

South Jersey Gas rev. mix '19: residential, 47%; commercial, 23%; cogen. and electric gen., 12%; industrial, 18%. Acq. Elizabethtown Gas and Elkton Gas, 7/18. Nonutil. operations include South Jersey Energy, South Jersey Resources Group, South Jersey Exploration,

common; BlackRock, 15.5%; The Vanguard Group, 11.4% (3/20 proxy). Pres. & CEO: Michael J. Renna. Chairman: Joseph M. Rigby. Inc.: NJ. Addr.: 1 South Jersey Plaza, Folsom, NJ 08037. Tel.: 609-561-9000. Internet: www.sjindustries.com.

Past Est'd '17-'19 ANNUAL RATES Past to '23-'25 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 6.0% 3.5% -2.5% 6.0% 2.0% 6.0% Revenues "Cash Flow" 5.0% 1.5% 8.0% Dividends **Book Value** 6.5% 6.0% 5.0% QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill)

410.5 1004.4

165.9

1580.8

112%

232.2

1316.6

1731.9

176%

160.4

570.7

926.2

206%

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

Fix. Chg. Cov

Other

Cal- endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Full Year
2017	425.8	244.4	227.1	345.8	1243.1
2018	521.9	227.3	302.5	589.6	1641.3
2019	637.3	266.9	261.2	463.2	1628.6
2020	534.1	260.0	260.0	485.9	1540
2021	575	285	290	530	1680
Cal-	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2017	.72	.06	d.05	.50	1.23
2018	1.19	.07	d.27	.39	1.38
2019	1.09	d.13	d.30	.46	1.12
2020	1.15	d.01	d.20	.56	1.50
2021	1.20	.05	d.15	.60	1.70
Cal-	QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B				Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2016		.264	.264	.536	1.06
2017		.273	.273	.553	1.10
2018		.280	.280	.567	1.13
2019		.287	.287	.582	1.16
2020		.295	.295		
l	I				l

Shares of South Jersey Industries have declined in price lately. The company has posted mixed results in recent periods. Revenue comparisons have not been favorable, but the bottom line has fared better. In the June quarter, the top line fell modestly, year over year. But expenses remained in check, and the share deficit narrowed to \$0.01. Looking forward, we expect that considerable economic weakness due to restrictive social measures implemented to curb the spread of the coronavirus will constrain the top line in the back half of the year, though we do envision a measure of improvement in the December period. Earnings comparisons will likely remain favorable, assuming lower cost of sales. All things considered, we project a moderate top-line pullback but a strong share-earnings advance for South Jersey for full-year 2020.

The company recently completed an equity offering. South Jersey received gross proceeds of about \$200 million in an at-the-market offering. This transaction was completed in mid-June, and satisfies the company's plan to raise equity capital this year. The share count has increased

moderately as a result.

We envision further operating improvement here from 2020 onward. The company's utility operations and regulatory initiatives should continue to fare well. Its businesses should further benefit from growth in the customer base. Infrastructure investments will allow the company to modernize its system and meet growing demand for natural gas within its service territories. Infrastructure replacement programs allow South Jersey to earn an authorized return on approved investments. We anticipate better results on the nonutility side, as well.

This neutrally ranked stock has ample investment appeal. We anticipate solid bottom-line growth for the company over the pull to mid-decade. From the recent quotation, this equity offers worthwhile long-term total return potential. This is helped by a generous dividend yield. Moreover, South Jersey Industries earns fairly good marks for Price Stability and Earnings Predictability. Subscribers seeking exposure to the utility space might want to take a closer look.

Michael Napoli, CFA August 28, 2020

(A) Based on economic egs. from 2007. GAAP EPS: '08, \$1.29; '09, \$0.97; '10, \$1.11; '11, \$1.49; '12, \$1.49; '13, \$1.28; '14, \$1.46; '15, \$1.52; '16, \$1.56; '17, (\$0.04); '18, \$0.21; '19,

\$0.84. Excl. nonrecur. gain (loss): '09, (\$0.22); due early November. (**B**) Div'ds paid early '10, (\$0.24); '11, \$0.04; '12, (\$0.03); '13, April, July, Oct., and late Dec. Div. reinvest. (\$0.24); '14, (\$0.11); '15, \$0.08; '16, \$0.22; '17, plan avail. (**C**) Incl. reg. assets. In 2019: \$665.9 (\$1.27); '18, (\$1.17); '19, (\$0.28). Next egs. rpt. | mill., \$7.21 per shr. (D) In mill., adj. for split.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 70 Price Growth Persistence 20 **Earnings Predictability** 65