

**PROXY COMPANIES
RATES OF RETURN ON AVERAGE COMMON EQUITY**

#REF!	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2002-2008 Average	2009-2018 Average	2020	2021	2023-25
Proxy Group																							
Atmos Energy Corp.	10.3%	11.2%	9.1%	9.1%	10.0%	9.2%	9.0%	8.5%	9.1%	9.2%	8.2%	9.2%	10.0%	9.9%	10.4%	10.3%	10.0%	9.6%	9.7%	9.5%	9.0%	8.5%	9.0%
New Jersey Resources Corp.	16.0%	16.7%	15.8%	16.1%	14.5%	10.2%	16.5%	14.2%	14.4%	14.2%	14.2%	13.4%	18.8%	14.5%	12.1%	12.4%	17.8%	11.7%	15.1%	14.3%	9.5%	10.5%	9.5%
Northwest Natural Holding Co.	8.7%	9.2%	9.3%	10.1%	10.9%	12.4%	11.1%	11.6%	10.7%	9.1%	8.2%	8.1%	7.7%	6.9%	7.3%	-7.0%	8.9%	8.0%	10.2%	7.2%	8.0%	8.0%	8.5%
One Gas Inc.														6.4%	7.4%	8.2%	8.5%	8.9%		7.9%	8.0%	8.0%	8.5%
South Jersey Industries, Inc.	13.9%	13.0%	13.4%	13.3%	17.2%	13.4%	13.6%	13.4%	14.5%	14.6%	13.8%	12.5%	11.9%	10.2%	8.7%	7.9%	9.3%	7.4%	14.0%	11.3%	8.5%	9.5%	12.0%
Southwest Gas Holdings, Inc.	6.6%	6.2%	8.8%	6.5%	9.7%	8.8%	6.0%	8.1%	9.1%	9.3%	10.4%	10.6%	9.6%	8.9%	9.3%	9.9%	9.2%	9.0%	7.5%	9.4%	8.0%	8.5%	10.0%
Spire Inc.	7.8%	11.8%	11.2%	11.1%	13.1%	12.0%	12.6%	12.9%	10.3%	11.5%	10.7%	6.9%	7.0%	8.9%	8.6%	8.6%	10.1%	7.9%	11.4%	9.4%	2.0%	6.0%	7.0%
Average	10.6%	11.4%	11.3%	11.0%	12.6%	11.0%	11.5%	11.5%	11.4%	11.3%	10.9%	10.1%	10.8%	9.4%	9.1%	7.2%	10.5%	8.9%	11.3%	9.9%	7.6%	8.4%	9.2%
Median	9.5%	11.5%	10.3%	10.6%	12.0%	11.1%	11.9%	12.3%	10.5%	10.4%	10.6%	9.9%	9.8%	8.9%	8.7%	8.6%	9.3%	8.9%	11.0%	9.8%	8.0%	8.5%	9.0%

Source: Calculations made from data contained in Value Line Investment Survey.

Excluding Spire
Mean 8.5% 8.8% 9.6%
Median 8.3% 8.5% 9.3%

SPIRE INC. NYSE-SR				RECENT PRICE	60.54	P/E RATIO	NMF (Trailing: 51.7; Median: 18.0)	RELATIVE P/E RATIO	NMF	DIV'D YLD	4.3%	VALUE LINE														
TIMELINESS 3 Lowered 11/30/18	High: 48.3	37.8	42.8	44.0	48.5	55.2	61.0	71.2	82.9	81.1	88.0	88.0														
SAFETY 2 Raised 6/20/03	Low: 29.3	30.8	32.9	36.5	37.4	44.0	49.1	57.1	62.3	60.1	71.7	57.4														
TECHNICAL 3 Raised 5/1/20	LEGENDS 0.35 x Dividends p sh divided by Interest Rate Relative Price Strength Options: Yes Shaded area indicates recession																									
BETA .80 (1.00 = Market)	18-Month Target Price Range Low-High Midpoint (% to Mid) \$53-\$117 \$85 (40%)																									
2023-25 PROJECTIONS High Price 120 (+100%) Ann'l Total Return 21% Low Price 90 (+50%) 13%																										
Institutional Decisions 3Q2019 4Q2019 1Q2020 to Buy 115 127 120 to Sell 117 114 116 Hld's(000) 41800 42195 42039 Percent shares traded 18 12 6																										
2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 2009 2010 2011 2012 2013 2014 2015 2016 2017 2018 2019 2020 2021																										
59.59	75.43	93.51	93.40	100.44	85.49	77.83	71.48	49.90	31.10	37.68	45.59	33.68	36.07	38.78	38.30	35.10	36.40	Revenues per sh ^A	58.20							
2.79	2.98	3.81	3.87	4.22	4.56	4.11	4.62	4.58	3.12	3.87	6.15	6.16	6.54	7.55	7.12	4.70	7.25	"Cash Flow" per sh	9.75							
1.82	1.90	2.37	2.31	2.64	2.92	2.43	2.86	2.79	2.02	2.35	3.16	3.24	3.43	4.33	3.52	1.10	3.30	Earnings per sh ^{A B}	5.15							
1.35	1.37	1.40	1.45	1.49	1.53	1.57	1.61	1.66	1.70	1.76	1.84	1.96	2.10	2.25	2.37	2.49	2.61	Div'ds Decl'd per sh ^C	3.00							
2.45	2.84	2.97	2.72	2.57	2.36	2.56	3.02	4.83	4.00	3.96	6.68	6.42	9.08	9.86	16.15	12.50	10.10	Cap'l Spending per sh	10.50							
16.96	17.31	18.85	19.79	22.12	23.32	24.02	25.56	26.67	32.00	34.93	36.30	38.73	41.26	44.51	45.14	50.50	55.45	Book Value per sh ^D	72.00							
20.98	21.17	21.36	21.65	21.99	22.17	22.29	22.43	22.55	32.70	43.18	43.36	45.65	48.26	50.67	50.97	52.00	52.50	Common Shs Outst'g ^E	55.00							
15.7	16.2	13.6	14.2	14.3	13.4	13.7	13.0	14.5	21.3	19.8	16.5	19.6	19.8	16.7	22.8	22.4	22.8	Avg Ann'l P/E Ratio	20.5							
.83	.86	.73	.75	.86	.89	.87	.82	.92	1.20	1.04	.83	1.03	1.00	.90	1.24	1.28	1.28	Relative P/E Ratio	1.15							
4.7%	4.4%	4.3%	4.4%	3.9%	3.9%	4.7%	4.3%	4.1%	4.0%	3.8%	3.5%	3.1%	3.1%	3.1%	3.0%	3.0%	3.0%	Avg Ann'l Div'd Yield	2.9%							
CAPITAL STRUCTURE as of 6/30/20 Total Debt \$2961.3 mill. Due in 5 Yrs \$725.0 mill. LT Debt \$2478.3 mill. LT Interest \$120.0 mill. (Total interest coverage: 3.1x)													1735.0	1603.3	1125.5	1017.0	1627.2	1976.4	1537.3	1740.7	1965.0	1952.4	1825	1910	Revenues (\$mill) ^A	3200
Leases, Uncapitalized Annual rentals \$8.2 mill. Pension Assets-9/19 \$521.8 mill. Oblig. \$751.4 mill. Pfd Stock \$242.0 mill. Pfd Div'd \$3.4 mill. as of 7/31/20													54.0	63.8	62.6	52.8	84.6	136.9	144.2	161.6	214.2	184.6	55.0	175	Net Profit (\$mill)	285
MARKET CAP: \$3.1 billion (Mid Cap)													33.4%	31.4%	29.6%	25.0%	27.6%	31.2%	32.5%	32.4%	32.4%	15.7%	15.0%	16.0%	Income Tax Rate	23.5%
CURRENT POSITION 2018 2019 6/30/20 (\$MILL.)													3.1%	4.0%	5.6%	5.2%	5.2%	6.9%	9.4%	9.3%	10.9%	9.5%	3.0%	9.2%	Net Profit Margin	8.9%
Cash Assets 4.4 5.8 7.4 Other 655.2 608.7 551.9 Current Assets 659.6 614.5 559.3													40.5%	38.9%	36.1%	46.6%	55.1%	53.0%	50.9%	50.0%	45.7%	45.0%	49.0%	48.0%	Long-Term Debt Ratio	45.0%
Accts Payable 290.1 301.5 200.8 Debt Due 729.1 783.2 483.0 Other 302.5 384.1 424.0													59.5%	61.1%	63.9%	53.4%	44.9%	47.0%	49.1%	50.0%	54.3%	55.0%	51.0%	52.0%	Common Equity Ratio	55.0%
Current Liab. 1321.7 1468.8 1107.8 Fix. Chg. Cov. 284% 272% 275%													899.9	937.7	941.0	1959.0	3359.4	3345.1	3601.9	3986.3	4155.5	4625.6	5150	5600	Total Capital (\$mill)	7200
ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '17-'19 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '23-'25													884.1	928.7	1019.3	1776.6	2759.7	2941.2	3300.9	3665.2	3970.5	4352.0	4650	5070	Net Plant (\$mill)	6500
Revenues -8.5% -1.0% 7.5% "Cash Flow" 5.5% 13.0% 5.5% Earnings 3.5% 9.5% 5.5% Dividends 4.0% 5.5% 5.0% Book Value 7.0% 7.0% 8.5%													7.4%	8.1%	7.9%	3.3%	3.1%	5.1%	4.9%	5.0%	6.3%	5.1%	2.5%	4.5%	Return on Total Cap'l	5.5%
Fiscal Year Ends QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill) ^A Full Fiscal Year													10.1%	11.1%	10.4%	5.0%	5.8%	8.7%	8.2%	8.1%	9.5%	7.3%	2.0%	6.0%	Return on Shr. Equity	7.0%
2017 495.1 663.4 323.5 258.7 1740.7 2018 561.8 813.4 350.6 239.2 1965.0 2019 602.0 803.5 321.3 225.6 1952.4 2020 566.9 715.5 321.1 221.5 1825 2021 580 760 340 230 1910													10.1%	11.1%	10.4%	5.0%	5.6%	8.7%	8.2%	8.1%	9.5%	7.9%	2.0%	6.0%	Return on Com Equity	7.0%
Fiscal Year Ends EARNINGS PER SHARE ^{A B F} Full Fiscal Year													3.6%	4.9%	4.3%	1.0%	1.5%	3.7%	3.3%	3.3%	4.7%	2.7%	NMF	1.0%	Retained to Com Eq	3.0%
2017 .99 2.36 .45 d.28 3.43 2018 2.39 2.03 .52 d.51 4.33 2019 1.32 3.04 d.09 d.74 3.52 2020 1.24 2.54 d1.87 d.81 1.10 2021 1.27 2.61 .20 d.78 3.30													64%	56%	59%	81%	73%	58%	59%	60%	51%	66%	NMF	80%	All Div'ds to Net Prof	60%
Cal-endar QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID ^C Full Year													BUSINESS: Spire Inc., formerly known as the Laclede Group, Inc., is a holding company for natural gas utilities, which distributes natural gas across Missouri, including the cities of St. Louis and Kansas City, Alabama, and Mississippi. Has roughly 1.8 million customers. Acquired Missouri Gas 9/13, Alabama Gas Co 9/14. Utility terms sold and transported in fiscal 2019: 3.4 bill. Revenue mix for regulated operations: residential, 68%; commercial and industrial, 23%; transportation, 6%; other, 3%. Has about 3,536 employees. Officers and directors own 2.9% of common shares; BlackRock, 15.0% (1/20 proxy). Chairman: Edward Glotzbach; CEO: Suzanne Sitherwood, Inc.: Missouri. Address: 700 Market Street, St. Louis, Missouri 63101. Tel.: 314-342-0500. Internet: www.spireenergy.com.													
2016 .49 .49 .49 .49 1.96 2017 .525 .525 .525 .525 2.10 2018 .5625 .5625 .5625 .5625 2.25 2019 .5925 .5925 .5925 .5925 2.37 2020 .6225 .6225 .6225													Spire Inc. is about to close the books on a disappointing fiscal 2020 (ends September 30th). Through the first nine months, share net plunged 55%, to \$1.91, relative to last year's \$4.27 tally. This reflects the impact of the pandemic, which began to have an increasingly greater effect on the company as the months progressed. Notably, in the third quarter, it incurred a total pre-tax impairment charge of \$148.6 million, equal to \$2.29 a share aftertax, due primarily to the writedown of the value of storage assets and, to a lesser degree, two commercial compressed natural gas fueling stations. Spire contends, though, that it is pursuing operating efficiencies and potential regulatory mechanisms to help offset the damage from COVID-19. Unfortunately, it seems that profits for the entire year will still tumble nearly 70%, to \$1.10 a share, versus the fiscal 2019 figure of \$3.52. But assuming that the health crisis dissipates, the bottom line stands to recover threefold, to \$3.30 a share, in fiscal 2021.													
We are optimistic about the energy firm's business prospects out to mid-decade. The gas utilities boast 1.8 million													customers in Mississippi, Alabama, and Missouri, providing a measure of regional diversity. Also, the other operations, especially pipelines, show promise. Additional enhancements in customer service and elsewhere ought to help, too. Lastly, Spire's balance sheet is solid (see below).													
These good-quality shares have taken a major step backward in recent months. We think that price move stems partly from the company's weak third-quarter performance. But recovery potential out to mid-decade now looks appealing. Consider, too, the dividend yield and 18-month capital gains potential.													The Financial Strength rating resides at B++. At the end of June, there was almost \$650 million of available liquidity partly via a revolving credit facility. Too, long-term debt sat at a manageable 48% of total capital, and short-term obligations were not a big problem. So, the company should be able to satisfy its various commitments (including interest payments, capital expenditures, and dividends) for a while. Acquisitions are also plausible.													
Frederick L. Harris, III August 28, 2020													Company's Financial Strength B++ Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 75 Earnings Predictability 65													

(A) Fiscal year ends Sept. 30th. (B) Based on diluted shares outstanding. Excludes nonrecurring loss: '06, 7¢. Excludes gain from discontinued operations: '08, 94¢. Next earnings report due late Oct. (C) Dividends paid in early January, April, July, and October. ■ Dividend reinvestment plan available. (D) Incl. deferred charges. In '19: \$1,171.6 mill., \$22.99/sh. (E) In millions. (F) Qty. egs. may not sum due to rounding or change in shares outstanding.

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