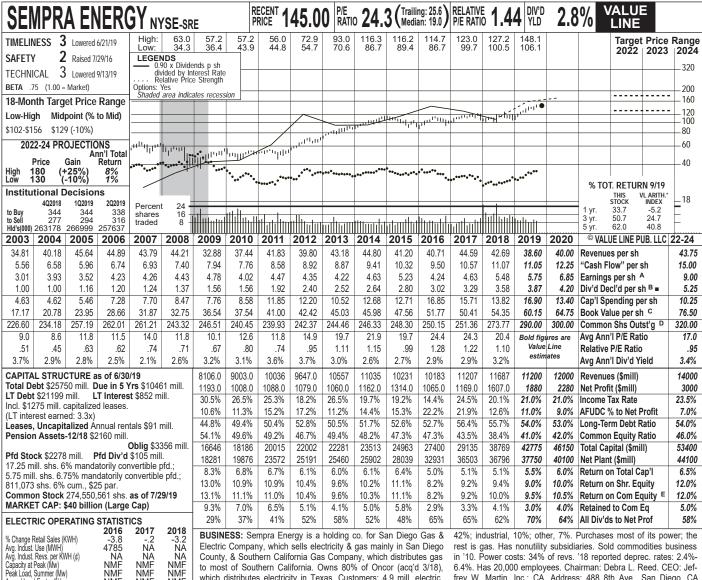
Paul E. Debbas, CFA December 16, 2016

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. loss from discontinued operations: '06, 2¢. '15 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Feb. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar.

June, Sept. and Dec. Div'ds suspended 3Q '11, reinstated 1Q '12. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (3% discount). † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '15:

\$5.88/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Depred orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MO in '16: 9.5%-9.9%; earned on avg. com. eq., '15: 7.2%. Regulatory Climate: Below Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 85 Price Growth Persistence 35 **Earnings Predictability** 85



County, & Southern California Gas Company, which distributes gas to most of Southern California. Owns 80% of Oncor (acq'd 3/18), which distributes electricity in Texas. Customers: 4.9 mill. electric, 6.6 mill. gas. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 41%; commercial

in '10. Power costs: 34% of revs. '18 reported deprec. rates: 2.4%-6.4%. Has 20,000 employees. Chairman: Debra L. Reed. CEO: Jeffrey W. Martin. Inc.: CA. Address: 488 8th Ave., San Diego, CA 92101. Tel.: 619-696-2000. Internet: www.sempra.com.

237 264 186 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 Revenues -.5% .5% .5% 3.5% 2.0% 7.5% Cash Flow 4.0% 1.0% 6.5% 11.0% Earnings 8.0% 6.5% Dividends Book Value 4.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NMF

NMF

+.6

NMF

NMF

+.8

NMF NMF

NMF

+.9

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2016	2622	2156	2535	2870	10183
2017	3031	2533	2679	2964	11207
2018	2962	2564	2940	3221	11687
2019	2898	2230	2900	3172	11200
2020	3100	2400	3100	3400	12000
Cal-	E/	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	1.61	.06	1.02	1.52	4.24
2017	1.75	1.20	.22	1.46	4.63
2018	1.43	1.27	1.23	1.55	5.48
2019	1.78	1.10	1.27	1.60	5.75
2020	2.00	1.50	1.50	1.85	6.85
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.66	.70	.70	.70	2.76
2016	.70	.755	.755	.755	2.97
2017	.755	.8225	.8225	.8225	3.22
2018	.8225	.895	.895	.895	3.51
2010	805	0675	0675	0675	

Sempra Energy has reached separate agreements to sell its utility assets in **Peru and Chile.** The sale prices are \$3.59 billion for the assets in Peru and \$2.23 billion for those in Chile, but the company won't wind up with nearly that much cash due to significant tax leakage. Sempra plans to use the sale proceeds for debt reduction and capital spending for its utilities in California and Texas. The transactions are expected to close in the first quarter of 2020. These will probably be the last major asset sales after management made acquisitions and divestitures in the past two years that changed Sempra's strategic and geographic focus.

The utilities in California were granted rate increases. Southern California Gas and San Diego Gas and Electric received increases of \$314 million (12.8%) and \$107 million (5.7%), respectively, retroactive to the start of 2019. SDG&E was granted hikes of \$134 million (6.7%) and \$102 million (4.8%) for 2020 and 2021, respectively. SoCalGas received increases of \$220 million (7.9%) and \$150 million (5.0%) for 2020 and 2021, respectively.

growth we expect in each of these three years.

A cost-of-capital filing is pending in California. SDG&E is asking for an allowed return on equity of 12.38%, and SoCalGas is seeking an allowed ROE of 10.7%. The utilities are requesting a common-equity ratio of 56%, up from the current 52%. A ruling is expected by yearend, and will take effect at the start of 2020.

The first train of a liquefied natural gas export facility has begun operating. The next two trains are under construction, with commercial operation expected in 2020. Annual earnings are estimated at \$400 million-\$450 million beginning in 2021, the first full year of operation

The market has recognized Sempra's good prospects. The share price has risen 34% in 2019. However, Sempra doesn't stand out among utility issues for its dividend yield. Moreover, we look for total returns to be negative over the 18month period and unspectacular over the 3- to 5-year pull. Paul E. Debbas, CFA October 25, 2019

This rate relief will contribute to the profit 2019 | .895 .9675 .9675 (A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '09, (26¢); '10, (\$1.05); '11, \$1.15; '12, (98¢); '13, (30¢); '15, 14¢; '16, \$1.23; '17, (17¢); '18, '06, \$1.21; '07, (10ϕ) ; '19, 7ϕ . '16 EPS don't sum due to chg. in shs. Next egs. report due early Nov. **(B)** Div'ds paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, '18: \$15.47/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate all'd on com. eq.: SDG&E in '13: 10.3%; SoCalGas in '13: 10.1%; earn. on

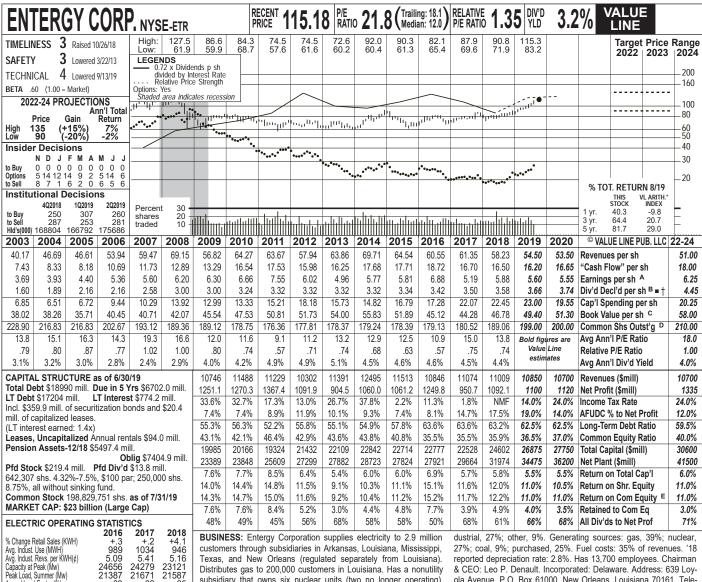
(\$2.06); '19, 16¢; gain (losses) from disc. ops.: Oct. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In avg. com. eq., '18: 10.5%. Regul. Climate: Avg. © 2019 Value Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product

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

95

80

70



customers through subsidiaries in Arkansas, Louisiana, Mississippi, Texas, and New Orleans (regulated separately from Louisiana). Distributes gas to 200,000 customers in Louisiana. Has a nonutility subsidiary that owns six nuclear units (two no longer operating). Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 38%; commercial, 26%; in-

27%; coal, 9%; purchased, 25%. Fuel costs: 35% of revenues. '18 reported depreciation rate: 2.8%. Has 13,700 employees. Chairman & CEO: Leo P. Denault. Incorporated: Delaware. Address: 639 Loyola Avenue, P.O. Box 61000, New Orleans, Louisiana 70161. Telephone: 504-576-4000. Internet: www.entergy.com

95 258 169 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 Revenues -.5% -2.5%Cash Flow 1.0% 4.0% Earnings 4.0% 4.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

21671

+.6

65

+.6

63

+.8

					,
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2016	2609	2462	3124	2648	10846
2017	2588	2618	3243	2623	11074
2018	2724	2669	3104	2512	11009
2019	2610	2666	3074	2500	10850
2020	2650	2650	3000	2400	10700
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	1.28	3.16	2.16	.28	6.88
2017	.46	2.27	2.21	.25	5.19
2018	.73	1.34	3.42	.39	5.88
2019	1.32	1.22	2.50	.56	5.60
2020	1.00	1.45	2.50	.60	5.55
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.83	.83	.83	.85	3.34
2016	.85	.85	.85	.87	3.42
2017	.87	.87	.87	.89	3.50
2018	.89	.89	.89	.91	3.58
2019	.91	.91	.91		

Entergy's utilities are improving their **earning power.** Some are benefiting from rate relief, much of which comes through their states' formula rate plans. An example is Entergy Arkansas, which is seeking a \$15.3 million change in rates, effective in early 2020. The economy of the utilities' service territories is still healthy, and so far the industrial sector is not seeing significant problems stemming from the effects of tariffs. We think earnings will fall short of the 2018 tally only because net profit benefited from some tax credits last year. Note that our earnings presentation includes the contribution of Entergy's nonutility operations, which the company is phasing out as its nonregulated nuclear units are sold, even though management excludes this from its 2019 earnings guidance of \$5.15-\$5.45 a share. This boosted share net by \$0.36 in the first six months. Entergy's targeted range for 2020 is \$5.45-\$5.75 a share, excluding any profit (or loss) from the nonutility sector.

The company completed construction of a gas-fired generating plant, and other gas-fired units are being built or acquired. A 980-megawatt facility in

Louisiana went into service in May (ahead of schedule) at a cost of \$861 million. In Mississippi, the utility filed for approval to buy an 810-mw plant for \$401 million. Entergy Louisiana is adding two more plants (1,355 mw) at an expected cost of \$1.1 billion. Entergy New Orleans is building a 128-mw unit for \$210 million. Finally, Entergy Texas is constructing a 993-mw facility for \$937 million. These plants are expected to come on line in 2020 and 2021. Capital spending will likely remain high for the next few years. In addition to the gas-fired plants mentioned above,

Entergy is modernizing its electric grid by adding such things as advanced metering infrastructure. Part of these expenditures will be financed with common equity.

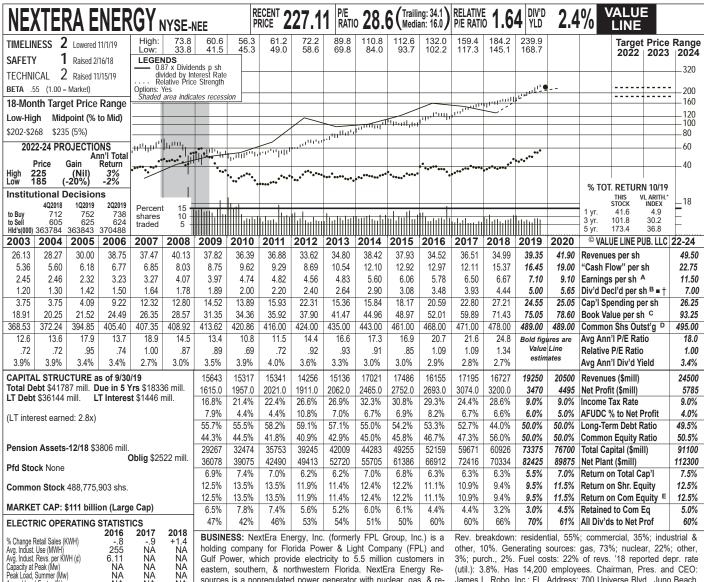
The price of Entergy stock has risen **34% this year.** The market recognizes the good prospects of the utility operations and the reduced business risk as the company exits its nonregulated activities. However, the stock, which had a premium dividend yield for many years, now has one that merely equals the utility average. Total return potential to 2022-2024 is low. Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 13, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '03, 33¢; '05, (21¢); '12, (\$1.26); '13, (\$1.14); '14, (56¢); '15, (\$6.99); '16, (\$10.14); '17, (\$2.91); '18, (\$1.25). Next earnings report due

def'd charges. In '18: \$28.37/sh. (D) In millions.

early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. (E) Rate base: Net original cost. Allowed ROE (blended): 9.95%; earned on avg. com. eq., 18: 12.6%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 20 **Earnings Predictability** 60



Gulf Power, which provide electricity to 5.5 million customers in eastern, southern, & northwestern Florida. NextEra Energy Resources is a nonregulated power generator with nuclear, gas, & renewable ownership. Has 79.9% stake in NextEra Energy Partners.

3%; purch., 2%. Fuel costs: 22% of revs. '18 reported depr. rate (util.): 3.8%. Has 14,200 employees. Chairman, Pres. and CEO: James L. Robo, Inc.: FL. Address: 700 Universe Blvd., Juno Beach. FL 33408. Tel.: 561-694-4000. Internet: www.nexteraenergy.com.

266 339 278 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 Revenues -1.0% 6.0% Cash Flow 7.0% 6.0% 9.0% 10.5% 6.5% 6.0% Earnings 10.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA NA NA

NA NA

NA NA

NA

+1.3

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2016	3835	3817	4805	3698	16155
2017	3972	4404	4808	4011	17195
2018	3857	4063	4416	4391	16727
2019	4075	4970	5572	4633	19250
2020	4400	5200	6000	4900	20500
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	1.41	.93	1.62	1.82	5.78
2017	1.90	1.68	1.79	1.13	6.50
2018	2.06	1.64	2.10	.88	6.67
2019	1.41	2.56	1.81	1.32	7.10
2020	2.35	2.45	2.45	1.85	9.10
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB = †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.77	.77	.77	.77	3.08
2016	.87	.87	.87	.87	3.48
2017	.9825	.9825	.9825	.9825	3.93
2018	1.11	1.11	1.11	1.11	4.44
2019	1 25	1 25	1 25		

NextEra Energy's earnings should exceed the 2018 tally in 2019, even though we lowered our share-net estimate by \$0.65. Mark-to-market accounting changes hurt the bottom line in the third quarter. (We *include* these in our earnings presentation because they are an ongoing part of the company's results.) Nevertheless, NextEra is performing well in both its regulated and nonregulated operations. Regulated capital employed, which has a key effect on the earning power of Florida Power & Light, rose 8% year over year in the third period. The economy in FPL's service area is healthy, and customer growth is solid. NextEra Energy Resources is benefiting from the addition of contracted renewable-energy projects. At the end of September, it had a record backlog of 1.373 megawatts. This is greater than its entire portfolio at the end of 2014, illustrating how much this subsidiary has grown since then.

We expect a material profit increase in **2020.** We assume no mark-to-market gains or losses since these are impossible to predict. We expect a continuation of solid growth at FPL and NextEra Energy

Resources. In addition, asset acquisitions made since late 2018—most notably Gulf Power, an electric utility in northern Florida—are expected to boost the bottom line by \$0.15 a share in 2020 and \$0.20 a share in 2021. The

cost estimate to build the Mountain Valley Pipeline has risen again. Litigation has caused delays and cost escalations. The latest estimate is \$5.4 billion, up from \$5.0 billion previously. So far, NextEra has spent more than \$1 billion on its 31% stake in the project.

The price of this timely and highquality stock continues to soar. The market is recognizing NextEra Energy's strong prospects, including a leading position in renewable energy. The equity was one of the top-performing utility issues in 2018, and the quotation has climbed 31% so far this year. As a result, the dividend yield is not significantly greater than the median of all dividend-paying stocks under our coverage. Total return potential over the 18-month period is modest. Finally, the recent price is above our 2022-2024 Target Price Range.

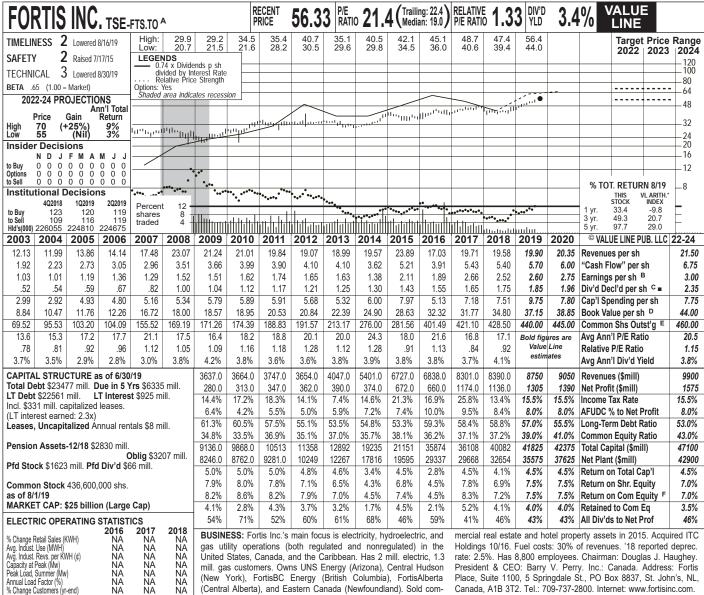
Paul E. Debbas, CFA

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '03, 5¢; '11, (24¢); '13, (80¢); '16, 47¢; '17, 91¢; '18, \$7.19; gain on disc. ops.: '13, 44¢. '18 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings | er investment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred

report due late Jan. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., mid-June, mid-Sept., & mid-Dec. biv'd reinvestment plan available. † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred characteristics. In '18: \$9.57/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for stock split. (E) Rate allowed on com. eq. in '17 (FPL): 9.6%-11.6%; earned on avg. com. eq., '18: 10.9%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 70

November 15, 2019



United States, Canada, and the Caribbean. Has 2 mill. electric, 1.3 mill. gas customers. Owns UNS Energy (Arizona), Central Hudson (New York), FortisBC Energy (British Columbia), FortisAlberta (Central Alberta), and Eastern Canada (Newfoundland). Sold com-

rate: 2.5%. Has 8,800 employees. Chairman: Douglas J. Haughey. President & CEO: Barry V. Perry. 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.

208 173 231 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 Revenues .5% -.5% 2.5% 4.5% 5.5% 7.0% 7.5% 4.0% 7.0% 'Cash Flow' 5.5% 4.0% Earnings 6.5% 9.0% 6.0% 5.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal-			VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	1772	1485	1528	2053	6838
2017	2274	2015	1901	2111	8301
2018	2197	1947	2040	2206	8390
2019		1970		2244	8750
2020	2500	2100	2150	2300	9050
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	В	Full
endar	Mar.31		Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.57	.38	.45	.49	1.89
2017	.72	.62	.66	.66	2.66
2018	.69	.57	.65	.61	2.52
2019	.72	.54	.69	.65	2.60
2020	.75	.65	.70	.65	2.75
2020					2.73
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	VID c ■	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.34	.34	.34	.375	1.40
2016	.375	.375	.375	.40	1.53
2017	.40	.40	.40	.425	1.63
2018	.425	.425	.425	.45	1.73
2019	.45	.45	.45		10
2010	0	0	.40		1

Fortis' Tucson Electric Power subsidiary has a general rate case pending. The utility filed for a rate increase of \$115 million (7%), based on a return of 10.35% on a common-equity ratio of 53%. The requested ROE and equity ratio are higher than those allowed in rates currently, which are 9.75% and 50%, respectively. An order from the Arizona Corporation Commission is expected in time for new tariffs

to take effect on May 1st.

We reduced our 2019 earnings estimate by \$0.10 a share, to \$2.60. Junequarter earnings were hurt by unfavorable weather patterns in Arizona, where the Tucson area experienced its mildest second quarter in the past 20 years. In addition, the average share count will be higher than we had estimated. Our revised expectation for share net would still produce a modest increase over the 2018 tally. Central Hudson is benefiting from the second phase of a three-year rate hike, which took effect in mid-2019. Finally, the ITC transmission subsidiary receives rate relief every year thanks to a forward-looking formula rate plan. Note that our earnings presentation excludes a gain of \$1.12 a share on an asset sale that Fortis recorded in the second quarter.

We estimate record share profits in 2020. We assume reasonable regulatory treatment for Tucson Electric. Central Hudson and ITC will get additional rate increases, as well. Our estimate of \$2.75 a share would produce a 6% earnings increase. Note, though, that Fortis' earning power is affected by allowed ROEs and equity ratios for its Canadian utilities that are well below those allowed in the U.S.

A dividend increase is likely, effective with the December payment. This has been the pattern in recent years. We think the board of directors will boost the quarterly disbursement \$0.025 a share (5.6%), the same as in each of the past three years. Fortis' goal is 6% annual dividend growth through 2023, so a slightly greater hike than we estimate is not out of the question.

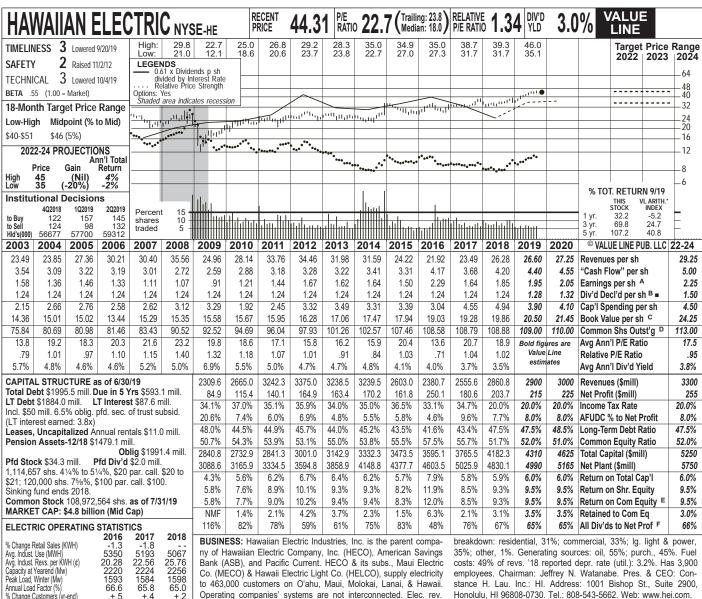
Timely Fortis stock has a dividend yield that is slightly higher than the utility average. Total return potential to 2022-2024 is modest, but still better than that of most utility issues.

Paul E. Debbas, ČFA September 13, 2019

(A) Also trades on NYSE under the symbol FTS. All data in Canadian \$. (B) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrec. gains (loss): '07, 3¢; '14, 2¢; '15, 48¢; '17, (35¢); '18, 7¢. 2Q '19, \$1.12. | disc.). **(D)** Incl. intang. In '18: \$38.70/sh. **(E)** In | Average; AZ, Average; NY, Below Average.

Next earnings report due early Nov. **(C)** Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. **•** Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (2% eq., '18: 7.6%. Regulat. Climate: FERC, Above

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 70



to 463,000 customers on O'ahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, & Hawaii. Operating companies' systems are not interconnected. Elec. rev. Hawaiian Electric Industries' largest

stance H. Lau. Inc.: HI. Address: 1001 Bishop St., Suite 2900, Honolulu, HI 96808-0730. Tel.: 808-543-5662. Web: www.hei.com.

361 437 409 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 -6.5% 4.5% 4.0% -3.0% Revenues 3.5% 'Cash Flow' 3.0% 5.0% 3.5% 2.5% Earnings 3.0% 4.0% Dividends Book Value 3.0% 3.5%

+.5

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Full Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	551.0 591.5 645.9 661.6 675	566.2 632.3 685.3 715.5 750	646.1 673.2 768.0 775 800	617.4 658.6 761.6 747.9 775	2380.7 2555.6 2860.8 2900 3000
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31	RNINGS P Jun.30	ER SHARI Sep.30	_	Full Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	.30 .31 .37 .42 .42	.41 .36 .42 .39	1.17 .55 .60 .64 .67	.41 .42 .45 . 50 . 52	2.29 1.64 1.85 1.95 2.05
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		IDENDS PA		Full Year
2015 2016 2017 2018 2019	.31 .31 .31 .31 .32	.31 .31 .31 .31 .32	.31 .31 .31 .31 .32	.31 .31 .31 .31	1.24 1.24 1.24 1.24

utility subsidiary has filed a rate case. Hawaiian Electric Company requested an increase of \$77.5 million (4.1%), based on a return of 10.5% on a common-equity ratio of 57.15%. An interim rate order is due by July.

Hawaii Light Electric **Company** reached a partial settlement on its pending application. The utility settled for an increase of \$2.8 million, and is requesting a return of 9.5% on a commonequity ratio of 58%. New tariffs would take effect on November 21st.

Maui Electric plans to file a rate case in mid-2020. An interim ruling is due 11 months after the utility puts forth the application. Note that a final order in its 2018 rate case took effect on September 1, 2019. This boosted revenues by \$12.2 million (3.7%).

The utilities need rate relief in order to earn adequate returns on equity. For the 12-month period that ended on June 30th, the utilities (as a group) earned an ROE of 7.8%. This is an upgrade from recent years, but still isn't a good figure. There is ample room for improvement.

The form of regulation in Hawaii will **probably be changing.** The commission is evaluating performance-based ratemaking, and expects to come out with the details in December of 2020. The regulators are emphasizing the financial integrity of utilities as a guiding principle for this, so whatever emerges from this process is not likely to be punitive for HEI's utilities.

We estimate solid earnings growth in 2019 and 2020. Rate relief should help. The American Savings Bank subsidiary is performing well, and is benefiting from cost efficiencies and the state's healthy economy. The bank's credit quality remains high. Our 2019 estimate is at the midpoint of HEI's guidance of \$1.85-\$2.05 a share. We reduced it by a nickel because second-quarter profits fell a bit short of our expectation.

The dividend yield of this stock is only about equal to the industry average. The recent quotation is near the upper end of our 2022-2024 Target Price Range. Total return potential is low for the 18-month period and negligible for the 3to 5-year period.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA October 25, 2019

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. gain (losses) from disc. ops.: '03, (5¢); '04, 2¢; '05, (1¢); nonrec. gain (losses): '05, 11¢; '07, (9¢); '12, (25¢); '17, (12¢). '18 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next

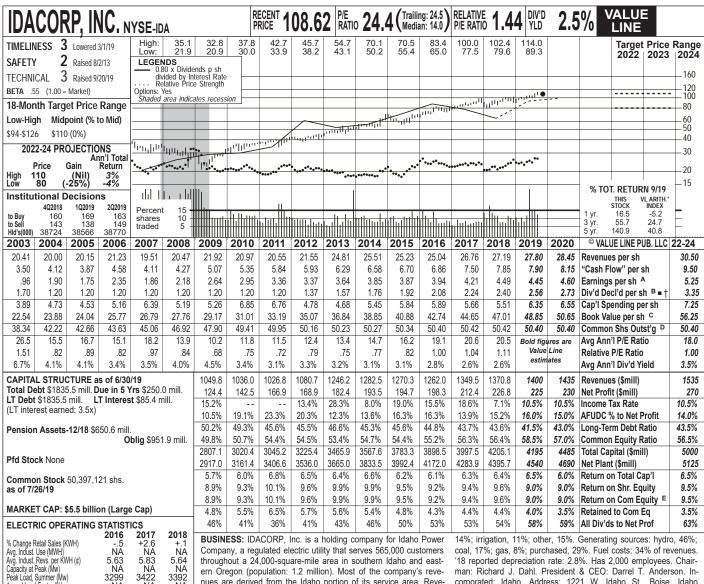
egs. report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds pd. early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. = Div'd reinv. avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '18: \$7.76/sh. (D) In mill.,

lowed on com. eq. in '18: HECO, 9.5%; in '18: HELCO, 9.5%; in '18: MECO, 9.5%; earned on avg. com. eq., '18: 9.5%, Reg. Climate: Below adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Orig. cost. Rate al- Avg. (F) Excl. div'ds paid through reinv. plan.

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

35

60



throughout a 24,000-square-mile area in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon (population: 1.2 million). Most of the company's revenues are derived from the Idaho portion of its service area. Revenue breakdown: residential, 38%; commercial, 22%; industrial,

'18 reported depreciation rate: 2.8%. Has 2,000 employees. Chairman: Richard J. Dahl. President & CEO: Darrel T. Anderson. Incorporated: Idaho. Address: 1221 W. Idaho St., Boise, Idaho 83702. Telephone: 208-388-2200. Internet: www.idacorpinc.com.

295 329 309 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 3.5% 4.0% 4.0% Revenues 2.5% 2.5% 4.0% 3.5% 7.0% 4.0% Cash Flow 5.5% 7.0% Earnings 10.0% 5.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

3299

NA +1.8

NA

+2.0

NA +2.3

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES(Sep.30	mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2016	281.0	315.4	372.0	293.6	1262.0
2017	302.6	333.0	408.3	305.6	1349.5
2018	310.1	340.0	408.8	311.9	1370.8
2019	350.3	316.9	420	312.8	1400
2020	335	350	430	320	1435
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	E A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.51	1.12	1.65	.66	3.94
2017	.66	.99	1.80	.77	4.21
2018	.72	1.23	2.02	.52	4.49
2019	.84	1.05	1.90	.66	4.45
2020	.85	1.05	2.00	.70	4.60
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA		Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30		Year
2015 2016 2017 2018 2019	.47 .51 .55 .59 .63	.47 .51 .55 .59 .63	.47 .51 .55 .59 .63	.51 .55 .59 .63 .67	1.92 2.08 2.24 2.40

The board of directors of IDACORP raised the dividend. The increase was \$0.04 a share (6.3%) quarterly, effective with the fourth-quarter payment. In re-cent years, the company has had a policy of hiking the disbursement at least 5% annually, to remain near the upper end of its targeted range of 50%-60% for the payout ratio. However, this policy might be about to change. The dividend announcement ... we expect to further discuss with the board the appropriate target payout ratio in mid-November." The current target of 50%-60% is lower than that of most utilities, so a boost in this range would not surprise us.

We raised our 2019 share-earnings estimate by a nickel, to \$4.45. June-period profits topped out estimate for the quarter by that amount. In addition, IDACORP revised its share-net target for 2019 from \$4.30-\$4.45 to \$4.43-\$4.50, so our expectation remains within management's guidance. Our 2020 estimate remains at \$4.60 a share.

The company's utility subsidiary, Idaho Power, is benefiting from a viutility brant economy in its service territory.

For the 12-month period that ended on June 30th, customer growth was 2.5%. The Electric Operating Statistics box on this page shows that this figure is accelerating. Population growth and expansion of businesses and institutions are responsible for this.

If needed, Idaho Power may supplement its income through a regulatory mechanism. The utility may use up to \$25 million of accumulated deferred investment tax credits if its return on equity falls below 9.5% (9.4% beginning in 2020). The company does not expect to record any of this income in 2019.

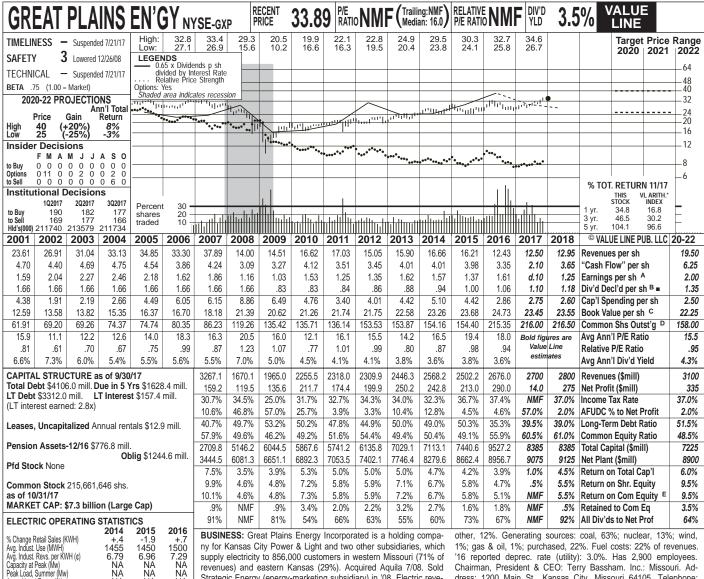
IDACORP stock is priced expensively. The equity is trading at a significant market premium. The dividend yield (even when reflecting the upcoming hike in the payout) is not significantly higher than the median for all dividend-paying stocks under our coverage. Finally, total return potential is unappealing, both for the 18month time frame and the 2022-2024 period. Perhaps takeover speculation is reflected in the quotation, but we advise against buying the stock hoping for a deal. Paul E. Debbas, CFA October 25, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gains (loss): '03, 26 ϕ ; '05, (24 ϕ); '06, 17 ϕ . '17 earnings don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Dividends historically

paid in late Feb., May, Aug., and Nov. Dividend reinvestment plan available. † Shareholder investment plan available. (C) Incl. interpretable. In '18: \$23.12/sh. (D) In millions.

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

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Strategic Energy (energy-marketing subsidiary) in '08. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 40%; commercial, 39%; industrial, 9%;

dress: 1200 Main St., Kansas City, Missouri 64105. Telephone: 816-556-2200. Internet: www.greatplainsenergy.com.

261 254 307 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues -7.5% -1.5% -1.0% 4.5% 1.0% 3.5% 3.5% 2.5% Cash Flow 8.5% 4.5% Earnings -3.0% -5.0% 4.0% 5.0% -1.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (avg.)

NA +.9

NA +.9

NA

+1.1

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Full Year
2014	585.1	648.4	782.5	552.2	2568.2
2015	549.1	609.0	781.4	562.7	2502.2
2016	572.1	670.8	856.8	576.3	2676.0
2017	570.7	682.6	857.2	589.5	2700
2018	600	700	900	600	2800
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.15	.34	.95	.12	1.57
2015	.12	.28	.82	.15	1.37
2016	.17	.20	.86	.39	1.61
2017	d.11	d.10	.02	.09	d.10
2018	.08	.20	.84	.13	1.25
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.2175	.2175	.2175	.23	.88
2014	.23	.23	.23	.245	.94
2015	.245	.245	.245	.2625	1.00
2016	.2625	.2625	.2625	.275	1.06
2017	.275	.275	.275	.275	

The merger of Great Plains Energy and Westar Energy has been approved by each company's stockholders. The agreement calls for Great Plains holders to receive .5981 of a share of the new company, to be named prior to closing, for each Great Plains share in a tax-free exchange. The combination requires the approval of the Missouri and Kansas commissions, and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The companies expect the deal to be completed in the first half of 2018.

We continue to advise stockholders to retain their shares. The companies' utilities are a good fit, with contiguous service areas and ample opportunities for mergerrelated cost reductions. The combined company's goals are 6%-8% annual earnings and dividend growth, with a targeted payout ratio of 60%-70%. The stock is unranked for Timeliness due to the pending transaction

Merger-related expenses will almost certainly result in a loss in 2017. Most notably, Great Plains incurred sizable costs when it unwound the financing moves it made in anticipation of its pre-

vious deal with Westar, which failed to receive regulatory approval due to the debt Great Plains took to finance the \$8.6 billion cash-and-stock proposal. Without these costs (and the shares Great Plains issued in 2016), profits would have amounted to \$1.61 a share in the first nine months of 2017. Our 2018 forecast, which is for Great Plains as a stand-alone company, includes an expectation of additional deal-related expenses in the first two quarters. Note, too, that we expect no dividend increase while the merger is pending. The company's utilities plan to file rate cases in early 2018. These will be unrelated to the pending merger. The regulatory process lasts 11 months in Missouri and eight months in Kansas, so any rate relief the utilities obtain won't have a significant effect on profits until 2019.

We would not make new commitments here. Like many utility stocks, Great Plains is priced expensively. In fact, the price has risen nearly 25% so far in 2017. The pending transaction is better for Great Plains holders than the previous one would have been, in our view.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA December 15, 2017

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '01, (\$2.01); '02, (5¢); '03, 29¢; '04, (7¢); '09, 12¢; gain (losses) on disc. ops... '03, (13¢); '04, 10¢; '05, (3¢); '08, 35¢. '14 & '16

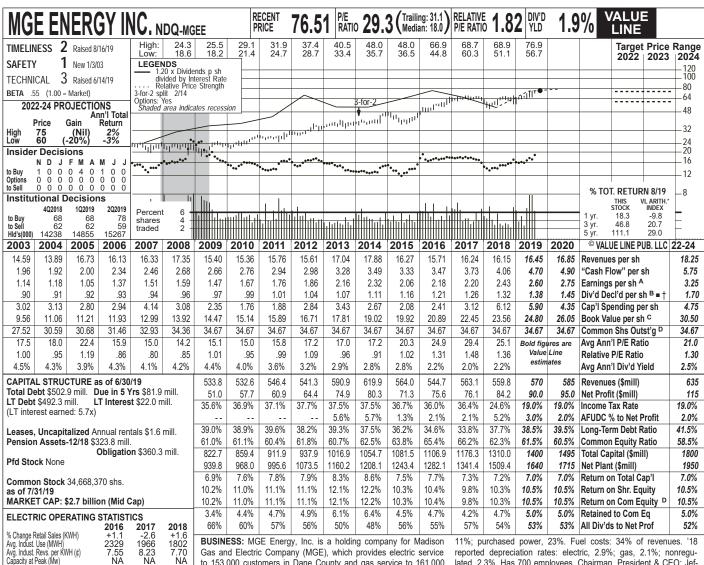
plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16: \$5.65/sh.

EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next egs. report due late Feb. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest.

(D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Fair value. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MO in '17: 9.5%; in KS in '15: 9.3%; earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 6.7%. Regulatory Climate: MO, Below Avg.; KS, Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 95 Price Growth Persistence 25 **Earnings Predictability** 75

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to 153,000 customers in Dane County and gas service to 161,000 customers in seven counties in Wisconsin. Electric revenue breakdown, '18: residential, 35%; commercial, 51%; industrial, 3%; other, 11%. Generating sources, '18: coal, 52%; gas, 14%; renewables,

lated, 2.3%. Has 700 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Jeffrey M. Keebler. Incorporated: Wisconsin. Address: 133 South Blair Street, P.O. Box 1231, Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1231. Telephone: 608-252-7000. Internet: www.mgeenergy.com.

645 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 732 750 ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '16-'18 Past of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 2.0% 7.5% 6.0% Revenues 4.0% 3.5% 4.0% 4.0% 4.5% 'Cash Flow' Earnings Dividends 3.0% Book Value 5.5% 6.0% 5.5%

719

NA

670 NA

NA

686

NA

Peak Load, Summer (Mw) Annual Load Factor (%) % Change Customers (avg.)

Cal- endar		TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2016	147.5	121.6	136.7	138.9	544.7
2017	156.8	126.5	139.5	140.3	563.1
2018	157.6	124.3	137.8	140.1	559.8
2019	167.6	122.1	140	140.3	570
2020	170	125	145	145	585
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.49	.47	.80	.42	2.18
2017	.56	.45	.77	.42	2.20
2018	.58	.53	.85	.47	2.43
2019	.69	.45	.92	.54	2.60
2020	.70	.55	.95	.55	2.75
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB=†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.2825	.2825	.295	.295	1.16
2016	.295	.295	.3075	.3075	1.21
2017	.3075	.3075	.3225	.3225	1.26
2018	.3225	.3225	.3375	.3375	1.32
2019	.3375	.3375	.3525		
	I				1

Energy's board of directors raised the dividend. The annual increase was \$0.06 a share (4.4%). The company doesn't have a specified dividend policy, but in recent years has been boosting the disbursement 4%-5% annually and has been maintaining a payout ratio in a range of 50%-60%. MGE Energy has now hiked the dividend for 44 consecutive vears.

We think earnings will improve solidly this year and next. Madison Gas and Electric Company, the regulated utility subsidiary, is benefiting from a rate order that took effect at the start of 2019. Electric rates were reduced \$9.2 million, but this reflects the pass-through to customers of the benefits of the lower federal tax rate. Gas rates were raised modestly at the start of the year and will be hiked again in 2020. MGE is also benefiting from the healthy economy of its service area. All told, we estimate that profits will advance 7% in 2019 and 6% in 2020. However, we have lowered our 2019 estimate by \$0.15 because second-quarter earnings were well below our estimate. We have also slashed our 2020 estimate by \$0.25 a share.

MGE is adding renewable-energy projects. In the first quarter, a 66megawatt, \$112 million wind farm began operating. The utility has 50 mw stakes in two solar projects (each a \$65 million investment) with commercial operation expected in late 2020. A third solar project (with an identical cost and capacity) is awaiting approval of the Wisconsin commission. Commercial operation is targeted for late 2021.

Finances are strong. The fixed-charge coverage is among the highest of any utility under our coverage. The common-equity ratio is high. Financing needs are modest. We have raised the company's Financial Strength rating from A to A+.

This stock is unusual among utility issues. Unlike most utility equities, the dividend yield of MGE Energy is below the median of all dividend-paying stocks under our coverage. The recent quotation is above the upper end of our 3- to 5-year Target Price Range. The stock is ranked 2 (Above Average) for Timeliness and 1 (Highest) for Safety, but income-oriented investors can do better.

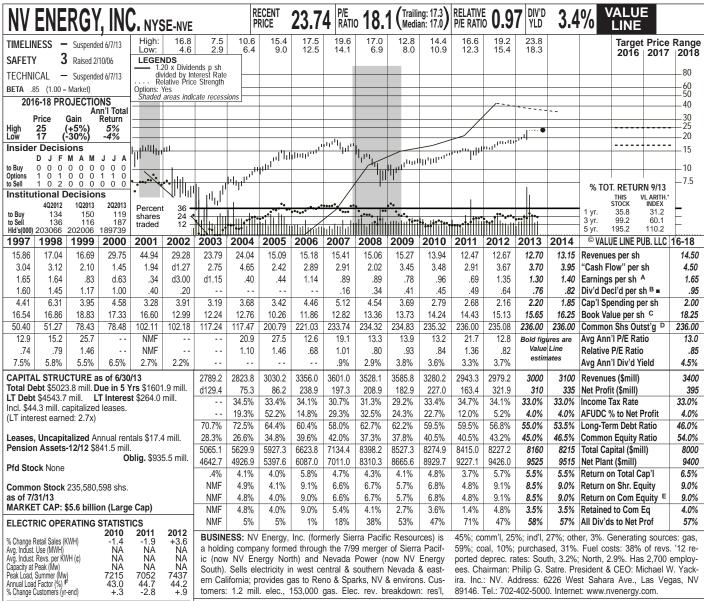
Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 13, 2019

(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring gain: '17, 62¢. Next earnings report due early November. (B) Dividends historically paid in mid-March, June, September, and December.

\$4.47/sh. (D) In millions, adjusted for split. (E)

■ Dividend reinvestment plan available. † Rate allowed on common equity in '19: 9.8%; Shareholder investment plan available. (C) Includes regulatory assets. In '18: \$154.9 mill., tory Climate: Above Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A+ 85 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 90



ic (now NV Energy North) and Nevada Power (now NV Energy South). Sells electricity in west central & southern Nevada & eastern California; provides gas to Reno & Sparks, NV & environs. Customers: 1.2 mill. elec., 153,000 gas. Elec. rev. breakdown: res'l,

ported deprec. rates: South, 3.2%; North, 2.9%. Has 2,700 employees. Chairman: Philip G. Satre. President & CEO: Michael W. Yackira. Inc.: NV. Address: 6226 West Sahara Ave., Las Vegas, NV 89146. Tel.: 702-402-5000. Internet: www.nvenergy.com

256 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 181 181 **ANNUAL RATES** Past Past Est'd '10-'12 5 Yrs. -3.0% to '16-'18 2.0% of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. Revenues Cash Flow' 4.0% 4.0% 8.5% Earnings 10.0% -.5% 4.5% 4.0% Book Value OHADTEDLY DEVENUES (\$ will)

7215

7052

7437

44.2

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2010 2011 2012 2013 2014	714.5 641.0 611.4 584.2 625	782.7 674.9 740.7 731.6 750	1026.5	655.0 609.6 600.6 634.2 650	3280.2 2943.3 2979.2 3000 3100
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31		PER SHARI Sep.30		Full Year
2010 2011 2012 2013 2014	d.01 .01 .05 .09	.16 .05 .29 .27 .30	.73	.06 d.11 .07 <i>.05</i>	.96 .69 1.35 1.30 1.40
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		IDENDS P. Sep.30		Full Year
2009 2010 2011 2012 2013	.10 .11 .12 .13	.10 .11 .12 .17	.10 .11 .12 .17	.11 .12 .13 .17	.41 .45 .49 .64

Shareholders of NV Energy have approved the takeover of the company by MidAmerican Energy. MidAmerican, a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway, has agreed to pay \$23.75 in cash for each share of NV Energy. The deal still requires the approval of the Public Utilities Commission of Nevada (PUCN) and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The companies are targeting the first quarter of 2014 for completion of the transaction. Due to the buyout agreement, the Timeliness rank of NV Energy stock remains suspended.

We continue to advise NV Energy stockholders to sell their shares on the open market. The offer is generous, at 18 times earnings. The recent price of the stock is just slightly below the takeover price, leaving very little upside potential for stockholders. Accordingly, by selling their stock now, NV Energy holders can avoid downside risk in case the deal falls through. So far, the agreement has not generated much controversy, but an unfavorable regulatory outcome cannot be ruled out.

NV Energy North has revised its rate

filing. This case was required by state regulatory law. The utility is now seeking an electric rate decrease of \$4.7 million (0.7%) and a gas tariff hike of \$6.0 million (6.7%). (The electric request is based on a reallocation of debt between the electric and gas businesses and a reduction in operating and maintenance costs.) NV Energy filed for returns on equity of 10.4% for electricity and 10.35% for gas, based on a common-equity ratio of 47%. An order is expected in December, with new rates taking effect at the start of 2014

NV Energy is asking the PUCN for approval to combine its two utilities into one. The company is building a transmission line to connect NV Energy North and NV Energy South, which would enable it to operate the utilities as one entity. A ruling is expected in March of 2014

We estimate that earnings will decline a bit this year. Weather patterns were favorable in 2012, and NV Energy is incurring costs related to the pending takeover. These reduced profits by \$0.04 a share in the second quarter. We figure that earnings will exceed the 2012 level in 2014. Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 1, 2013

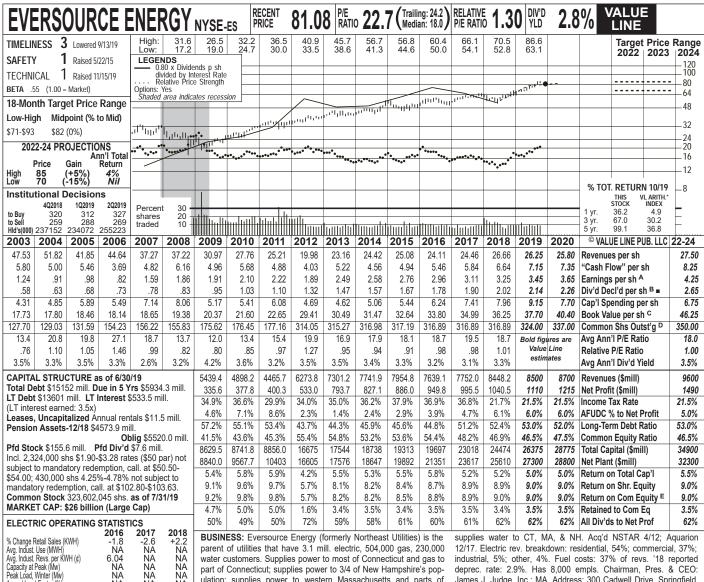
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '00, 8¢; '01, 31¢; '03, (5¢); '04, (3¢); non-rec. gain (loss): '04, (21¢); '06, 20¢. '11 EPS don't add due to rounding. Next earnings report

due late Feb. (B) Div'd reinstated 7/07. Div'ds historically paid mid-Mar., June, Sept., & Dec.

Div'd reinv, plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '12: ** Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '12: \$6.77/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. 10%, earned on avg. com. eq., '12: 9.2% Climate: Avg. (F) NV Energy South only.

cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. for NV Energy North in '08: 10.6%; NV Energy South in '12: 10%; earned on avg. com. eq., '12: 9.2%. Reg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 90 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 60



water customers. Supplies power to most of Connecticut and gas to part of Connecticut; supplies power to 3/4 of New Hampshire's population; supplies power to western Massachusetts and parts of eastern Massachusetts & gas to central & eastern Massachusetts; industrial, 5%; other, 4%. Fuel costs: 37% of revs. '18 reported deprec. rate: 2.9%. Has 8,000 empls. Chairman, Pres. & CEO: James J. Judge. Inc.: MA. Address: 300 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA 01104. Tel.: 413-785-5871. Internet: www.eversource.com.

436 427 319 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 -4.5% 2.0% 8.0% 2.0% 5.0% 7.0% Revenues 1.5% Cash Flow 5.5% 5.5% Earnings 8.0% 5.0% 5.5% 4.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA NA NA

NA NA

NA NA NA NA

Cal-			VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	2055	1767	2039	1776	7639.1
2017	2105	1762	1988	1895	7752.0
2018	2288	1853	2271	2034	8448.2
2019	2416		2176	2024	8500
2020	2450	1950	2200	2100	8700
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.77	.64	.83	.72	2.96
2017	.82	.72	.82	.75	3.11
2018	.85	.76	.91	.73	3.25
2019	.97	.74	.98	.76	3.45
2020	1.03	.80	.97	.85	3.65
Cal-	QUAR1	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B∎	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.4175	.4175	.4175	.4175	1.67
2016	.445	.445	.445	.445	1.78
2017	.475	.475	.475	.475	1.90
2018	.505	.505	.505	.505	2.02
2019	.535	.535	.535		

Eversource Energy is likely to post steady earnings growth in 2019 and 2020. Some of the company's utilities are benefiting from rate relief. Expense control is effective. Eversource's transmission spending is boosting its earning power, as well. Our 2019 share-net estimate remains \$3.45, the midpoint of Eversource's guidance of \$3.40-\$3.50. We are not changing our 2020 estimate of \$3.65 a share. Our estimates, if attained, will produce profit growth of 6% annually. This is within the company's target of 5%-7% a year. Eversource's goal for annual dividend growth is the same range.

Public Service of New Hampshire has a rate case pending. The utility filed for an increase of \$70 million, based on a return of 10.4% on a common-equity ratio of 54.85%. An interim hike of \$28.3 million was effective on July 1st. PSNH is asking for new tariffs to take effect on July 1, 2020.

Eversource's joint venture with Orsted plans to build offshore wind projects. These would provide 1,714 megawatts of capacity and would come on line from 2022, 2023, and 2024. Costs have

not been disclosed. These projects are expected to produce returns on investment exceeding those of the regulated utility operations. However, offshore wind entails significant construction risk.

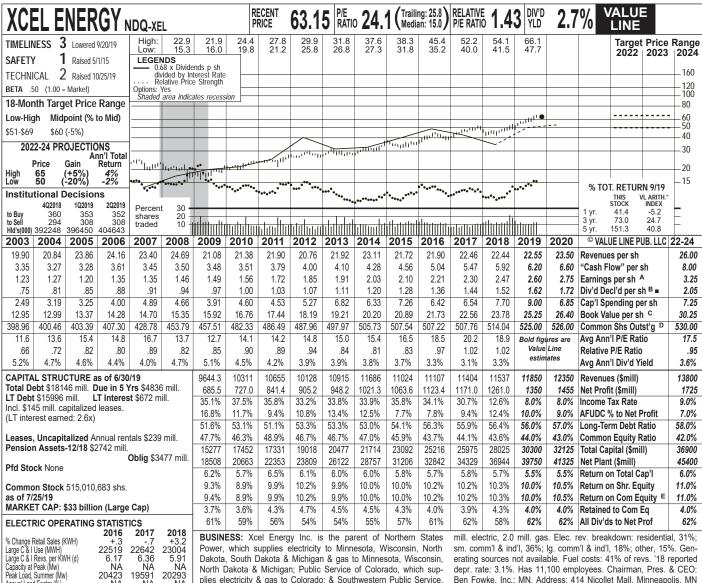
Finances are solid. The common-equity ratio took a hit earlier this year due to an aftertax charge of \$204 million to write off a transmission project that failed to win siting approval, but this was more than offset by the sale of \$1.3 billion of stock. A third of the nearly 18 million shares was issued in June, and the remainder will come in May of 2020 through a forward sale agreement. Eversource has also switched to issuances rather than openmarket purchases for its dividend reinvestment and other stock plans. The fixedcharge coverage is above the industry average, too. All told, the company merits a Financial Strength rating of A.

This high-quality equity has a high valuation. The dividend yield is a bit below average, by utility standards. And Eversource stock doesn't stand out for total return potential, either for the next 18 months or the 3- to 5-year period. Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 15, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses): '03, (32¢); '04, (7¢); '05, (\$1.36); '08, '10, 9¢; '19, (64¢). Next earnings report due late Feb. (B) Div'ds historically paid late com. eq. in MA: (elec.) '18, 10.0%; (gas) '16, Average; NH, Average; MA, Above Average.

Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '18: 9.3%; in CT: (elec.) '18, 9.25%; (gas) '18, plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '18: 9.3%; in NH: '10, 9.67%; earned on avg. com. \$28.59/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate allowed on eq., '18: 9.2%. Regulatory Climate: CT, Below

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 70 **Earnings Predictability** 95



Dakota, South Dakota & Michigan & gas to Minnesota, Wisconsin, North Dakota & Michigan; Public Service of Colorado, which supplies electricity & gas to Colorado; & Southwestern Public Service, which supplies electricity to Texas & New Mexico. Customers: 3.6

erating sources not available. Fuel costs: 41% of revs. '18 reported depr. rate: 3.1%. Has 11,100 employees. Chairman, Pres. & CEO: Ben Fowke, Inc.: MN, Address: 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Tel.: 612-330-5500. Internet: www.xcelenergy.com.

342 330 281 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 Revenues -1.0% .5% 2.5% 'Cash Flow' 4.5% 5.5% 6.5% 5.0% 6.5% 5.5% Earnings 6.0% 4.5% 6.0% 5.0% Dividends Book Value

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (vr-end)

20423

NA +.9

20293

NA +1.1

NA +.9

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Full Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	2772 2946 2951 3141 3250	2500 2645 2658 2577 2750	3040 3017 3048 3150 3250	2795 2796 2880 2982 3100	11107 11404 11537 11850 12350
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31		ER SHARI Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	.47 .47 .57 .61 .63	.39 .45 .52 .46 .52	.90 .97 .96 1.05 1.10	.45 .42 .42 .48 .50	2.21 2.30 2.47 2.60 2.75
Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		IDENDS PA		Full Year
2015 2016 2017 2018 2019	.30 .32 .34 .36 .38	.32 .34 .36 .38 .405	.32 .34 .36 .38 .405	.32 .34 .36 .38 .405	1.26 1.34 1.42 1.50

Xcel Energy's utility in Colorado has a tough rate case pending. Public Service of Colorado requested an electric increase of \$158.3 million, based on a return of 10.35% on a common-equity ratio of 56.46%. However, the staff of the Colorado commission is recommending a hike of just \$7.7 million, based on a return of 9% on a common-equity ratio of 55.57%, and intervenors' proposals are even lower. PSCo has a track record of reaching settlements, but this does not mean that this will occur in this case. An order is due in time for new tariffs to take effect at the start of 2020

Southwestern Public Service has electric applications pending in Texas and New Mexico. The utility wants to place wind projects in the rate base. In Texas, SPS is seeking \$136.5 million, based on a return of 10.35% on a commonequity ratio of 54.65%. New rates are expected to go into effect in the second quarter. In New Mexico, the utility filed for a net hike of \$26 million, based on a return of 10.35% on a common-equity ratio of 54.77%. New rates are expected to take effect in the second or third period.

Rate relief is the primary reason for the company's steady profit growth in recent years. Xcel's goal for annual profit growth is 5%-7%, and our 2019 and 2020 share-earnings estimates would produce increases within this range. Our 2019 estimate is at the midpoint of the company's targeted range of \$2.55-\$2.65, and management has stated its expectation of being at the midpoint to the upper end of this range.

The Minnesota commission rejected a proposed asset acquisition by Northern States Power. The utility agreed to pay \$650 million for a 760-megawatt gasfired plant (from which it is already buying power). The regulators opposed ownership as a utility asset, so Xcel intends to purchase the facility under the same terms, but as a nonregulated asset. Xcel expects this will provide the same return on investment as a utility plant.

This top-quality stock has a high valuation. The dividend yield is somewhat below the utility average. Total return potential isn't appealing, either for the month span or the 2022-2024 period. Paul E. Debbas, CFA October 25, 2019

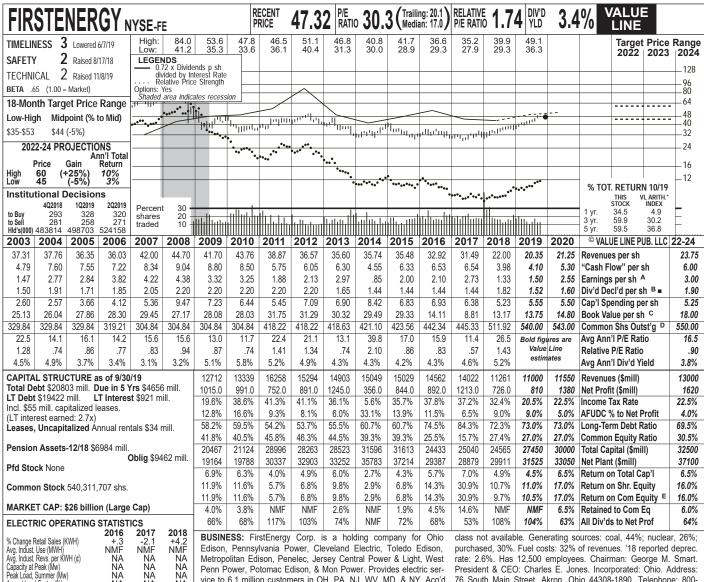
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gain (losses): '10, 5¢; '15, (16¢); '17, (5¢); gains (losses) on discontinued ops.: '03, 27¢; '04, (30¢); ′05, 3¢; ′06, 1¢; ′09, (1¢); ′10, 1¢. ′17

vestment plan available. (C) Incl. intangibles. In | latory Climate: Average.

EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. ■ Div'd reinearmed on avg. com. eq., '18: 10.4%. Regu-

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 60 **Earnings Predictability** 100

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Metropolitan Edison, Penelec, Jersey Central Power & Light, West Penn Power, Potomac Edison, & Mon Power. Provides electric service to 6.1 million customers in OH, PA, NJ, WV, MD, & NY. Acq'd Allegheny Energy 2/11. Electric revenue breakdown by customer

rate: 2.6%. Has 12,500 employees. Chairman: George M. Smart. President & CEO: Charles E. Jones. Incorporated: Ohio. Address: 76 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308-1890. Telephone: 800-736-3402. Internet: www.firstenergycorp.com

208 249 199 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) to '22-'24 -5.0% -1.0% -2.5% Revenues -3.5% -3.0% Cash Flow -3.5% -7.0% 1.0% 6.5% Earnings -2.5% -8.0% -5.0% -17.5% 3.5% 7.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA +.5

NA NA

NA +.5

NA

NA +.4

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	3869	3401	3917	3375	14562
2017	3557	3309	3714	3442	14022
2018	2862	2625	3064	2710	11261
2019	2883	2516	2963	2638	11000
2020	3000	2750	3100	2700	11550
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.77	.34	.89	.10	2.10
2017	.71	.59	.95	.49	2.73
2018	.01	.27	.66	.34	1.33
2019	.66	.63	.72	d.51	1.50
2020	.70	.65	.75	.45	2.55
Cal-	QUART	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2016	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2017	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2018	.36	.36	.36	.36	1.44
2019	.38	.38	.38		

In the next few years, FirstEnergy's earning power will benefit from various capital spending programs. The company's utilities in Ohio will spend \$516 million over a three-year period to modernize the electric grid. This is recoverable through a rider (surcharge) on customers' bills. Similarly, Jersey Central Power & Light will spend \$97 million through the end of 2020. This is recoverable through 2020. FirstEnergy's utilities in Pennsylvania are proposing to spend \$572 million from 2020 through 2024 to improve their electric infrastructure. This would be recovered through a rider. The company expects a ruling by yearend. Finally, First-Energy is spending \$1.2 billion a year through 2021 on electric transmission. Most of this is recoverable through forward-looking regulatory mechanisms, and JCP&L is asking the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to approve similar treatment in New Jersey beginning in 2020. This would mean that at least 85% of FirstEnergy's transmission spending would be recovered this way.

Investors should not be alarmed by the loss we estimate for the fourth

quarter of 2019. Each year in the December period, FirstEnergy records a noncash mark-to-market accounting item associated with its pension plan. Management estimates that this will amount to a charge of \$400 million-\$1 billion; our estimate incorporates the midpoint of this range. (The final amount will be determined by the discount rate and asset returns at yearend.) The company's 2019 guidance (on a GAAP basis) is \$0.76-\$1.90 a share as a result of this wide range. We include no such item in our 2020 estimate of \$2.55 a share, which is within First-Energy's targeted range of \$2.40-\$2.60. We think the board of directors will

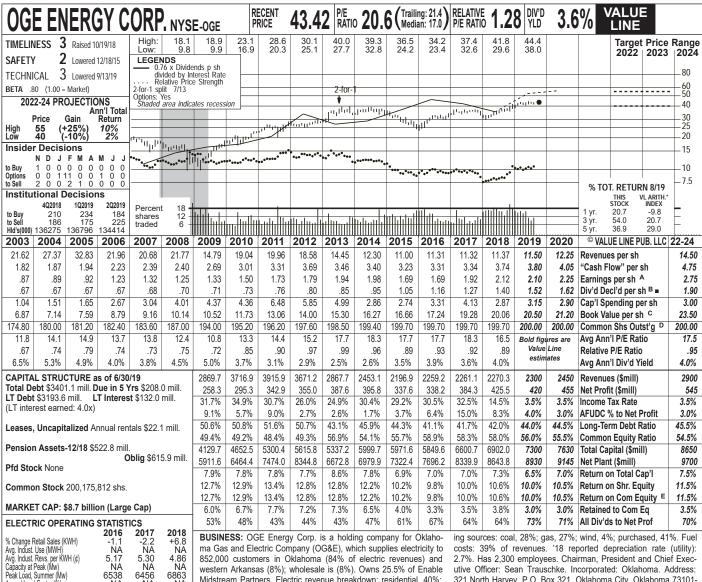
raise the dividend, effective with the first-quarter payment. We estimate a hike of \$0.02 a share (5.3%) in the quarterly payout, the same increase as a year ago. The dividend yield of this stock is not significantly above the utility average. Projected total returns over the 18month period are negative, and total return potential over the 3- to 5-year period, like those of most other utility issues, is unspectacular.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 15, 2019

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. losses: '12, 29¢; '13, \$2.07; '14, 17¢; '15, 63¢; '16, \$16.59; '17, \$6.61; gains (loss) from disc. ops.: '14, 20¢;

due to rounding or chg. in shs. Next egs. due late Feb. (B) Div'ds pd. early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. 5 div'ds in '04 & '18, 3 in '13. ■ Div'd avg. com. eq., '18: 12.7%. Regul. Climate: OH 18, 66¢; '19, (11¢). '17, '18 EPS don't sum reinv. avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '18: \$11.15/sh. Above Avg.; PA, NJ Avg.; MD, WV Below Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 90 Price Growth Persistence 20 **Earnings Predictability** 40



western Arkansas (8%); wholesale is (8%). Owns 25.5% of Enable Midstream Partners. Electric revenue breakdown: residential. 40%: commercial, 26%; industrial, 9%; oilfield, 7%; other, 18%. Generat-

utive Officer: Sean Trauschke. Incorporated: Oklahoma. Address: 321 North Harvey, P.O. Box 321, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73101-0321. Telephone: 405-553-3000. Internet: www.oge.com

336 315 292 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '22-'24 -8.5% Revenues -6.0% 4.0% 5.5% 6.5% 7.0% Cash Flow 4.0% 4.0% 1.0% Earnings 9.5% 6.0% 7.0% 3.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

6538

+1.1

6863

NA +.9

NA

+1.0

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	433.1 456.0 492.7 490.0 525	551.4 586.4	743.9 716.8 698.8	530.8 501.9 511.8 546.3 575	2259.2 2261.1 2270.3 2300 2450
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	E A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.13	.35	.92	.29	1.69
2017	.18	.52	.92	.30	1.92
2018	.27	.55	1.02	.27	2.12
2019	.24	.50	1.06	.30	2.10
2020	.25	.60	1.10	.30	2.25
Cal-	QUAR		IDENDS P.	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31		Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015 2016 2017 2018 2019	.25 .275 .3025 .3325 .365	.25 .275 .3025 .3325 .365	.25 .275 .3025 .3325 .365	.275 .3025 .3325 .365	1.03 1.13 1.24 1.36

utility subsidiary Energy's should soon receive an order in its general rate case. Oklahoma Gas and Electric reached a settlement calling for a \$76.4 million rate hike, based on a return of 9.5% on a common-equity ratio of 53%. If the Oklahoma Corporation Commission approves the agreement, this would enable the utility to place some major capital projects in the rate base. An administrative law judge has recommended approval of the settlement, and we assume in our estimates that this gets approved. New tariffs will be retroactive to July 1st.

We trimmed our 2019 earnings estimate by \$0.05 a share, to \$2.10. Junequarter profits were hurt by milder-thannormal weather patterns, which hurt the bottom line by \$0.06 a share. Our revised estimate remains within OGE Energy's targeted range of \$2.05-\$2.20 a share

Earnings are likely to advance solidly in 2020. OG&E will benefit from a full year's effect of rate relief. The utility is also experiencing strong customer growth, helped by its low rates and economic development efforts along with the healthy economy of the service area. Our earnings

estimate of \$2.25 a share would produce a 7% increase.

A dividend increase is likely at the board meeting later this month, effective with the October payment. OGE Energy's board of directors has been raising the dividend at a 10% level through this year, but this doesn't mean that stockholders can expect a similar boost in the disbursement with the upcoming declaration. We estimate a hike of \$0.03 a share (8.2%) in the quarterly disbursement. We think future increases will be lower than this, but still at or above the utility norm of 5%. Although OGE Energy has a payout ratio that is on the high side, even for a utility, this isn't a problem because the company is getting more than \$140 million a year in distributions from its stake in Enable Midstream Partners, a natural gas master limited partnership.

OGE Energy stock offers a dividend yield and 3- to 5-year total return potential that are each above average for a utility. We think this makes the equity suitable for income-oriented investors.

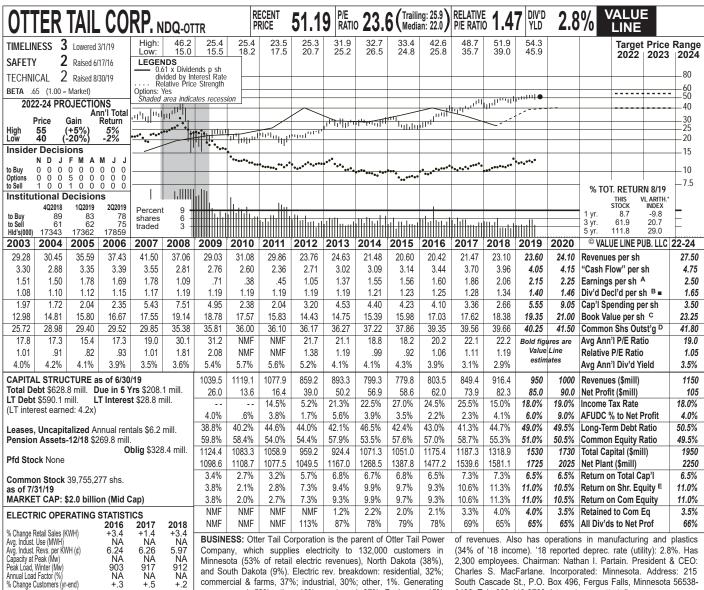
Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 13, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gain (losses): '03, (7¢); '04, (3¢); '15, (33¢); '17, \$1.18; gains on discont. ops.: '02, 6¢; '05, 25¢; '06, 20¢. '18 EPS don't sum due to rounding.

charges. In '18: \$1.43/sh. (D) in mill., adj. for

Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds split. (E) Rate base: Net original cost. Rate alhistorically paid in late Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. | Iowed on com. eq. in OK in '18: none specified; Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred in AR in '11: 9.95%; earned on avg. com. eq., '18: 10.8%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A 95 Price Growth Persistence 40 **Earnings Predictability** 80



and South Dakota (9%). Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 32%; commercial & farms, 37%; industrial, 30%; other, 1%. Generating sources: coal, 53%; other, 10%; purchased, 37%. Fuel costs: 15%

Charles S. MacFarlane. Incorporated: Minnesota. Address: 215 South Cascade St., P.O. Box 496, Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538-0496. Tel.: 866-410-8780. Internet: www.ottertail.com

409 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 512 608 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '16-'18 Past Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 of change (per sh) -3.5% 6.5% 14.0% 1.5% Revenues -5.5% 4.0% 4.0% 5.0% 'Cash Flow' 2.0% Earnings Dividends 1.0% Book Value 3.5% 4 5%

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

Cal-

+.3

+.5

endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	206.2	203.5	197.2	196.6	803.5
2017	214.1	212.1	216.5	206.7	849.4
2018	241.2	226.3	227.7	221.2	916.4
2019	246.0	229.2	240	234.8	950
2020	255	245	255	245	1000
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.38	.41	.37	.44	1.60
2017	.49	.42	.45	.50	1.86
2018	.66	.47	.58	.35	2.06
2019	.66	.39	.60	.50	2.15
2020	.68	.42	.63	.52	2.25
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.3075	.3075	.3075	.3075	1.23
2016	.3125	.3125	.3125	.3125	1.25
2017	.32	.32	.32	.32	1.28
2018	.335	.335	.335	.335	1.34
2019	.35	.35	.35		
					1

The South Dakota commission approved a settlement for Otter Tail. The rate order boosted the utility's tariffs by \$2.6 million (7.7%), based on a return on equity of 8.75%. This also includes a pĥase-in plan to allow Otter Tail to recover the costs of two major projects (see below) until these can be included in the rate base. The company received 69% of the \$3.7 million it requested; nevertheless, the low allowed ROE is disappointing. New tariffs took effect on August 1st. Earnings are likely to advance in

2019, despite a year-to-year decline in the first six months. The rate hike in South Dakota will help in the last five months. Also, some expenses that reduced earnings by \$0.15 a share in the second half of 2018, such as a scheduled outage at the Big Stone coal-fired plant and contributions to create a charitable foundation for the company, will not recur. Our estimate of \$2.15 a share is within Otter Tail's targeted range of \$2.10-\$2.25.

We expect further profit improvement in 2020. Otter Tail will have a full year's benefit of the rate increase in South Dakota. In addition, some of its capital invest-

ments are recovered through riders (surcharges) on customers' bills.

Two major projects are under con**struction.** Otter Tail is building a 150-megawatt wind farm at a cost of \$270 million and a 245-mw gas-fired plant at a cost of \$158 million. The projects are scheduled for completion in 2020 and 2021, respectively. The company will finance construction with a combination of debt and common equity and should maintain a solid capital structure.

The nonutility businesses' prospects are mixed. The Manufacturing division is having a good year, but the Plastics division is being affected by weaker demand, higher raw material costs, and pricing pressures. So far, the nonregulated operations have been able to pass the costs of tariffs through to customers.

Unlike most utility stocks, Otter Tail's price has risen just slightly this year. There isn't an obvious reason for the underperformance. Still, the valuation of this equity is high. The dividend yield is slightly below average for a utility, and 3- to 5year total return potential is negligible. Paul E. Debbas, ĈFA September 13, 2019

(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrec. gains (loss): '10, (44¢); '11, 26¢; '13, 2¢; gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '04, 8¢; '05, 33¢; '06, 1¢; '11, (\$1.11); '12, (\$1.22); '13, 2¢; '14, 2¢; '15, 2¢;

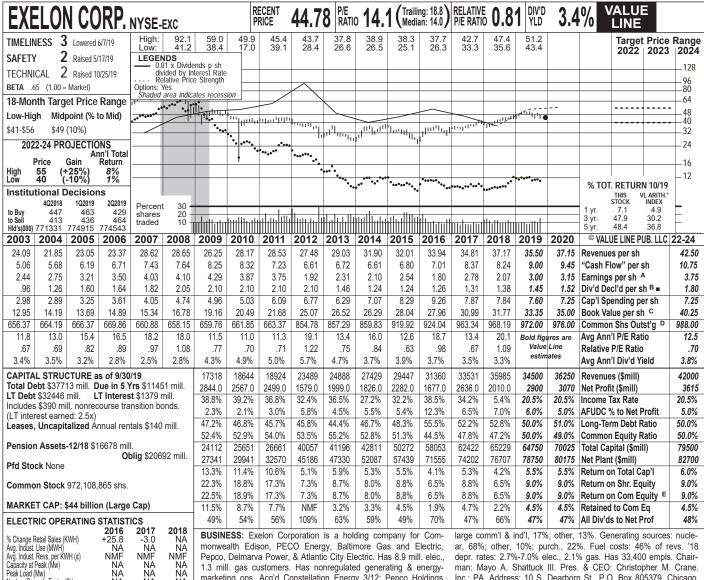
(C) Incl. intang. In '18: \$4.67/sh. (D) In mill.

'16, 1¢; '17, 1¢. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail.

(E) Rate all'd on com. eq. in MN in '17: 9.41%; in ND in '18: 9.77%; in SD in '19: 8.75%; earned on avg. com. eq., '18: 11.5%. Regulat. earned on avg. com. eq., '18: 11.5%. Regulat. Clim.: MN, ND, Average; SD, Above Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 90 Price Growth Persistence 65 **Earnings Predictability** 65

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Pepco, Delmarva Power, & Atlantic City Electric. Has 8.9 mill. elec., 1.3 mill. gas customers. Has nonregulated generating & energymarketing ops. Acq'd Constellation Energy 3/12; Pepco Holdings 3/16. Elec. rev. breakdown: res'l, 54%; small comm'l & ind'l, 16%;

depr. rates: 2.7%-7.0% elec., 2.1% gas. Has 33,400 empls. Chairman: Mayo A. Shattuck III. Pres. & CEO: Christopher M. Crane. Inc.: PA. Address: 10 S. Dearborn St., P.O. Box 805379, Chicago, IL 60680-5379. Tel.: 312-394-7398. Internet: www.exeloncorp.com.

238 282 236 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 4.5% 3.0% -3.5% -7.0% 4.5% 3.0% 1.0% -5.5% Revenues 3.0% 'Cash Flow' 5.5% 9.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value

Nuclear Capacity Factor (%) % Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

+33.7

NA NA

NA +.9

NA

NA NA

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (\$ mill.)	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	7573	6910	9002	7875	31360
2017	8757	7623	8769	8382	33531
2018	9693	8076	9403	8813	35985
2019	9477	7689	8929	8405	34500
2020	9950	8100	9400	8800	36250
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.26	.45	.76	.32	1.80
2017	.83	.44	.95	.56	2.78
2018	.60	.56	.76	.16	2.07
2019	.93	.50	.79	.78	3.00
2020	.95	.65	.90	.65	3.15
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.31	.31	.31	.31	1.24
2016	.31	.318	.318	.318	1.26
2017	.328	.328	.328	.328	1.31
2018	.345	.345	.345	.345	1.38
2019	.3625	.3625	.3625		

Exelon is experiencing some diffi**culties.** Conditions in the power markets have been unfavorable for several years, and there are few signs of improvement. Exelon has closed nuclear units in New Jersey and Pennsylvania for financial reasons. Illinois enacted credits for some of the company's nuclear facilities, but its plants that are not eligible for these subsidies are struggling. Exelon is seeking legislation in Illinois that would address this, but the situation is complicated by a federal grand jury investigation into the company's lobbying practices and its relationship with a state senator. (The former head of Exelon's utility operations retired.) The stock price has dipped slightly from the start of 2019 in what has been a standout year for most electric utility equities.

The utility operations are faring well. When Exelon acquired Pepco Holdings in 2016, Pepco's utilities were not earning adequate returns on equity. Through a series of rate cases, the utilities have improved their collective ROE. In Maryland. Pepco received a \$10.3 million increase, based on a 9.6% ROE, and the utility filed a multiyear case in the state, seeking \$160

million over three years, based on a 10.3% ROE. An order is expected in the fourth quarter of 2020. Next month, the Maryland commission is expected to issue an order on Baltimore Gas and Electric's settlement calling for electric and gas hikes totaling \$79 million. Overall, higher income from the utility operations should outweigh ongoing weakness from the nonutility activities, leading to higher earnings in 2019 and 2020.

We expect a dividend increase in the first quarter of 2020. Exelon has stated its intention to provide 5% yearly dividend growth through 2020. We estimate the board will boost the annual disbursement \$0.07 a share (4.8%). Exelon's payout ratio is low for a utility, reflecting the company's significant presence in the merchant

power sector.

We advise investors to look elsewhere. Even after the stock's underperformance in 2019, the dividend yield is not significantly above the utility mean. Total return potential over the 18-month or 3- to 5-year period is unimpressive. The grand jury investigation is a cause for concern, too. Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 15, 2019

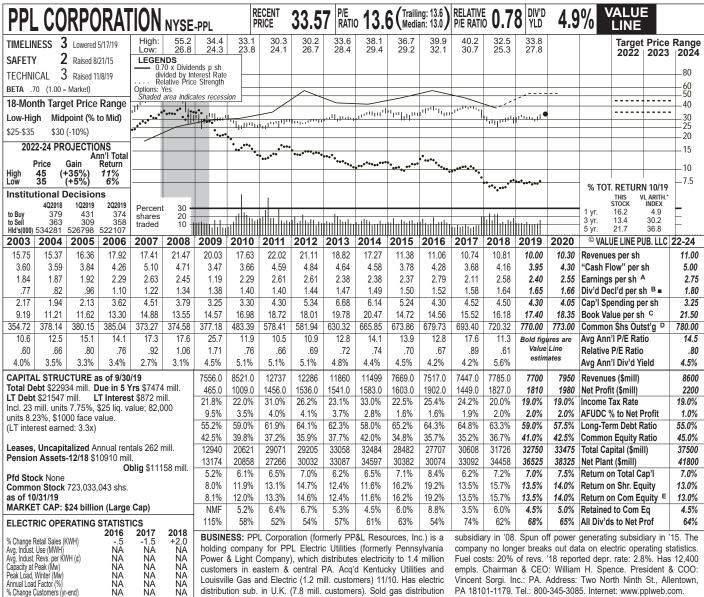
(A) Dil. egs. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '03, (\$1.06); '05, (\$1.85); '06, (\$1.15); '09, (20¢); '12, (50¢); '13, (31¢); '14, 23¢; '16, (58¢); '17, \$1.19. '16 & '18 EPS don't sum due to round-

ing. Next egs. report due early Feb. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & '16: 9.75% elec., 9.65% gas; in NJ in '16: Dec. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. defd 9.75%; earned on avg. com. eq., '18: 6.6%. chgs. In '18: \$15.40/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate Reg. Climate: PA, NJ Avg.; IL, MD, Below Avg. © 2019 Value Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence

25 **Earnings Predictability** 60

B++ 95



Power & Light Company), which distributes electricity to 1.4 million customers in eastern & central PA. Acq'd Kentucky Utilities and Louisville Gas and Electric (1.2 mill. customers) 11/10. Has electric distribution sub. in U.K. (7.8 mill. customers). Sold gas distribution

Fuel costs: 20% of revs. '18 reported depr. rate: 2.8%. Has 12,400 empls. Chairman & CEO: William H. Spence. President & COO: Vincent Sorgi, Inc.: PA. Address: Two North Ninth St., Allentown, PA 18101-1179. Tel.: 800-345-3085. Internet: www.pplweb.com

292 339 336 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs to '22-'24 Revenues -5.5% -12.0% Nil Cash Flow -1.5% -3.0% 3.5% 1.5% Earnings 2.0% -4.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA NA NA

NA NA NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2016	2011	1785	1872	1832	7517
2017	1951	1725		1926	7447
2018	2126	1848		1939	7785
2019	2079	1803		1885	7700
2020	2200	1850		1900	7950
Cal-	EA		ER SHARI	E A	Full
endar	Mar.31		Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	.71 .59 .65 .64	.71 .43 .73 .60	.69 .51 .62 .65	.68 .58 .57 . 51 . 60	2.79 2.11 2.58 2.40 2.55
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P.		Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30		Year
2015 2016 2017 2018 2019	.3725 .3775 .38 .395 .41	.3725 .38 .395 .41 .4125	.3725 .38 .395 .41 .4125	.3775 .38 .395 .41 .4125	1.50 1.52 1.57 1.63

PPL Corporation's stock has the highest dividend yield of any electric utility equity under our coverage. The yield is nearly two percentage points above the utility average. The stock trades at a discount to most electric issues because of the regulatory uncertainty arising from PPL's ownership of electric distribution companies in the United Kingdom. In April of 2023, a new regulatory scheme will replace the current one under which PPL's U.K. utilities operate. Investors are worried that the replacement will be unfavorable for the company. Selling or spinning off these operations would produce significant tax leakage. At least the prospect of an unfavorable change in political leadership appears to have diminished, and the stock price is up 14% since our August report. In addition, all of PPL's exposure to the British pound in 2019 and 70% of its exposure in 2020 is hedged at rates that are more favorable than current exchange rates.

We continue to estimate an earnings decline in 2019. In 2018, foreign currency hedges boosted share profits by \$0.21, but this benefit amounted to just \$0.03 in the

first nine months of 2019. (We include these items in our earnings presentation because they are an ongoing part of PPL's results.) Average shares outstanding is much higher this year. Our 2019 share-net estimate is at the midpoint of PPL's targeted range of \$2.35-\$2.45.

We estimate a 6% earnings increase in

2020. PPL will benefit from a full year's effect of rate relief. The U.K. operations got a price hike in April, and the company's utilities in Kentucky were granted tariff increases at the start of May. PPL has already provided a 2021 profit target of \$2.50-\$2.80 a share, and we think the company will attain this goal.

This stock is of interest for incomeoriented investors. However, our model for the 18-month period indicates negative total returns for this time frame. For the 3- to 5-year period, total return potential is superior to that of most utility issues.

Is a merger in PPL's future? The financial press has reported rumors of a combination between PPL and AVANGRID. Even if the rumor is accurate, there is no assurance that a deal will be reached. Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 15, 2019

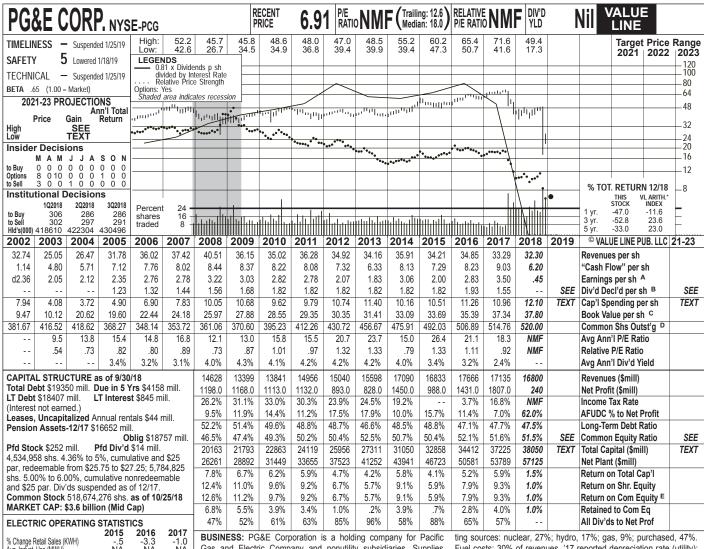
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '07, (12¢); '10, (8¢); '11, 8¢; '13, (62¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '07, 19¢; '08, 3¢; '09, (10¢); '10, (4¢); '12, (1¢); '14, 23¢; '15, (\$1.36).

plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '18: \$7.71/sh.

'18 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Feb. (B) Div'ds paid in early Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. • Div'd reinvest.

(D) In mill., adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Fair value. Rate all'd on com. eq. in PA in '16: none spec.; in KY in '19: 9.725%; earned on avg. com. eq., '18: 16.1%. Regulatory Climate: Avg. © 2019 Value Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 15 **Earnings Predictability** 70



% Change Retail Sales (KWH) Avg. Indust. Use (MWH) Avg. Indust. Revs. per KWH (¢) Capacity at Peak (Mw) Peak Load, Summer (Mw) -3.3 NA -1.0 NA ΝĂ 10.55 NMF NMF NMF NMF NMF NMF % Change Customers (yr-end)

Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 189 242 310 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '15-'17 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '21-'23 -.5% 1.0% 1.5% -.5% 4.0% Revenues -.5% 'Cash Flow' .5% SEE Earnings Dividends Book Value

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2015	3899	4217	4550	4167	16833
2016	3974	4169	4810	4713	17666
2017	4268	4250	4517	4100	17135
2018	4056	4234	4381	4129	16800
2019		SEE	TEXT		
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.27	.83	.63	.27	2.00
2016	.22	.46	.77	1.36	2.83
2017	1.13	.79	1.07	.51	3.50
2018	.86	d1.91	1.09	.41	.45
2019	;	SEE T	EXT		
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DI	VIDENDS F	PAID B	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.455	.455	.455	.455	1.82
2016	.455	.455	.49	.49	1.89
2017	.49	.49	.53	.53	2.04
2018					
2019					

Gas and Electric Company and nonutility subsidiaries. Supplies electricity and gas to most of northern and central California (population 16 million). Has 5.4 million electric and 4.5 million gas customers. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 41%; commercial, 39%; industrial, 12%; agricultural, 8%; other, less than 1%. Genera-

PG&E Corporation and its utility subsidiary, Pacific Gas and Electric, plan to file for protection under Chapter 11 of the U.S. Bankruptcy Code. This is expected to occur on or about January 29th, following a 15-day notice period mandated by California law. This stems from as-yet undetermined (but probably above \$30 billion) liabilities associated with wildfires that occurred in 2017 and 2018 in the utility's service area in northern California. This is far greater than the sum of PG&E's insurance coverage and cash on hand. A state agency has blamed the utility for some of the 2017 wildfires; reports on other fires are pending. What makes this situation especially troublesome is California's inverse condemnation law. As the company stated in an 8-K filing with the SEC, "If the Utility's facilities . . . are determined to be the substantial cause of one or more fires, and the doctrine of inverse condemnation applies, the Utility could be liable for property damage, business interruption, interest and attorneys' fees without having been found negligent." The company's chief executive officer, Geisha Williams, stepped down,

Fuel costs: 30% of revenues. '17 reported depreciation rate (utility): 3.8%. Has 23,000 employees. Chairman: Richard C. Kelly. Interim President & CEO: John Simon. Incorporated: California. Address: 77 Beale Street, P.O. Box 770000, San Francisco, California 94177. Telephone: 415-973-1000. Internet: www.pgecorp.com.

and the board appointed an interim CEO. The price of PG&E's stock has fallen substantially. Following the latest wildfires, in November, investors became even more concerned about the prospective size of the liabilities. The price plummeted 47% in 2018, and is down more than 70% so far

The utility filed a general rate case. PG&E requested a rate increase of more than \$1 billion for 2020. Among other things, this reflects the soaring cost of wildfire insurance and measures PG&E is taking to address the wildfire problems. New tariffs will take effect at the start of 2020 (retroactively if an order has not been issued by then).

We advise investors to avoid this stock. Whether there will be anything left for common stockholders once the reorganization is completed is questionable. equity's Timeliness rank is suspended due to the Chapter 11 filing.

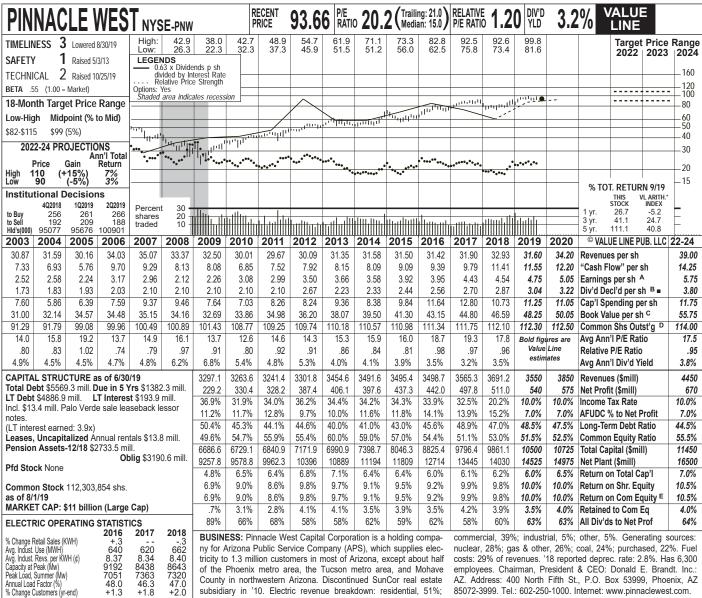
This is our final report on PG&E stock. Due to the prospective bankruptcy filing, making estimates and projections beyond 2018 is virtually impossible. Paul E. Debbas, CFA January 25, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses): $^{\prime}$ 04, $^{\prime}$ 6.95; $^{\prime}$ 09, $^{\prime}$ 18¢; $^{\prime}$ 11, $^{\prime}$ 68¢); $^{\prime}$ 12, $^{\prime}$ 15¢); $^{\prime}$ 15, $^{\prime}$ 21¢); $^{\prime}$ 16, $^{\prime}$ 5¢); $^{\prime}$ 17, $^{\prime}$ 717, $^{\prime}$ 99¢); gain from discontinued operations: $^{\prime}$ 08, 41¢. $^{\prime}$ 16 EPS

don't sum due to change in shares outstanding. Next earnings report due mid-Feb. (B) Dividends suspended 12/17. (C) Incl. in- 9.6%. Regulatory Climate: Average. tangibles. In '17: \$7.37/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 80 Price Growth Persistence 25 **Earnings Predictability** 35

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County in northwestern Arizona. Discontinued SunCor real estate subsidiary in '10. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 51%;

AZ. Address: 400 North Fifth St., P.O. Box 53999, Phoenix, AZ 85072-3999. Tel.: 602-250-1000. Internet: www.pinnaclewest.com.

416 425 318 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 Revenues -.5% 1.0% 3.5% 5.5% 5.0% 3.0% 4.5% Cash Flow 1.0% 4.5% 5.5% 5.0% Earnings 6.0% 3.5% Dividends Book Value

+1.3

+1.8

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2016	677.2	915.4	1166.9	739.2	3498.7
2017	677.7	944.6	1183.3	759.7	3565.3
2018	692.7	974.1	1268.0	756.4	3691.2
2019	740.5	869.5	1200	740	3550
2020	700	1050	1300	800	3850
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.04	1.08	2.35	.47	3.95
2017	.21	1.49	2.46	.27	4.43
2018	.03	1.48	2.80	.23	4.54
2019	.16	1.28	3.05	.26	4.75
2020	.05	1.55	3.15	.30	5.05
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.595	.595	.595	.625	2.41
2016	.625	.625	.625	.655	2.53
2017	.655	.655	.655	.695	2.66
2018	.695	.695	.695	.7375	2.82
2019	.7375	.7375			

Pinnacle West's utility subsidiary is about to file a general rate case. Arizona Public Service wasn't planning to file an application until June 1, 2020, but the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) directed the utility to do so by October 31, 2019. We do not know how much APS will request, but significant matters concerning rate design are not expected to be part of the upcoming petition. When an order will be issued is unknown, but this case won't have much (if any) effect on the company's earnings until 2021.

The utility is still awaiting an order on another regulatory matter. APS requested a \$67.5 million "step" increase to recover the cost of an environmental upgrade to a coal-fired plant. The ACC's staff and an administrative law judge recommended a \$58.5 million increase, which the company found acceptable. However, the ACC still has not issued an order (one was initially expected several months ago), and there is no telling when it will do so. In fact, it is not out of the question that this matter will be combined with the upcoming rate case.

We reduced our 2019 share-earnings

estimate by \$0.10. It appears as if APS will not get any rate relief this year for the aforementioned environmental upgrade. This will hurt the bottom line by \$0.07 a share. The utility's service area also experienced milder-than-normal weather conditions in the second quarter. (On the other hand, August was hotter than usual.) Our revised share-net estimate is at the bottom end of Pinnacle West's targeted range of \$4.75-\$4.95. Note that management is guiding Wall Street to the lower end of this range.

As this report went to press, we were expecting an announcement of a dividend increase. We estimate that the board will boost the annual disbursement by \$0.18 a share (6.1%). Pinnacle West is targeting 6% yearly dividend growth.

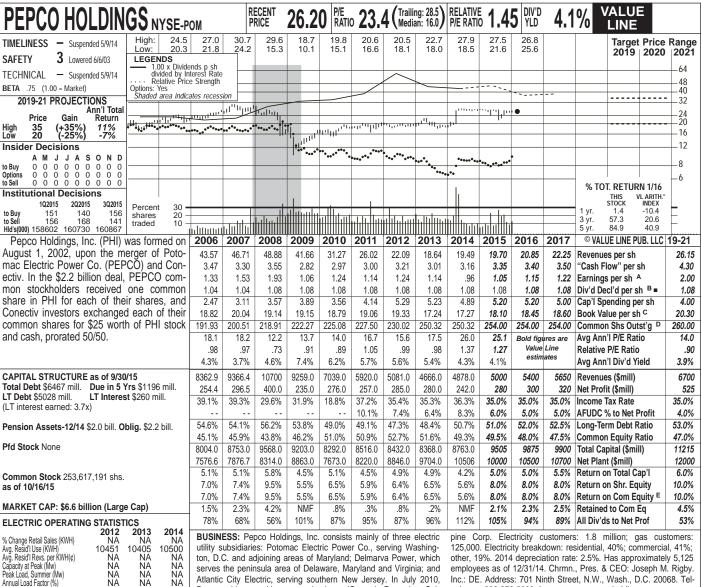
This high-quality stock has a dividend yield that is average, by utility standards. The equity is expected to produce total returns that are respectable over 18 months, but just modest over the 3- to 5-year period. Like most utility issues, the recent quotation is within our 2022-2024 Target Price Range.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA October 25, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (loss): '09, (\$1.45), '17, 8¢; gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '05, (36¢); '06, 10¢; '08, 28¢; '09, (13¢); '10, 18¢; '11, 10¢; '12, (5¢). '16 EPS don't sum due

to rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. There were 5 declarations 17: 10.0%; earned on avg. com. eq., 17: in '12. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd | 10.0%. Regulatory Climate: Average

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 70 **Earnings Predictability** 95



serves the peninsula area of Delaware, Maryland and Virginia; and Atlantic City Electric, serving southern New Jersey. In July 2010, Pepco sold competitive energy business (Conectiv Energy) to Cal-

employees as of 12/31/14. Chrmn., Pres. & CEO: Joseph M. Rigby. Inc.: DE. Address: 701 Ninth Street, N.W., Wash., D.C. 20068. Telephone.: 202-872-2000. Internet: www.pepcoholdings.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (% 253 246 250 ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '12-'14 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '19-'21 of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" -7.0% -15.0% -0.5% 2.5% 5.0% -1.0% Earnings Dividends 8.0% Nil -6.0% 3.0% **Book Value** -1.5% NMF

+.3

% Change Customers (yr-end)

NA

+.6

+1.7

Cal- endar	QUAI Mar.31	RTERLY RI Jun.30	EVENUES Sep.30		Full Year
2013	1178	1053	1344	1091	4666.0
2014	1330	1117	1313	1118	4878.0
2015	1371	1140	1362	1127	5000
2016	1350	1200	1550	1300	5400
2017	1410	1270	1610	1360	5650
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	AF	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.24	.22	.44	.24	1.14
2014	.30	.21	.31	.14	.96
2015	.21	.21	.36	.27	1.05
2016	.23	.23	.39	.30	1.15
2017	.25	.25	.41	.31	1.22
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DI	VIDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2013	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2014	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2015	.27	.27	.27	.27	1.08
2016					

March 4th may be make or break for **Pepco Holdings' acquisition by Exelon Corp.** Indeed, Christopher Crane, the CEO of Exelon, said during a recent conference call with equity analysts that his company will walk away from its planned merger with Pepco if the District of Columbia Public Service Commission (DCPSC) doesn't issue a ruling on the deal by that date. The DCPSC had previously suggested that it would make a decision by March 4th only to backtrack later, saying that it was under no obligation to meet the deadline. For his part, Mr. Crane has said that, absent a March 4th ruling, Exelon will begin buying back the nearly 58 million shares that it issued to help fund the \$6.8 billion deal. This which would effectively end the 20-month courtship. That said, it is possible that CEO Crane was posturing a bit, given what's been a rather - and likely exhausting – merger lengthy review.

We still believe that a deal could get done. Underpinning our confidence is a belief that the long list of proposed merger concessions is sufficient enough to allay concerns that the marriage is not in the

public interest. To that point, the two utilities have already said that they'll provide affordable rates for low-income households and invest further in clean, renewable en-Chicago-based Exelon has also agreed to relocate a portion of the postmerger utility's headquarters to the DC

Our Timeliness rank for Pepco shares remains suspended due to the pending merger. At the recent quotation, the stock is trading approximately 4% below Exelon's \$27.25-a-share, all-cash takeover offer. That said, we still recommend that investors take profits here, given the odds however slim - that the deal is blocked. Were that to happen, a reversion to Pepco's premerger announcement trading levels (of \$19 and change per share) is possible in our view, partly reflecting the unwinding of large arbitrage-related positions. It is also worth noting that, with its lackluster earnings record, Pepco hasn't increased its dividend in more than seven years. Accordingly, income-seeking investors should look elsewhere for utility industry exposure. Nils C. Van Liew February 19, 2016

(A) Based on dil. shs. Excl. nonrecur. items: '05, 47¢; '06, d1¢; '08, 46¢; '10, 62¢ '13, 69¢. Next egs. rpt. due early March. **(B)** Div'ds paid in early March, June, Sep., and Dec. ■ Div'd | Delmarva); DC: 9.6% ('10-Pep.); DEL: 10.0%

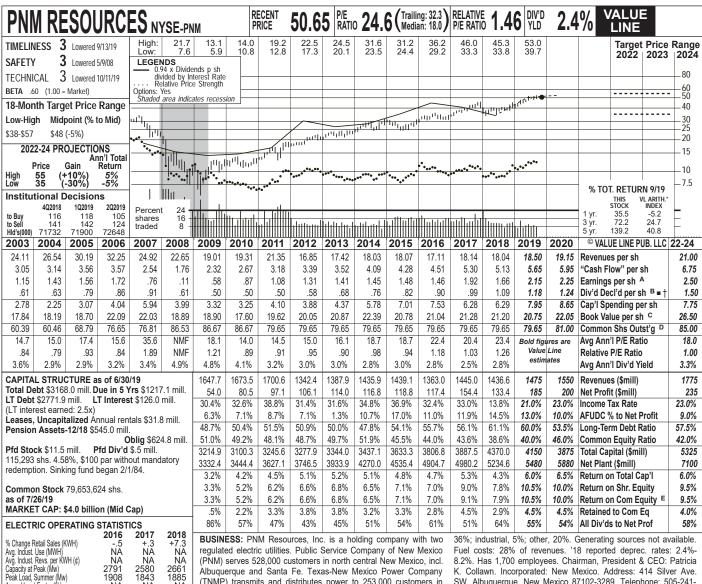
bill. or \$17.80/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate allowed avg. com. eq., 5.6%. Reg. Clim.: Avg. (F) Qtrly in MD: 9.62% ('14-Pepco), 10.0% ('09- egs. may not add due to chng. in shs.

reinvest. plan. (C) Incl. def'd chgs: '14, \$4.5 ('06-Del.); NJ: 9.75% ('14-ACE); Earned on '14 egs. may not add due to chng. in shs

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

B+

95 20



(PNM) serves 528,000 customers in north central New Mexico, incl. Albuquerque and Santa Fe. Texas-New Mexico Power Company (TNMP) transmits and distributes power to 253,000 customers in Texas. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 39%; commercial,

8.2%. Has 1,700 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Patricia K. Collawn. Incorporated: New Mexico. Address: 414 Silver Ave. SW, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87102-3289. Telephone: 505-241-2700. Internet: www.pnmresources.com.

202 243 218 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '22-'24 Revenues -4.0% -1.0% 3.0% 'Cash Flow' 6.5% 7.0% 8.0% 6.0% 5.0% 7.0% Earnings 11.0% 1.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

1908

NA +.9

2580 1843

NA

+.8

2661

1885

NA

+1.1

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2016	311.0	315.4	400.4	336.2	1363.0
2017	330.2	362.3	419.9	332.6	1445.0
2018	317.9	352.3	422.7	343.7	1436.6
2019	349.6	330.2	440	355.2	1475
2020	355	380	455	360	1550
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.13	.34	.68	.31	1.46
2017	.29	.47	.92	.25	1.92
2018	.19	.48	1.09	d.10	1.66
2019	.23	.35	1.23	.34	2.15
2020	.14	.53	1.28	.30	2.25
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ID B∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.20	.20	.20	.20	.80
2016	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88
2017	.242	.242	.243	.243	.97
2018	.265	.265	.265	.265	1.06
2019	29	29	29		

PNM Resources' utility in New Mexico has filed a proposal to abandon a coalfired plant and recover the costs through the issuance of securitized bonds. Public Service of New Mexico would abandon the plant in mid-2022, when a coal-supply contract expires. Under a new state law, the utility would issue \$361 million in securitized bonds. To replace the plant's output, PNM would spend \$298 million to add 280 megawatts of gas-fired capacity and 70 mw of battery storage. A third party would provide 350 mw of solar capacity and 60 mw of battery storage. However, the commission — over the objections of the legislature and governor—bifurcated the proceedings so that these matters are evaluated separately. This means the state law wouldn't necessarily apply to the abandonment of the plant. PNM sought clarification from the state supreme court, but the court declined to rule on this matter. (The controversy is the latest example of the state's subpar regulatory climate.) A ruling on abandonment and securitization is expected by April of 2020, and a ruling on replacement power is expected by October of 2020.

Earnings will almost certainly be much higher in 2019. Unrealized losses on investment securities hurt the bottom line by \$0.17 a share in the fourth quarter of 2018, making the comparison easy. On the other hand, these gains helped share net by \$0.12 in the first six months of 2019. The company is also benefiting from rate relief at PNM and its utility in Texas, TNMP. Our 2019 earnings estimate of \$2.15 a share is above the company's guidance of \$2.05-\$2.11 because the \$0.12 gain is excluded from this range.

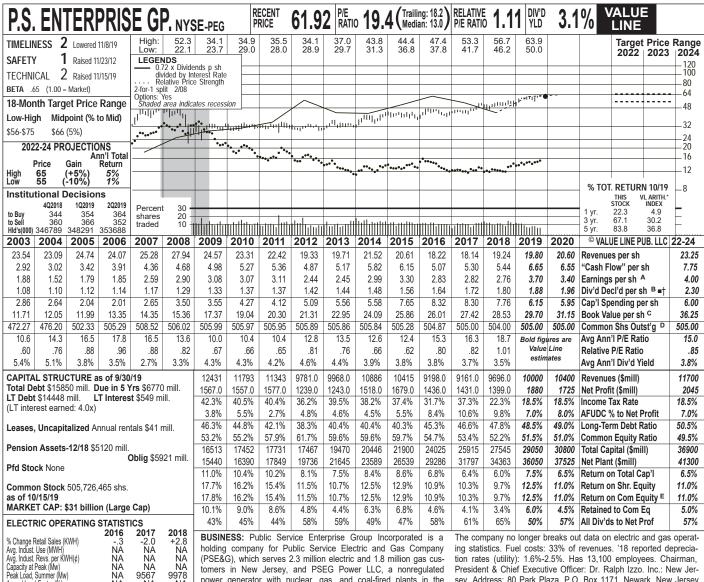
We expect further growth in 2020. Second-quarter earnings in 2019 were hurt by unusually mild weather in May. We assume normal weather conditions in our 2020 estimate.

This stock is expensively priced. The yield isn't significantly above the median of all dividend-paying stocks under our coverage, even though we reflect an estimated \$0.06-a-share (5.2%) hike in the annual payout at the board meeting in December. Potential total returns are not appealing, either for the 18-month span or the 3- to 5-year period. Paul E. Debbas, CFA October 25, 2019

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '08, (\$3.77), '10, (\$1.36), '11, 88¢; '13, (16¢), '15, (\$1.28), '17, (92¢), '18, (59¢); 2Q '19, (\$1.30). Excl. gains from disc. ops.: '08, 42¢; '09, 78¢.

'17 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next egs. report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds paid mid-Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) 10.125%; earned on avg. com. eq., '18: 7.7%. Incl. intang. In '18: \$12.15/sh. (D) In mill., adj. Regulatory Climate: NM, Below Avg.; TX, Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 85 Price Growth Persistence 90 **Earnings Predictability** 75



tomers in New Jersey, and PSEG Power LLC, a nonregulated power generator with nuclear, gas, and coal-fired plants in the Northeast. PSEG Energy Holdings is involved in renewable energy.

President & Chief Executive Officer: Dr. Ralph Izzo. Inc.: New Jersey. Address: 80 Park Plaza, P.O. Box 1171, Newark, New Jersey 07101-1171. Telephone: 973-430-7000. Internet: www.pseg.com.

522 503 413 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 10 Yrs of change (per sh) to '22-'24 Revenues -3.0% -2.0% 4.0% Cash Flow 2.0% 1.5% 6.5% 6.0% .5% 1.0% Earnings 4.0% 5.0% Dividends Book Value

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (avg.)

9567

NA NA

NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2016	2616	1905	2587	2090	9198
2017	2647	2155	2263	2096	9161
2018	2818	2016	2394	2468	9696
2019	2980	2374	2302	2344	10000
2020	3150	2300	2500	2450	10400
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.93	.37	.94	.59	2.83
2017	.94	.69	.78	.42	2.82
2018	1.10	.53	.81	.32	2.76
2019	1.38	.92	.79	.61	3.70
2020	1.10	.70	.95	.65	3.40
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ID B∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.39	.39	.39	.39	1.56
2016	.41	.41	.41	.41	1.64
2017	.43	.43	.43	.43	1.72
2018	.45	.45	.45	.45	1.80
2019	.47	.47	.47		

Public Service Enterprise Group's breakdown of earnings has changed significantly since the early part of this decade. Several years ago, the nonregulated operations (primarily PSEG Power) generated some 75% of corporate income. The utility subsidiary, Public Service Electric and Gas, produced the other 25%. Now, the proportions are reversed. Unfavorable conditions in the power markets have reduced PSEG Power's profitability, even with the Zero Emission Credits this business is receiving in New Jersey. PSE&G's contribution has risen materially thanks to growth in the rate base.

Understandably, most of the company's capital will be invested in the regulated utility operations. Included in this is the Energy Strong II program, for which the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) in September approved a settlement that will see PSE&G spend \$842 million on storm hardening and system resiliency through 2023. The utility is also spending \$1.9 billion through 2023 on its Gas System Modernization II program. Proposed programs for energy efficiency and renewable energy (totaling \$3.5 billion over six years) will be reviewed by the BPU in 2020. Electric transmission is another area of focus; PSE&G is seeking a \$300 million increase for 2020 with the federal regulators. All told, PSE&G expects annual rate-base growth of 7.5%-8.5% through 2023.

Investors should not be alarmed by the earnings decline we estimate for **2020.** Our earnings presentation *includes* mark-to-market accounting items and gains or losses on the nuclear decommissioning trust. These added \$359 million to pretax profits in the first nine months of 2019, but the company excludes this from its earnings guidance of \$3.20-\$3.30 a share. Because we assume no such income in 2020, we look for share net to decline. However, our \$3.40-a-share estimate is above the upper end of PSEG's targeted range for 2019.

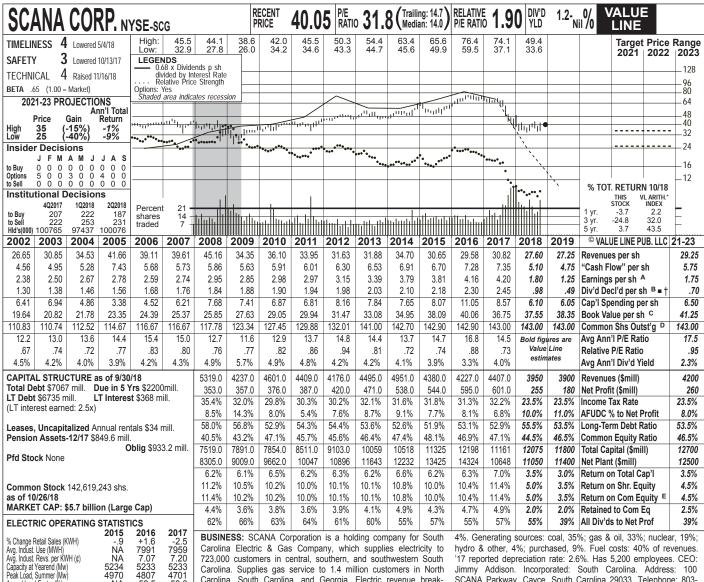
This timely and high-quality stock has a dividend yield that is about average for a utility. However, expected total returns are unimpressive for either the 18month or 3- to 5-year period.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 15, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '06, (35¢); '08, (96¢); '09, 6¢; '11, (34¢); '12, 7¢; '16, (30¢); '17, 28¢ (net); '18, 8¢; '19, (62¢); gains (loss) from disc. ops.: '05, (33¢); © 2019 Value Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product

'06, 12¢; '07, 3¢; '08, 40¢; '11, 13¢. '17 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Feb. (B) Div'ds histor, paid in late Rate all'd on com. eq. in '18: 9.6%; earned on Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avg. com. eq., '18: 9.9%. Regul. Climate: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 45 **Earnings Predictability** 70



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.

ergy. This calls for Dominion to issue .669

323 319 313 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '15-'17 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 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 3.5% 4.5% -18.0% 1.0% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

5234 4970

+1.5

4807

+1.6

4701

58.6

+1.3

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	1389	967	1068	956	4380.0
2016	1172	905	1093	1057	4227.0
2017	1173	1001	1076	1157	4407.0
2018	1180	843	926	1001	3950
2019	1050	850	950	1050	3900
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	PER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	1.39	.69	1.04	.69	3.81
2016	1.23	.74	1.32	.87	4.16
2017	1.19	.85	1.15	1.01	4.20
2018	1.18	.06	.47	.14	1.85
2019	.55	.10	.40	.20	1.25
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	NDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.5075	.525	.525	.525	2.08
2015	.525	.545	.545	.545	2.16
2016	.545	.575	.575	.575	2.27
2017	.575	.6125	.6125	.6125	2.41
2018	.6125	.6125	.1237	.1237	

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 Enof 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

oriented 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.

not high enough to appeal to income-

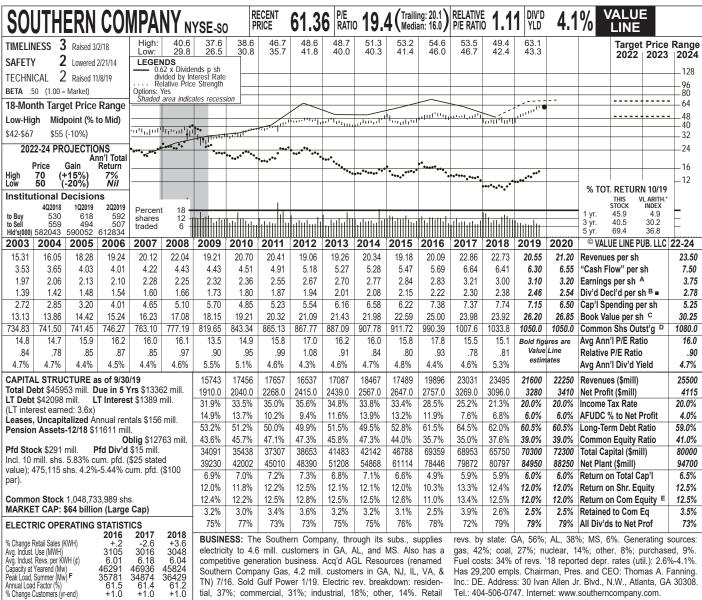
Paul E. Ďebbas, CFA November 16, 2018

(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



competitive generation business. Acq'd AGL Resources (renamed Southern Company Gas, 4.2 mill. customers in GA, NJ, IL, VA, & TN) 7/16. Sold Gulf Power 1/19. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 37%; commercial, 31%; industrial, 18%; other, 14%. Retail

Has 29,200 empls. Chairman, Pres. and CEO: Thomas A. Fanning. Inc.: DE. Address: 30 Ivan Allen Jr. Blvd., N.W., Atlanta, GA 30308. Tel.: 404-506-0747. Internet: www.southerncompany.com rate hike, based on a 9.73% return on a

318 280 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 330 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '16-'18 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 2.5% of change (per sh) to '22-'24 1.0% Revenues 4.0% 3.0% 3.5% 4.0% 2.5% 3.5% 3.0% 3.5% 3.0% 3.5% Cash Flow' Earnings Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (yr-end)

	OHAI	DTEDIV D	EVENITES	/mill \	
Cal- endar	Mar.31		EVENUES Sep.30		Full Year
2016	3992	4459	6264	5181	19896
2017	5771	5430	6201	5629	23031
2018	6372	5627	6159	5337	23495
2019	5412	5098	5995	5095	21600
2020	5700	5300	6050	5200	22250
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.57	.71	1.22	.33	2.83
2017	.73	.73	1.08	.67	3.21
2018	.99	.71	1.13	.17	3.00
2019	.74	.80	1.25	.31	3.10
2020	.85	.75	1.20	.40	3.20
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.525	.543	.543	.543	2.15
2016	.543	.56	.56	.56	2.22
2017	.56	.58	.58	.58	2.30
2018	.58	.60	.60	.60	2.38
2019	.60	.62	.62		
0					1

Southern Company has been one of the top-performing stocks in the electric utility industry in 2019. The company's Georgia Power subsidiary is build-ing two units at the site of the Vogtle nuclear station. The project has had delays and cost overruns that have caused the company to take write-offs, but in 2019 there have been no such charges. Thus, Wall Street has become more comfortable with the project. The progress Georgia Power has made and the generous dividend yield of the stock have attracted investors. An estimated \$2.9 billion of costs remain to complete construction. Units 3 and 4 are scheduled to come on line in November of 2021 and 2022, respectively.

The company's financing needs have changed. Following the sale of \$1.7 billion of equity units in the third quarter, management expects to need no additional common equity through 2023 beyond the mandatory conversion of the units in 2022. In fact, Southern Company will switch to open-market purchases for its dividendreinvestment program.

Nicor Gas received a rate order in Illinois. The utility received a \$168 million 54.2% common-equity ratio. New tariffs took effect on October 8th.

Electric and gas rate applications are pending in Georgia. Georgia Power filed for increases of \$563 million at the start of 2020, \$145 million in 2021, and \$234 million in 2022, based on a return of 10.9% on a common-equity ratio of 56%. The commission's staff put forth a harsh recommendation, but that doesn't necessarily mean that the order will be bad. Atlanta Gas Light requested a hike of \$96 million, based on a return of 10.75% on a commonequity ratio of 55%.

We raised our 2019 share-earnings estimate by a nickel, to \$3.10. Thirdquarter profits benefited from hotter-thannormal weather. We are sticking with our 2020 estimate of \$3.20. The company will benefit from rate relief.

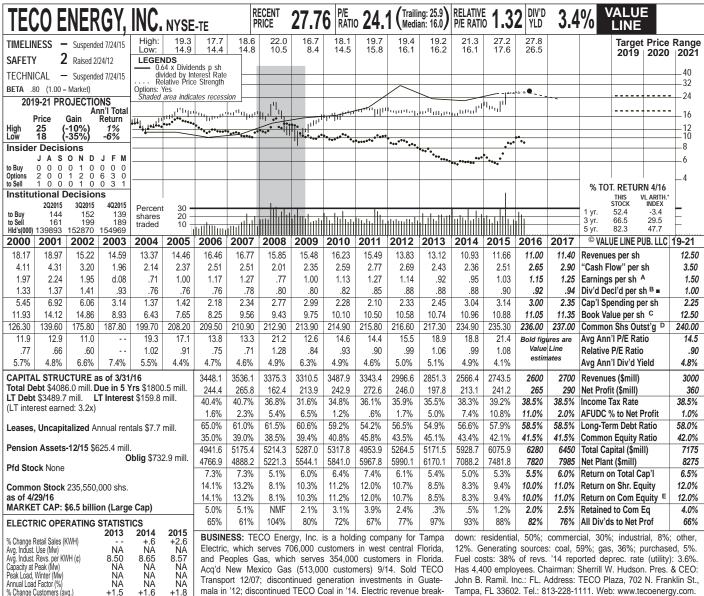
Even after the stock's 41% advance in 2019, the dividend yield is about a percentage point above the utility mean. But total return potential is negative for the 18-month span and unexciting for the 3- to 5-year period. Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 15, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '09, (25¢); '13, (83¢); '14, (59¢); '15, (25¢); '16, (28¢); '17, (\$2.37); '18, (78¢); '19, \$1.30. Next earnings report due late Feb. (B) Div'ds paid in

early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd chgs. In '18: \$15.95/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: AL, MS, fair value; FL, GA, orig. cost. All'd return on

com. eq. (blended): 12.5%; earn. on avg. com. eq., '18: 12.4%. Regul. Climate: GA, AL Above Avg.; MS, FL Avg. (F) Winter peak in '18.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 85



Transport 12/07; discontinued generation investments in Guatemala in '12; discontinued TECO Coal in '14. Electric revenue break-

John B. Ramil. Inc.: FL. Address: TECO Plaza, 702 N. Franklin St., Tampa, FL 33602. Tel.: 813-228-1111. Web: www.tecoenergy.com.

272 287 288 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '13-'15 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '19-'21 Revenues -1.5% -5.5% 1.0% 1.0% 'Cash Flow' 1.0% 6.5% 7.5% Earnings 2.0% 2.0% 2.0% 2.5% Dividends Book Value 3.5%

+1.5

+1.6

+1.8

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2013	661.1	735.9	765.9	688.4	2851.3
2014	578.0	605.7	687.2	695.5	2566.4
2015	693.0	680.6	693.8	676.1	2743.5
2016	659.5	640.5	650	650	2600
2017	675	675	675	675	2700
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2013	.19	.24	.29	.20	.92
2014	.22	.27	.28	.18	.95
2015	.27	.26	.28	.22	1.03
2016	.31	.24	.34	.26	1.15
2017	.35	.26	.36	.28	1.25
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2012	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88
2013	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88
2014	.22	.22	.22	.22	.88
2015	.225	.225	.225	.225	.90
2016	.23				

It appears as if the acquisition of TECO Energy might be completed within the next several weeks. Emera, a Canadian company, has agreed to pay \$27.55 in cash for each share of TECO Energy. Just one more regulatory approval is required: that of the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC). companies and various intervenors have reached an unopposed settlement that will be presented to the NMPRC. In early May, a hearing examiner conducted hearings on the proposed combination, and will make a recommendation by early June, before the NMPRC issues its ruling. The current time line suggests that July is the best estimate for the closing date of the transaction. Thus, this might well be our last full-page report on TECO Energy.

We advise TECO Energy stockholders to sell their shares on the open market. The recent price of TECO Energy stock is slightly *above* the buyout price, so stockholders have no incentive to await completion of the takeover. Emera's offer is generous, at 24 times estimated 2016 earnings. The Timeliness rank of TECO Energy stock remains suspended due to the pending acquisition.

TECO Energy's utilities are performing well. Tampa Electric and Peoples Gas are benefiting from healthy customer growth, thanks to the solid economy in the utilities' service territory, and each utility is likely to earn a return on equity in the upper half of its allowed ROE range in 2016. (The allowed ROEs are shown in Footnote E.) New Mexico Gas, which TECO Energy bought in September of 2014, is benefiting from effective cost controls. Because first-quarter results were better than we expected, we have raised our 2016 share-earnings estimate by a nickel, to \$1.15. A continuation of current trends, plus rate relief that Tampa Electric will receive for a project to expand a gas-fired power plant, points to higher profits in 2017.

Our earnings presentation includes costs associated with the Emera deal. These were negligible in the first period of 2016, but reduced the bottom line by \$0.06 a share in 2015. We are not estimating any such expenses over the remainder of 2016.

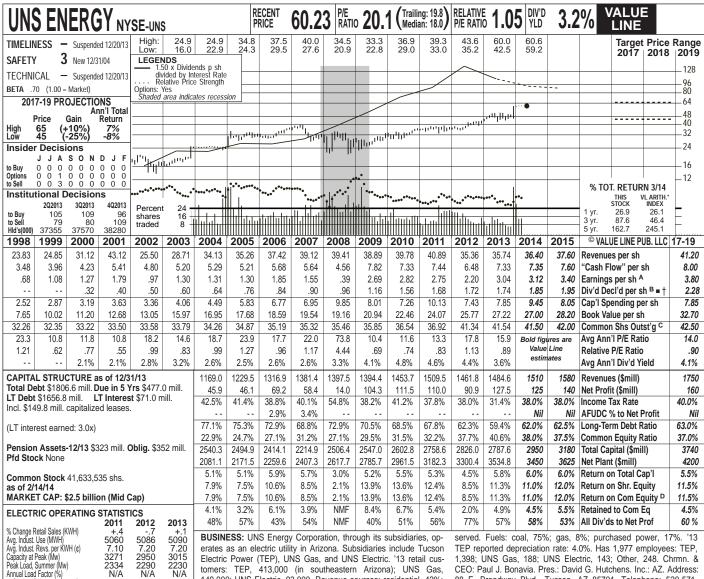
Paul E. Debbas, CFA May 20, 2016

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '03, (\$4.97); '07, 63¢; '10, (2¢); '14, (3¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '04, (77¢); '05, 31¢; '06, 1¢; '07, 7¢; '12, (15¢); '14, (34¢); '15, (29¢).

Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds paid in late Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '15: \$3.86/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig.

cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '13 (elec.): 10.25%-12.25%; in '09 (gas): 9.75%-11.75%; in NM in '12: 10% (implied); earned on avg. com. eq., '15: 9.4%. Regulatory Climate: Avg. © 2016 Value Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 90 Price Growth Persistence 50 **Earnings Predictability** 80



Electric Power (TEP), UNS Gas, and UNS Electric. '13 retail customers: TEP, 413,000 (in southeastern Arizona); UNS Gas, 149,000; UNS Electric, 93,000. Revenue sources: residential, 42%; commercial, 23%; industrial, 35%. Copper mining is largest industry

1,398; UNS Gas, 188; UNS Electric, 143; Other, 248. Chrmn. & CEO: Paul J. Bonavia. Pres.: David G. Hutchens. Inc.: AZ. Address: 88 E. Broadway Blvd., Tucson, AZ 85701. Telephone: 520-571-4000. Internet: www.uns.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 251 239 291 ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '11-'13 Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '17-'19 of change (per sh) -0.5% 6.0% 16.0% 1.0% 2.0% 6.5% Revenues 3.5% 7.0% 'Cash Flow Earnings Dividends **Book Value** 6.5% 6.0% 5.0%

+.4

+.5

+.8

% Change Customers (vr-end)

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		Sep.30		Full Year
2011	344.8	369.7	450.9	344.1	1509.5
2012	315.4	364.0	434.1	348.3	1461.8
2013	332.1	365.2		350.2	1484.6
2014	325	370	450	365	1510
2015	350	375	485	370	1580
Cal-	EA	RNINGS F	ER SHARI	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2011	.35	.71	1.46	.22	2.75
2012	.17	.64	1.21	.18	2.20
2013	.27	.83	1.62	.32	3.04
2014	.25	.75	1.67	.45	3.12
2015	.45	.80	1.65	.50	3.40
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	ID B∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2010	.39	.39	.39	.39	1.56
2011	.42	.42	.42	.42	1.68
2012	.43	.43	.43	.43	1.72
2013	.435	.435	.435	.435	1.74
2014	.48				

The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission has approved the acquisition of UNS Energy Corporation by Fortis. UNS stockholders would receive \$60.25 in cash for each of their shares. The offer is generous, at 19 times estimated 2014 earnings. Indeed, the proposed purchase has been deemed consistent with the interest of the public, which moves the acquisition one step closer to completion. In addition, the shareholders of UNS Energy approved the transaction on March 26, 2014. The acquisition is expected to be completed by the end of 2014. It is now subject to approval by the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC). The deal will give UNS much needed capital access to meet clean energy requirements. UNS will remain as a stand-alone company headquartered in Tucson, Arizona. One-third of Fortis' assets will be in the United States once the deal closes, and it will gain approximately 65,000 customers in Arizona. UNS Energy had a profitable year. The

electric utility reported net income of \$127 million and share earnings of \$3.04. The significant increase in net income was mainly due to higher revenue at UNS Energy's primary subsidiary, Tucson Electric Power (TEP). The subsidiary was able to report higher revenues for the year thanks to a non-fuel base rate increase which became effective on July 1, 2013, combined with a reduction in capital lease interest expense. The company also declared a first quarter dividend of \$0.48 per share for common shareholders.

Tucson Electric Power (TEP) has started to work on a new transmission line. The 138 KV is expected to reduce electrical outages and provide more capacity for TEP. The project is expected to cost \$4.5 million and was approved by the Arizona Corporation Commission in March, 2011. The transmission line is ex-

pected to be completed in 2014.

The Timeliness rank for this issue is suspended due to the impending ac**quisition.** There is minimal potential for capital gains at this juncture as the stock is trading just below the takeover price. We advise investors to sell their holdings at the current level in order to avoid downside risk in case the deal falls through.

Saumya Ajila

May 2, 2014

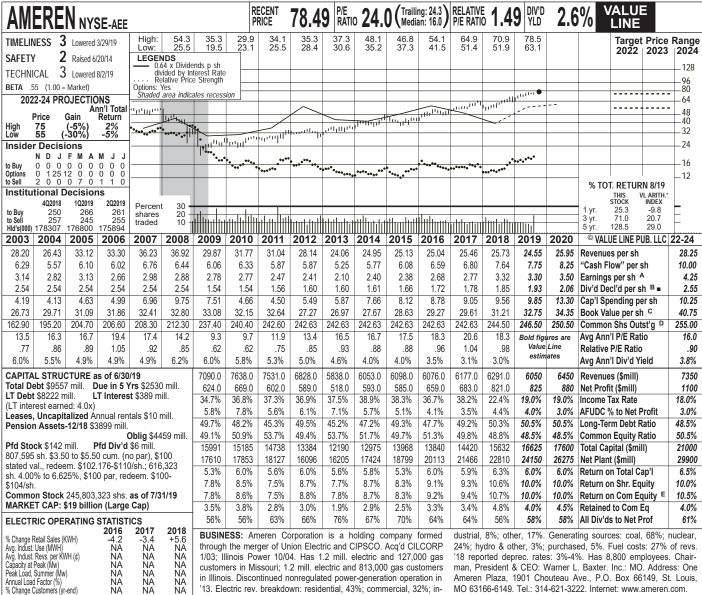
(A) EPS diluted. Excl. nonrecur. gains: '98, 19¢; '99, \$1.35; '00, 48¢; '03, \$2.00. Next earnings report due early May. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. (B) Div'ds historically

paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) In millions. (D) Rate base: fair value. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '13: 10.0%;

earned on avg. com. eq., '13: 8.5%. Regulatory Climate: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 90 Price Growth Persistence 80 **Earnings Predictability** 40

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through the merger of Union Electric and CIPSCO. Acq'd CILCORP 1/03; Illinois Power 10/04. Has 1.2 mill. electric and 127,000 gas customers in Missouri; 1.2 mill. electric and 813,000 gas customers in Illinois. Discontinued nonregulated power-generation operation in 13. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 43%; commercial, 32%; in24%; hydro & other, 3%; purchased, 5%. Fuel costs: 27% of revs. '18 reported deprec. rates: 3%-4%. Has 8,800 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Warner L. Baxter. Inc.: MO. Address: One Ameren Plaza, 1901 Chouteau Ave., P.O. Box 66149, St. Louis, MO 63166-6149. Tel.: 314-621-3222. Internet: www.ameren.com.

329 351 362 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) to '22-'24 -3.5% 1.0% .5% -1.5% Revenues 2.0% 4.5% 4.5% 2.5% .5% 6.0% 6.5% 6.0% 5.0% 'Cash Flow' Earnings Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NΑ

NA NA NA NA

NA

NA NA NA NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2016	1434	1427	1859	1356	6076.0
2017	1514	1538	1723	1402	6177.0
2018	1585	1563	1724	1419	6291.0
2019	1556	1379	1715	1400	6050
2020	1600	1500	1850	1500	6450
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.43	.61	1.52	.13	2.68
2017	.42	.79	1.18	.39	2.77
2018	.62	.97	1.45	.28	3.32
2019	.78	.72	1.50	.30	3.30
2020	.75	.80	1.55	.40	3.50
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	AIDB =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.41	.41	.41	.425	1.66
2016	.425	.425	.425	.44	1.72
2017	.44	.44	.44	.4575	1.78
2018	.4575	.4575	.4575	.475	1.85
2019	.475	.475			

Ameren filed a general rate case in Missouri. The utility requested an electric rate decrease of \$1 million. This might seem strange, but the application includes the pass-through to customers of \$100 million of reduced fuel and purchased-power costs. Ameren's petition seeks a return of 9.95% on a common-equity ratio of 51.9%. An order is due by late April, with new tariffs taking effect in late May.

Earnings are likely to decline modestly in 2019. Second-quarter profits dropped significantly due to mild weather conditions this year. Temperatures were well above normal a year earlier. This affected the year-to-year earnings comparison by \$0.24 a share. Also, the Callaway nuclear unit had a refueling outage this spring, which lowered profits by \$0.08 a share. We are sticking with our share-earnings estimate of \$3.30, which is within Ameren's guidance of \$3.15-\$3.35.

We expect a solid profit increase in 2020. The company should benefit from a partial year's effect of the rate order. Also, Ameren benefits from forward-looking reg-ulatory plans for its electric business in Illinois and its federally regulated transmission business.

Ameren is adding two wind projects. The company will spend \$1.2 billion to add 700 megawatts of capacity. This will en-Ameren to meet Missouri's renewable-energy requirement. To help finance the two projects, Ameren executed a forward stock sale of 7.5 million shares. This will raise about \$560 million when it is settled, most likely in the fourth quarter of 2020. Note that Ameren canceled plans for a third project, which would have added 157 mw, because the interconnection costs turned out to be too high. This did not affect earnings

We expect a dividend increase in the fourth quarter. We estimate the board of directors will raise the quarterly disbursement \$0.03 a share (6.3%). The company's goal for the payout ratio is a range of 55%-70%.

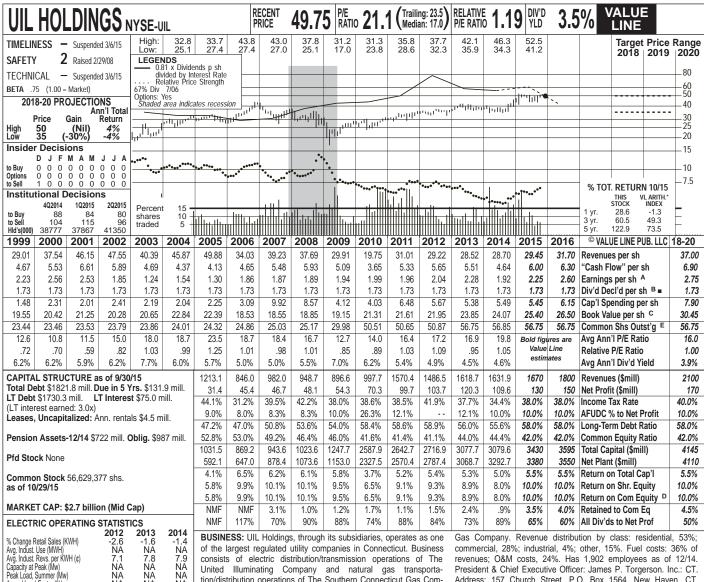
This stock remains expensively priced. The dividend yield is below the utility mean (even when factoring in the estimated increase). Moreover, the recent quotation is above our 3- to 5-year Target Price Range.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 13, 2019

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '05, (11¢); '10, (\$2.19); '11, (32¢); '12, (\$6.42); '17, (63¢); gain (loss) from disc. ops.: '13, (92¢); 15, 21¢. '16-'17 EPS don't sum due to round-

ing. Next egs. report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds pd. late Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '18: \$6.29/sh. gas, 9.87%; earned on avg. com. eq., '18: (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Orig. cost depr. Rate 8.3%. Reg. Climate: MO, Avg.; IL, Below Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 80 **Earnings Predictability** 80



consists of electric distribution/transmission operations of The United Illuminating Company and natural gas transportation/distribution operations of The Southern Connecticut Gas Company, The Connecticut Natural Gas Company, and The Berkshire

revenues; O&M costs, 24%. Has 1,902 employees as of 12/14. President & Chief Executive Officer: James P. Torgerson. Inc.: CT. Address: 157 Church Street, P.O. Box 1564, New Haven, CT. 06506-0901. Telephone: 203-499-2000. Internet: www.uil.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		249	262	257
ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends	Past 10 Yrs. -4.5% 0.5% 3.0%	Past 5 Yrs. -4.0% -1.0% 2.0%	to	1 '12-'14 '18-'20 4.5% 4.5% 5.0% Nil
Book Value	1.0%	4.5%	0 4	4.5%

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA +.8

NA

+1.6

Cal-	QUAR	Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year	
2012	458.3	283.5	323.8	420.9	1486.5	
2013	548.0	319.1	316.5	435.1	1618.7	
2014	571.2	334.8	293.0		1631.9	
2015	584.1	312.0	330.5	443.4	1670	
2016	605	350	370	475	1800	
Cal-	I- EARNINGS PER SHARE A					
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year	
2012	.92	.23	.31	.56	2.04	
2013	1.01	.35	.31	.61	2.28	
2014	.97	.16	.22	.57	1.92	
2015	1.01	.28	.27	.69	2.25	
2016	1.00	.40	.45	.75	2.60	
Cal-	QUAR	Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year	
2011	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73	
2012	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73	
2013	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73	
2014	.432	.432	.432	.432	1.73	
2015	.432	.432				

UIL Holdings expects to soon become part of Iberdrola. Indeed, the Connecticut electric and gas utility is still targeting a year-end closing for its merger with the Spanish company's U.S. unit (Iberdrola U.S.), which includes New York State Electric & Gas and the secondlargest wind-power portfolio in the United States. Under terms of the proposed transinvestors are slated to receive \$10.50 in cash and one share of newly issued stock in the merged company, worth up to \$44.03, for each share of UIL that they own. Current UIL stakeholders would own 18.5% of the yet-to-be-named newco, which plans to list on the New York Stock Exchange, while Iberdrola S.A. would control the remaining 81.5%.

Left standing in the merger's way is, among other things, approval by the **Connecticut Public Utility Regulatory** Authority (CPURA). That body's draft decision in July would have denied the change of control, which prompted UIL to withdraw its original submission. A subsequent settlement agreement, promising concessions to ratepayers and other constituences, should help clear the path for approval. That said, CPURA is expected to issue a final ruling on December 9th.

Reported earnings rose sharply in the September quarter, as a one-time reserve made for an easy year-ago comparison. Still, the headline growth figure was significantly less than we envisioned, due to higher uncollectable billings at the utility's gas distribution unit. Ahead of the merger, UIL has also put off a rate case, further limiting near-term growth.

Shares of UIL remain unranked for year-ahead Timeliness due to the utilĭty's pending merger with Iberdrola. Investors may want to stay pat here with the intention of participating in the cashand-stock exchange. That option, in our view, will provide good exposure to what looks to be a relatively fast-growing, shareholder-friendly newco. Indeed, earnings at the merged company are expected to increase approximately 10% per year through 2019, partly reflecting the accelerated utilization of existing tax benefits. A competitive dividend and aboveaverage payout increases also appear to be in the cards.

(A) EPS basic. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '00, 4¢; '03, (26¢); '04, \$2.14; '06, (\$5.07); '10, (47¢). Next egs. report due in early February (B) Div'ds historically paid in early March,

June, Sept., and Dec.

Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '14: \$321.9 mill. or \$5.66/sh. (D) Rate base: orig. cost. Rate allowed on common equity in '13: 9.15%.

Nils C. Van Liew

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 90 Price Growth Persistence 50 **Earnings Predictability** 85

November 20, 2015

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UNITIL CORP. AME	XUTL		REI PR	CENT 60.	TRAILING P/E RATIO	20.1 RE	LATIVE 1.1	B DIV'D 2.		LUE NE
RANKS	28.60	29.00	32.07	38.55	39.00	46.00	52.84	53.07	62.01	High
	21.84	24.15	26.01	29.05	32.63	34.70	43.03	40.92	47.05	Low
PERFORMANCE 2 Above Average		ENDS								
Technical 3 Average	12 Mc	s Mov Avg ice Strenath								
		licates recession				• • •			111111	50
SAFETY 2 Above Average	. • •	• •	• .	. 1			61100		•	
BETA .50 (1.00 = Market)		Litera de la composición dela composición de la composición de la composición dela composición dela composición dela composición de la composición dela	ببنوال	- 						0.5
(1.50 Market)	1,1111111			•	•••••					25
Financial Strength B+										15
ŭ										10
Price Stability 95		ı								
Price Growth Persistence 70								T i		5
Earnings Predictability 85					11,111	1111	.1 1			1200
Lumings i redictability 00	 	 	 	 	+++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++++	 	 	 		VOL.
© VALUE LINE PUBLISHING LLC	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020/2021
SALES PER SH	32.21	25.62	26.51	30.60	30.51	27.26	27.42	29.85		
"CASH FLOW" PER SH	4.16	3.86	4.28	4.80	5.15	5.24	5.12	5.61		
EARNINGS PER SH	1.50	1.43	1.57	1.79	1.89	1.94	2.06	2.23	2.32 A,B	2.47 ^C /NA
DIV'DS DECL'D PER SH	1.38	1.38	1.38	1.39	1.40	1.42	1.44	1.46		
CAP'L SPENDING PER SH	5.21	4.97	6.47	6.65	7.43	6.97	8.05	6.88		
BOOK VALUE PER SH	17.50	18.90	19.15	19.62	20.20	20.82	22.72	23.60		
COMMON SHS OUTST'G (MILL)	10.95	13.78	13.84	13.92	13.99	14.07	14.82	14.88		
AVG ANN'L P/E RATIO	16.8	18.7	18.5	18.4	18.5	21.0	23.3	21.6	25.9	24.3/NA
RELATIVE P/E RATIO	1.05	1.20	1.04	.97	.95	1.15	1.17	1.22		
AVG ANN'L DIV'D YIELD	5.5%	5.2%	4.8%	4.2%	4.0%	3.5%	3.0%	3.0%		
SALES (\$MILL)	352.8	353.1	366.9	425.8	426.8	383.4	406.2	444.1		Bold figures
OPERATING MARGIN	27.8%	27.4%	28.9%	28.0%	29.6%	34.3%	33.9%	32.4%		are consensus
DEPRECIATION (\$MILL)	29.3	35.1	37.7	42.1	45.7	46.6	46.9	50.4		earnings
NET PROFIT (\$MILL)	16.4	18.2	21.6	24.7	26.3	27.1	29.0	33.0		estimates
INCOME TAX RATE	37.9%	37.7%	37.0%	36.2%	36.9%	36.2%	37.6%	20.3%		and, using the
NET PROFIT MARGIN	4.6%	5.2%	5.9%	5.8%	6.2%	7.1%	7.1%	7.4%		recent prices,
WORKING CAP'L (\$MILL)	d23.2	7.2	d4.7	15.8	d18.7	d45.3	.3	d40.3		P/E ratios.
LONG-TERM DEBT (\$MILL)	288.5	287.7	284.8	336.4	319.1	325.1	382.0 336.8	390.1		
SHR. EQUITY (\$MILL) RETURN ON TOTAL CAP'L	193.7 5.5%	260.6 5.2%	265.2 5.8%	273.3 5.7%	282.8 6.2%	293.1 6.1%	5.6%	351.3 6.0%		
RETURN ON SHR. EQUITY	8.5%	7.0%	8.1%	9.0%	9.3%	9.2%	8.6%	9.4%		
RETAINED TO COM EQ	.6%	.4%	.9%	2.0%	2.4%	2.4%	2.6%	3.2%		
ALL DIV'DS TO NET PROF	93%	95%	88%	78%	75%	74%	70%	66%		
ALL DIV DS TO NET PROF ANo of analysts changing earn lest in li				_	_		-			,

Ano. of analysts changing earn. est. in last 9 days: 0 up, 0 down, consensus 5-year earnings growth 4.4% per year. Based upon 2 analysts' estimates. CBased upon one analysts' estimate.

	A	NNUAL	RATES			ASSETS (\$mill.)	2017	2018	6/30/19	
of chan	ge (per s	hare)	5 Yrs.		1 Yr.	Cash Assets	8.9	7.8	4.8	
Sales	9- (1		-		9.0%	Receivables	67.4	66.8	48.7	
"Cash I	low"		5.5%		9.5%	Inventory	7.5	7.8	8.2	
Earning			6.5%		8.5%	Other	67.5	69.8	45.7	
Dividen			1.0%		1.5%	Current Assets	151.3	152.2	107.4	
Book V	alue		4.0%		4.0%	Ourient Assets	101.0	102.2	107.4	
Fiscal	QUAI	RTERLY	SALES (\$	mill.)	Full	Property, Plant				
Year	1Q	2Q	3Q .	4Q	Year	& Equip, at cost	1279.2	1369.3		
40/04/47	400.0		04.0	445.4	400.0	Accum Depreciation	307.7	332.5	4050.5	
12/31/17	126.0	80.8	84.0	115.4	406.2	Net Property	971.5	1036.8	1053.5	
12/31/18	145.8	84.5	88.2	125.6	444.1	Other	119.1	109.3	118.4	
12/31/19	152.1	84.4				Total Assets	1241.9	1298.3	1279.3	
12/31/20										
Fiscal	FΔI	RNINGS	PER SHA	RF	Euli					
Year	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q					21.9	
Icai	100	200	JQ	70					84.3	
12/31/16	.78	.18	.25	.73	1	-			49.8	
12/31/17	.88	.23	.16	.79	2.06	Current Liab	151.0	192.5	156.0	
12/31/18	1.06	.24	.19	.74	2.23					
12/31/19	1.78	.27	.14	.81						
12/31/20	1.16						ND EQUIT	Υ		
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY D	IVIDENDS	PAID	Full	Full Year 1.94 2.06 2.23 LONG-TERM DEBT AND EQUITY as of 6/30/19				
endar	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q	Year		l.	Due in 5	Yrs. NA	
2016	.355	.355	.355	.355	1 42					
2017	.36	.36	.36	.36		Including Cap. Lease	s NA	(=00/		
2018	.365	.365	.365	.365	1.46	1			of Cap1)	
2019	.37	.37	.37	.000	1.40	Leases, Uncapitalized	a Annual re	ntais NA		
2013	.01	.01	.01			Pension Liability \$121	5 mill in '18	2 ve \$150 1	mill in '17	
	INSTIT	UTIONA	L DECISIO	ONS			1.5 111111. 111 10			
		4Q'18	1Q'19		2Q'19	Pfd Stock None		Pfd Div'd F	Paid None	
to Buy		67	71		87	Common Stock 14,921,	000 charca			
to Sell		69	62		55	Common Stock 14,921,	,000 Shares	(500)	of Cap'l)	
LIId'a/O	00)	10102	10507		10106	I		(30%	o or cap i)	

Hld's(000)

10193

10507

10106

INDUSTRY: Electric Utility (East)

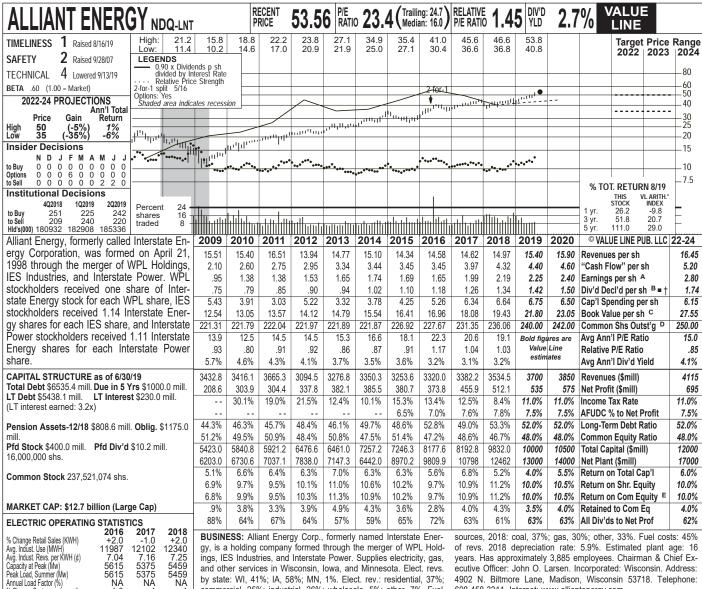
BUSINESS: Unitil Corporation, a public utility holding company, engages in the distribution of electricity and natural gas in the United States. The company distributes electricity in the southeastern seacoast and state capital regions of New Hampshire, and the greater Fitchburg area of north central Massachusetts; and distributes natural gas in southeastern New Hampshire, portions of southern Maine to the Lewiston-Auburn area, and in the greater Fitchburg area of north central Massachusetts. The company also operates 86 miles of interstate underground natural gas transmission pipeline that provides interstate natural gas pipeline access and transportation services primarily in Maine and New Hampshire. In addition, it provides energy brokering and advisory services to commercial and industrial customers; and real estate management services. Currently, Unitil's operating utilities serve approximately 105,600 electric customers and 82,700 natural gas customers. Has 520 employees. C.E.O.: Thomas P. Meissner. Address: 6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton, NH 03842. Tel.: (603) 772-0775. Internet: www.unitil.com.

L.Y. September 20, 2019

TOTAL SHAREHOLDER RETURN

Dividends plus appreciation as of 8/31/2019

3 Mos.	6 Mos.	1 Yr.	3 Yrs.	5 Yrs.
6.85% 1	1.36%	22.74%	66.94%	118.51%



% Change Customer's (yr-end) +1.0 Fixed Charge Cov. (% 295 319 322 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '16-'18 Past Past 10 Yrs. to '22-'24 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) -1.0% 4.0% 4.5% 7.0% 2.0% 6.0% 6.5% 5.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" -.5% 3.0% Earnings Dividends

4.0%

5615 NA

5375 NA

4.5%

+ 4

+ 4

7.5%

Peak Load, Summer (Mw) Annual Load Factor (%)

Book Value

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2016 843 8 754.2 925 0 797.0 3320.0 2017 853.9 765.3 906.9 856.1 3382.2 816.1 928.6 873.5 3534.5 2018 916.3 2019 987.2 790.2 1050 872.6 3700 880 1050 945 3850 2020 975 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2016 .43 .37 .57 .28 1.65 2017 .44 41 .73 .41 1.99 2018 .52 .43 .87 .37 2.19 2019 .53 .40 .90 .42 2.25 2020 .57 48 .94 .41 2.40 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =† Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 2015 2016 .295 .295 .295 .295 1.18 2017 .315 .315 .315 .315 1.26 .335 .335 .335 2018 .335 .355 .355 .355 2019

ings, IES Industries, and Interstate Power. Supplies electricity, gas, and other services in Wisconsin, Iowa, and Minnesota. Elect. revs. by state: WI, 41%; IA, 58%; MN, 1%. Elect. rev.: residential, 37%; commercial, 25%; industrial, 26%; wholesale, 5%; other, 7%. Fuel

Alliant Energy's largest utility subsidiary has a general rate case pending. Interstate Power and Light of Iowa is seeking annual electric and natural gas increases of \$204 million (11.7%) and \$21 million (9.0%), respectively, to recoup investments in wind energy and enhancements made to its distribution network. An interim rate hike of \$90 million, on an annual basis, was implemented in April. Alliant expects a final decision from the Iowa Utilities Board in the fourth quarter of 2019 on both the interim increase and the remaining \$135 million of final rates.

The company is transitioning to cleaner energy resources. Last year, Alliant generated roughly 20% of its capacity from renewables, a four-fold increase from 2005. The utility did this by investing heavily in wind, solar, and hydro projects, which have become more economical in recent years thanks to technological advances and new regulatory standards. Alliant is further targeting around one-third of its energy mix to come from renewables by 2030, with the remainder derived mostly from natural gas (which is a cleanerburning fuel than coal or oil).

years. Has approximately 3,885 employees. Chairman & Chief Executive Officer: John O. Larsen. Incorporated: Wisconsin. Address: 4902 N. Biltmore Lane, Madison, Wisconsin 53718. Telephone: 608-458-3311. Internet: www.alliantenergy.com.

Alliant has several projects coming online in 2019 and 2020. The Iowa-based Upland Prairie and English Wind Farm projects were both recently completed, with the two expected to add 470 megawatts of combined power to Alliant's renewable portfolio. Separately, the 200 mw Golden Plains wind project and the 150 mw Kossuth County wind farm are both expected to go into service in 2020. By the end of next year, LNT will have over 3,000 mw of total renewable energy generation. The West Riverside Energy Center is over 90% complete. The 730-megawatt natural gas generating facility is expected to go into service later this year. The plant will help replace power from the retirements of older, less efficient coal-fired and peaking units.

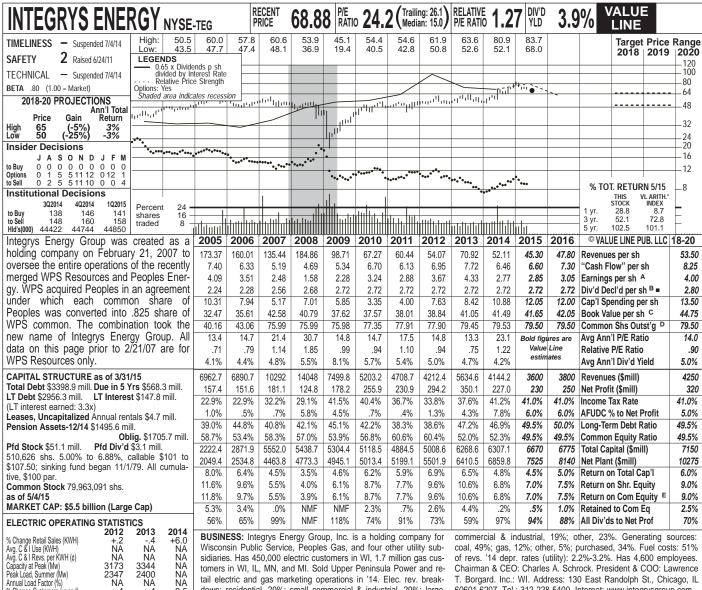
This stock is now ranked 1 (Highest) for year-ahead price performance, having risen a notch on our Timeliness scale since June. While Alliant shares are a top choice for the near term, total return potential to 2022-2024 is well below the Value Line median. In addition, the dividend yield is subpar for a utility.

Daniel Henigson, CFA September 13, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '09, (44ϕ) ; '10, (8ϕ) ; '11, (1ϕ) ; '12, (8ϕ) . Next earnings rpt. due early Nov. (B) Dividends historically paid in mid-Feb., May, Aug., and Nov.

vest, plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred chgs. In '18: Regul. Clim.: WI, Above Avg.; IA, Avg. \$89.7 mill., \$0.38/sh. (D) In millions, adjusted for split. (E) Rate hase Orig cost. Park for split. (E) Rate base: Orig. cost. Rates all'd

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence 95 80 **Earnings Predictability**



sidiaries. Has 450,000 electric customers in WI, 1.7 million gas customers in WI, IL, MN, and MI. Sold Upper Peninsula Power and retail electric and gas marketing operations in '14. Elec. rev. breakdown: residential, 29%; small commercial & industrial, 29%; large

of revs. '14 depr. rates (utility): 2.2%-3.2%. Has 4,600 employees. Chairman & CEO: Charles A. Schrock. President & COO: Lawrence T. Borgard. Inc.: WI. Address: 130 East Randolph St., Chicago, IL 60601-6207. Tel.: 312-228-5400. Internet: www.integrysgroup.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (% 367 410 254 Est'd '12-'14 to '18-'20 ANNUAL RATES Past 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" -6.0% -16.0% 7.0% NMF 1.0% 1.0% 2.5% 2.5% 2.0% Earnings Dividends 11.0% **Book Value** 1.5%

2400 NA

+.4

-9.5

ΝA

Peak Load, Summer (Mw) Annual Load Factor (%)

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY RE	VENUES (mill.)	Full							
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year							
2012	1247.9	839.6	927.7	1197.2	4212.4							
2013	1678.2	1116.0	1129.7	1710.7	5634.6							
2014	1638.0	836.8	657.1	1012.3	4144.2							
2015	1163.2	800	636.8	1000	3600							
2016	1250	825	675	1050	3800							
Cal-	EA	EARNINGS PER SHARE A Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.3										
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year							
2012	1.24	.65	.93	.86	3.67							
2013	2.29	d.06	.47	1.63	4.33							
2014	1.73	.10	.27	.66	2.77							
2015	1.61	.10	.29	.85	2.85							
2016	1.70	.10	.35	.90	3.05							
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	(ID B ■	Full							
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year							
2011	.68	.68	.68	.68	2.72							
2012	.68	.68	.68	.68	2.72							
2013	.68	.68	.68	.68	2.72							
2014	.68	.68	.68	.68	2.72							
2015	.68	.68										

Integrys Energy is awaiting two more regulatory approvals before the acq-uisition of the company by Wisconsin Energy can be completed. Integrys stockholders would receive \$18.58 a share in cash and 1.128 shares of Wisconsin Energy stock for each of their shares, valuing the deal at \$69.57 a share at Wisconsin Energy's recent price. The regulatory commissions in Minnesota and Illinois still need to rule on the combination. The due date for a decision in Illinois is July 6th, and the companies hope to get a written order in Minnesota by then. If all goes well, the transaction will close shortly thereafter. Accordingly, this might well be our last full-page report on Integrys. The stock's Timeliness rank is suspended due to the pending takeover.

We tĥink shareholders should sell their stock on the open market. The stock price of Integrys is now just 1% below the value of the buyout, leaving little upside potential for shareholders. Integrys holders also have some downside risk that the deal will fall through, or that the price of Wisconsin Energy stock (like that of most utility equities) continues to weaken.

Like many electric utility issues, Wisconsin Energy's stock price has fallen more than 10% so far this year. In fact, the value of the deal for Integrys holders has dropped below the \$71.47-a-share value when the acquisition was announced nearly a year ago.

Peoples Gas in Illinois has received some criticism for its management of its accelerated main-replacement pro**gram.** The cost of the project is much more than expected when it was proposed several years ago. A consultant made 95 recommendations, many of which the utility is already implementing. How this will affect the proposed takeover is unknown. The Illinois commission might welcome a new parent company for Peoples Gas.

Rate relief should help earnings advance this year and next. Tariffs of Peoples Gas and North Shore Gas (also in Illinois) were raised in early 2015. Wisconsin Public Service has filed for electric and gas rate hikes of \$96.9 million and \$9.1 million, respectively, based on a return of 10.2% on a common-equity ratio of 50.52%. New rates should take effect in early 2016. June 19, 2015 Paul E. Debbas, CFA

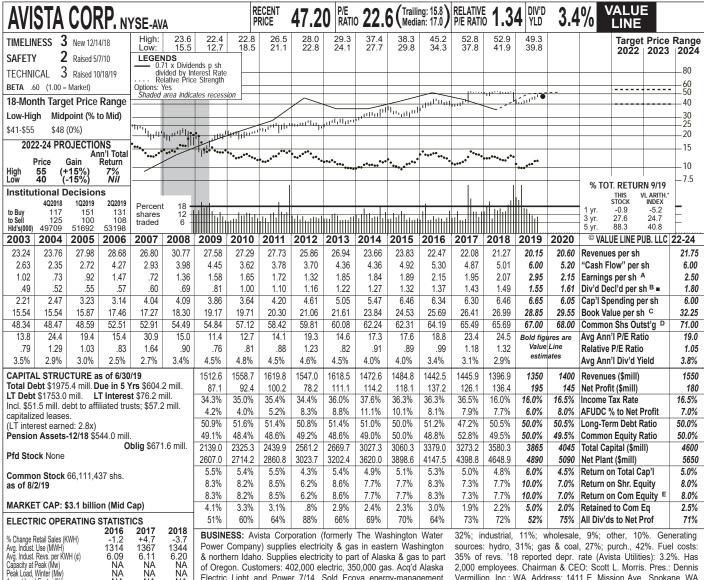
(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gain (losses): '09, (\$3.24); '10, (41¢); '14, 64¢; gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '07, \$1.02; '08, 6¢; '09, 4¢; '11, (1¢); '12, (12¢); '13, 6¢; '14, 2¢. '12 & '14 EPS

don't add due to rounding. Next egs. due early Aug. (B) Div'ds histor. paid mid-Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. • Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl.

base: Net orig. cost. Rate all'd on com. eq. in WI in '15: 10.2%; in IL in '15: 9.05%; in MN in '14: 9.35%; earn. on avg. com. eq, '14: 6.8%. intang. In '14: \$27.27/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate Regul. Climate: WI, Above Avg.; IL, Below Avg. © 2015 Value Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product

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

90 55



& northern Idaho. Supplies electricity to part of Alaska & gas to part of Oregon. Customers: 402,000 electric, 350,000 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. '18 reported depr. rate (Avista Utilities): 3.2%. Has 2,000 employees. Chairman & CEO: Scott L. Morris. Pres.: Dennis Vermillion, Inc.: WA. Address: 1411 E. Mission Ave., Spokane, WA 99202-2600. Tel.: 509-489-0500. Internet: www.avistacorp.com.

333 296 259 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 -4.0% 5.0% 5.0% Revenues -2.5% Nil Cash Flow 3.0% 5.5% 3.0% 3.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value 4.0% 3.5% 4.5% 4 0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA NA

NA

+1.2

NΑ

NA

+1.4

NA

NA +.6

Cal-			VENUES (Full							
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year							
2016	418.2	318.8	303.4	402.1	1442.5							
2017	436.5	314.5	297.1	397.8	1445.9							
2018	409.4	319.3	296.0	372.2	1396.9							
2019	396.5	300.8	288.7	364	1350							
2020	410	315	295	380	1400							
Cal-	E/	EARNINGS PER SHARE A										
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year							
2016	.92	.43	.19	.62	2.15							
2017	.96	.34	.07	.58	1.95							
2018	.83	.39	.15	.70	2.07							
2019	1.76	.38	.15	.66	2.95							
2020	.90	.40	.15	.70	2.15							
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full							
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year							
2015	.33	.33	.33	.33	1.32							
2016	.3425	.3425	.3425	.3425	1.37							
2017	.3575	.3575	.3575	.3575	1.43							
2018	.3725	.3725	.3725	.3725	1.49							
2019	.3875	.3875	.3875									

Avista has rate cases pending in Washington and Idaho. The utility needs rate relief because it isn't earning an adequate return on equity—likely just 7.5% in 2019. In Washington, Avista filed for electric and gas rate increases of \$45.8 million (9.1%) and \$12.9 million (13.8%), respectively, to take effect on April 1, 2020 and \$18.9 million (3.5%) and \$6.5 million (6.1%), respectively, to take effect a year later. The utility is seeking a 9.9% return on a 50% common-equity ratio. In Idaho, the company reached a settlement that would have a net benefit to Avista of \$2.3 million, based on a 9.5% return on a 50% common-equity ratio. New tariffs would take effect at the start of December.

The Oregon commission approved the settlement of the utility's gas rate case. This will raise tariffs \$3.6 million (4.2%), effective January 15th. The allowed ROE will be 9.4%, and the commonequity ratio 50%.

Avista's 2015 rate order in Washington is under review. Following a complaint from the state attorney general's office, the commission is deciding whether a refund of previously collected revenues is

in order, and if so, how much the refund will be. Some parties believe the refund should be \$40 million (pretax). Our estimates assume no refund, but if one occurs, we will include this in our earnings presentation. A ruling is expected by yearend. Profits will probably return to a more typical level in 2020 after an unusually high tally this year. In the first quarter, Avista received a breakup fee of \$103 million (\$1.01 a share) after the proposed acquisition of the company was rejected by regulators. Our 2019 estimate is within management's guidance of \$2.83-\$3.03 a share. We assume in our 2020 estimate that Avista gets reasonable treatment in the aforementioned rate cases.

Avista stock has a dividend yield that is slightly above the utility average. The projected total returns for the 18month and 3- to 5-year periods are unappealing. However, Avista has already demonstrated its willingness to be acquired, so the stock holds some speculative appeal on this basis. It appears as though takeover considerations are not reflected in the recent price. Paul E. Debbas, CFA

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '03, (3¢); '14, 9¢; '17, (16¢); gains (loss) on discontinued ops.: '03, (10¢); '14, \$1.17; '15, 8¢. '16 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earn-

ings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds paid in double from the first paid in discussion of the first paid in discussion of the first paid in discussion of the first paid in t

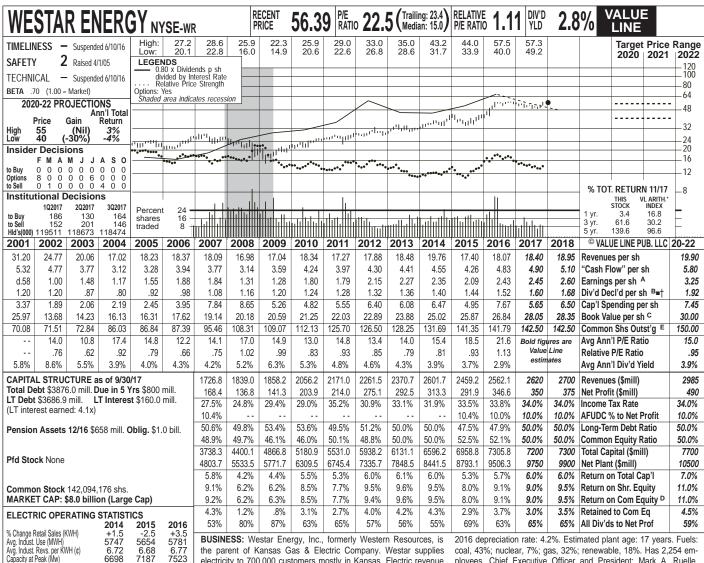
Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability**

October 25, 2019

90

65

70



electricity to 700,000 customers mostly in Kansas. Electric revenue sources: residential and rural, 33%; commercial and business, 29%; industrial, 16%; other, 22%. The company sold its investment in ONEOK in 2003 and 85% ownership in Protection One in 2004.

ployees. Chief Executive Officer and President: Mark A. Ruelle. Chairman: Charles Q. Chandler. Incorporated: Kansas. Address: 818 South Kansas Avenue, Topeka, Kansas 66612. Telephone: 785-575-6300. Internet: www.westarenergy.com

335 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 332 330 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 0.5% 3.0% 4.0% 1.0% 3.0% 7.0% 2.5% 4.5% Revenues 'Cash Flow" Earnings 6.0% Dividends Book Value 3.0% 4.0% 5.0% 4.5%

5226 56.2

+.2

5167

+.2

5184

Peak Load, Summer (Mw) Annual Load Factor (%)

% Change Customers (yr-end)

Cal-	QUAR	TERLY RE	VENUES (\$ mill.)	Full							
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year							
2014	628.6	612.7	764.0	596.4	2601.7							
2015	590.8	589.6	732.8	546.0	2459.2							
2016	569.5	621.4	764.7	606.5	2562.1							
2017	572.6	609.3	794.3	643.8	2620							
2018	600	635	800	665	2700							
Cal-	EA	EARNINGS PER SHARE A										
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year							
2014	.52	.40	1.10	.33	2.35							
2015	.38	.46	.97	.28	2.09							
2016	.46	.51	1.08	.38	2.43							
2017	.42	.50	1.11	.42	2.45							
2018	.46	.52	1.19	.43	2.60							
Cal-	QUAR1	ERLY DIV	IDENDS PA	\ID B = †	Full							
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year							
2013	.33	.34	.34	.34	1.35							
2014	.34	.35	.35	.35	1.39							
2015	.35	.36	.36	.36	1.43							
2016	.38	.38	.38	.38	1.52							
2017	.40	.40	.40	.40								

The proposed merger of equals between Westar Energy and Great Plains Energy has taken some steps forward. Under the terms of the agreement, no premium would be paid and no cash would be exchanged with respect to either entity. A holding company would be created in which Westar stockholders receive one share for each of their current shares, and Great Plains stockholders receive 0.5981 shares for each share that they own. The tax-free transaction was recently approved by each company's stockholders and is expected to close by mid-2018, pending regulatory approval and other customary closing conditions.

We advise investors to hold their shares. The combined entity is targeting average annual earnings and dividend growth of 6%-8%. The companies also expect to save \$550 million in the first five years upon completion of the deal, and \$140 million to \$170 million annually thereafter. If the transaction fails to win regulatory approval (unlikely in our view), Westar would receive a \$190 million cash termination fee from GXP.

The pending merger is having a slight

impact on earnings. Thus far in 2017, Westar has incurred \$9 million in legal and operating expenses associated with the deal (slightly less than what we had been modeling). It expects that figure to climb to \$45 million by the time the transaction closes in mid-2018. Note that we have included this in our earnings presentation. For full-year 2017 and 2018, our share-net projections remain unchanged at \$2.45 and \$2.60, respectively.

The new company expects to set its initial dividend at a level that maintains the current payout for GXP shareholders. This would mean an increase of about 15% for WR stockholders.

Management provided an update on some of the other regulatory proceedings. Westar expects to file a general rate case for its main utility subsidiary in the first quarter of 2018, rather than at the end of this year. We think it will ask for an increase of 6%-10%. The company also plans to submit new wind farm proposals to KCC regulators in the coming months.

This issue's Timeliness rank remains suspended due to the pending merger. Daniel Henigson December 15, 2017

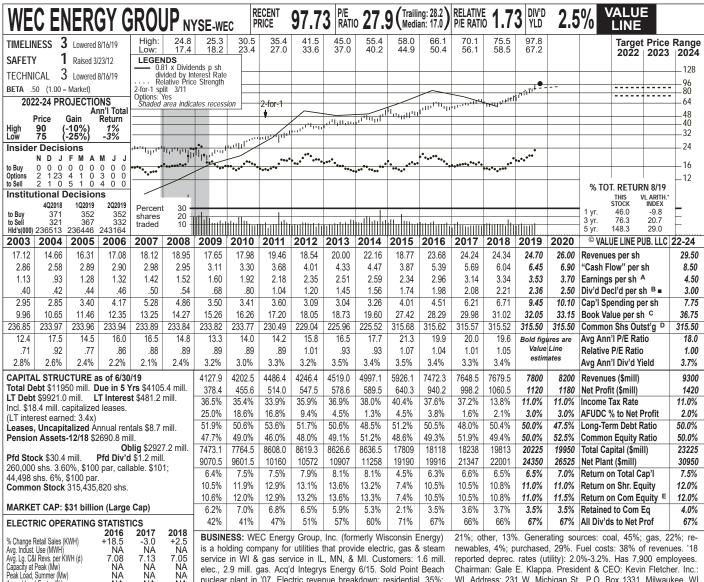
(A) EPS diluted from 2010 onward. Excl. nonrecur. gains (losses): '01, 27¢; '02, (\$12.06); '03, 77¢; '08, 39¢; '11, 14¢. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due | invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. reg. assets. In 2016: | Clim.: Avg. (E) In mill.

mid-February.

(B) Div'ds paid in early Jan., April, July, and Oct. Div'd reinvest, plan avail. † Shareholder earned on avg. com. eq., '16: 9.0%. Regul.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 90

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service in WI & gas service in IL, MN, & MI. Customers: 1.6 mill. elec., 2.9 mill. gas. Acq'd Integrys Energy 6/15. Sold Point Beach nuclear plant in '07. Electric revenue breakdown: residential. 35%: small commercial & industrial, 31%; large commercial & industrial

reported deprec. rates (utility): 2.0%-3.2%. Has 7,900 employees. Chairman: Gale E. Klappa. President & CEO: Kevin Fletcher. Inc. WI. Address: 231 W. Michigan St., P.O. Box 1331, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Tel.: 414-221-2345. Internet: www.wecenergygroup.com.

404 422 323 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 4.5% 7.5% 6.0% 3.0% 7.0% 8.5% 3.5% 7.0% 6.0% Revenues Cash Flow Earnings 11.0% 10.5% 15.5% 8.5% 6.0% 3.5% Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NA

NA +.5

NA +.7

NA

NΑ

Cal-			VENUES (Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	2194	1602	1712	1963	7472.3
2017	2304	1632	1657	2055	7648.5
2018	2287	1672	1644	2077	7679.5
2019	2377	1590			7800
2019	2450	1750	1750	2250	8200
2020	2450	1/50	1750	2230	0200
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	1.09	.57	.68	.61	2.96
2017	1.12	.63	.68	.71	3.14
2018	1.23	.73		.65	3.34
2019	1.33	.74	.71	.75	3.53
2020	1.30	.80	.85	.75	3.70
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.4225	.4225	.44	.4575	1.74
2016	.495	.495	.495	.495	1.98
2017	.52	.52	.52	.52	2.08
2018	.5525			.5525	2.21
2019	.59	.59	.59		

WEC Energy's utilities in Wisconsin have reached settlements on their rate cases. The settlement, if approved by the Wisconsin commission, will grant Wisconsin Electric, Wisconsin Gas, and Wisconsin Public Service rate hikes totaling \$86.1 million. Wisconsin Electric and WPS will have an allowed return on equity of 10.0%, and Wisconsin Gas' allowed ROE will be 10.2%. The common-equity ratio will be 52.5%. New rates will take effect at the start of 2020.

We continue to expect solid profit growth this year and next. WEC Energy's utility in Chicago, Peoples Gas, is spending \$280 million-\$300 million a year to replace old pipes. The company is recovering these expenditures contemporaneously through a rider (surcharge) on customers' bills. The healthy economy of the utilities' service area is another positive factor. Management is guiding investors to the upper end of its targeted range for 2019 earnings of \$3.50-\$3.53 a share. In 2020, WEC Energy ought to benefit from rate relief for its utilities in Wiscon-

The company has announced another

nonregulated renewable-energy project. WEC Energy would pay \$338 million for an 80% stake in a 300-megawatt wind farm. This is expected to be in service by the end of 2020.

This top-quality equity is noteworthy for its performance this year. The price has risen 20% since our mid-June report and 41% since the start of 2019. There isn't any obvious reason for such a strong outperformance. The company is faring well and its prospects are good, but this hasn't changed appreciably since the start of the year, nor has management upgraded its earnings guidance materially. Perhaps there is some takeover speculation, but WEC Energy is much larger than utilities that have been acquired in recent years. The yield is not much higher than the median of all dividend-paying issues under our coverage, and the recent quotation is above our 3- to 5-year Target Price Range, even though we raised this from where it was three months ago. Accordingly, we do not recommend these shares, even for income-oriented investors, due to their lofty valuation. Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 13, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gains on discont. ops.: '04, 77¢; '11, 6¢; nonrecurring gain: '17, 65¢. '16 & '18 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next

paid in early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '18: \$21.74/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for split. (E) Rate

WI in '15: 10.0%-10.3%; in IL in '15: 9.05%; in MN in '16: 9.11%; in MI in '16: 9.9%; earned on avg. com. eq., '18: 11.0%. Regulatory Climate: base: Net orig. cost. Rates all'd on com. eq. in WI, Above Avg.; IL, Below Avg.; MN & MI, Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 90 All of the major electric utilities located in the eastern region of the United States are reviewed in this Issue; western electrics, in Issue 11; and the remaining utilities, in Issue 5.

We discuss merger and acquisition activity (and possible deals) in the Electric Utility Industry.

Two gas pipelines under development by several companies in Issue 1 have been hurt by delays and cost escalations stemming from litigation by environmental and other opponents.

Most electric utility equities have turned in a stellar performance in 2019.

Mergers And Acquisitions

In this decade, there have been several mergers and acquisitions in the Electric Utility Industry, some of which involved companies covered in this Issue. *Exelon* acquired Constellation Energy in 2012 and Pepco Holdings in 2016 because management wanted to increase the proportion of income generated by regulated utility operations. Eversource Energy was formed in 2012 through the combination of two contiguous utilities in New England, Northeast Utilities and NSTAR. FirstEnergy acquired Allegheny Energy in 2011. Duke Energy purchased Progress Energy in 2012 and expanded its presence in the gas business by buying Piedmont Natural Gas in 2016. Southern Company also bought a gas company, AGL Energy, in 2016. Similarly, Dominion Energy took over Questar in 2016, then completed an electric and gas transaction with the purchase of SCANA in early 2019. In some of these deals, the buyer paid a high price-30 times earnings in the case of Duke's acquisition of Piedmont.

Currently, there is not a lot of M&A activity in this industry. The only pending deal is an investor group's agreement to buy El Paso Electric Company (covered in Issue 11). However, there are rumors in the financial media indicating that AVANGRID and PPL Corporation are holding talks about a possible combination. Perhaps this will lead to a deal, but there is no assurance that this will occur. And even if an agreement is struck, there is no assurance that a deal will win regulatory approval. The Electric Utility Industry has a high failure rate in proposed M&A. In early 2019, the proposed takeover of Avista (covered in Issue 11) was terminated after this was rejected by the regulatory commissions in two states.

A deal between utilities does not necessarily have to involve two investor-owned companies. Two municipal utilities, Santee Cooper, with 176,000 customers in South Carolina, and JEA, with 478,000 electric customers in Florida (plus water, sewer and wastewater customers), might be acquired. NextEra Energy and Duke Energy are among the bidders. These would be sizable deals, if effected. NextEra Energy completed a muchsmaller purchase in late 2018 when it bought the electric system of Vero Beach, Florida, with 35,000 customers.

Gas Pipeline Delays And Rising Costs

Many electric utilities also have a presence in natural

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 18 (of 95)

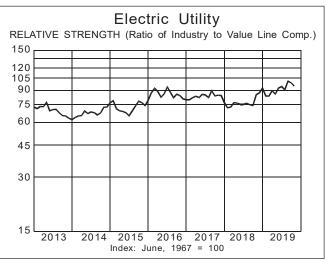
gas, through a gas distribution company and/or ownership of midstream gas assets. Some electric companies in Issue 1 have a stake in one of two gas pipelines that are under construction. The Atlantic Coast Pipeline (ACP) is owned by *Dominion Energy, Duke Energy*, and *Southern Company*. The Mountain Valley Pipeline (MVP) is owned by *NextEra Energy* and *Consolidated Edison*, among others. Each pipeline has faced litigation by environmental groups and other opponents, which has caused delays and significant cost increases. The cost of ACP is now estimated at \$7.3 billion-\$7.8 billion, and the cost of MVP is now expected to be \$5.3 billion-\$5.5 billion.

ACP got some good news when the U.S. Supreme Court accepted its petition to rule on the matter of whether the U.S. Forest Service has the authority to approve the project's Appalachian Trail crossing. Indirectly, this is good news for MVP, as well. A ruling from the Supreme Court is expected by June of 2020. A favorable ruling would allow the project to be completed by the end of 2021.

Conclusion

Almost every electric utility stock has performed extremely well in 2019. Only a few issues, including AVANGRID and Exelon, have declined in price. (The price of PG&E stock has plummeted, but this issue is no longer covered in *The Value Line Investment Survey* because the company is operating under Chapter 11.) Interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve have helped boost the quotations of these equities. With moneymarket funds, savings accounts, CDs, and U.S. Treasury securities offering low yields—that of the 10-year U.S. Treasury note is below 2%—income-oriented investors are "reaching for yield" with electric utility stocks, despite their high valuations. The average dividend yield of equities in the Electric Utility Industry is just 3.1%, which is low, by historical standards. For almost all of these issues, their recent price is well within their 2022-2024 Target Price Range. In some cases, the recent quotation is *above* this range.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA



All of the major electric utilities located in the central region of the United States are reviewed in this Issue; eastern electrics, in Issue 1; and the remaining utilities, in Issue 11.

The recent decline in interest rates (along with speculation that the Federal Reserve will cut rates again) have spurred the strong performance of most stocks in the Electric Utility Industry in the past several weeks.

The state of the service area's economy is important for electric utilities. The utilities covered in Issue 5 have seen mixed signals of late.

We discuss the progress of companies that were involved in mergers or acquisitions in recent years.

Most electric utility equities were priced expensively even before the recent surge, so this group has become even more pricey.

Interest Rates

The level of interest rates has always been a determinant (though hardly the only one) of the performance of electric utility stocks. When the yields on debt securities decline, this makes the dividends of electric utility equities relatively more attractive. This has induced many income-oriented investors to "reach for yield" by purchasing utility stocks, even though these equities are expensive, by utility standards.

Lately, the yield of the 10-year U.S. Treasury note has fallen to well below 2%. The drop in rates has pushed the prices of electric utility issues much higher. If the price of an equity in this industry has risen by less than 10% in 2019, this makes the stock an exception, not the rule. Even more rare are the stocks that have barely moved or experienced a decline in price this year.

Declining interest rates are mostly helpful for utilities because this lowers their borrowing costs. If the debt is held at the utility level, then the reduction in interest expense will eventually be passed through to ratepayers when the company has its next general rate case. If the debt is held at the parent level (or by a nonutility subsidiary), the company retains the benefit of lower rates. This also encourages acquisitions thanks to the decline in borrowing costs to finance these deals.

There is a negative effect of lower interest rates for utilities, however. When a utility files a general rate case, it asks for a specified return on equity. Asking for a higher allowed ROE than is currently reflected in rates is never easy, but this becomes more difficult when interest rates are declining. Even so, the positive factors of low rates outweigh the negative ones.

The Economy Matters

The economy matters to electric utilities, especially regarding industrial kilowatt-hour sales, which aren't sensitive to the weather the way residential and commercial sales are. What is important is not the national economy, but the economy in the utility's service terri-

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 21 (of 97)

tory. In the second quarter, some companies, such as *Wisconsin Energy, Entergy*, and *OGE Energy*, stated that the economies of their service areas were still strong. By contrast, *American Electric Power* indicated that it saw signs that the international trade war was starting to hurt some of its industrial customers.

Utilities typically have economic development efforts to help attract businesses to their service areas. The chief executive officer of *OGE Energy* cited this during the company's conference call to discuss second-quarter earnings. In some cases, utilities work in conjunction with state and local governments.

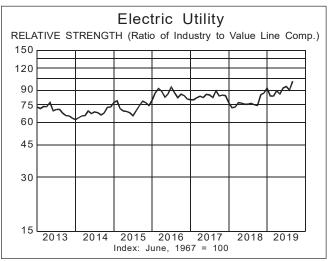
Merger And Acquisition Update

None of the utilities involved in this Issue is involved in M&A. However, *CenterPoint Energy* completed the purchase of Vectren in the first quarter of 2019, and *Evergy* was formed through the merger of Westar Energy and Great Plains Energy. These companies are cutting costs and are starting to achieve the expected merger-related expense reductions. *Evergy* is also buying back stock. The only pending deal in this industry is the takeover of El Paso Electric Company (reviewed in Issue 11).

Conclusion

Since Issue 5 last came out three months ago, electric utility stocks—which were already priced expensively—have become even more highly valued. Most are trading within their 2022-2024 Target Price Range, and some are trading above this range. Most are trading at market premium. In some cases, this premium is material. The average dividend yield of the stocks in this group is now just 3.1%, the lowest in many years. This is higher than the median of all dividend-paying equities covered in *The Value Line Investment Survey*, but low, by historical standards. As we have seen, even if a utility issue is priced expensively, it can become even more expensive.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA



2214

ELECTRIC UTILITY (WEST) INDUSTRY

All of the major electric utilities located in the western region of the United States are reviewed in this Issue; eastern electrics, in Issue 1; and the remaining utilities, in Issue 5.

The California government passed a law that will help address the problems that the state's electric utilities face from huge liabilities stemming from wildfires. However, this did not ameliorate problems electric companies are facing from past wildfires.

Several companies in this Issue are filing rate cases in order to recover capital spending, increased expenses, and earn an adequate return on equity.

Most electric utility stocks have performed extremely well in 2019. These equities continue to have a high valuation.

Wildfire Problems In California

In recent years, the two largest electric utilities in California have faced huge liabilities stemming from wildfires in their service area. The largest one, Pacific Gas and Electric (a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation), faced liabilities so large that in early 2019 the utility and its parent filed for protection under Chapter 11 of the Federal Bankruptcy Code. (As a result of this filing, we no longer cover the stock in *The Value Line Investment* Survey.) The problems faced by Southern California Edison (a subsidiary of Edison International) aren't nearly as severe, but are still significant. The company took a substantial charge in the fourth quarter of 2018 to establish a reserve for its estimate of the minimum wildfire liabilities it is facing. The third major utility in the Golden State, San Diego Gas & Electric (a subsidiary of Sempra Energy) hasn't had a major wildfire in its service area in recent years, but in the second quarter of 2016 wrote off costs associated with a 2007 wildfire after the company was unable to recover these costs in rates. The utilities' problems were exacerbated by California's inverse condemnation law. Under this law, a company may be found liable for damage caused by its equipment, even if the company is not found negligent.

In July, the California government enacted a law that is expected to lessen the financial problems that utilities would face from future wildfires. (The law does not affect past wildfires.) A \$21 billion fund was formed, half of which has been paid for by the utilities based on their relative size. *Edison International* issued debt and common equity in order to finance its \$2.4 billion share of this fund. (How the companies will account for these payments in their financial statements is yet to be determined.) Utilities will also benefit from a cost cap and a revised standard of prudence that is less burdensome, although the new law did not abolish inverse condemnation.

Electric utilities have increased their capital and operating budgets as they attempt to reduce the risks of wildfires and respond to them more quickly and effectively. Pacific Gas and Electric even shut down some power lines earlier this month in response to the risks, and received criticism for doing so. Some of the capital spending is recoverable in rates, but the companies will not earn an equity return on these expenditures. The cost of wildfire insurance has soared, which is hardly

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 50 (of 97)

surprising, but the utilities are recovering these costs from customers.

Regulatory Matters

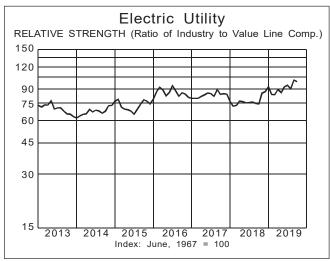
The wildfire matters mentioned above affect just two companies of the 12 covered in the Electric Utility (West) Industry in this Issue. By contrast, regulatory considerations affect every company in the Electric Utility Industry. Utility subsidiaries of *Avista* and *Hawaiian Electric Industries* have not earned an adequate return on equity in recent years, so the companies have come before the regulatory commissions frequently in recent years. The utilities owned by *Xcel Energy* are also frequent participants in the regulatory arena, especially as the company adds wind projects. *Black Hills* and *NorthWestern* also have rate cases pending.

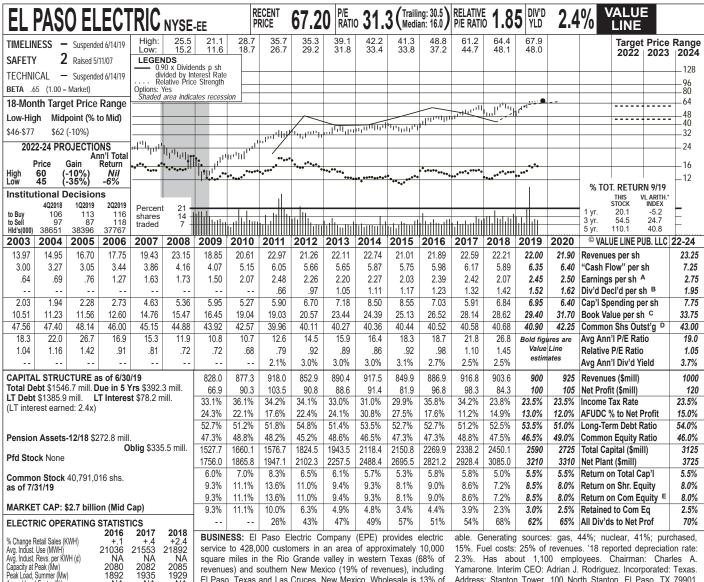
Conclusion

Most electric utility stocks have turned in outstanding performances in 2019. The price of almost every issue in this Industry has risen more than 10%, and several increases have exceeded 30%. Interest-rate cuts by the Federal Reserve (and the possibility of additional easing) have increased investors' interest in these equities thanks to their generous dividends. This "reaching for yield" has sent these stocks to lofty valuations. Almost every utility equity covered in Issue 11 is trading at a market premium. The average dividend yield for the Electric Utility Industry is 3.1%. This figure is still comfortably above the median of all dividend-paying issues covered in *The Value Line Investment Survey*, which is 2.2%, but the gap has narrowed considerably this year.

We advise investors to take a cautious stance due to the group's high valuation. The 18-month Target Price Ranges shown on the full-page reports for each stock do not reflect dividends, but even when dividends are added to these estimates, they do not suggest attractive total returns for this time frame. We do provide total return projections for the 3- to 5-year period. These are not appealing, either. In fact, the recent quotations for most of these stocks are within their 2022-2024 Target Price Range, and in some cases (such as *IDACORP*), the price is above this range.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA





revenues) and southern New Mexico (19% of revenues), including El Paso. Texas and Las Cruces. New Mexico. Wholesale is 13% of revenues. Electric revenue breakdown by customer class not avail-

Yamarone. Interim CEO: Adrian J. Rodriguez. Incorporated: Texas. Address: Stanton Tower, 100 North Stanton, El Paso, TX 79901. Tel.: 915-543-5711. Internet: www.epelectric.com

267 263 185 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 Revenues 1.0% 1.0% 'Cash Flow' 3.0% 1.0% Earnings 4.0% 8.0% 5.5% 6.5% 3.5% Dividends Book Value 7.0%

% Change Customers (vr-end)

1892

NA +1.6

1935

+1.7

ŇĀ

1929

+1.7

NA

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep.30		Full Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	157.8 171.3 175.7 174.4 180	217.9 251.8	323.2 297.5 300.3 327.5 330	188.0 196.2 190.8	886.9 916.8 903.6 900 925
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31	Full Year			
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	d.14 d.10 d.17 .15 d.15	.55 .89 .82 .64 .80	1.84 1.47 1.79 1.76 1.90	.14 .16 d.38 d.10 d.05	2.39 2.42 2.07 2.45 2.50
Cal- endar			VIDENDS F Sep.30		Full Year
2015 2016 2017 2018 2019	.28 .295 .31 .335 .36	.295 .31 .335 .36 .385	.295 .31 .335 .36 .385	.295 .31 .335 .36	1.17 1.23 1.32 1.42

The takeover of El Paso Electric Company has taken a step forward. The Infrastructure Investments Fund, advised by J.P. Morgan, has agreed to pay \$68.25 in cash for each share of EPE. The company's stockholders have approved the deal. However, the transaction still requires the approval of the Public Utility Commission of Texas, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission, and the Federal Energy Reg ulatory Commission (FERC). The city of El Paso will also have a say, as it must approve the transfer of the franchise with EPE before the acquisition can go through. So far, the transaction has received a mixed response in the city. The companies have offered customers \$21 million in credits over a 36-month period. Completion of the takeover is targeted for the first half of 2020.

We continue to advise shareholders to sell their stock on the open market. The price is generous, at 27 times estimated 2020 earnings. The recent quotation is just slightly below the buyout price. so the modest upside potential for investors does not justify assuming the justify downside risk that the proposed combina-

tion fails to win the approval of the regulators or the El Paso government. The Timeliness rank of EPE stock remains suspended due to the takeover agreement.

The utility has reached a settlement

of regulatory matters in Texas. EPE filed for \$16 million of transmission and distribution costs, and the settlement (if adopted) would provide revenues of \$15 million. The company plans to file a case at FERC by yearend. However, a general rate case in New Mexico was postponed while the acquisition application is pending.

We lowered our 2019 earnings estimate by \$0.15 a share, to \$2.45. Junequarter profits were lower than we expected because EPE booked expenses associated with the proposed acquisition. This reduced the bottom line by \$0.11 a share. These costs are not expected to be nearly as high in subsequent quarters, which is one reason why we estimate a slight earnings increase in 2020. Note that our presentation includes any gains or losses on the company's nuclear decommissioning trust.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA

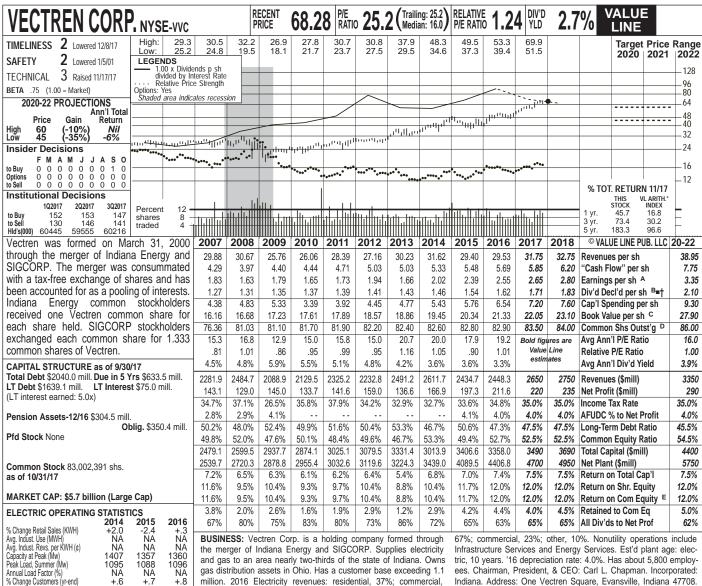
(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gains (loss): '03, 81¢; '04, 4¢; '05, (2¢); '06, 13¢; '10, 24¢. '18 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next

earnings report due early Nov. (B) Initial div'd | base: Net original cost. Rate allowed on com.

declared 4/11; payment dates in late Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '18: \$1.84/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate Climate: TX, Average; NM, Below Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 90 Price Growth Persistence 65 **Earnings Predictability** 75

October 25, 2019



million. 2016 Electricity revenues: residential, 37%; commercial, 27%; industrial, 34%; other, 2%. 2016 Gas revenues: residential,

Indiana. Address: One Vectren Square, Evansville, Indiana 47708. Telephone: 812-491-4000, Internet: www.vectren.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 446 363 428 ANNUAL RATES **Past** Past Est'd '14-'16 10 Yrs 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 2.5% 4.0% 6.0% 2.0% Revenues 4.5% Cash Flow 4.5% 4.0% 6.0% 6.5% Earnings 5.5% 5.5% Dividends 2.5% 3.0% 3.0% Book Value

Cal- endar			/ENUES (\$ Sep. 30		Full Year							
2014	796.8	542.5	595.6	676.8	2611.7							
2015	706.2	551.0	573.5	604.0	2434.7							
2016	584.8	533.7	631.0	699.0	2448.3							
2017	624.5	630.7	691.2	703.6	2650							
2018	655	655	710	730	2750							
Cal-	EA	EARNINGS PER SHARE A Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 3										
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Full Year							
2014	.62	.14	.57	.69	2.02							
2015	.69	.43	.48	.79	2.39							
2016	.58	.39	.74	.84	2.55							
2017	.67	.45	.75	.78	2.65							
2018	.70	.48	.76	.86	2.80							
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIV	DENDS PA	ID B∎†	Full							
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year							
2013	.355	.355	.355	.360	1.43							
2014	.360	.360	.360	.380	1.46							
2015	.380	.380	.380	.400	1.54							
2016	.400	.400	.400	.420	1.62							
2017	.420	.420	.420	.450								

Shares of Vectren have traded in a fairly narrow range over the past three months. This has followed a nice rally that began in late 2016. The company reported solid top-line growth for the September period. Performance at the nonutility group benefited from strong results at the infrastructure services operation, reflecting large pipeline projects this year. But the utility group fared less well, owing to a decline in usage from a large electric customer that completed its transition to a co-generation facility and lower electric margins. Moreover, growth in total operating expenses outstripped that of revenue, and share net advanced just modestly, to \$0.75. Looking forward, we expect solid performance will continue in the fourth quarter, but earnings per share will probably not match the impressive figure generated in the year-ago period.

The board of directors has raised the

dividend by 7%. Starting with the December payout, the quarterly dividend is now \$0.45 per share. Healthy dividend growth will probably continue.

Revenues and earnings should increase at a good pace from 2018 on-

ward. Performance at the utility group ought to be supported by investment in gas infrastructure programs in both Indiana and Ohio. Meanwhile, the nonutility group should further benefit from healthy demand for distribution services, as gas utilities continue to make significant investments in their infrastructure systems. The transmission business will likely be able to capitalize on high demand due to the need to replace aging infrastructure, though we do expect a measure of unevenness here going forward.

Short-term traders may want to take a closer look. This issue is well ranked for Timeliness. Moreover, Vectren earns good marks for Safety, Financial Strength, Price Stability, and Earnings Predictability. Volatility is subdued, as well.

But patient investors can probably find more-suitable choices elsewhere. The stock presently trades at a price-toearnings multiple that is well in excess of its historical average. As a result, this equity lacks long-term appreciation potential at this time. Also, the dividend yield does not stand out for a utility. Michael Napoli, CFA December 15, 2017

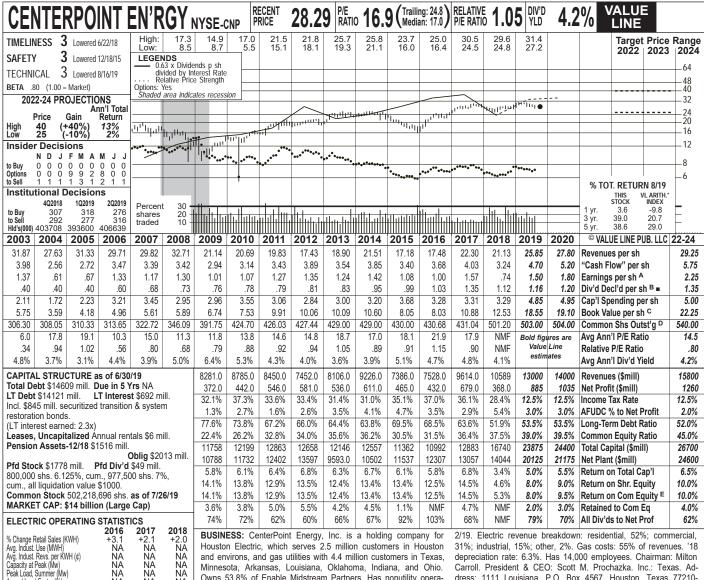
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecur. gain (loss): '09, 15¢. Next egs report due late February.

(B) Div'ds historically paid in early March, June, September, and December. Div'd rein-

avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '16, \$7.27/sh. (D) In latory Climate: Above Average. (F) Totals may millions. (E) Electric rate base determination: not sum due to rounding. fair value. Rates allowed on elect. common

plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan equity range from 10.15% to 10.4%. Regu-

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence 90 70 **Earnings Predictability**



and environs, and gas utilities with 4.4 million customers in Texas, Minnesota, Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Indiana, and Ohio. Owns 53.8% of Enable Midstream Partners. Has nonutility operations. Discontinued Texas Genco Holdings in '04. Acquired Vectren depreciation rate: 6.3%. Has 14,000 employees. Chairman: Milton Carroll. President & CEO: Scott M. Prochazka. Inc.: Texas. Address: 1111 Louisiana, P.O. Box 4567, Houston, Texas 77210-4567. Tel.: 713-207-1111. Internet: www.centerpointenergy.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)		219	269	167
ANNUAL RATES	Past	Past	Est'd	'16-'18
of change (per sh)	10 Yrs.	5 Yrs.	to '	22-'24
Revenues	-4.0%	1.5%	6	5.5%
"Cash Flow"	.5%		- 8	3.0%
Earnings Dividends	-1.5%	-3.0%	6 12	2.5%
	5.5%	7.5%		2.5%
Book Value	6.5%	1.0%	6 13	3.5%

NA

+1.7

NA

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (avg.)

Cal- endar			VENUES (Sep. 30		Full Year
2016	1984	1574	1889	2081	7528.0
2017	2735	2143	2098	2638	9614.0
2018	3155	2186	2212	3036	10589
2019	3531	2798	3050	3621	13000
2020	4050	2950	3200	3800	14000
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHARE	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
2016	.36	d.01	.41	.25	1.00
2017	.44	.31	.39	.43	1.57
2018	.38	d.17	.35	.18	.74
2019	.28	.33	.48	.41	1.50
2020	.45	.40	.50	.45	1.80
Cal-	QUAR'	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.2475	.2475	.2475	.2475	.99
2016	.2575				1.03
2017	.2675	.2675	.2675	.2675	1.07
2018	.2775	.2775	.2775	.2775	1.11
2019	.2875	.2875	.2875		

CenterPoint Energy's Houston Electric subsidiary received an unfavorable recommendation in its general rate **case.** The utility is seeking a rate hike of \$155 million (revised from the original request of \$161 million), based on a 10.4% return on a 50% common-equity ratio. The Texas commission's staff recommended an increase of just \$5 million, based on a 9.45% return on a 40% common-equity ratio. A proposal from an administrative law judge is expected soon, with an order expected in the fourth quarter.

A rate case was concluded, and one is **upcoming.** The Ohio regulators approved a settlement that raised Vectren's gas rates \$22.7 million. This was a "black box" agreement in which an allowed ROE was not specified. Minnesota Gas is preparing to put forth an application in November.

Results in 2019 won't reflect Center-Point's earning power. The company is incurring expenses associated with its acquisition of Vectren earlier this year. We *include* these costs in our earnings presentation

The bottom line should be much improved in 2020. CenterPoint will still

book some merger-related expenses, but at a much lower level. The company should achieve merger-related expense reductions, which are estimated at \$75 million-\$100 million. Customer growth is solid, and CenterPoint's utilities should also benefit from rate relief. However, we have trimmed our 2020 share-net estimate by a nickel due to our concern about Houston Electric's rate case. Our revised estimate of \$1.80 is still within CenterPoint's targeted range of \$1.75-\$1.90.

CenterPoint plans to keep its stake in Enable Midstream Partners. The master limited partnership has taken steps to reduce its exposure to oil and gas prices. The distributions are a good source of cash, and Enable's board raised the distribution for the first time since 2015.

CenterPoint stock has been one of the industry's laggards in 2019. The share price has barely moved in what has been an excellent year for most utility issues. The dividend yield is about a percentage point above the utility average, and 3- to 5-year total return potential is also better than that of most utilities.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 13, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. extraordinary gains (losses): '04, (\$2.72); '05, 9¢; '11, \$1.89; '12, (38¢); '13, (52¢); '15, (\$2.69); '17, \$2.56; losses on disc. ops.: '04, 37¢; '05, 1¢. '16 EPS

don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. 5 declarations 10%; (gas): 9.45%-11.25%; earned on avg. in '17. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. | com. eq., '18: 5.5%. Regulatory Climate: Avg. © 2019 Value Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 95 Price Growth Persistence 40 **Earnings Predictability** 50

AVANGRID, INC.	NYSE	-AGR		R	ECENT RICE	49.4	6 P/E RATIO	19.	6 (Traili Medi	ng: 25.8) an: NMF)	RELATIVE P/E RATIO	1.1	3 DIV'D	3.6	WALU LINE		
TIMELINESS 3 Lowered 3/22/19								High: Low:	38.9 32.4	46.7 35.4	53.5 37.4	54.6 45.2	52.9 47.4		Targe	t Price	Rang
SAFETY 2 Raised 2/17/17	LEGE							LOW.	52.4	55.4	37.4	45.2	47.4		2022	2023	202 12
ECHNICAL 2 Raised 11/8/19	Options:	elative Pric Yes	9														 10
BETA .40 (1.00 = Market)	Shaded	area indic	ates recess	ion													—80 —64
18-Month Target Price Range											, '''' , '''	orthood	and electrical de				- 48
.ow-High Midpoint (% to Mid)										լիու ^{ՄԿ} իլ	J	11					•
645-\$65 \$55 (10%)																	+3
2022-24 PROJECTIONS																	\pm_{2}^{2}
Ann'l Total										•							$+\bar{1}$
Price Gain Return ligh 60 (+20%) 9% ow 45 (-10%) 2%										•		,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,	******				<u> </u>
, ,															% TOT. RETUR	N 10/19	_8
nstitutional Decisions 4Q2018 1Q2019 2Q2019																/L ARITH.* INDEX	
Buy 118 140 114	Percen shares														1 yr. 10.2	4.9	
o S ell 133 121 138 Hd's(000) 45361 44712 43692	traded	3 -								diami	Himili	dillidi.dii	ddalal		3 yr. 41.7 5 yr. —	30.2 36.8	\vdash
AVANGRID, Inc. was formed	ed thro	ugh a	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014		2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	© VALUE LINE P	UB. LLC	22-2
nerger between Iberdrola U	ISA, In	c. and							14.14	19.48	19.30	20.96	20.70	21.35	Revenues per sh		23
JIL Holdings Corporation in									3.44	4.74	4.49	4.89	5.45	5.65	"Cash Flow" per	sh	6
015. Iberdrola S.A., a world									1.05	1.98	1.67	1.92	2.40	2.45	Earnings per sh		3
ne energy industry, own NANGRID. The predecessor	S 81.5	10 %C							3.50	1.73	1.73	1.74	1.76	1.78	Div'd Decl'd per s		2
ounded in 1852 and is hea									48.74	5.52 48.90	7.82 48.79	5.78 48.88	7.75 49.50	10.05	Cap'l Spending p Book Value per s		52
New Gloucester, Maine. It was									308.86	308.99	309.01	309.01	309.00	309.00	Common Shs Ou		309
n 1997 in New York under th									33.5	20.5	27.3	26.1	Bold fig		Avg Ann'l P/E Ra		1
Resources, Inc. AVANGRID_		trading							1.69	1.08	1.37	1.41	Value estin		Relative P/E Ratio)	l
on the NYSE on December 17	, 2015.									4.3%	3.8%	3.5%	esun	ates	Avg Ann'l Div'd Y	ield	4.
CAPITAL STRUCTURE as of 9/30								4594.0	4367.0	6018.0	5963.0	6478.0	6400	6600	Revenues (\$mill)		7
Total Debt \$7571 mill. Due in 5 Y LT Debt \$6718 mill. LT Interes								424.0	267.0	611.0	516.0	595.0	740	760	Net Profit (\$mill)		- 10
ncl. \$89 mill. capitalized leases.								39.9% 6.8%	11.3% 12.7%	37.4% 7.5%	32.4% 12.4%	22.1% 9.4%	18.5% 8.0%	19.5% 8.0%	Income Tax Rate AFUDC % to Net	Ductit	19. 6.
LT interest earned: 3.9x)	tala ¢21	mill						16.8%	23.1%	23.0%	25.6%	26.2%	28.5%	31.5%	Long-Term Debt I		38.
.eases, Uncapitalized Annual ren	lais po i	111111.						83.2%	76.9%	77.0%	74.4%	73.8%	71.5%	68.5%	Common Equity I		62.
Pension Assets-12/18 \$2544 mill.								14956	19583	19619	20273	20472	21325	22600	Total Capital (\$m		26
Pfd Stock None	Oblig \$33	374 mill.						17099	20711	21548	22669	23459	24900	27025			33
TO OLOGIC MONE								3.7%	2.1%	3.8%	3.1%	3.5%	4.0%	4.0%	Return on Total C		4.
Common Stock 309,005,272 shs.								3.4% 3.4%	1.8% 1.8%	4.0% 4.0%	3.4% 3.4%	3.9% 3.9%	5.0%	5.0%	Return on Shr. Ed		5.
is of 10/30/19 //ARKET CAP: \$15 billion (Large	Cap)				- :			3.4%	1.8%	1.4%	NMF	.4%	5.0% 1.5%	5.0%	Return on Com E Retained to Com		5. 1.
LECTRIC OPERATING STATIST			1					J. T //	1.070	66%	104%	90%	73%		All Div'ds to Net I		7
2016	2017	2018	BIIGINI	ESS: AV	/ANGDID), Inc. (for	morly Ib	ordrola	ISA Inc						ating sources not		lo E
Change Retail Sales (KWH) NA vg. Indust. Use (MWH) NA	NA NA	NA NA				tility comp									rate: 2.9%. Iberdr		
vg. Indust. Revs. per KWH (¢) NA	NA	NA	tric cus	tomers i	n New Y	ork, Conn	necticut, a	and Maii	ne and 1	million	of stock	. Has 6,	400 emp	loyees. (Chairman: José I	gnacio S	Sancl
apacity at Peak (Mw) NA eak Load, Summer (Mw) NA	NA NA	NA NA				York, C ted generated									son. Deputy CE0 180 Marsh Hill Ro		
Annual Load Factor (%) NA 6 Change Customers (yr-end) +.5	NA +.6	NA +.5	power.	with 7.2	oinegula aigawatt	s of capa	ainy sub city. Reve	osicially I enue bre	ocuseu (akdown	by cus-					tsu Marsh Hill Ro et: www.avangrid.o		nge,
						2019									ffect in Apr		
xed Charge Cov. (%) 415	333	343				D by									nect in Apr / er's rate		h
NNUAL RATES Past Past f change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs	st Est'd	l '16-'18 '22-'24				arter p									The utilit		
Revenues		3.0%				pected									ase (thanks		ow
Cash Flow"		6.0%	-			iting									on a return		

8.5% 3.0% 1.0% Earnings Dividends - -Book Value

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 1418 2016 1670 1439 1491 6018.0 2017 1758 1331 1341 1533 5963.0 2018 1865 1402 1546 1665 6478.0 2019 1842 1400 1487 1671 6400 2020 1950 1450 1500 1700 6600 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2016 .63 .33 .35 .67 1.98 2017 .77 .39 .32 .19 1.67 2018 .79 .34 .40 .38 192 2019 .70 .36 .48 .86 2.40 2020 .40 .50 .77 2.45 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 endar Dec.31 2015 2016 2017 .432 .432 .432 .432 1.73 .432 .432 .432 2018 .44 1.74 .44 .44 2019 44 44

\$0.10 to the bottom line. Additional markto-market credits, along with a gain on the sale of a 50% stake in two renewableenergy projects, should produce a fourthquarter tally that is greater than we had estimated. Our revised estimate is within AVANGRID's guidance (GAAP) of \$2.36-\$2.46 a share. We assume no mark-tomarket items in 2020, so we are sticking with our \$2.45-a-share estimate. The company should benefit from rate relief and growth in its renewable-energy subsidiary. The company's utilities in New York are trying to reach a settlement of **their rate cases.** They requested electric and gas increases of \$188.4 million and \$12.1 million, respectively, based on a return of 9.5% on a common-equity ratio of 50%. The staff of the New York commission recommended electric hikes totaling \$77.4 million and gas decreases totaling \$38.4 million, based on a return of 8.2% on a common-equity ratio of 48%. New tariffs

a common-equity ratio of 55%. However, it has been criticized for metering and billing problems. The commission's staff proposed a return of 8.75% on a common-equity ratio of 50%. An order is expected in the first quarter of 2020. CMP has also seen opposition to a proposed \$950 million transmission line. It hopes to begin construction in 2020 and complete the project in 2022.

Is a merger in AVANGRID's future?

The financial press has reported rumors of a combination between the company and PPL Corporation. We don't know if a deal will be reached, but an announcement might well be good news in what has been a disappointing year. The board has not raised the dividend, and the stock has traded in a narrow range while most utility issues have performed strongly. The dividend yield is slightly above average, but the equity does not stand out for the 18-month or 3- to 5-year period. Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 15, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gain (loss): '16, 6¢; '17, (44¢). '18 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Feb. (B) Div'ds paid in early Jan., April, July, and

Oct. Dividend reinvestment plan available. 16. 9.0%; in CT in 17: 9.1% elec.; in CT in 19: 9.3% gas; in ME in 14: 9.45%; earned on avg. 19.73/sh. (D) In millions. (E) Rate base: net common eq., 18: 3.9%. Regulatory Climate: original cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in NY in Below Average.

'16: 9.0%; in CT in '17: 9.1% elec.; in CT in '19: '18: 3.9%. Regulatory Climate:

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

B++ 95 80 NMF

EVERGY, INC. NY	SE-EVRG		R	ECENT RICE	65.5	5 P/E RATIO	o 22 .	9 (Traili Medi	ng: 27.9 an: NMF	RELATIVE P/E RATIO	1.4	2 DIV'D	3.1	% VAI	NE LUE	
TIMELINESS -										High:	61.1	66.0		Та	rget Pric	e Range
SAFETY 2 New 9/14/18	LEGENDS									Low:	50.9	54.6		20	202	3 2024
TECHNICAL —	Options: Yes	Price Strength														128
	Shaded area in	dicates recess	sion													96
BETA NMF (1.00 = Market)															 	
2022-24 PROJECTIONS Ann'i Total											րդվ	dietel				48
Price Gain Return High 75 (+15%) 6% Low 55 (-15%) Nil																40 -32
Insider Decisions																24
N D J F M A M J J																16
to Buy 0 0 0 1 0 0 0 0 0 0 Options 0 0 5 0 8 1 0 3 0												•••••				12
to Sell 2 2 1 1 3 1 2 2 0														% TOT. RE	TURN 8/19	
Institutional Decisions 4Q2018 1Q2019 2Q2019	_													THIS		.*
to Buy 247 276 241	Percent 36 shares 24													1 yr. 17.6	-9.8	
to Sell 267 265 263 Hld's (000) 214843 207427 200470	traded 12	<u> </u>									11111			3 yr. — 5 yr. —	20.7 29.0	-
Evergy, Inc. was formed throu	iah the merae	er 2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	© VALUE LI	NE PUB. LLO	22-24
of Great Plains Energy and V											16.75	23.80	26.20	Revenues pe	r sh	28.25
in June of 2018. Great F											4.89	7.35	8.25	"Cash Flow"		9.50
holders received .5981 of a sh	hare of Everg	iy									2.50	2.80	3.20	Earnings per	sh A	3.50
for each of their shares, and \											1.74	1.94	2.08	Div'd Decl'd		2.50
holders received one share											4.19	5.70	6.30	Cap'l Spendi	٠.	5.75
each of their shares. The men											39.28	38.05	38.15	Book Value p		41.50
pleted on June 4, 2018. Sha began trading on the New Y											255.33	225.00	212.00	Common Sh		
change one day later.	OIK SLOCK E	(22.7 1.22	Bold fig	res are	Avg Ann'l P/l Relative P/E		19.0 1.05
	140	⊣ ::		::	::				::		3.1%	estin		Avg Ann'l Di		3.8%
CAPITAL STRUCTURE as of 6/30. Total Debt \$9725.7 mill. Due in 5 Y											4275.9	5350	EEEO			6000
LT Debt \$7141.3 mill. LT Interes											535.8	680		Revenues (\$ Net Profit (\$r		770
Incl. \$162.3 mill. capitalized leases.		-									9.8%	13.0%	13.0%	Income Tax F	•	13.0%
(LT interest earned: 3.3x)											2.5%	2.0%	3.0%	AFUDC % to		2.0%
Leases, Uncapitalized Annual ren	tals \$24.2 mill.										40.0%	50.0%		Long-Term D		52.5%
•											60.0%	50.0%	48.5%	Common Eq		47.5%
Pension Assets-12/18 \$1603.4 mi	II. olig \$2553.4 mi										16716	17175	16725	Total Capital		18600
Pfd Stock None	nig \$2000.4 iiii	"									18952	19250		Net Plant (\$n		19800
											4.0%	5.0%	5.5%			5.5%
Common Stock 235,467,484 shs. as of 8/2/19											5.3%	8.0%	8.5%	Return on Sh		8.5%
MARKET CAP: \$15 billion (Large	Can)										5.3%	8.0%		Return on Co		
	.,	┤ ::									.6% 89%	2.5% 68%	3.0% 64%	Retained to (All Div'ds to		2.5% 69%
ELECTRIC OPERATING STATISTI 2016	2017 201	з ——														
% Change Retail Sales (KWH) NA Avg. Indust. Use (MWH) NA	NA NA	4 BUSIN	ESS: Ev											%; purchased		
Avg. Indust. Revs. per KWH (¢) NA	NA 7.1	1 sidiarie	Energy a											deprec. rate A. Ruelle. P		
Capacity at Peak (Mw) NA Peak Load, Summer (Mw) NA	NA NA	A provide	es electri											Incorporated:		
Annual Load Factor (%) NA	NA NA	A Misson	ıri. Electr							1200 Ma	in Stree	et, Kansa	s City, I	Missouri 6410	5. Telepho	ne: 816-
% Change Customer's (yr-end) NA NA NA NA cial, 32%; industrial, 12%; wholesale, 10%; other, 9%. Generating 556-2200. Internet: www.evergyinc.com.																
Fixed Charge Cov. (%) NA	Fixed Change Cov. (%) NA NA 322 Evergy's share earnings are likely to ty issuance was no longer needed. Evergy															
ANNUAL RATES Past Pas			rove											s so tha		
of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yr.	s. to '22-'24	The	comp											line wi		
Revenues "Cash Flow"	NMF NMF		, as th											ompany's		
Earnings	NMF		018 th and											shares l ad repur		
Dividends	NMF		and	1.41.63	1 12121	IIS EL	ILD LOV	wian		$A \leq OI$		· .Surn	II n	au repur		11111114

of 2018 through the merger of Westar Energy and Great Plains Energy. Management stated that the company is on track to achieve its target of \$110 million of cost reductions this year. Stock repurchases (see below) will also boost share profits. Note that our earnings presentation *in*cludes severance and rebranding costs (estimated at \$0.11 a share), even though the company is excluding these from its earnings guidance of \$2.80-\$3.00 for 2019. Additional merger-related expense reductions, a lower average share count, and the absence of severance and rebranding costs should help raise share net in 2020.

than 36 million shares. We expect a dividend increase in the **fourth quarter.** We estimate an increase of \$0.14 a share (7.4%) in the annual disbursement. Evergy's goal is a payout ratio in a range of 60%-70%, and this would wind up near the midpoint of the range if our 2020 earnings estimate is accurate.

Evergy is buying back stock. The combination of these two companies into Evergy was originally structured as a purchase of Westar by Great Plains. The latter company issued stock in anticipation of the deal's completion, but the Kansas commission rejected the proposal. The companies restructured the combination as a merger of equals, so the cash raised from the equi-

This stock has fared better in recent months. It was one of the poorest performers among utility issues in early 2019 because investors were concerned about the company's prospects for post-2020 earnings growth and the expectation of low single-digit growth in its rate base. The reason for the improvement in price is not apparent. Neither the dividend yield nor the 3- to 5-year total return potential stands out among utilities. The stock is unranked for Timeliness due to its short trading history since Evergy was formed. Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 13, 20 September 13, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Next earnings report due early November. (B) Dividends paid in mid-March, June, September, and December.

Dividend reinvestment plan available. (C) Incl. in-

40

.475

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

EARNINGS PER SHARE A

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B =

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31

1582.5

1650

1700

1.32

1.55

1.75

46

.475

1199.8

1261

1300

.07

.29

.35

.475

893.4

1222

1300

.56

.57

.65

Year

4275.9 5350

5550

Full

Year

2.50

2.80

3.20

Full

Year

- -

1.74

Cal-

endar

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

Cal-

endar

2016

2017

2018

2019

2020

Cal-

endar

2015

2016

2017

2018

2019

600.2

1217

.42

.39

.45

40

.475

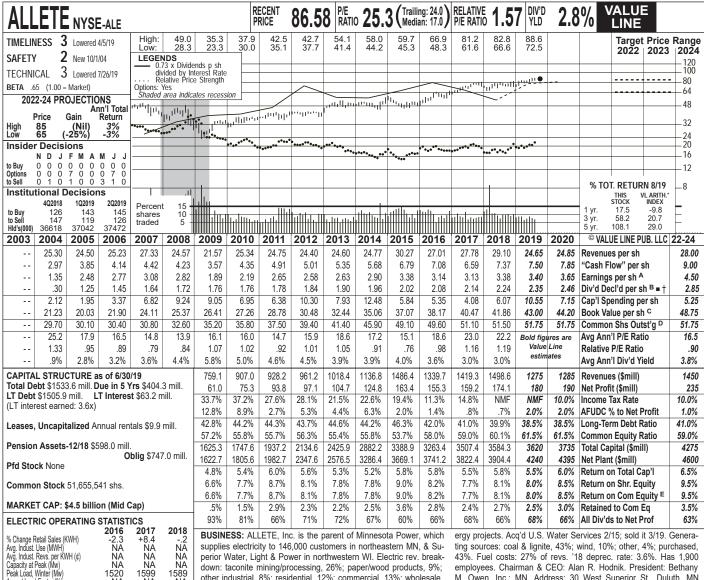
Book Value

(D) In millions. (E) Rate base: Original cost depreciated. Rate allowed on common equity in Missouri in '18: none specified; in Kansas in

tangibles. In '18: \$4096.8 mill., \$16.05/sh. | '18: 9.3%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

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

NME NMF NMF



down: taconite mining/processing, 26%; paper/wood products, 9%; other industrial, 8%; residential, 12%; commercial, 13%; wholesale, 16% other, 16%. ALLETE Clean Energy (ACE) owns renewable en-

employees. Chairman & CEO: Alan R. Hodnik. President: Bethany M. Owen. Inc.: MN. Address: 30 West Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802-2093. Tel.: 218-279-5000. Internet: www.allete.com.

318 339 296 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 2.5% 6.5% 4.0% Revenues 1.0% Nil Cash Flow 5.0% 1.0% 4.0% 6.0% 5.0% 3.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value

Annual Load Factor (%)
% Change Customers (avg.)

1520

NA NA

1589

NA NA

NA NA

Cal- endar			VENUES (Sep. 30		Full Year
2016	333.8	314.8	349.6	341.5	1339.7
2017	365.6	353.3	362.5	337.9	1419.3
2018	358.2	344.1	348.0	448.3	1498.6
2019	357.2	290.4	337.4	290	1275
2020	335	300	350	300	1285
Cal-	E/	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	Α	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
2016	.93	.50	.81	.90	3.14
2017	.97	.72	.88	.56	3.13
2018	.99	.61	.59	1.19	3.38
2019	1.18	.64	.80	.78	3.40
2020	1.20	.70	.88	.87	3.65
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB = †	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.505	.505	.505	.505	2.02
2016	.52	.52	.52	.52	2.08
2017	.535	.535	.535	.535	2.14
2018	.56	.56	.56	.56	2.24
2019	.5875	.5875	.5875		

We estimate that ALLETE's earnings will increase in 2019, but just slightly. The fourth-quarter comparison will be difficult because the company's ALLETE Clean Energy (ACE) subsidiary booked a gain of $\$0.2\overline{0}$ a share on the sale of a wind facility a year ago. (ACE has done this before, and this is part of normal operations.) Also, wind conditions in 2019 have been subpar. And ALLETE sold its U.S. Water Services business earlier this year, and will not have the income (\$0.06 a share in 2018) that this contributed. Note that AL-LETE's earnings target of \$3.50-\$3.80 a share for 2019 includes an aftertax gain of \$11.2 million (\$0.22 a share), which we are excluding from our earnings presentation as a nonrecurring item. Note as well that management is guiding Wall Street to the lower end of this range.

The company's largest utility subsidiary, Minnesota Power, plans to file a **general rate case in early November.** The utility's allowed return on equity is low, at 9.25%, and Minnesota Power is not earning this figure. An interim increase (subject to refund) will take effect at the start of 2020. The utility is also construct-

ing a transmission line, and is earning a contemporaneous return on this \$345 million investment. This, along with growth at ACE, should enable earnings to advance next year.

ACE is growing solidly. ALLETE is using the \$265 million in proceeds from the U.S. Water sale to fund this subsidiary. ACE now has 555 megawatts of wind capacity in operation. Two projects (186 mw) should be completed by yearend, and a 303 mw project is scheduled for completion in 2020.

ACE might eventually become an independent entity. This wouldn't be the first time that ALLETE has spun off a growing subsidiary. In 2004, it spun off its auto-auction operation, ADESA (now KAR Auction Services, NYSE: KAR). We think management is considering this along with several other options.

This stock has a high valuation, espe**cially for a utility.** The dividend yield is below the industry average. Also, with the recent quotation above our 2022-2024 Target Price Range, total return potential is minimal.

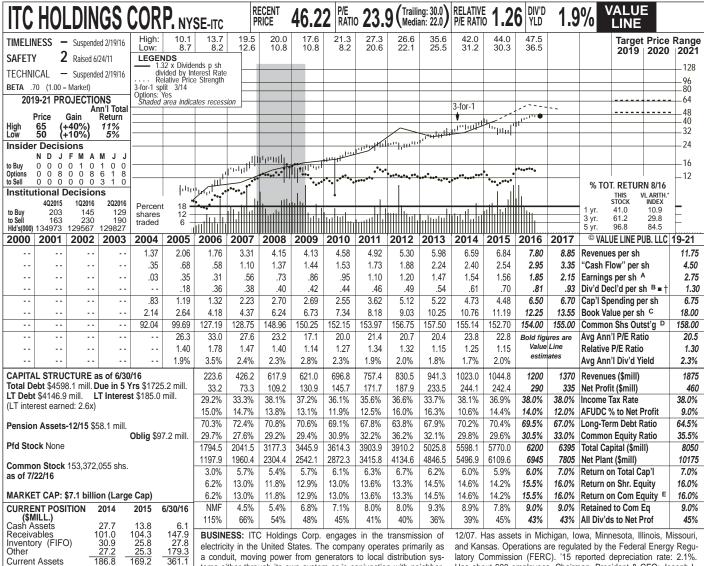
Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 13, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '04, (25¢); '05, (\$1.84); '15, (46¢); '17, 25¢; '19, 22¢; gain (losses) on disc. ops.: '04, \$2.57, '05, (16¢); '06, (2¢). '16 & '18 EPS don't sum due

to rounding. Next earnings report due early Nov. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept. and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan

deferred charges. In '18: \$11.90/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Orig. cost depr. Rate allowed in MN on com. eq. in '18: 9.25%; earned on avg. avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. | com. eq., '18: 8.2%. Regulatory Climate: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 60 **Earnings Predictability** 85



a conduit, moving power from generators to local distribution systems either through its own system or in conjunction with neighboring transmission systems. Acquired Michigan Electric Transmission Company 10/06; Interstate Power & Light's transmission assets

latory Commission (FERC). '15 reported depreciation rate: 2.1%. Has about 600 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Joseph L. Welch. Inc.: Michigan. Address: 27175 Energy Way, Novi, Michigan 48377. Tel.: 248-946-3000. Internet: www.itctransco.com

Fix Chg. Cov. 309% 266% 262% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '13-'15 10 Yrs. to '19-'21 of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. Revenues "Cash Flow 14.0% 16.5% 8.5% 10.5% 10.5% 11.0% 23.0% 21.5% 12.5% 8.0% 10.5% 13.0% Earnings Dividends **Book Value** 16.0% 9.0% QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 217.3 229.8 941.3 258.6 263.2 270.1 1023.0

395.3

719.2

146.9

451 2

186.8

785.0

108.0 175.0

180.0

463.0

2013 2014 272.5 275.1 273.2 224.0 1044.8 2015 298.0 306.9 2016 280.1 315 1200 2017 340 345 350 1370 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year endar 2013 .32 .30 .37 .48 1.47 2014 .43 .34 .47 .30 1.54 2015 .43 .46 .42 .24 1.56 2016 .42 .46 .49 1.85 .48 .55 .55 2017 2.15 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar 2012 .1175 .1175 .126 .126 .49 2013 .126 .126 .1425 .1425 2014 .1425 .1425 .1625 .1625 .61 .1625 .1625 .1875 .1875 2016 .1875 .1875 .2155

Accts Payable Debt Due

Other Current Liab.

The acquisition of ITC Holdings is **progressing.** Fortis, a Canadian company with utilities in the U.S., would pay US\$22.57 in cash plus .752 of a Fortis share for each ITC share. The Fortis shares trade on a Canadian exchange, so the value of the deal will fluctuate based not only on the price of Fortis stock, but on the exchange rate between the U.S. and Canadian dollars. The transaction is now valued at almost \$47.00 a share. Each company's stockholders have approved the combination, as have the regulators in Oklahoma and Illinois. The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) and the commissions in three other states must still rule on the deal. The companies ex-

pect it to be completed by yearend.

We advise ITC holders to sell their **shares on the open market.** The recent price is just 2% below the value of the buyout, so there isn't much upside potential for ITC holders. There is downside risk if the deal fails to win regulatory approval, however. The Timeliness rank of ITC stock is suspended due to the pending acquisition.

ITC is taking charges associated with

the Fortis deal and for the possible refund of previously collected revenues. Merger-related costs reduced earnings by \$0.14 a share in the first half of 2016. More significantly, over the past several quarters, the company has been taking reserves for the probable refund of pre-viously collected revenues. This lowered profits by \$0.11 a share in the first two quarters of 2016. Transmission users have filed two complaints with FERC against transmission owners in the Midwest, contending that allowed returns on equity are too high and should be reduced. An administrative law judge has recommended cuts in the allowed ROEs, but FERC has yet to rule on either complaint. Each percentage point reduction in ITC's allowed ROE would reduce the company's earning power by \$30 million after taxes.

The board of directors has raised the dividend. The increase was \$0.11 a share (14.9%) annually. However, unlike most utilities, ITC's dividend yield is still below the market median. Of course, ITC is not like other utilities, being the sole publicly traded transmission-only company.

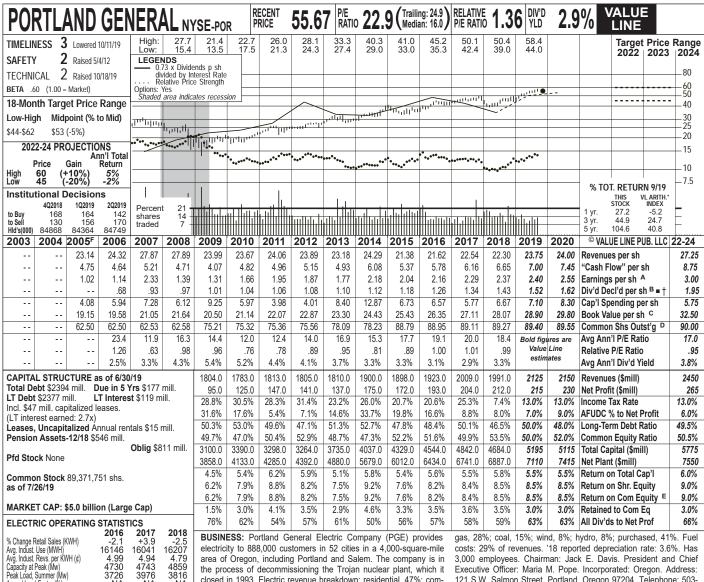
Paul E. Debbas, CFA September 16, 2016

(A) Diluted earnings. '15 earnings don't add to full-year total due to rounding. Next earnings report due late Oct. (B) Dividends historically paid in early March, June, Sept., and Dec.

millions, adjusted for stock split. (E) Rates al-

Dividend reinvestment plan available. † Shareholder investment plan available. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '15: \$1.26 billion, \$8.24/sh. (D) Intangibles. In '15: \$1.26 billion, \$8.24/sh. (D) Intangibles. In '16: \$1.26 billion, \$1.26

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 90 **Earnings Predictability** 90



area of Oregon, including Portland and Salem. The company is in the process of decommissioning the Trojan nuclear plant, which it closed in 1993. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 47%; commercial, 32%; industrial, 11%; other, 10%. Generating sources:

3,000 employees. Chairman: Jack E. Davis. President and Chief Executive Officer: Maria M. Pope. Incorporated: Oregon. Address: 121 S.W. Salmon Street, Portland, Oregon 97204. Telephone: 503-464-8000. Internet: www.portlandgeneral.com

266 271 298 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 -2.0% 2.5% 3.5% Revenues -1.5% 3.5% 6.0% 4.5% 6.5% 3.0% Cash Flow 4.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

3726

NA +1.2

3976

NA +1.3

3816

NA +1.1

Cal- endar			VENUES (Full Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	487 530 493 573 550	428 449 449 460 475	484 515 525 547 560	524 515 524 545 565	1923 2009 1991 2125 2150
Cal- endar	EA Mar.31		ER SHARI Sep.30	_	Full Year
2016 2017 2018 2019 2020	.68 .82 .72 .82 .85	.42 .36 .51 .28 .45	.38 .44 .59 . 60	.68 .67 .55 . 70 . 73	2.16 2.29 2.37 2.40 2.55
Cal- endar	QUART Mar.31		DENDS PA Sep.30		Full Year
2015 2016 2017 2018 2019	.28 .30 .32 .34 .3625	.28 .30 .32 .34 .3625	.30 .32 .34 .3625 .385	.30 .32 .34 .3625 .385	1.16 1.24 1.32 1.41

We have trimmed our 2019 earnings estimate for Portland General Electric by \$0.05 a share, to \$2.40. Secondquarter profits were much lower than usual due to higher expenses and lower tax credits. However, management did not adjust its earnings target of \$2.35-\$2.50 a share. In the electric utility industry, the timing of expenses can shift from one year to the next, and it appears this will be the case in the last six months of 2019. So, we raised our estimate for this period by \$0.10 a share, partly offsetting the fact that June-quarter profits were \$0.15 a share below our estimate. Note that the company's profits are benefiting from a modest rate increase that took effect at the start of the year.

We are sticking with our 2020 profit estimate of \$2.55 a share. PGE should continue benefiting from moderate customer and load growth. The utility hasn't decided whether it will file a general rate case next year, but even if this happens, new tariffs almost certainly won't be in place in time to benefit earnings until 2021

PGE has increased its capital budget.

The company plans to spend \$200 million to build an integrated operations center. Management expects the new facility to improve seismic resilience, cyber and physical security, and monitoring, control, and optimization of the utility's distribution system. The project is expected to be completed in 2021. Despite the higher capital spending plans, PGE expects it will not need to issue common equity through 2023.

Another significant project is under development. The utility will pay \$160 million for a one-third stake in a 300megawatt wind facility, which is scheduled for completion by yearend 2020. It's possible that PGE will build additional renewable-energy projects, depending on the outcome of a request for proposals that will follow a commission order on the integrated resource plan the utility filed in July

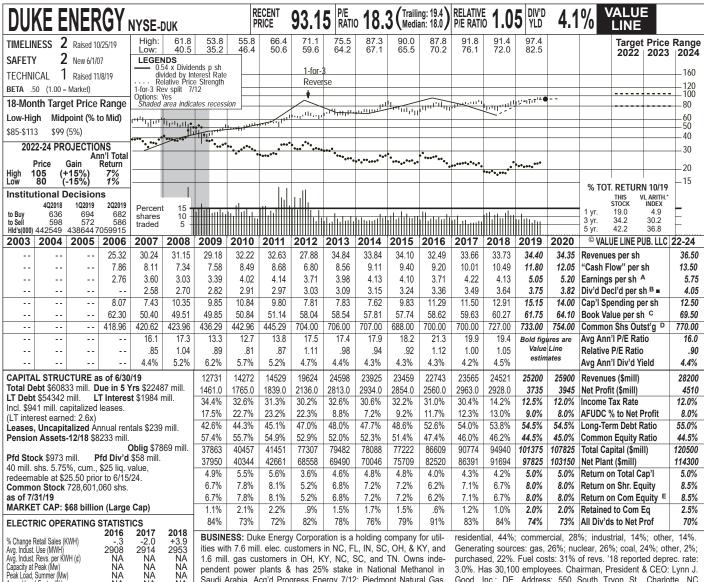
This equity does not stand out among utilities for its dividend yield. This is a cut below the industry average. Total return potential isn't appealing, either for the 18-month or the 3-to 5-year period. Paul E. Debbas, CFA Öctober 25, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring losses: '13, 42¢; '17, 19¢. Next earnings report due early November. (B) Div'ds paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. †

Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. 18: 8.6%. Regulatory Climate: Average. (F) '05 deferred charges. In '18: \$4.49/sh. (D) In mill. per-share data are pro forma, based on shs. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '19: 9.5%; earned on avg. com. eq.,

outstanding when stock began trading in '06.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 85



1.6 mill. gas customers in OH, KY, NC, SC, and TN. Owns independent 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:

purchased, 22%. Fuel costs: 31% of revs. '18 reported deprec. rate: 3.0%. Has 30,100 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.

272 264 218 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 1.5% 2.5% 2.5% 7.0% 1.0% Revenues 1.0% 1.5% 5.5% 6.0% 2.5% 2.5% 'Cash Flow' 4.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value

NA +1.4

Annual Load Factor (%

% Change Customer's (avg.)

NA

NA

+1.3

NA

NA

+1.4

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY RE Jun.30	VENUES (Sep.30	\$ mill.) Dec.31	Full Year
2016	5377	5213	6576	5577	22743
2017	5729	5555	6482	5799	23565
2018	6135	5643	6628	6115	24521
2019	6163	5873	6940	6224	25200
2020	6350	6000	7200	6350	25900
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.83	.90	1.44	.54	3.71
2017	1.02	.98	1.36	.86	4.22
2018	1.17	.71	1.63	.61	4.13
2019	1.24	1.12	1.82	.87	5.05
2020	1.30	1.10	1.85	.95	5.20
Cal-	QUAR	TERLY DIV	IDENDS P	AID B =	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.795	.795	.825	.825	3.24
2016	.825	.825	.855	.855	3.36
2017	.855	.855	.89	.89	3.49
2018	.89	.89	.9275	.9275	3.64
2019	.9275	.9275	.945		

Duke Energy's electric utility subsidiaries in North Carolina have filed general rate cases. Duke Energy Carolinas requested an increase of \$291 million (6.0%), and Duke Energy Progress filed for a hike of \$464 million (12.3%). Each case is based on a 10.3% return on a 53% common-equity ratio. New rates are likely to take effect in the third quarter of 2020. Electric rate cases are pending in Indiana and Kentucky, too. In Indiana, the utility filed for \$395 million (15%), based on a 10.4% return on a 53% common-equity ratio. Duke sought \$345 million in mid-2020 and \$50 million in 2021. In Kentucky, the company requested \$83 million (9.0%), based on a 10.6% return on a 52% common-equity ratio.

The North Carolina commission approved Piedmont Gas' settlement of its rate case. The utility had filed for an increase of \$83 million (9.0%), based on a 10.6% return on a 52% common-equity ratio. The settlement boosted rates by \$28 million (3.1%), based on a 9.7% return on a 52% common-equity ratio. New tariffs took effect on November 1st.

Rate relief is a key reason for the

profit growth we expect in 2019 and **2020.** In addition, in 2019 the comparisons are easy in the June and December quarters. Our 2019 EPS estimate is within the company's guidance of \$4.95-\$5.15 a share. Duke completed the sale of a minority interest in its commercial renewableenergy portfolio. The sale proceeds were \$415 million (before taxes). This will be used to retire debt.

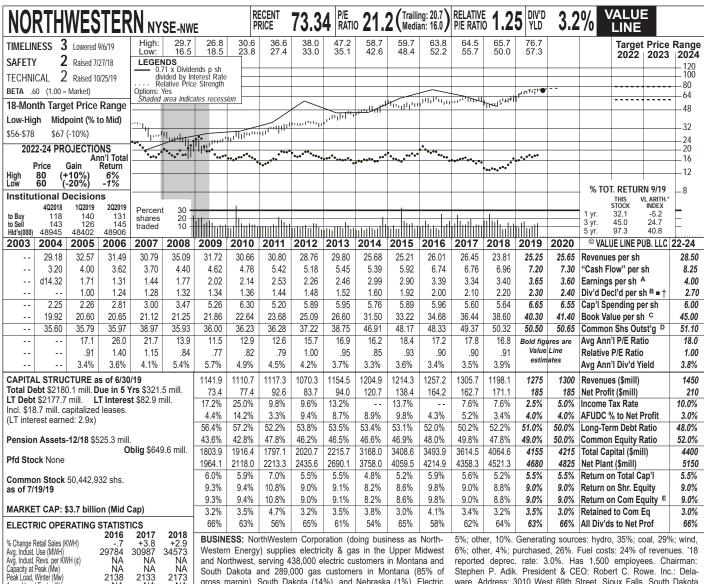
Not everything is going well. Duke's utilities in South Carolina received disappointing rate orders, so the company appealed the decision to the state Supreme Court. Construction of a 47%-owned, \$7.3 billion-\$7.8 billion gas pipeline is on hold due to legal challenges. Even if a verdict from the U.S. Supreme Court is favorable, the in-service date won't occur until 2022. And due to the delays and cost overruns, Duke plans to add \$2.5 billion of equity by year-end 2020. Finally, coal-ash pond closure costs remain controversial.

The dividend yield of this timely stock is above the utility average. But total return potential isn't appealing, either for the 18-month or the 2022-2024 period. Paul E. Debbas, CFA November 15, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. losses: '12, 70¢; '13, 24¢; '14, 67¢; '17, 15¢; '18, 41¢; losses on disc. ops.: '14, 80¢; '16, 60¢; '18 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rates all'd on Reg. Clim.: NC Avg.; SC, OH, IN Above Avg.

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Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 100 Price Growth Persistence 40 **Earnings Predictability** 90



and Northwest, serving 438,000 electric customers in Montana and South Dakota and 289,000 gas customers in Montana (85% of gross margin), South Dakota (14%), and Nebraska (1%). Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 39%; commercial, 46%; industrial,

reported deprec. rate: 3.0%. Has 1,500 employees. Chairman: Stephen P. Adik. President & CEO: Robert C. Rowe. Inc.: Delaware. Address: 3010 West 69th Street, Sioux Falls, South Dakota 57108. Tel.: 605-978-2900. Internet: www.northwesternenergy.com.

275 253 275 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '16-'18 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '22-'24 -3.0% 5.0% 7.0% 7.0% 8.0% Revenues -2.5% 2.0% 3.0% 3.0% 4.5% 3.5% 'Cash Flow' 5.5% 8.5% Earnings Dividends Book Value

% Change Customers (vr-end)

2138

NA +1.2

2133

NA

+1.3

NA +1.2

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	332.5	293.1	301.0	330.6	1257.2
2017	367.3	283.9	309.9	344.6	1305.7
2018	341.5	261.8	279.9	314.9	1198.1
2019	384.2	270.7	295.1	325	1275
2020	365	285	310	340	1300
Cal-	EA	RNINGS P	ER SHAR	ΕA	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016	.82	.73	.92	.92	3.39
2017	1.17	.44	.75	.98	3.34
2018	1.18	.61	.56	1.06	3.40
2019	1.44	.49	.72	1.00	3.65
2020	1.25	.55	.75	1.05	3.60
Cal-	QUART	ERLY DIVI	DENDS PA	IDB∎†	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2015	.48	.48	.48	.48	1.92
2016	.50	.50	.50	.50	2.00
2017	.525	.525	.525	.525	2.10
2018	.55	.55	.55	.55	2.20
2019	.575	.575	.575		

NorthWestern is awaiting an order in its electric rate case in Montana. The utility filed for a tariff hike of \$30.7 million (6.1%), based on a return of 10.65% on a common-equity ratio of 49.4%. The settlement, if approved by the state commission, will boost rates by \$6.5 million (1.3%), based on a return of 9.65% on a common-equity ratio of 49.4%. Also, annual depreciation expense will be lowered by \$9.3 million. Note that the settlement does not address matters of rate design, such as the subsidization of solar users by nonsolar customers. Also note that North-Western has been collecting an interim rate hike of \$10.5 million (subject to refund) since April 1st. A decision from the Montana regulators is expected within the next few weeks.

We trimmed our 2019 share-earnings estimate by a nickel, but North-Western should turn in a record tally anyway. June-quarter profits fell short of our estimate due to mild weather patterns. However, weather conditions were favorable in the first period. Accordingly, March-quarter earnings were much higher than usual. Rate relief and solid customer

growth are positive factors. Note that NorthWestern isn't providing earnings guidance while the aforementioned rate case is pending.

We expect a slight earnings decline in **2020.** This is based on our assumption of a return to normal winter weather. We also assume that the Montana rate settlement is approved along the lines mentioned above.

The utility filed an electricity supply **resource plan in Montana.** North-Western estimates it will need dispatchable peaking capacity (150 to 250 megawatts) by 2022. The company expects to issue a request for proposals by yearend 2019. The state commission will provide comments on NorthWestern's plan. Note that the company also has a plan in South Dakota, and will make a project selection in November.

NorthWestern stock has a dividend yield that is average for a utility. However, we expect total returns over the 18month period will be negative. For the 3to 5-year period, projected total returns are low.

Paul E. Debbas, CFA October 25, 2019

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gain (loss) on disc. ops.: '05, (6¢); '06, 1¢; nonrec. gains: '12, 39¢ net; '15, 27¢; '18, 52¢; '19, 45¢. '18 EPS don't sum

Oct. (B) Div'ds historically paid in late Mar., June, Sept. & Dec.

Div'd reinvestment plan in '17 (gas): 9.55%; in SD in '15: none specavail. (C) Incl. defd charges. In '18: \$15.80/sh. ified; in NE in '07: 10.4%; earned on avg. com. due to rounding. Next earnings report due late | (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate | eq., '18: 9.2%. Regul. Climate: Below Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 95 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 85

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