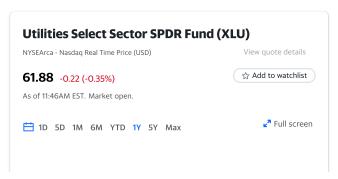




Utility stocks took a breather on Tuesday following the sector's worst daily performance since April 2020.

The SPDR S&P 500 Utility Sector ETF (XLU) fell 4% on Monday and recovered to end the next day higher. Year to date the ETF is down a whopping 21%.

Much of the damage on the normally "safe-haven" area of the market has to do with higher rates.





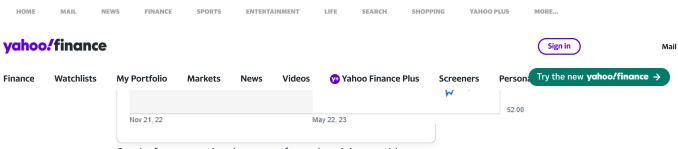
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Symbol	Last Price	Change	% Change	
AEP	77.22	+0.03	+0.04%	
American Electric Power Company, Inc.				
DUK Duke Energy Corpor	89.39 ration	+0.09	+0.10%	
DUK-PA Duke Energy Corpor	24.51 ration	+0.09	+0.38%	
NEE NextEra Energy, Inc.	57.63	+0.29	+0.51%	
NEP NextEra Energy Part	23.56 tners, LP	-0.06	-0.25%	

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Stocks for companies that range from electricity providers to water suppliers normally offer dividends. But those payouts don't look as appealing to investors when compared to soaring bond yields in a tight monetary policy environment. On Tuesday, the two-year Treasury note hovered around 5.15% while the 10-year touched 4.79%.



"Many utilities currently offer forward yields near 5%. However, when investors can obtain risk-free Treasuries offering yields between 4.5% to 5.5%, depending on the maturity, the risk-reward trade off for holding utilities is much less attractive, " equity analyst Daniel Rich at CFRA Research told Yahoo Finance.



Jim Shandalov, vice president at NextEra Energy Resources, California Governor Gavin Newsom (R), and former Mayor of Los Angeles Antonio Villaraigosa (C) walk along the construction of the battery storage facility for a solar farm. (John G. Mabanglo-Pool/Getty Images) (Pool via Getty Images)

Additionally, the Federal Reserve's interest rate mantra of "higher for longer" also means the cost of capital will stay elevated, another reason why the sector sold off aggressively last quarter. The market expects investments for new power plants, aging infrastructures, and renewable technologies will cost more.

Utility stocks were already in a downward trend since the start of the year as investors rotated into growth names. But the 11/21/23, 8:46 AM

Utility stocks take a beating amid rising rates

LIFE SEARCH SHOPPING YAHOO PLUS HOME MAIL NEWS FINANCE SPORTS ENTERTAINMENT MORE... yahoo!finance Sign in Mail Try the new yahoo!finance → My Portfolio Finance Watchlists Markets News Videos Yahoo Finance Plus Screeners "Tighter monetary policy and higher interest rates obviously affect the financing needed to grow distributions at 12%," read



Some of the worst performers in the utility sector year to date include NextEra Energy, AES Corp (AES), and Eversource Energy (ES), down 52%, 37%, and 33% respectively.

the company statement.

"While the sector is very out of favor, we think the sell-off presents some attractive buying opportunities for names with competitive earnings and dividend growth potential," said CFRA's Rich.

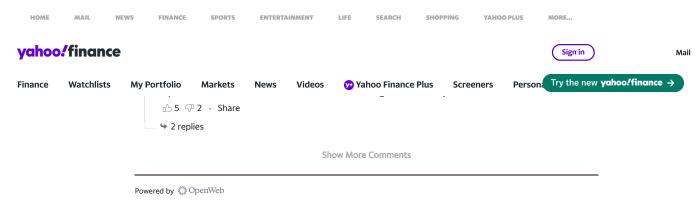
"Among some of the larger names, we maintain Buy opinions on NextEra, Duke Energy (DUK), and American Electric Power (AEP)," he added.

Ines Ferre is a senior business reporter for Yahoo Finance. Follow her on Twitter at @ines_ferre.

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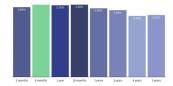
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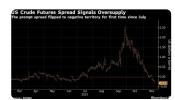
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