D. Bond-market implied risk premium

Most of us think of the MRP in the context of cost of equity. Risk premiums do, however, also exist for corporate bonds. The expected return of a bond can therefore be expressed using the Capital Asset Pricing Model, as:

AA yield ≈ AA expected return = risk-free rate + beta * market risk premium

Therefore, if we know the expected return on the bond and its beta, we can estimate the implied MRP. For high-yield bonds, we know the yield, but the expected return is likely to be significantly lower than the promised yield. For AA rated corporate bonds, on the other hand, the default probabilities are very low and we can use the yield as a proxy for expected returns. Hence, we use the price series of AA corporate bonds to estimate the MRP. The beta of AA bonds is between 0.15 and 0.20, depending on the estimation period. Using a beta of 0.15, we estimate that the bond-implied MRP was below 4% in 1998 and 2004-2005 but recently rose to about 8.6%.

Figure 9: Pros and cons of the bond-market data methodology

Pros

Based on daily market feedback regarding risk

Possibility

- Assumes no capital-structure arbitrage; i.e., when bonds demand a higher risk premium, other assets such as equity also demand a higher return
- Possibility that expected default rates change at the same rating

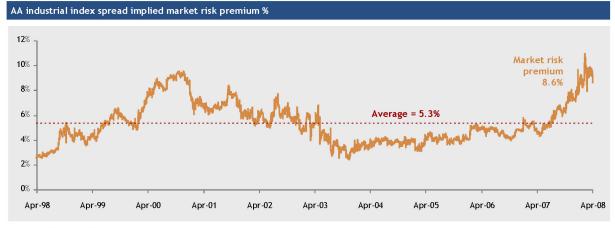
Cons

- Depends on CAPM and an assumption about bond betas
- Implied risk premium captures both a liquidity and risk premium

Source: JPMorgan

premium on bonds

Figure 10: Recent changes in the bond-market implied risk premium Yearly arithmetic average market risk premium since 1998 1998 1999 2000 2001 2002 2003 2004 2005 2006 2007 2008 Average MRP 3.5% 5.1% 8.0% 7.0% 6.0% 4.2% 3.8% 4.0% 4.7% 5.7% 8.9%



Source: JPMorgan, Bloomberg

E. Dividend Yield Method

A methodology that is closely related to the Dividend Discount Model method uses the dividend yield as a starting point. The price of a dividend-paying stock can be estimated using the constant-growth valuation model. This model assumes that the dividend will grow at a constant rate forever. We rewrite this model as a function of the cost of equity, stating that the cost of equity is the dividend yield plus the long-term growth rates. The formulas are:

$$Price = \frac{Div_1}{Cost \ of \ Equity - Growth \ Rate}$$
, and therefore $Cost \ of \ Equity = \frac{Div_1}{Price} + Growth \ Rate$

This approach works well in sectors with large and steadily growing dividends. We applied the methodology to three industries known for their focus on dividend yields: Real Estate Investment Trusts (REITs), Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs), and regulated utilities. In the regulated utilities industry, regulators accept this method as a way to estimate the cost of equity. Another useful feature of the model is its closeness to the cash cost of the equity. In fact, some practitioners look at the dividend yield only and ignore the growth component of the equation.

MRP = (Cost of equity implied by Dividend Yield Method - 10-year government bond yield) / beta

Figure 11: MRP implied by dividend yields in dividend-heavy sectors

| | Dividend yield | IBES 5-yr EPS growth | Overall growth ¹ | Cost of equity | Equity beta | Implied MRP |
|---------------------|-------------------|-------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------|----------------|----------------|
| Regulated utilities | 4.1% | 6.1% | 4.5% | 8.6% | 0.78 | 6.6% |
| MLPs | 6.4% | 6.5% | 5.1% | 11.4% | 0.61 | 13.0% |
| REITs | 5.4% | 6.5% | 4.7% | 10.5% | 1.13 | 6.1% |
| Mean | 5.3% | 6.4% | 4.8% | 10.2% | 0.84 | 8.6% |
| Median | 5.4% | 6.5% | 4.7% | 10.5% | 0.78 | 6.6% |

Source: JPMorgan, FactSet

We use EPS estimates and an assumption of constant payout ratios to forecast the dividend growth over the next five years, and an assumption that dividends will grow at 4% thereafter (long-term real growth plus inflation). Our results suggest that the cost of equity for these sectors is in the 9% to 12% range. The figures also display two clear weaknesses: (1) the need for assumptions to estimate overall or long-term growth, estimated in this case as a weighted-average of the 5-year EPS growth projection followed thereafter by a 4% perpetuity growth rate; and (2) the need to rely on CAPM and a beta estimate to extract the MRP implied by our cost-of-equity estimates. Today, this approach yields an MRP in the 6% range for REITs and utilities, and a higher number for MLPs.

Figure 12: Pros and cons of MRP implied from Dividend Yield Method

Pros

Intuitive: cost of equity equals dividend yield plus a growth rate

Widely accepted in dividend-heavy sectors

Close to the actual cash cost on equity

Dividend yield changes daily

Cons

Only applicable in a few dividend-heavy sectors

Capital structures of these sectors may not represent those of the market at large

Relies on perpetuity growth rate assumption

Depends on CAPM and assumption about industry or firm beta

Source: JPMorgan

¹ Overall growth is weighted combination of 5-yr EPS growth and 4% perpetuity growth assumptions

F. Survey evidence

One relatively basic method for determining the MRP is to survey market participants for their views on required returns. Such surveys have polled academics, investors, and other corporate-finance practitioners such as CFOs.

An academic survey by Ivo Welch from Brown University provides useful insights on MRP estimates.¹ The typical finance professor responding to Welch's survey estimates that the long-term market risk premium is 5% on a geometric basis and 5.8% on an arithmetic basis. Interestingly, these numbers are very close to the MRP estimates of the historical realized returns methodology, suggesting that finance professors still primarily rely on that approach.

A similar survey conducted quarterly from 2000 to 2007 by John Graham and Campbell Harvey of Duke University compiled the views of U.S. CFOs regarding the current risk premium.¹ Their average risk premium in 1Q07 was 3.2%, and the range from 2000 to 2007 was 2.4% to 4.7%.

Relying on these survey results has some advantages. First and foremost, in the case of finance professors, participants may be biased in their preferred methodology, but they are typically unbiased in their MRP estimates—that is, they do not have any specific incentive to make low or high estimates. Secondly, academics tend to spend a lot of time on the subject and have significant influence on how regulators, practitioners, and even investors look at the MRP.

On the other hand, survey respondents can provide wide differences of opinion and express views that may be extreme (such as a negative MRP). Surveys can also reflect the collective views of the constituent base. As an example, academics' reliance on the historical-data approach suggests that their estimates will not change very often. This may be an advantage for executives looking for a MRP estimate that is robust through time, but it may not capture the realities of a new market environment (such as structural shifts, tax changes, etc.). Conversely, the CFO-based survey is different in that its results are quite volatile and might represent current market conditions and concerns.

| Figure 13: Pros and cons of surveys | |
|--|---|
| Pros | Cons |
| Significant time researching this topic | Wide differences in opinion |
| Academic estimate unbiased (no reasons for it being high or low) | Does not change often and rapidly; i.e., does not incorporate new market realities (e.g., tax |
| Does not change often and rapidly | rate changes) |

As stated above, none of these six estimation methods are used universally. Taken together, however, they provide an understanding of the drivers of the market risk premium, and allow decision-makers to consider using a method that reflects today's volatile market environment.

² John Graham and Campbell Harvey, "The Equity Risk Premium in January 2007: Evidence from the Global CFO Outlook Survey", January 18, 2007.



Source: JPMorgan

¹ Ivo Welch, "The Consensus Estimate for the Equity Premium by Academic Financial Economists in December 2007", January 18, 2008.

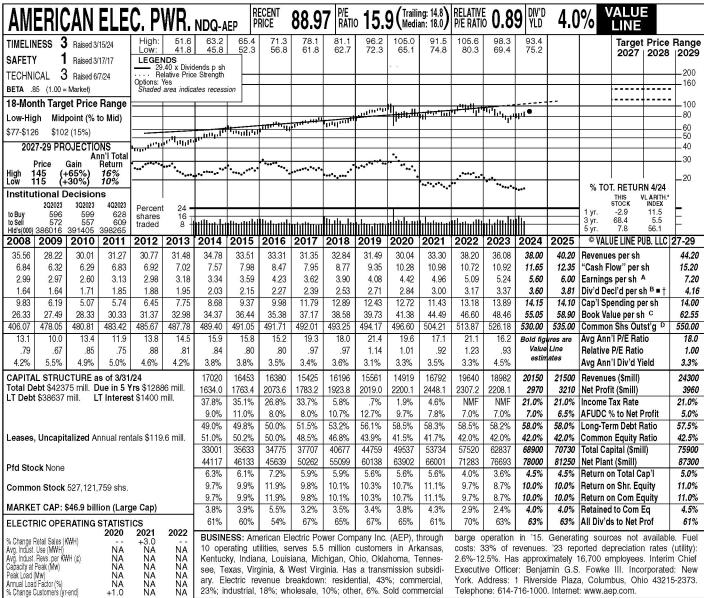
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see, Texas, Virginia, & West Virginia. Has a transmission subsidiary. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 43%; commercial, 23%; industrial, 18%; wholesale, 10%; other, 6%. Sold commercial Executive Officer: Benjamin G.S. Fowke III. Incorporated: New York. Address: 1 Riverside Plaza, Columbus, Ohio 43215-2373. Telephone: 614-716-1000. Internet: www.aep.com.

| Fixed Charge Cov. (%) | | 243 | 272 285 |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------------|
| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | Est'd '20-'22 |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. | to '27-'29 |
| Revenues | .5% | 5% | 3.0% |
| "Cash Flow" | 5.0% | 5.5% | |
| Earnings | 5.0% | 4.0% | 6.5% |
| Dividends | 5.0% | 5.0% | |
| Book Value | 3.5% | 3.5% | |

NA NA

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

| Cal- endar | QUAR Mar.31 | FERLY REV Jun.30 | /ENUES (\$ Sep.30 | | Full Year |
|---------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------------|--------|--------------|
| 2021 | 4281 | 3826 | 4623 | 4061 | 16792 |
| 2022 | 4593 | 4640 | 5526 | 4881 | 19640 |
| 2023 | 4690 | 4373 | 5342 | 4577 | 18982 |
| 2024 | 5026 | 4500 | 5350 | 5274 | 20150 |
| 2025 | 5250 | 4850 | 5800 | 5600 | 21500 |
| Cal- | E/ | RNINGS F | ER SHARI | ΕA | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 1.15 | 1.15 | 1.59 | 1.07 | 4.96 |
| 2022 | 1.22 | 1.20 | 1.62 | 1.05 | 5.09 |
| 2023 | 1.11 | 1.13 | 1.77 | 1.23 | 5.24 |
| 2024 | 1.27 | 1.25 | 1.80 | 1.28 | 5.60 |
| 2025 | 1.50 | 1.40 | 1.80 | 1.30 | 6.00 |
| Cal- | QUART | ERLY DIVI | DENDS PA | IDB∎† | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .70 | .70 | .70 | .74 | 2.84 |
| 2021 | .74 | .74 | .74 | .78 | 3.00 |
| 2022 | .78 | .78 | .78 | .83 | 3.17 |
| 2023 | .83 | .83 | .83 | .88 | 3.37 |
| 2024 | .88 | .88 | | | |

American Electric Power got off to a solid start in 2024. First-quarter earnings per share came in at \$1.27, ahead of Wall Street's expectations due to a number of rate hikes, clean-energy investment growth, and power demand increases. Accordingly, management maintained its 2024 bottom-line outlook of \$5.53 to \$5.73 and a long-term annual profit growth target of 6%-7%. Our 2024 and 2025 earnings estimates are staying put as the company should continue to benefit from rate relief, increased investments in its transmission business, and volume growth. What's more, AEP is well positioned to take advantage of the elevated demand from artificial intelligence innovations and new data centers, which we will discuss more below

AEP filed a proposal with Ohio regulators to require data center developers to buy a majority of electricity they need upfront. Indeed, new large data centers would be required to make a 10-year commitment to pay for a minimum of 90% of the energy requested before AEP builds and invests billions on transmission. The boost in power demand from

artificial intelligence innovations and data centers is set to rise exponentially through 2030. Indeed, data centers are expected to double the power demand in the utility's Ohio region within the next five years.

The company agreed to sell its AEP OnSite Partners distributed resources Basalt Infrastructure business to Partners for \$315 million in cash. OnSite Partners sells distributed energy resources to commercial and industrial customers. The deal is expected to close in the third quarter of this year, and will provide AEP with support in its transmission investments as power demand soars.

Risk-adverse, income-oriented investors may want to take a closer look here. The dividend yield of this topquality stock stands above the utility average. Too, AEP is committed to its target payout ratio of 60%-70%. So, the dividend should continue growing nicely. Also, intermediate- and long-term return prospects are solid in comparison to most of its peers. Meanwhile, the Timeliness rank has been upgraded one notch to 3 (Average) since our March review.

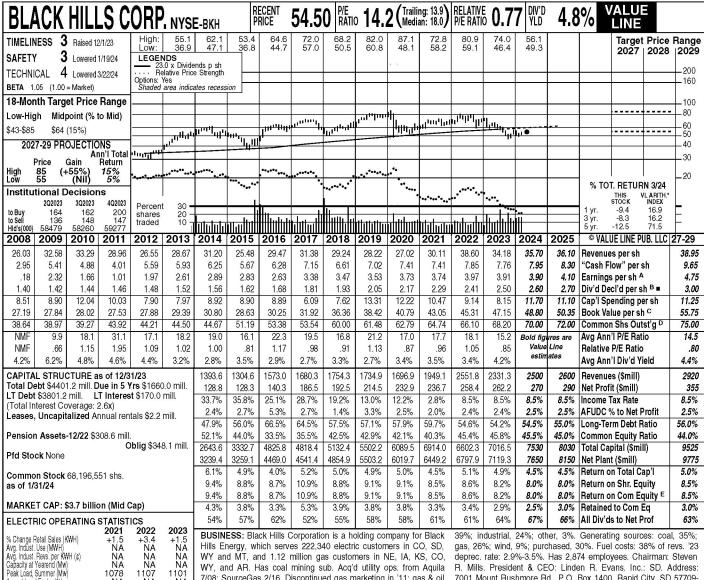
Zachary J. Hodgkinson

June 7, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '08, 40¢; '10, (7¢); '11, 89¢; '12, (38¢); '13, (14¢); '16, (\$2.99); '17, 26¢; '19, (20¢); gains (loss) from disc. ops.: '06, 2¢; '08, 3¢; '15, 58¢;

'16, (1¢); '22, (58¢); '23, (34¢). Next earnings report due late July. (B) Div'ds paid early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) Incl.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A 95 Price Growth Persistence 55 **Earnings Predictability** 95



WY and MT, and 1.12 million gas customers in NE, IA, KS, CO, WY, and AR. Has coal mining sub. Acq'd utility ops. from Aquila 7/08; SourceGas 2/16. Discontinued gas marketing in '11; gas & oil E&P in '17. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 34%; commercial

deprec. rate: 2.9%-3.5%. Has 2,874 employees. Chairman: Steven R. Mills. President & CEO: Linden R. Evans. Inc.: SD. Address: 7001 Mount Rushmore Rd., P.O. Box 1400, Rapid City, SD 57709-1400. Telephone: 605-721-1700. Internet: www.blackhillscorp.com.

254 259 281 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 2.0% 4.0% 7.5% Revenues 2.5% 3.0% 2.5% Cash Flow 4.0% 3.5% Earnings 4 0% 6.0% 6.5% 4.0% 3.5% Book Value 5.0% Cal- QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

Annual Load Factor (

% Change Customers (yr-end)

1078

NA +1.0

1107

NA +1.0

1101

NΑ

+.9

| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
|-------|--------|---------------------|----------|---|--------|
| 2021 | 633.4 | 372.6 | 380.6 | 562.5 | 1949.1 |
| 2021 | 823.6 | 474.2 | 462.6 | 791.4 | 2551.8 |
| 2022 | 921.2 | 411.3 | 407.1 | 591.7 | 2331.3 |
| 2023 | 940 | 411.3 450 | 460 | 650 | 2500 |
| | | | | 100000000000000000000000000000000000000 | |
| 2025 | 975 | 470 | 480 | 675 | 2600 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS P | ER SHARI | | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 1.54 | .40 | .70 | 1.11 | 3.74 |
| 2022 | 1.82 | .52 | .54 | 1.11 | 3.97 |
| 2023 | 1.73 | .35 | .67 | 1.17 | 3.91 |
| 2024 | 1.70 | .40 | .58 | 1.22 | 3.90 |
| 2025 | 1.75 | .40 | .65 | 1.30 | 4.10 |
| Cal- | QUAR' | TERLY DIV | IDENDS P | AID B . | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .535 | .535 | .535 | .565 | 2.17 |
| 2021 | .565 | .565 | .565 | .595 | 2.29 |
| 2022 | .595 | .595 | .595 | .625 | 2.41 |
| 2023 | .625 | .625 | .625 | .625 | 2.50 |
| 2024 | .65 | | | | |
| | | | | | |

Black Hills will likely post flat pershare profits this year. With the fourth-quarter financial release, management provided bottom-line targets for the year ahead. The company expects to earn \$3.80-\$4.00 a share in 2024. This reflects a 4% increase at the midpoint from 2023's initial in-house targeted range of \$3.65-\$3.85 a share. Ultimately Black Hills earned \$0.16 above plan last year (\$3.91 versus \$3.75 at the midpoint) as a result of some one-off, non-operating items that aren't expected to repeat again.

Share dilution and regulatory lag are problematic for earnings-per-share growth. We're actually forecasting a rise in net profits this year, but because the cost of borrowing has gone up so much in recent years, it's become increasingly difficult for regulated utilities to sustain their share-earnings growth rates. On the one hand, there's no lack of capital investment projects to go after, but the payoff for company's such as Black Hills is not what it was previously. Because most utilities, including this equity, are down significantly from their highs of a few years ago, they are receiving less funds and suffering

more dilution when floating equity to keep the balance sheet viable. Meanwhile, regulators are looking backwards to what borrowing costs were over the past number of years and are in turn setting authorized return on equity (ROE) levels that aren't reflective of today's market. Seeing the reality of that situation, BKH management lowered its long-term expected growth rate for earnings per share, to 4%-6% from 5%-7%, last year.

The company is filing for rate relief in **key service areas.** Black Hills received incremental revenue increases through the regulatory process last year. They secured an additional \$13.9 million annually from the Wyoming gas jurisdiction in May. They also have a \$20.2 million settlement agreement in place for Colorado gas, that's expected to gain final approval this quarter. A \$44 million Arkansas gas request has been submitted and BKH is preparing to file rate cases for Iowa gas and Colorado electric shortly.

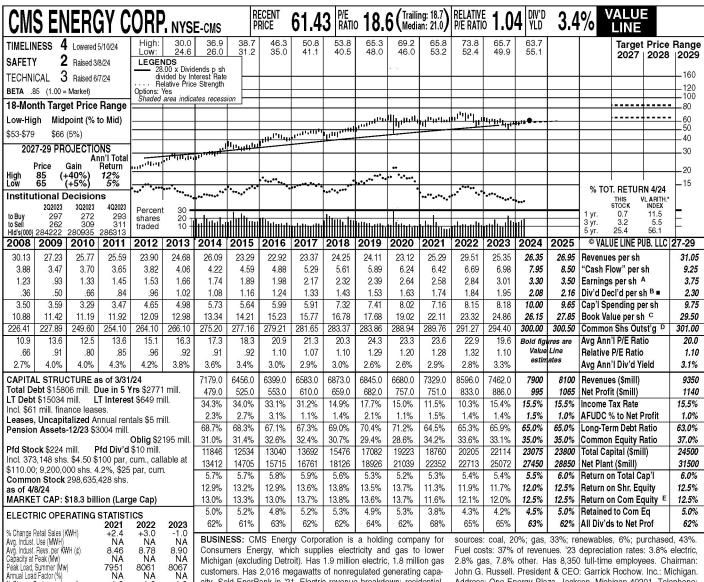
The main draw here for long-term investors is reliable dividend growth and an above-average yield.

Anthony J. Glennon April 19, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains/(losses): '15, (\$3.54); '16, (\$1.26); '17, '14¢; '18, \$1.31; '19, (25¢); '20, (8¢); discont. ops.: '08, \$4.12; '09, 7¢; '11, 23¢; '12, (16¢); '17, (31¢); '18,

(12¢). Qtly. EPS may not sum to full year due to rounding. Next egs. report due early May. (B) Div'ds paid in early March, June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred in '17: 9.37%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

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



customers. Has 2,016 megawatts of nonregulated generating capacity. Sold EnerBank in '21. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 47%; commercial, 33%; industrial, 14%; other, 6%. Generating

John G. Russell. President & CEO: Garrick Rochow. Inc.: Michigan. Address: One Energy Plaza, Jackson, Michigan 49201. Telephone: 517-788-0550. Internet: www.cmsenergy.com

223 226 244 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '21-'23 Past of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 2.5% 5.0% 5.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" 1.0% 5.5% 6.0% 7.0% Earnings 5.0% Dividends 4.0% Book Value 6.5% 8 0%

+1.0

+1.0

+1.0

% Change Customers (vr-end)

| Cal- | | TERLY RE | VENUES (| \$ mill.) | Full |
|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|------|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 2013 | 1558 | 1725 | 2033 | 7329 |
| 2022 | 2374 | 1920 | 2024 | 2278 | 8596 |
| 2023 | 2284 | 1555 | 1673 | 1950 | 7462 |
| 2024 | 2176 | 1700 | 1875 | 2149 | 7900 |
| 2025 | 2200 | 1745 | 2000 | 2155 | 8100 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS F | ER SHARI | ΕA | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 1.09 | .55 | .54 | .40 | 2.58 |
| 2022 | 1.20 | .50 | .56 | .58 | 2.84 |
| 2023 | .69 | .67 | .60 | 1.05 | 3.01 |
| 2024 | .96 | .65 | .70 | .99 | 3.30 |
| 2025 | .80 | .90 | .80 | 1.00 | 3.50 |
| Cal- | QUAR' | TERLY DIV | IDENDS P. | AIDB∎ | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| 2020 | .4075 | .4075 | .4075 | .4075 | 1.63 |
| 2021 | .435 | .435 | .435 | .435 | 1.74 |
| 2022 | .46 | .46 | .46 | .46 | 1.84 |
| 2023 | .4875 | .4875 | .4875 | .4875 | 1.95 |
| 2024 | .515 | .515 | | | |

CMS Energy reported mixed results for the March period. The top line declined 5% year over year, to nearly \$2.2 billion. However, the bottom line jumped almost 40%, to \$0.96 per share, compared to the year-ago period. This improvement was due to lower operating expenses and benefits from rate relief. For 2024, management has guided for annual adjusted earnings per share in the range of \$3.29 to Additionally, the company anticipates achieving adjusted earnings growth of 6% to 8% over the long term.

CMS Energy's subsidiary, Consumers Energy, received an electric rate order. The Michigan Public Service Commission authorized an annual rate increase of \$92 million, with a 9.9% return on equity. The new rate took effect on March 15, 2024.

Near-term profit growth is probable. The company should benefit from rate relief and ongoing cost controls. Thus, we expect 2024 and 2025 share earnings to advance in the management-guided range of 6%-8%

The utility is actively expanding its infrastructure to enhance cost sav-

ings and increase profitability. The company anticipates investing \$17 billion through 2028 to upgrade its infrastructure. Of this total, \$6.3 billion will likely be allocated to gas networks, \$7.3 billion to electric distribution, and \$3.4 billion to clean energy projects. This investment strategy is projected to grow the rate base by 7.5% over the specified period, enabling the company to maintain affordable prices for its customers. To note, utility companies typically have incentives to invest in such capital projects.

Meanwhile, the company is advancing smart technology deployment through its subsidiary to enhance electric reliability. Consumers Energy intends to invest \$24 million in smart technology initiatives aimed at fortifying its electric grid and mitigate power outages. This inwith vestment aligns itsongoing Reliability Roadmap, designed to bolster the resilience of the electric infrastructure. This untimely stock has a dividend yield that is below average for a utility. Also, these shares do not stand out for 18-month capital gains potential.

(A) Diluted GAAP EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (losses): '09, (7¢); '10, 3¢; '11, 12¢; '12, (14¢); '17, (53¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '09, 8¢; '10, (8¢); '11, 1¢; '12, 3¢; '21, \$2.08; '22, 1¢.

In '23: \$8.52/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Hate base: Net Average.

Next earnings report due late July. (B) Div'ds historically paid late Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. intang.

Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. eq., '21: 13.2%. Regulatory Climate: Above

Emma Jalees

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

June 7, 2024

| COI | N. El | OISC | N _{NY} | SF.FD | | | R | ECENT RICE | 93.9 | 7 P/E | 17. | 7 (Traili | ng: 18.6) an: 18.0) | RELATIVE P/E RATIO | | 2 DIV'D | 3.6 | % VA | UE VE | |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------|---|---------------------------|---|---|---|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|---|----------------------------------|---------------------------------|---------------------------------|-----------------------------------|--|--|--------------------------------------|
| TIMELIN | iess 2 | Raised 5 | /3/24 | High: Low: | 64.0 54.2 | 68.9 52.2 | 72.3 56.9 | 81.9 63.5 | 89.7 72.1 | 84.9 71.1 | 95.0 73.3 | 95.1 62.0 | 85.6 65.6 | 102.2 78.1 | 100.9 80.5 | 94.8 85.9 | | Та | rget Pric 027 202 | |
| SAFETY | | New 7/27 Lowered | | LEGE! | NDS 6.6 x Divide elative Pric | ends p sh | | | | | | 8 IN | | | | | | | | 160 |
| | 0AL 0 | | 3/3/24 | Options: | Yes | ates reces | sion | | | | | | | | | | | | | 120 |
| 18-Mor | th Targ | et Price | Range | | | | | .1111*1144 | | لمتعرورا | min ¹⁹ ti | 111111111111111111111111111111111111111 | 111111111111111111111111111111111111111 | ىل <mark>ارىلىدا"،</mark> | <u>արդիրի</u> | 11 | | | | 100 |
| Low-Hig | | ooint (% | to Mid) | | | nillini.P | | 11111 | | | | 1 | 111 | | | | | | | 60 50 |
| \$81-\$12 | | (5%) | | ****** | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 40 |
| | 7-29 PR | Ai | ONS nn'i Total | | **** | ••••• | ••••• | • | ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, | | | • | | | | | | | | 30 |
| | Price + | Gain ·20%) | Return 9% | | | | | | | | | * * * * * * | | | ····· | ••• | | | | 20 |
| Low | 90 tional D | (-5%) | 3% | | | | | | | | | | | | | - | | | TURN 3/24 | |
| institu | 2Q2023 | 3Q2023 | 4Q2023 | Percen | ı t 21 - | | | | | | | 4 | | | | | | THIS | K INDEX | .* _ |
| to Buy to Sell | 476 461 | 436 483 | 515 450 | shares | 14 T | | | liiliiii. | ************* | السسال | 11.11 | | | 11111111111 | بالبيبالي | и. | | 1 yr1.6 3 yr. 35.4 | 16.2 | E |
| Hld's(000) 2008 | 224094 2009 | 223737 2010 | 230144 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | | | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | | 2025 | 5 yr. 27.8 © VALUE L | | 27-29 |
| 49.62 | 46.36 | 45.69 | 44.17 | 41.62 | 42.27 | 44.11 | 42.85 | 39.59 | 38.82 | 38.44 | 37.80 | 35.78 | 38.63 | 44.15 | 42.45 | 44.80 | 46.85 | Revenues pe | | 53.50 |
| 5.99 | 5.86 | 6.24 | 6.61 | 7.15 | 7.45 | 7.30 | 7.93 | 7.89 | 8.41 | 8.92 | 9.39 | 9.70 | 10.06 | 10.36 | 10.98 | 12.10 | 12.70 | "Cash Flow" | per sh | 14.60 |
| 3.36 | 3.14 | 3.47 | 3.57 | 3.86 | 3.93 | 3.62 | 4.05 | 3.94 | 4.10 | 4.55 | 4.37 | 4.17 | 4.38 | 4.55 | 5.04 | 5.30 | 5.60 | Earnings per | | 6.60 |
| 2.34 8.50 | 2.36 7.80 | 2.38 6.96 | 2.40 6.72 | 2.42 7.06 | 2.46 8.67 | 2.52 8.26 | 2.60 | 2.68 12.07 | 2.76 | 2.86 | 2.96 10.48 | 3.06 | 3.10 | 3.16 | 3.24 13.01 | 3.32 14.40 | 3.40 14.50 | Div'd Decl'd Cap'l Spendi | | 3.95 15.50 |
| 35.43 | 36.46 | 37.93 | 39.05 | 40.53 | 41.81 | 42.94 | 44.55 | 46.88 | 49.74 | 52.11 | 54.18 | 55.06 | 56.60 | 58.28 | 61.25 | 63.50 | 65.75 | Book Value | er sh C | 74.50 |
| 273.72 | 281.12 | 291.62 | 292.89 | 292.87 | 292.87 | 292.88 15.9 | 293.00 | 305.00 18.8 | 310.00 19.8 | 320.96 | 332.63 | 342.30 19.0 | 353.98 | 354.96 20.3 | 345.42 | 346.00 | 347.00 | Common Sha | | 355,00 15.5 |
| 12.3 .74 | 12.5 .83 | 13.3 .85 | 15.1 .95 | 15.4 .98 | 14.7 | .84 | 15.6 | .99 | 1.00 | 17.1 .92 | 19.7 1.05 | .98 | 17.2 | 1.17 | 18.4 1.03 | Bold fig Value | Line | Relative P/E | | .85 |
| 5.7% | 6.0% | 5.2% | 4.5% | 4.1% | 4.3% | 4.4% | 4.1% | 3.6% | 3.4% | 3.7% | 3.4% | 3.9% | 4.1% | 3.4% | 3.5% | estin | ates | Avg Ann'l Di | | 3.9% |
| | | | s of 12/3 | | | 12919 | 12554 | 12075 | 12033 | 12337 | 12574 | 12246 | 13676 | 15670 | 14663 | 15500 | 16250 | Revenues (\$ | | 19000 |
| | \$21927 | | Oue in 5 \ .T Interes | | | 1066.0 34.0% | 1193.0 33.6% | 1189.0 35.3% | 1266.0 36.6% | 1424.0 | 1438.0 17.5% | 1399.0 12.9% | 1528.0 16.2% | 1620.0 15.4% | 1762.0 17.8% | 1835 18.0% | 1950 18.0% | Net Profit (\$r Income Tax F | 1 | 2355 18.0% |
| (Total In | terest Co | verage: | 3.0 x) | | | .3% | .7% | 1.3% | 1.5% | 1.5% | 1.9% | 2.2% | 2.1% | 3.4% | 4.4% | 5.0% | 5.0% | AFUDC % to | | 5.0% |
| Leases, | Uncapit | alized A | nnual ren | tals \$70 ı | mill. | 48.0% | 47.9% | 50.8% | 48.9% | 51.1% | 50.7% | 52.0% | 53.0% | 49.3% | 50.9% | 51.0% | 51.0% | Long-Term D | ebt Ratio | 52.0% |
| Pension | n Assets | -12/23 \$1 | 15404 mil | I. | | 52.0% 24207 | 52.1% 25058 | 49.2% 29033 | 51.1% 30149 | 48.9% 34221 | 49.3% 36549 | 48.0% 39229 | 47.0% 42641 | 50.7% 40834 | 49.1% 43085 | 49.0% 44200 | 49.0% 46750 | Common Equation Total Capital | | 48.0% 55000 |
| | | | | olig. \$127 | '12 mill. | 29827 | 32209 | 35216 | 37600 | 41749 | 43889 | 46555 | 48596 | 46766 | 49608 | 52300 | 54800 | Net Plant (\$n | | 63200 |
| Pia Sto | ck None | | | | | 5.6% | 6.0% | 5.3% | 5.4% | 5.3% | 5.1% | 4.7% | 4.7% | 5.2% | 5.2% | 5.0% | 5.0% | Return on To | | 5.5% |
| Commo | n Stock | 345,510, | 031 shs. | | | 8.5% 8.5% | 9.1% | 8.3% 8.3% | 8.2% 8.2% | 8.5% 8.5% | 8.0% 8.0% | 7.4% 7.4% | 7.6% 7.6% | 7.8% 7.8% | 8.3% 8.3% | 8.5% 8.5% | 8.5% 8.5% | Return on Sh Return on Co | | 9.0% 9.0% |
| | | 32.5 bill | lion (Larç | ge Cap) | | 2.6% | 3.5% | 3.0% | 3.0% | 3.5% | 2.9% | 2.2% | 2.5% | 2.6% | 3.1% | 3.0% | 3.5% | Retained to 0 | | 3.5% |
| CECON | Y ELEC | TRIC OP | ERATING | | | 69% | 61% | 64% | 63% | 59% | 64% | 70% | 67% | 67% | 62% | 63% | 60% | All Div'ds to | 100 mm | 60% |
| Annual Resi Annual Com | | GWH) GWH) VH) ∈(GWH) | 9250 | | 2023 -1.4 11574 10895 20315 9472 | ny for which Westch | Consolic sells ele nester Co | lated Ed ctricity, (unty. Co | d Edison, ison Con gas, and nEd also ites in so | npany of steam i owns Or | New You n most ange and | ork (CEC of NY c d Rocklar | ONY), ity and nd utili- | tered int most of rate for | to midstro its powe CECON | eam gas er. Fuel Y: 3.6%. | joint ven costs: 24 Employs | eration for \$6 ture 6/16; sol 1% of revenu 3 about 14,60 NY. Addr.: 4 | d it 7/21. F es. '23 de 0. Chairma | urchases preciation in, Pres., |

Vestchester County. ConEd also owns Orange and Rockland utilities (O&R), which operates in southeastern NY and northern NJ. ConEd has 4.0 mill. electric and 1.3 mill. gas customers. Sold its

CECONY: 3.6%. Employs about 14,600. Chairman, and CEO: Timothy Cawley. Inc.: NY. Addr.: 4 Irving Place, NY, NY 10003. Tel.: 212-460-4600. Internet.: www.conedison.com.

| ConEd Fixed Charge Cov. (| %) | 352 | 240 | 217 |
|---|---------------------------------|--|------|---|
| ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings | Past 10 Yrs. 4.0% 2.0% | Past 5 Yrs. 1.5% 4.5% 2.0% | to ' | '21-'23 27-'29 1.0% 5.5% 5.0% |
| Dividends Book Value | 2.5% 4.0% | 2.5% 3.5% | | 3.5% 1.5% |

% Change Customers (yr-end) Peak Load, Summer (MW)

NA NA 13517 12424

NA 11565

| QUART | ERLY REV | /ENUES (\$ | mill.) A | Full |
|--------|---|---|--|---|
| Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 3677 | 2971 | 3613 | 3415 | 13676 |
| 4060 | 3415 | 4165 | 4031 | 15670 |
| 4403 | 2944 | 3872 | 3444 | 14663 |
| 4400 | 3125 | 4250 | 3725 | 15500 |
| 4525 | 3275 | 4550 | 3900 | 16250 |
| EA | RNINGS P | ER SHARI | A | Full |
| Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 1.44 | .53 | 1.41 | 1.00 | 4.38 |
| 1.47 | .64 | 1.63 | .81 | 4.55 |
| 1.82 | .61 | 1.61 | 1.00 | 5.04 |
| 1.85 | .65 | 1.80 | 1.00 | 5.30 |
| 1.90 | .70 | 1.90 | 1.10 | 5.60 |
| QUAR' | TERLY DIV | IDENDS P | AID B∎ | Full |
| Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| .765 | .765 | .765 | .765 | 3.06 |
| .775 | .775 | .775 | .775 | 3.10 |
| .79 | .79 | .79 | .79 | 3.16 |
| .81 | | .81 | .81 | 3.24 |
| .83 | | | | |
| | Mar.31 3677 4060 4403 4400 4525 Mar.31 1.44 1.47 1.82 1.85 1.90 QUAR Mar.31 .765 .775 .79 | Mar.31 Jun.30 3677 2971 4060 3415 4403 2944 4400 3125 4525 3275 Mar.31 Jun.30 1.44 .53 1.87 .61 1.85 .65 1.90 .70 QUARTERLY DIV Mar.31 Jun.30 .765 .765 .775 .775 .79 .79 .81 .81 | Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 3677 2971 3613 4060 3415 4165 4403 2944 3872 4525 3275 4550 EARNINGS PER SHARI Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 1.44 .53 1.41 1.47 .64 1.63 1.82 .61 1.61 1.85 .65 1.80 1.90 .70 1.90 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS P. Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 .765 .765 .765 .775 .775 .775 .79 .79 .79 .81 .81 .81 | 3677 2971 3613 3415 4060 3415 4165 4031 4403 2944 3872 3444 4400 3125 4250 3725 4525 3275 4550 3900 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 1.44 .53 1.41 1.00 1.47 .64 1.63 .81 1.82 .61 1.61 1.00 1.85 .65 1.80 1.00 1.90 .70 1.90 1.10 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B ■ Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 .765 .765 .765 .765 .775 .775 .775 .775 .79 .79 .79 .79 .81 .81 .81 |

Consolidated Edison is enjoying a renaissance, driven by New York's clean energy goals. ConEd's earliest corporate entity, the New York Gas Light Company, received a state charter to install natural gas lines in lower Manhattan more than 200 years ago. Gas lanterns would light the city for a time, replacing the whale oil lamps that dated to the mid-18th century. The company was listed on the New York Stock Exchange in 1824 and is the longest continuously listed issue on the NYSE. In the early 20th century, it expanded into electricity and was renamed as Consolidated Edison Company of New York in 1936. To say that ConEd is a mature company would be an understatement. Earnings per share had slowed to about a 3% annual growth rate for the opening decade of the 21st century, and 1.8% in the second 10-year stretch, before starting to improve more recently. Most of its service area was fully built out decades ago, leaving very little new investments to be made in transmission and distribution work. That all changed when New York State decided to "go green" in a big way, and ConEd is reaping the rewards.

The company reaffirmed its 5%-7% bottom-line growth target through late decade. New York is a difficult regulatory environment, but in its latest rate case, which concluded last year, the utility held a solid bargaining position. ConEd needed a reasonable increase in its regulated return on equity (ROE), from the former 8.8%, before committing billions in modernization work, necessary to prepare the grid to receive renewable energy interfaces. As a result of last year's rate decision, the company is now at a 9.25\% ROE, which translated into annualized price increases for electric and gas of \$442 million and \$217 million, respectively, from August of 2023. Additional increases of \$518 million for electric and \$173 million for gas take effect this summer, followed by another hike in August, 2025 of \$382 million and \$122 million, respectively. ConEd is now in the upper tier of its industry in terms of earnings growth prospects.

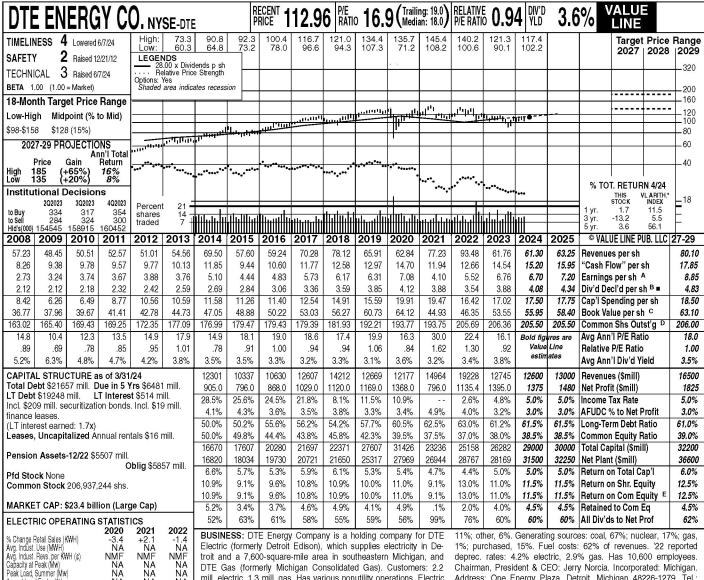
This equity is timely. However, investors with a longer-term bent should wait for a decent pullback, as total return potential is subpar at the recent quote. Anthony J. Glennon May 10, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains/losses: 13, d32¢; '14, 9¢; '16, 18¢; '17, 84¢; '18, d13¢; '19, d29¢; '20, d89¢; '21, d53¢; '22, 11¢; '23, \$2.17. Excl. gain on disc. ops.: '08, \$1.01. Next

egs. report due early August. Quarterly figures (C) Incl. intang. In '23: \$14.52/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: net orig. cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. for CECONY in '23: 9.25%; O&R in '22: 9.2%. Regulatory Climate: Below Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A+ 90 Price Growth Persistence 45 **Earnings Predictability** 100

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troit and a 7,600-square-mile area in southeastern Michigan, and DTE Gas (formerly Michigan Consolidated Gas). Customers: 2.2 mill. electric, 1.3 mill. gas. Has various nonutility operations. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 50%; commercial, 33%; industrial,

deprec. rates: 4.2% electric, 2.9% gas. Has 10,600 employees. Chairman, President & CEO: Jerry Norcia. Incorporated: Michigan. Address: One Energy Plaza, Detroit, Michigan 48226-1279. Tel.: 313-235-4000. Internet: www.dteenergy.com.

264 268 233 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 2.5% 4.5% 2.5% Revenues 3.0% 3.0% 5.0% Cash Flow Earnings 4 0% 4.5% 3.0% 1.0% 5.5% Book Value 3.0% 1.5%

Annual Load Factor (

% Change Customers (yr-end)

NA

NA NA

NA NA

| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY RE | VENUES (| \$ mill.) | Full |
|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|-----------|-------|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 3581 | 3021 | 3715 | 4647 | 14964 |
| 2022 | 4577 | 4924 | 5251 | 4476 | 19228 |
| 2023 | 3779 | 2684 | 2888 | 3394 | 12745 |
| 2024 | 3240 | 2400 | 2850 | 4110 | 12600 |
| 2025 | 3400 | 2500 | 2900 | 4200 | 13000 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS P | ER SHARI | Α | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 1.65 | .60 | .30 | 1.55 | 4.10 |
| 2022 | 2.03 | .19 | 1.99 | 1.31 | 5.52 |
| 2023 | 2.16 | .97 | 1.61 | 2.02 | 6.76 |
| 2024 | 1.51 | 1.20 | 1.90 | 2.09 | 6.70 |
| 2025 | 2.40 | 1.30 | 2.00 | 1.50 | 7.20 |
| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY DIV | IDENDS PA | AID B = | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | 1.0125 | 1.0125 | 1.0125 | 1.0125 | 4.05 |
| 2021 | .9225 | .9225 | .9225 | .825 | 3.59 |
| 2022 | .885 | .885 | .885 | .885 | 3.54 |
| 2023 | .9525 | .9525 | .9525 | 1.02 | 3.88 |
| 2024 | 1.02 | | | | |

DTE Energy's electric utility subsidiary has filed another general rate case. The utility is seeking an increase of \$456 million to improve reliability. Note, DTE received a \$368.1 million electricity rate increase in December, compared to its initial request of \$620 million. As a result of this and past decisions, we think the Michigan Public Service Commission will likely give the utility an unfavorable, but reasonable, ruling. This shouldn't have too much of an effect on the company's results this year, but will probably boost profits nicely in 2025.

We have slightly lowered our 2024 earnings-per-share estimate. The firstquarter performance was negatively impacted by inflationary pressures and the interest rate environment, which led to higher rate base costs. And, these challenges should persist throughout this year, before the utility is able to pass on higher costs to consumers. Our earnings estimate is now right near the midpoint of DTE Energy's targeted range of \$6.54-\$6.83 a share, and within the company's 6%-8% long-term profit growth forecast based off original 2023 guidance.

DTE Energy is well positioned for the long term. The utility's grid investments to improve maintenance and infrastructure, reduce outages, and enhance tree trimming should come to fruition over that interim and benefit operations. DTE plans to fully automate the grid within five to six years, and we think it's in a great position to take advantage of elevated power demand from data centers and tech innovations. Too, the utility should be able to pass on the aforementioned higher costs associated with the challenging macroeconomic climate to the consumer. Our 2025 bottom-line estimate is staying put at \$7.20 per share.

Conservative, income-oriented, longterm investors may be attracted to this issue. Indeed, the dividend yield is in line with the high-paying industry average, and has a decent annual dividend growth rate of 3.0%. Too, 18-month and 3to 5-year appreciation potential is solid in comparison to most of its peers. These shares also hold a high mark for Price Stability (90), and are ranked Above Average (2) for Safety.

Zachary J. Hodgkinson

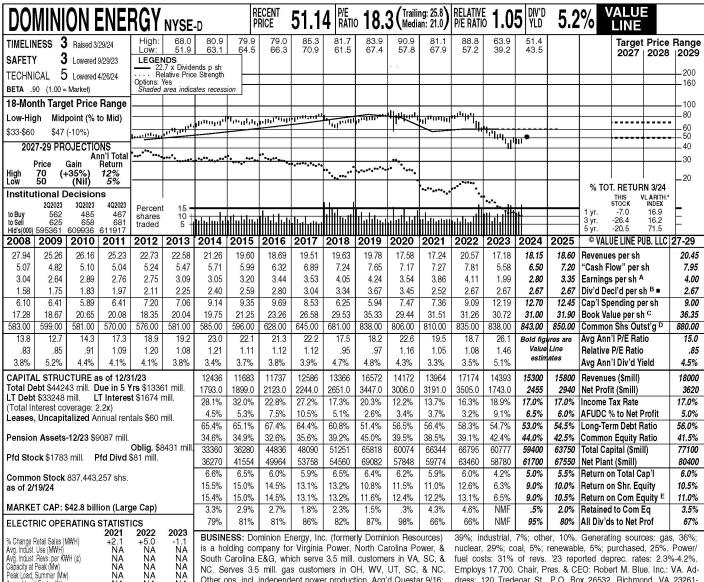
June 7, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (loss): '08, 50¢; '11, 51¢; '15, (39¢); '17, 59¢; gains (losses) on discontinued operations: '08, 13¢; 12, (33¢); '21, 57¢. Next earnings report due

late July. (B) Div'ds paid mid-Jan., Apr., July & Oct. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan available. (C) Incl. intang. In '22: \$29.20/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base. Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on

common equity in '20: 9.9% elec.; in '22: 9.9% gas; earned on avg. com. eq., '21: 7.6%. Regulatory Climate: Above Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 90 Price Growth Persistence 45 **Earnings Predictability** 70



South Carolina E&G, which serve 3.5 mill. customers in VA, SC, & NC. Serves 3.5 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, 44%; commercial,

fuel costs: 31% of revs. '23 reported deprec. rates: 2.3%-4.2%. Employs 17,700. Chair, Pres. & CEO: Robert M. Blue. Inc.: VA. Address: 120 Tredegar St., P.O. Box 26532, Richmond, VA 23261-6532. Tel.: 804-819-2000. Internet: www.dominionenergy.com.

272 201 227 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) to '27-'29 -2.5% 2.5% 1.5% Revenues -1.0% 2.0% Cash Flow 2.5% 3.0% -2.0% -3.0% 3.5% Earnings .5% 1.5% Book Value

Annual Load Factor (

% Change Customers (yr-end)

NA

NA +1.4

NA

NA

+1.1

NA

NA

+1.2

| Cal- | | | VENUES (| | Full |
|-------|--------|-----------|----------|---------|-------|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 3870 | 3038 | 3176 | 3880 | 13964 |
| 2022 | 4279 | 3596 | 4386 | 4913 | 17174 |
| 2023 | 3883 | 3166 | 3810 | 3534 | 14393 |
| 2024 | 3700 | 3600 | 4225 | 3775 | 15300 |
| 2025 | 3850 | 3725 | 4350 | 3875 | 15800 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS F | ER SHARI | A | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 1.09 | .76 | 1.11 | .90 | 3.86 |
| 2022 | 1.18 | .77 | 1.11 | 1.06 | 4.11 |
| 2023 | .59 | .35 | .75 | .29 | 1.99 |
| 2024 | .55 | .60 | .90 | .75 | 2.80 |
| 2025 | .80 | .80 | .95 | .80 | 3.35 |
| Cal- | QUAR' | TERLY DIV | IDENDS P | AID B . | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .94 | .94 | .94 | .63 | 3.45 |
| 2021 | .63 | .63 | .63 | .63 | 2.52 |
| 2022 | .6675 | .6675 | .6675 | .6675 | 2.67 |
| 2023 | .6675 | .6675 | .6675 | .6675 | 2.67 |
| 2024 | .6675 | | | | |
| | ı | | | | |

Dominion Energy has nearly completed its restructuring. Announced 18 months ago, it was described by management as a full analysis, including a look at alternatives to the business mix and capital allocation. One solace for existing shareholders is that Dominion maintaining the current dividend level. It plans to grow its way out of the constraints of a high payout ratio. means that it will take years before the company is in a position to resume dividend growth. There are a number of nonstrategic assets being divested, which will take time to receive regulatory approval and close. Hence, the company's income statement for both 2023 and this year are transitory. Revenue comes off the books right away, but it takes time to see the benefits from more than \$16 billion in debt relief that mostly arrives later. Our 2025 share-earnings estimate may not fully reflect where the company is at in terms of earnings power, post restructuring.

The stock price has begun to recover of late, as the financial picture has become clearer. A good portion of the yearlong nose dive in the equity's value was at-

tributable to weakness among utilities in general, responding to higher interest rates. Most of the decline was from uncertainty and the loss of nearintermediate-term earnings power. What the company has done is basically a financial reset. Dominion gave up income from its divestitures to improve the balance sheet and position itself for a more sustainable 5%-7% annual profit growth over the longer term (from 2025's base year). In September, the 50% stake in the Cove Point liquefied natural gas operation in Maryland was sold to Berkshire Hathaway for \$3.3 billion. That same month, the company agreed to sell three natural gas utilities for \$9.4 billion in cash and \$4.6 billion in assumed debt to Enbridge. Dominion is also in the process of bringing on an equity partner to help fund and reduce its considerable business risk from offshore wind generation.

The stout dividend yield is the main draw here. And investors will be giving up dividend growth for the above-average income. We don't see a lot of recovery potential for D stock from the recent price. Anthony J. Glennon May 10, 2024

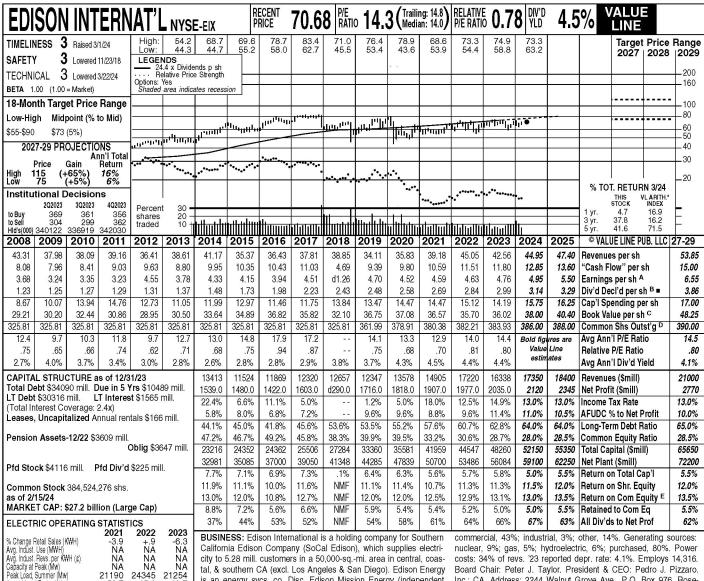
(A) Dil. egs. Excl. nonrec. gain/(loss): '08, 12¢; '09, (47¢); '10, \$2.13; '11, (31¢); '12, (\$2.18); '14, (81¢); '17, \$1.19; '18, (31¢); '19, (\$2.62); '20, (\$1.72); '21, (67¢); '22, (\$3.03); '23, 49¢;

gain/(losses) from disc. ops.: '10, (26¢); '12, (4¢); '13, (16¢); '20, (\$2.39); '21, 79¢; '22, 1¢; \$16.04/sh. (**D**) In mill. (**E**) Rate base: Net orig. cost, adj. Rate all'd on com. eq. in VA in '22: (**B**) Div'ds paid mid-Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ 9.35%; in SC in '21: 9.5%. Regult'y. Clim.: Avg.

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

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80



tal, & 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: residential, 40%;

Board Chair: Peter J. Taylor. President & 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.

| Fixed Charge Cov. (%) | | 113 | 135 | 166 |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|-----|---------|
| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | | '21-'23 |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. | | 27-'29 |
| Revenuës | 1.0% | 2.5% | 5 4 | 1.0% |
| "Cash Flow" | 2.0% | 5.5% | . 6 | 5.0% |
| Earnings | 2.0% | 14.0% | | 5.0% |
| Dividends | 8.0% | 5.0% | | 5.5% |
| Book Value | 2.0% | 0.5% | | 5.0% |

Peak Load, Summer (Mw)

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

21190 52.7

45.8

+.8

49.7

| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY RE | VENUES (| \$ mill.) | Full |
|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|------------------------------|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 2960 | 3315 | 5299 | 3331 | 14905 |
| 2022 | 3968 | 4008 | 5228 | 4016 | 17220 |
| 2023 | 3966 | 3964 | 4702 | 3706 | 16338 |
| 2024 | 4250 | 4300 | 4950 | 3850 | 17350 |
| 2025 | 4500 | 4550 | 5250 | 4100 | 18400 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS P | ER SHARI | A | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | .79 | .94 | 1.69 | 1.16 | 4.59 |
| 2022 | 1.07 | .94 | 1.48 | 1.15 | 4.63 |
| 2023 | 1.09 | 1.01 | 1.38 | 1.28 | 4.76 |
| 2024 | 1.15 | 1.05 | 1.45 | 1.30 | 4.95 |
| 2025 | 1.30 | 1.15 | 1.60 | 1.45 | 5.50 |
| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY DIV | IDENDS Pa | AID B ■ | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 | .6375 .6625 .70 .7375 .78 | .6375 .6625 .70 .7375 | .6375 .6625 .70 .7375 | .6375 .6625 .70 .7375 | 2.55 2.65 2.80 2.95 |

Edison International should This decent earnings gains in 2024. year's weather comparisons are not particularly difficult. And, the utility ought to continue to prosper from the escalation mechanism set forth in the 2021 General Rate Case (GRC) decision that allows it to bill for certain types of expenses, alleviating regulatory lag to a large degree. Load growth in California is healthy, at about 3% due to trends in electrification for vehicles and heavy equipment. This leads to plenty of transmission and distribution work that pays off rapidly in terms of return on investment for regulated utilities in California. Fire mitigation work also keeps the rate base growing. Edison's current authorized return on equity (ROE) is 10.3%, which is fairly generous relative to the rates that peers have been receiving in other states. That said, the company may get a further lift next year in that regard. Edison has a general rate case decision coming its way in 2025. State

peer, PG&E, received favorable terms from

the California Public Utilities Commis-

sion, with a recent boost to its authorized

ROÉ to 10.7% without too much public

backlash. There's a reasonable chance that Edison will get a lift in its investment returns, as well. As such, we're projecting a 6% gain in earning per share next year. Wildfire headline risk comes with the **territory here.** In October, Orange County filed a lawsuit alleging EIX's equipment caused forest fires in 2020 and Dollar amounts sought weren't given. In February, the company agreed to pay an \$80 million settlement to the federal government for forestland burned in the 2017 Thomson fire. In recent years, EIX has paid out billions of dollars in lawsuit settlements associated with the role its power lines played in 2017 and 2018 forest fires. Notably, management recently said the settlement payout process has nearly run its course. The company also believes it has reduced its risk of causing a blaze by 88% as a result of its ongoing mitigation work

This neutrally ranked equity (Timeliness: 3, Average) doesn't stand out from the crowd at the recent quotation. On a total-return basis, EIX is right at the utility industry median

Anthony J. Glennon April 19, 2024

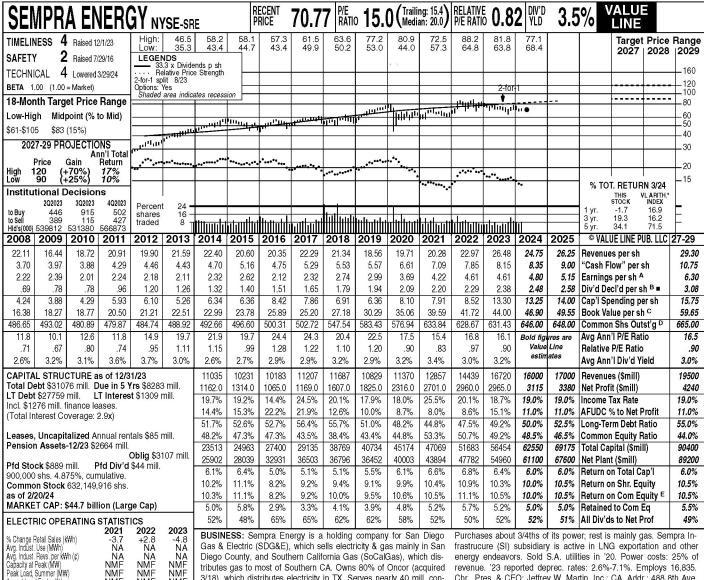
(A) Adjusted (non-GAAP) EPS from 2019 on. Excl. gains/(losses): nonrecur's; '10, 54¢; '11, (\$3.33); '13, (\$1.12); '15, (\$1.18); '17, (\$1.37); '18, (14¢); '19, (92¢); '20, (\$2.54); '21, (\$2.59);

'22, (\$3.02); '23, (\$1.34); disc. ops.: '13, 11¢; July, & Oct. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. '14, 57¢; '15, 11¢; '18, 10¢. Qtly. EPS may not def'd chgs. In '23: \$4.36/sh. (D) In mill. (E) sum to full yr. due to rounding. Next egs. report due early May. (B) Div'ds paid late Jan., Apr., eq. in '20: 10.3%; Regulatory Climate: Avg.

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

85

10



Diego County, and Southern California Gas (SoCalGas), which distributes gas to most of Southern CA. Owns 80% of Oncor (acquired 3/18), which distributes electricity in TX. Serves nearly 40 mill. consumers, mainly in CA, TX, and MX. Electric rev. breakdown: N/A

energy endeavors. Sold S.A. utilities in '20. Power costs: 25% of revenue. '23 reported deprec. rates: 2.6%-7.1%. Employs 16,835. Chr., Pres. & CEO: Jeffrey W. Martin. Inc.: CA. Addr.: 488 8th Ave. San Diego, CA 92101. Tel.: 619-696-2000. Int: www.sempra.com.

207 232 194 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 1.5% 8.0% 13.5% 7.0% 10.0% Revenues 1.0% 4.5% 6.0% 7.5% 7.0% 7.0% 'Cash Flow' 7.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 5.0% 6.0%

NMF

+.8

Annual Load Factor (

% Change Customers (yr-end)

NMF

NMF

+.5

NMF

| Cal- endar | QUAR Mar.31 | TERLY RE Jun.30 | VENUES (Sep.30 | \$ mill.) Dec.31 | Full Year |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|
| 2021 | 3259 | 2741 | 3013 | 3844 | 12857 |
| 2022 | 3820 | 3547 | 3617 | 3455 | 14439 |
| 2023 | 6560 | 3335 | 3334 | 3491 | 16720 |
| 2024 | 5325 | 3375 | 3550 | 3750 | 16000 |
| 2025 | 5650 | 3575 | 3775 | 4000 | 17000 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS F | ER SHARI | Α | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 1.48 | .82 | .85 | 1.08 | 4.22 |
| 2022 | 1.46 | .99 | .99 | 1.18 | 4.61 |
| 2023 | 1.46 | .94 | 1.08 | 1.13 | 4.61 |
| 2024 | 1.46 | .99 | 1.13 | 1.22 | 4.80 |
| 2025 | 1.55 | 1.05 | 1.22 | 1.33 | 5.15 |
| Cal- | QUAF | TERLY DI | /IDENDS F | PAID B | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .484 | .523 | .523 | .523 | 2.05 |
| 2021 | .523 | .55 | .55 | .55 | 2.17 |
| 2022 | .55 | .573 | .573 | .573 | 2.27 |
| 2023 | .573 | .595 | .595 | .595 | 2.36 |
| 2024 | .595 | .620 | | | |

profits Sempra Energy's per-share should be up this year and next, after a flat 2023 result. Retail electricity sales, in terms of millions of kilowatthours, were down 4.8% last year as compared to 2022's level, which benefited from a protracted heat wave in southern California. Higher interest expense and regulatory lag also weighed on last year's bottom line. Leadership is projecting earnings of \$4.60 to \$4.90 per share for this year, which is up a nickel on the bottom end of the range from where the in-house target was previously. In mid-2023, the company's Texas subsidiary, Oncor, received a favorable regulatory outcome, which should have beneficial knock-on effects for this year's bottom line. Meanwhile, in California, rate relief should be forthcoming. A regulatory decision is expected by mid-year for San Diego Gas & Electric and SoCalGas. Higher rates ought to be retroactive to January 1st. Sempra's preliminary bottom-line target for 2025 is \$4.90 to \$5.25 per share.

The company recently affirmed its projected long-term earnings-pershare growth rate of 6%-8%. With the

fourth-quarter financial release. Sempra announced a 20% increase in its capital plan to \$48 billion for the 2024 to 2028 time frame, with more than 90% of the investments focused on the regulated utilities. Oncor's rate base (assets for which a regulated utility is allowed to recoup an economic rate of return) is now projected to increase from \$23 billion in 2023 to \$39 billion in 2028, an 11% expansion per annum. The Texas service area is benefiting from residential growth that's more than twice the national average, as well as from healthy demand from the continued increase in large commercial & industrial customers. Meanwhile, the rate base in California is projected to increase from \$27 billion in 2023 to \$38 billion in 2028, for a 7% yearly expansion. Mitigating natural disaster risks and the state's aggressive renewable energy goals are driving investment. The 9% growth across the companywide rate base should translate to at least 7% share-earnings gains to 2027-29.

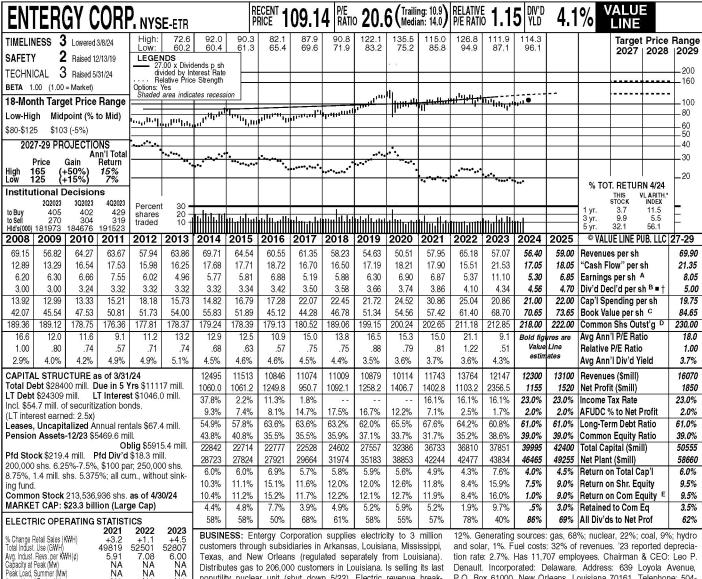
Though untimely, Sempra stock offers reasonably good annual total return potential out to late decade.

Anthony J. Glennon April 19, 2024

(A) Diluted egs. Excl. nonrec. gains/(losses): '09, (13¢); '10, (52¢); '11, 58¢; '12, (44¢); '13, (11¢); '15, 7¢; '16, 61¢; '17, (\$1.81); '18, (\$1.03); '19, 8¢; '20, (40¢); '21, (\$2.21); '22,

(\$1.30); '23, 18¢. Disc. ops.: '19, 58¢; '20, \$3.15. Qtly. EPS may not sum due to rounding. Next egs. report due early May. (B) Div'ds paid SDG&E '22: 9.95%; SoCalGas '22: 9.8%; On-Jan., Apr., July, Oct. ■ Div. reinv. avail. (C) Incl. | cor '23: 9.7%. Reg. Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 90 Price Growth Persistence 50 **Earnings Predictability** 95



Texas, and New Orleans (regulated separately from Louisiana). Distributes gas to 206,000 customers in Louisiana. Is selling its last nonutility nuclear unit (shut down 5/22). Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 37%; commercial, 24%; industrial, 27%; other,

tion rate: 2.7%. Has 11,707 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.

| Fixed Charge Cov. (%) | | 243 | 209 | 250 |
|---|---------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-----|--|
| ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings | Past 10 Yrs. 5% 1.0% 2.5% | Past 5 Yrs. 1.0% 5.5% | to | d '21-'23 '27-'29 '2.5% 2.5% .5% |
| Dividends Book Value | 2.0% 2.0% | 3.09 6.59 | | 3.5% 4.0% |

Peak Load, Summer (Mw)

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

NA

NA +1.0

NA +.4

| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY RE | VENUES (| \$ mill.) | Full |
|--------------------------------------|---|--|----------------------------|-----------------------------|---|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 | 2845 2878 2981 2795 3000 | 2822 3395 2846 3200 3500 | 3353 4219 3596 | 2723 3273 2725 | 11743 13764 12147 12300 13100 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS P | ER SHARI | Dec.31 | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | | Year |
| 2021 | 1.66 | 1.30 | 2.63 | 1.28 | 6.87 |
| 2022 | 1.36 | .78 | 2.74 | .51 | 5.37 |
| 2023 | 1.47 | 1.84 | 3.14 | 4.66 | 11.10 |
| 2024 | .35 | 1.05 | 2.95 | .95 | 5.30 |
| 2025 | 1.60 | 1.15 | 3.05 | 1.05 | 6.85 |
| Cal- | QUART | ERLY DIVI | DENDS PA | | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | | Year |
| 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 | .93 .95 1.01 1.07 1.13 | .93 .95 1.01 1.07 1.13 | .93 .95 1.01 1.07 | .95 1.01 1.07 1.13 | 3.74 3.86 4.10 4.34 |

Entergy recorded disappointing firstquarter results. Revenues fell to just under \$2.8 billion, as the company faced lower industrial sales, while warmer weather caused less energy to be used across its coverage areas. The company signed an additional eight electric service agreements with industrial customers, including a data center in Mississippi, which represents 1.1 gigawatts of loads. The power provider had much higher maintenance costs as a few planned plant refurbishments occurred in the quarter, and Entergy had some downtime at a few of its plants. The company achieved much higher interest income, but it faced some negative regulatory charges, such as one in Arkansas, while another was based on an old audit resolution. These factors caused earnings to drop sharply to \$0.35 per share during the March period.

The company ought to have better results over the rest of the year. Revenues should increase thanks to projects going into service to supply multiple new industrial clients. Several areas that Entergy supplies power to are seeing population growth, leading to incremental supply

gains. Some rate cases have reached conclusions recently, including one in New Orleans, which should have better operations and fewer legal costs. Still, costs will likely rise to provide more power, and we think less of higher fuel prices will be passed along to industrial customers. Overall, we estimate that earnings will tumble to \$5.30 per share this year.

We expect solid expansion over the long haul. Several projects have been approved to enhance resilience and improve the grid, including 2,100 capital expansions in the company's Louisiana coverage area totaling \$1.9 billion over the next five years. Moreover, we think other renewable energy projects should help operations expand. Entergy ought to also benefit from continued growth in the Texas region as more operations occur there. Overall, we project earnings will recover to \$6.85 per share in 2025 and \$8.05 by 2027-2029.

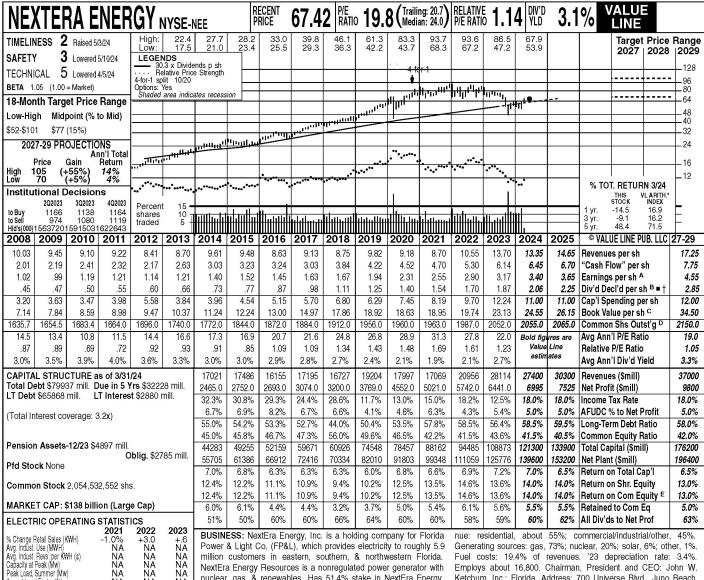
Shares of Entergy are neutrally ranked for Timeliness. The stock has below average appreciation potential but the dividend yield is appealing, making this equity best suited for income-seekers. John E. Šeibert III June 7, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. GAAP starting in 2022. Excl. nonrec. losses: '12, \$1.26; '13, \$1.14; '14, 56¢; '15, \$6.99; '16, \$10.14; '17, \$2.91; '18, \$1.25; 21, \$1.33. Next earnings report due early Au-

(C) Incl. deferred charges. In '23: \$26.66/sh. Average.

gust. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. † Shareholder investment plan avail.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability 90 Price Growth Persistence 45 **Earnings Predictability** 70



million customers in eastern, southern, & northwestern Florida. NextEra Energy Resources is a nonregulated power generator with nuclear, gas, & renewables. Has 51.4% stake in NextEra Energy Partners. Acquired Gulf Power 1/19; Florida City Gas 7/18. Reve-

Fuel costs: 19.4% of revenues. '23 depreciation rate: 3.4%. Employs about 16,800. Chairman, President and CEO: John W. Ketchum. Inc.: Florida. Address: 700 Universe Blvd., Juno Beach, FL 33408. Tel.: 561-694-4000. Internet: www.nexteraenergy.com.

370 341 284 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 4.5% 10.0% 12.5% 11.5% 2.5% 8.5% 9.5% Revenues 8.0% 8 0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 9.0% 6.0%

Annual Load Factor (

% Change Customers (yr-end)

NA NA

NA +1.5

NA

NA +1.2

| Book value 0.070 0.070 0 | | | | 0,070 | |
|--------------------------------------|--------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|
| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY RE | VENUES (| \$ mill.) | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 3726 | 3927 | 4370 | 5046 | 17069 |
| 2022 | 2890 | 5183 | 6719 | 6164 | 20956 |
| 2023 | 6716 | 7349 | 7172 | 6877 | 28114 |
| 2024 | 5731 | 7220 | 7975 | 6474 | 27400 |
| 2025 | 7175 | 7700 | 8500 | 6925 | 30300 |
| Cal- | EA | | ER SHARE | A | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | .67 | .71 | .75 | .41 | 2.55 |
| 2022 | .74 | .81 | .85 | .51 | 2.90 |
| 2023 | .84 | .88 | .94 | .52 | 3.17 |
| 2024 | .91 | .93 | .99 | .57 | 3.40 |
| 2025 | .97 | 1.00 | 1.06 | . 62 | 3.65 |
| Cal- | QUART | ERLY DIVI | DENDS PA | ID ^B ■† | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 | .35 .385 .425 .4675 .515 | .35 .385 .425 .4675 | .35 .385 .425 .4675 | .35 .385 .425 .4675 | 1.40 1.54 1.70 1.87 |

NextEra Energy is off to an excellent start in 2024. First-quarter earnings exceeded the Wall Street consensus estimate by \$0.11 per share and our call by \$0.03. Getting off on the right foot makes it more probable the company will reach the high end of its full-year earnings target range of \$3.23-\$3.43 a share. The company's utility subsidiary, Florida Power & Light, saw strong growth driven by investment in the business. Regulatory capital employed increased by approximately 11.5% on a year-over-year basis, and the utility had its strongest quarter of customer growth in over 15 years with the count up by about 100,000 from the first quarter of 2023. The company's renewable energy subsidiary was also off to a strong start, with the second-best quarter in its history in terms of power and storage origination. company grew its backlog of projects from year-end 2023 by 2,765 megawatts (MW) to 21,500 MW. The updated backlog level is net of 1,165 MW of projects placed in service during the first three months of the year.

The stock has continued to recover nicely from last year's washout low.

Utilities as a whole were under intense pressure as interest rates climbed rapidly, with the benchmark 10-year Treasury bond yield reaching 5% in mid-October before backing off. Because interest bearing are an alternative investment vehicle to utility stocks, there tends to be a strong negative correlation between rates and this group of equities. Another way to think of it is the stock prices have to drop so that the dividend yields are competitive relative to low-risk bond rates. NEE stock did worse than the average utility as it was among the richest valuations within its peer group entering 2023, owing to its strong historical earnings growth. Rising borrowing costs for a company that regularly visits the capital markets brought into question how sustainable its aboveindustry-level growth is. The high end of leadership's long-term target of 6%-8% should be achievable due to the healthy regional economy it serves and NextEra's position as one of the nation's foremost renewable energy providers.

This equity is timely and offers worthwhile 18-month total returns. Anthony J. Glennon May 10, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gains/ (losses): '11, (6¢); '13, (20¢); '16, 12¢; '17, \$1,22¢; '18, \$1,80; '20, (83¢); '21, (74¢); '22, (80¢); '23, 43¢; 1Q '23, 19¢; disc. ops.: '13,

11¢. EPS may not some to full yr. due to rounding. Next egs. report due late July. (B)
Div'ds paid in mid-Mar., mid-June, mid-Sept., &

Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Includes intagibles. In '23: \$5.85/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for stock split. (E) Rate allowed on common eq. in mid-Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. †

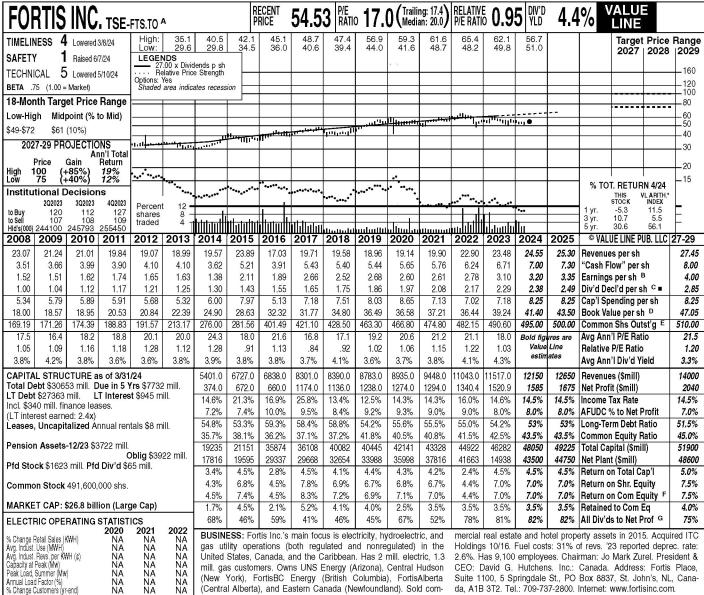
Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Includes '22 (FPL): 9.8%-11.8%; Regult'y Climate: Avg.

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

55

80

95



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-

CEO: David G. Hutchens. 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. profit estimate as Fortis has a high Earn-

215 207 211 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 Revenues -.5% 3.5% 3.5% 3.5% 5.5% 3.5% 'Cash Flow' 4.5% 5.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 6.0% 4.0% 6.5%

NA NA

Annual Load Factor (

% Change Customers (yr-end)

| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY RE | VENUES (| \$ mill.) | Full |
|-------|--------|-----------|----------|-----------|-------|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 2539 | 2130 | 2196 | 2583 | 9448 |
| 2022 | 2835 | 2487 | 2553 | 3168 | 11043 |
| 2023 | 3319 | 2594 | 2719 | 2885 | 11517 |
| 2024 | 3118 | 2700 | 2770 | 3562 | 12150 |
| 2025 | 3400 | 2750 | 2850 | 3650 | 12650 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS F | ER SHARI | В | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | .76 | .54 | .62 | .69 | 2.61 |
| 2022 | .74 | .59 | .68 | .77 | 2.78 |
| 2023 | .90 | .61 | .81 | .78 | 3.10 |
| 2024 | .93 | .65 | .80 | .82 | 3.20 |
| 2025 | .95 | .75 | .80 | .85 | 3.35 |
| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY DIV | IDENDS P | AID C ■ | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .4775 | .4775 | .4775 | .505 | 1.94 |
| 2021 | .505 | .505 | .505 | .535 | 2.05 |
| 2022 | .535 | .535 | .535 | .565 | 2.17 |
| 2023 | .565 | .565 | .565 | .590 | 2.29 |
| 2024 | .590 | | | | |

We continue to look for Fortis to post steady earnings growth over the next couple years. Rate relief should remain a main driver of growth and help improve upon low allowed returns seen in many of the company's utilities. There are currently ongoing cases in New York and British Columbia, with decisions in both expected by the end of this year. And, in Arizona, a full-year of new rates will likely benefit profits. Too, Fortis' ITC transmission subsidiary should increase its yearly income due to a forward-looking regulatory mechanism that enables the utility to earn a return on its capital spending and recover most operating expenses. Our 2024 bottom-line estimate is staying put at \$3.20 per share.

We are also sticking with our 2025 earnings target of \$3.35 per share. We look for investments in the transition to clean energy and rate relief to remain prevalent next year. Indeed, the company's \$25-billion five-year capital plan is expected to rise to over \$49 billion in 2028 due to rate-base increases. This is within management's five-year annual rate-base growth of 6.3%. We feel confident with our

ings Predictability score, along with a stretch of respectable financial performances of late.

We look for a dividend increase at the third-quarter meeting in September. The company has raised its distribution in 49 consecutive years, and remains committed to its target of a 4%-6% annual dividend growth rate through 2028. We expect a hike of approximately \$0.15 a share (6%) this time around in the annual payment.

These shares are best suited for income-oriented accounts with a longterm investment horizon. The dividend yield of 4.4% stands comfortably above the high-paying utility average, and remains this issue's most notable feature. Too, capital appreciation potential for the 3- to 5year time frame stands out in comparison to its peers. Short-term prospects are not as exciting. Indeed, capital gains potential for the next 18 months is not enticing, and the stock is ranked to trail the broader market averages over the coming six to 12 months.

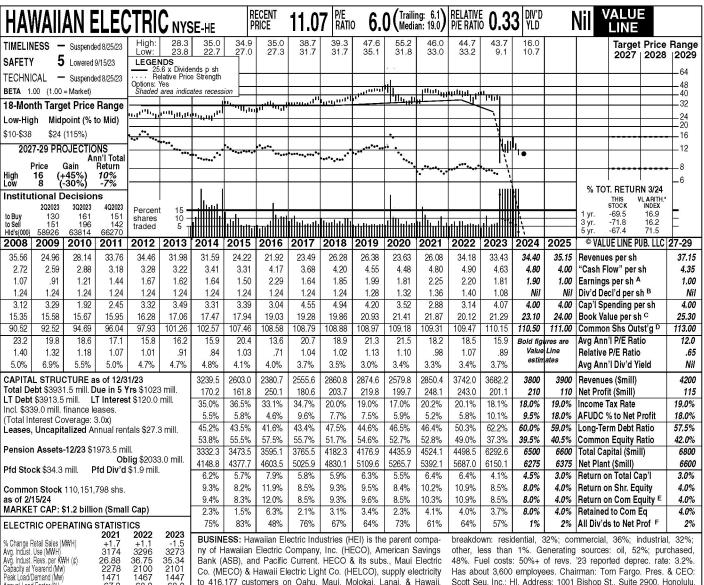
Zachary J. Hodgkinson

June 7, 2024

(A) Also trades on NYSE (FTS). All data in Canadian \$. **(B)** Dil. egs. Excl. nonrecur. gains (loss): '14, 2¢; '15, 48¢; '17, (35¢); '18, 7¢. '19, \$1.12. Next egs. report due early July. (C) mill. (F) hates all'd on com. eq.: 8.3%-10.32%;

Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (2% FERC, Above Avg., AZ, Below Avg., NY, Below disc.). (D) Incl. intang. In '23: \$34.05/sh. (E) In Avg. (G) Excl. div'ds pd. via reinv. plan.

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



Co. (MECO) & Hawaii Electric Light Co. (HELCO), supply electricity to 416,177 customers on Oahu, Maui, Molokai, Lanai, & Hawaii. Operating companies' systems are not interconnected. Elec. rev.

Has about 3,600 employees. Chairman: Tom Fargo. Pres. & CEO: Scott Seu. Inc.: Hl. Address: 1001 Bishop St., Suite 2900, Honolulu, HI 96808-0730. Telephone: 808-543-5662. Internet: www.hei.com.

| Fixed Charge Cov. (%) | | 393 | 356 2 | 273 |
|--|--|--|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value | Past 10 Yrs. -0.5% 4.0% 3.0% 0.5% 2.5% | Past 5 Yrs. 5.5% 3.5% 1.5% 0.5% 1.5% | -1.59 -11.59 NM | 29 % % 1F |
| | | | | |

68.0

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

| Cal- endar | QUAR Mar.31 | | VENUES Sep.30 | | Full Year |
|---------------|----------------|----------|------------------|--------|--------------|
| 2021 | 642.9 | 680.3 | 756.9 | 770.3 | 2850.4 |
| 2022 | 785.1 | 895.6 | 1042.2 | 1019.1 | 3742.0 |
| 2023 | 928.2 | 895.7 | 896.9 | 961.4 | 3682.2 |
| 2024 | 940 | 910 | 975 | 975 | 3800 |
| 2025 | 965 | 935 | 1000 | 1000 | 3900 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS | PER SHAR | ΕA | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | .59 | .58 | .58 | .50 | 2.25 |
| 2022 | .63 | .48 | .57 | .52 | 2.20 |
| 2023 | .50 | .50 | .37 | .44 | 1.81 |
| 2024 | .45 | .45 | .50 | .50 | 1.90 |
| 2025 | .40 | .30 | .20 | .10 | 1.00 |
| Cal- | QUAF | TERLY DI | VIDENDS | PAID B | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .33 | .33 | .33 | .33 | 1.32 |
| 2021 | .34 | .34 | .34 | .34 | 1.36 |
| 2022 | .35 | .35 | .35 | .35 | 1.40 |
| 2023 | .36 | .36 | .36 | | 1.08 |
| 2024 | | | | | |

Hawaiian Electric Industries faces a mounting number of lawsuits related to its role in the Maui wildfires. To recap, on August 8th, winds associated with Hurricane Dora knocked down power lines that started an early morning fire near the town of Lahaina. According to HEI, that blaze was extinguished by firefighters. HEI contends that the fires that began hours later, resulting in over 100 deaths and massive property damage (estimated to be more than \$1.5 billion), were not from its equipment, since the utility deenergized its system following the initial downed wires. Maui County filed a lawsuit against the company, claiming the utility acted negligently by not preemptively cutting power, given the forecast for extreme winds. HEI has been named as a defendant in more than 100 lawsuits for local damages (up from 60 in November). The company has also been hit with a class action suit on behalf of shareholders and subrogation claims on the part of about 150 different insurers. The dividend was suspended to preserve cash and the company fully exhausted its \$375 million revolving credit facility.

Hawaiian Electric was unsuccessful in its bid to move wildfire cases from state to federal court. In March, a U.S. district judge ruled that the lawsuits filed against the company will be remanded back to state court on the island of Maui. Plaintiffs' lawyers considered it a victory because these cases will be heard by a local jury beginning this October.

Our estimates assume hefty legal settlements. Thus far, HEI has agreed to contribute up to \$75 million of a \$175 million fund for victims as part of the state's response. Payouts are expected to be in the \$1.5 million range per claim. HEI's share will be paid by insurance, leaving \$90 million of additional coverage. While the fund may alleviate some of the court cases, we think substantial legal costs are inevitable and have priced in settlement figures of \$125 million to \$250 million annually starting in 2025. It's an amount the company can stay viable at in terms of maintaining the power grid. This outcome results in poor total return prospects for The Timeliness rank is shareholders. suspended due to the vagaries ahead. Anthony J. Glennon April 19, 2024

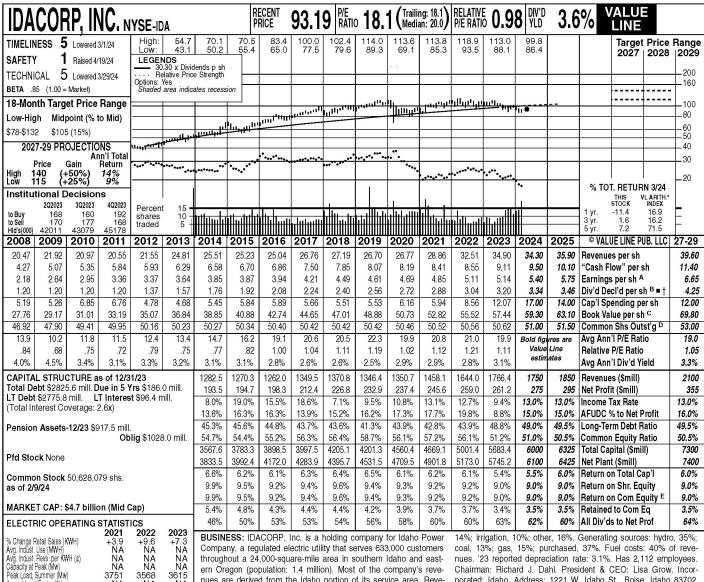
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. losses: '12, 25¢; 17, 12¢, Otrly, FPS may not sum to full year due to rounding. Next egs. report due early May. (B) Quarterly dividends not declared prior (E) Rate base: Orig. cost. Rate allowed on

to 8/21/23 have been suspended. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '23: \$294.8 mill., \$2.68/sh. (D) In mill.

com. eq. in '18: HECO, 9.5%; in '18: HELCO, 9.5%; in '18: MECO, 9.5%; Regulatory Climate: Below Average. (F) Includes preferred dividends

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability C+ 5 Price Growth Persistence 35 **Earnings Predictability** 90

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throughout a 24,000-square-mile area in southern Idaho and eastern Oregon (population: 1.4 million). Most of the company's revenues are derived from the Idaho portion of its service area. Revenue breakdown: residential, 39%; commercial, 21%; industrial,

nues. '23 reported depreciation rate: 3.1%. Has 2,112 employees. Chairman: Richard J. Dahl. President & CEO: Lisa Grow. Incorporated: Idaho. Address: 1221 W. Idaho St., Boise, Idaho 83702. Telephone: 208-388-2200. Internet: www.idacorpinc.com

315 390 395 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 4.0% 3.5% 3.5% Revenues 3.5% 3.5% 3.5% 5.0% 5.5% 4.0% 4 0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 6.5% 4.5%

Annual Load Factor (

% Change Customers (yr-end)

3751

+2.8

3568

NA +2.4

3615

+2.4

| Cal- endar | QUAR Mar.31 | TERLY RE Jun.30 | VENUES(Sep.30 | | Full Year |
|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|
| 2021 | 316.1 | 360.1 | 446.9 | 335.0 | 1458.1 |
| 2022 | 344.3 | 358.7 | 518.0 510.9 | 422.9 | 1644.0 |
| 2023 | 429.7 365 | 413.8 415 | 510.9 560 | 412.0 410 | 1766.4 1750 |
| | (5)(5)(5) | | | | |
| 2025 | 390 | 440 | 585 | 435 | 1850 |
| Cal- | EA | rnings P | ER SHARI | Α | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | .89 | 1.38 | 1.93 | .65 | 4.85 |
| 2022 | .91 | 1.27 | 2.10 | .83 | 5.11 |
| 2023 | 1.11 | 1.35 | 2.07 | .61 | 5.14 |
| 2024 | 1.10 | 1.35 | 2.10 | .85 | 5.40 |
| 2025 | 1.15 | 1.45 | 2.25 | .90 | 5.75 |
| Cal- | QUART | ERLY DIVI | DENDS PA | IDB∎† | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .67 | .67 | .67 | .71 | 2.72 |
| 2021 | .71 | .71 | .71 | .75 | 2.88 |
| 2022 | .75 | .75 | .75 | .79 | 3.04 |
| 2023 | .79 | .79 | .79 | .83 | 3.20 |
| 2024 | .83 | | | | 3.20 |
| | | | | | 200.0 |

IDACORP's management has set its earnings target for 2024 in a range of \$5.25 to \$5.45 a share. The company extended its streak of 15 years when it comes to annual earnings growth in 2023, but not by a whole lot. Our 2024 estimate is being placed at \$5.40, which assumes a 5% annual gain, which is in line with the company's in-house goal. Most utilities strive for something in the 4%-6% or 5%-7% spread. Digging deeper, our estimate assumes Idaho Power will use between \$35 million and \$60 million of additional tax credits available under its regulatory mechanism. A good portion of this figure is tied to battery storage projects approved by the Idaho Public Utilities Commission in the general rate case last December.

A rate case in Oregon is now on the table. IDACORP has filed with the Oregon Public Utilities Commission for a rate increase to go into effect in October of this year. The company is requesting an ROE of 10.4%, and a 7.8% rate of return with a capital structure comprised of 51% equity and 49% debt. Infrastructure investments have been made in this service area and the last general rate case was

filed in 2011. Since then, there has been an 8% increase in the number of customers. We expect the parties to mutually agree on a pact that is fair to both IDA and its constituents.

Capital expenditures are expected to peak this year at above \$900 million. New capacity resources are pushing the spending up, but management has cast a wide net (\$20 million to \$200 million), so the total could be somewhat lower. Still, the average over the next five years is apt to come in around the \$800 million threshold. Distribution and transmission will be areas of heavy outlays, as will high voltage transmission, one of the driving forces behind IDA's heavier spending coming off an average of about \$400 million in the previous five-year window.

These untimely shares lack real investment appeal at this juncture. Even with the quotation down 7% in value since our January review, capital appreciation potential three to five years out is below average. Yes, the yield is handsomely above the Value Line median, but does not stand out for a utility.

April 19, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Earnings may not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early May. (B) Dividends historically paid in late February May, August, and November.

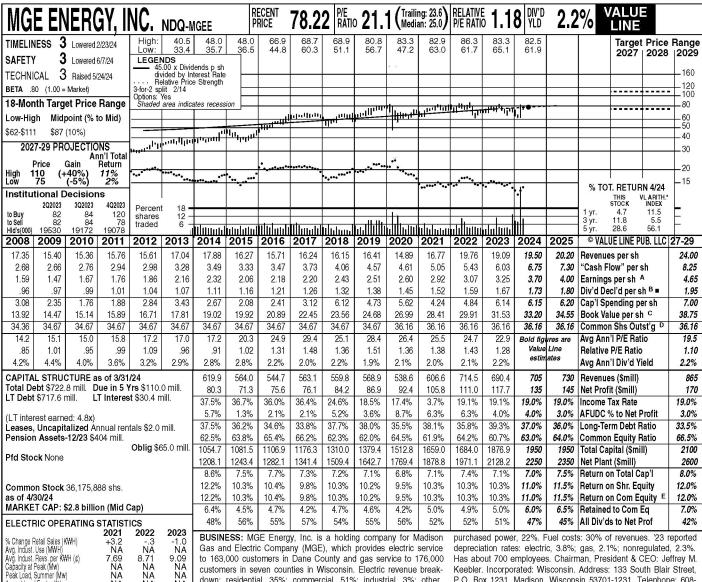
Dividend rein-

vestment plan available. † Shareholder investment plan available. (C) Incl. intangibles. In ulatory Climate: Above Average.

23: \$882.7 mill., \$17.44/sh. (D) In millions. (E) Rate base: Net original cost. Rate allowed

Erik M. Manning

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A 95 Price Growth Persistence 60 **Earnings Predictability** 100



customers in seven counties in Wisconsin. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 35%; commercial, 51%; industrial, 3%; other, 11%. Generating sources: coal, 40%; gas, 17%; renewables, 21%;

Keebler. Incorporated: Wisconsin. Address: 133 South Blair Street, P.O. Box 1231, Madison, Wisconsin 53701-1231. Telephone: 608-252-7000. Internet: www.mgeenergy.com.

525 486 517 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 3.0% 8.0% 6.5% Revenues 1.5% 4.5% 7.0% 7.0% 7.0% 3.5% 4.5% 6.0% 5.0% Farnings 4.5%

Annual Load Factor (

% Change Customers (yr-end)

NA

NA NA

NA NA

| DOOK V | aiue | 0.0 | /o U. | 0/0 | +,5/0 |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|--|---|--|
| Cal- endar | QUAR Mar.31 | | VENUES (: Sep.30 | | Full Year |
| 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 | 167.9 209.0 217.3 191.3 190 | 152.3 | 163.4 160.5 | 189.8 164.6 | 690.4 |
| Cal- endar | EA Mar.31 | | ER SHARE Sep.30 | _ | Full Year |
| 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 | .96 .96 .86 .93 1.00 | .63 .60 .79 .95 1.00 | .97 .93 1.05 1.15 1.00 | .36 .58 .55 .67 1.00 | 2.92 3.07 3.25 3.70 4.00 |
| Cal- endar | QUAR1 Mar.31 | ERLY DIV Jun.30 | IDENDS PA Sep.30 | | Full Year |
| 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 | .352 .37 .388 .408 .4275 | .352 .37 .388 .408 | .37 .388 .408 .4275 | .37 .388 .408 .4275 | 1.45 1.52 1.59 1.67 |

MGE Energy reported mixed firstquarter results. Revenues decreased 12% year over year, to \$191.3 million. The company experienced a slight decline in electric revenues and a double-digit fall in gas revenues due to warmer-than-normal weather. However, GAAP earnings per share increased by 8% compared to the previous year, reaching \$0.93. This growth was thanks to favorable rates and lower fuel costs, boosting electric utility earnings.

The company is investing in assets to support the expansion of renewable generation. The utility has several solar and battery projects that are either proposed or under construction. Notable investments include a 20-megawatt solar project, Paris, which is also being developed as a battery storage infrastructure, scheduled for completion in 2024 and 2025, respectively. Another significant solar project, dubbed Darien, is anticipated to be operational by the end of this year. Ongoing investments in capital infrastructure are important for negotiating rate cases and should make a solid ground for future rate cases. We note that

rate cases for 2024 and 2025 were approved in December 2023 by the Public Service Commission of Wisconsin.

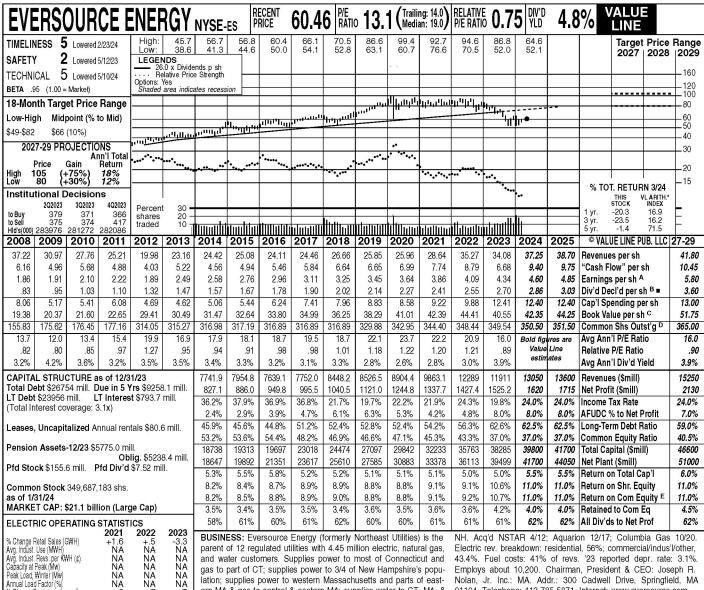
A combination of rate relief and better cost controls should keep the near-term bottom line healthy. MGE will probably remain active on the investment front to make a case for next rate negotiations. Plus, we also expect it to attract new customers to bolster the top line. All things considered, we estimate a 14% increase in per-share profit for 2024. In all, we project an 8% gain in 2025 earnings per share, bringing the figures to approximately \$3.70 and \$4.00, respectively. Shares of MGE Energy are ranked to track the broader market averages in the year ahead. Looking over the 3- to 5-year time frame, the stock has subpar capital appreciation potential. Over the next 18 months, the capital upside prospects are also uninspiring, and the dividend yield is below average for a utility. We think patient, income-oriented investors looking to diversify portfolio risk and earn a high dividend yield may find better options elsewhere in the sector. Emma Jalees June 7, 2024

(A) GAAP Diluted earnings. Excludes non-recurring gain: '17, 62¢. Quarterly earnings may not sum to full year due to rounding or share count change. Next earnings report due

early Aug. (B) Div'ds historically paid in mid-March, June, September, and December . Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Includes regulatory assets. In '23: \$102.3 mill., \$2.83/sh.

(D) In millions, adj for split. (E) Rate allowed on common equity in '23; 9.7%; Regulatory Climate: Above Average

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 75 Price Growth Persistence 55 **Earnings Predictability** 100



gas to part of CT; supplies power to 3/4 of New Hampshire's population; supplies power to western Massachusetts and parts of eastern MA & gas to central & eastern MA; supplies water to CT, MA, &

Employs about 10,200. Chairman, President & CEO: Joseph R. Nolan, Jr. Inc.: MA. Addr.: 300 Cadwell Drive, Springfield, MA 01104. Telephone: 413-785-5871. Internet: www.eversource.com.

347 263 310 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 5.5% 5.5% 5.5% Revenues 3.5% 4.0% 5.0% 6.5% 7.0% 4.5% 'Cash Flow' 5.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 6.0% 3.5% 6.0% 4.0%

NΑ

+.7

Annual Load Factor

% Change Customers (yr-end)

| Cal- endar | QUART Mar.31 | ERLY REV | ENUES (\$ Sep.30 | | Full Year |
|---------------|-----------------|-----------|---------------------|---------|--------------|
| 2021 | 2826 | 2123 | 2433 | 2482 | 9863 |
| | | | | | |
| 2022 | 3471 | 2573 | 3216 | 3030 | 12289 |
| 2023 | 3796 | 2629 | 2792 | 2694 | 11911 |
| 2024 | 3900 | 2700 | 3250 | 3200 | 13050 |
| 2025 | 4075 | 2825 | 3375 | 3325 | 13600 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS P | ER SHARE | A | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 1.15 | .79 | 1.02 | .91 | 3.86 |
| 2022 | 1.30 | .86 | 1.01 | .92 | 4.09 |
| 2023 | 1.41 | 1.00 | .97 | .95 | 4.34 |
| 2024 | 1.45 | 1.03 | 1.07 | 1.05 | 4.60 |
| 2025 | 1.50 | 1.10 | 1.15 | 1.10 | 4.85 |
| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY DIV | IDENDS PA | AID B . | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .5675 | .5675 | .5675 | .5675 | 2.27 |
| 2021 | .6025 | .6025 | .6025 | .6025 | 2.41 |
| 2022 | .6375 | .6375 | .6375 | .6375 | 2.55 |
| 2023 | .675 | .675 | .675 | .675 | 2.70 |
| 2024 | | .075 | .075 | .075 | 2.70 |
| 2024 | .715 | | | | |

Eversource Energy has largely divested its offshore wind generation assets, lifting most of the uncertainty that had been weighing on the stock. The rapid rise in financing and development costs over the past few years caused these assets to drop in value. The company ultimately had to take a \$1.95 billion nonrecurring impairment charge in 2023. Eversource was able to recoup some of its initial investment. In September, the company sold its stake in undeveloped offshore leased areas to its joint-venture partner, Orsted, for \$625 million. And in February, Eversource reached an agreement to sell its 50% stake in the South Fork Wind and Revolution Wind projects to Global Infrastructure Partners for \$1.1 billion. All that remains is a 50% interest in the Sunrise Wind venture, where a conditional sales agreement is in place with Orsted. The finances of that deal were not disclosed, as they are contingent on what New York State bids for the annual power.

To further shore up its finances, the company is exploring the sale of its water utility. Aquarion water, which was purchased in 2017 for \$1.67 billion, has

been deemed a nonstrategic asset by Eversource. The business distributes water to 72 towns and cities in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and New Hampshire.

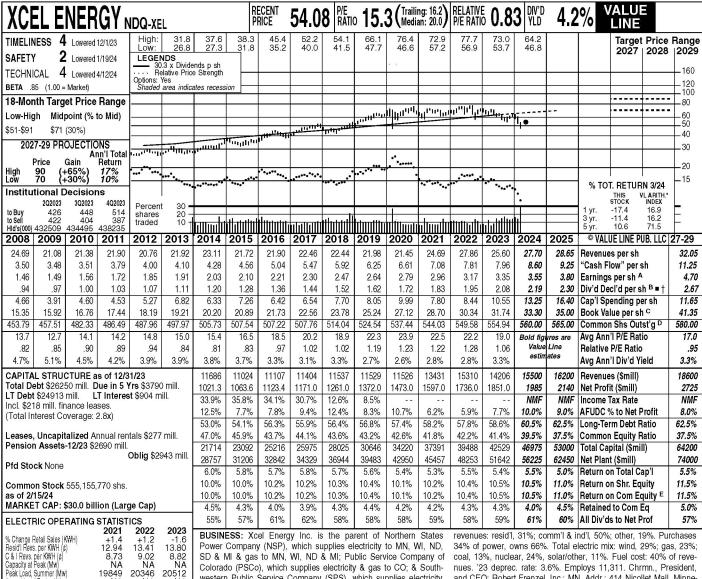
Eversource remains poised for solid intermediate-term profit gains. In Massachusetts, \$64 million of higher electric rates were phased in during 2023. This year, additional increases will go into effect based on inflation, maintenance, and transmission & distribution project spending. Rate increases are tied to nearly realtime formulaic pricing adjustments based on a 9.8% return on equity in the company's most important state territory. The company is targeting earnings of \$4.50-\$4.67 per share this year. Management has affirmed its 5%-7% annual profit growth expectation through late decade.

Longer-term utility investors should consider a commitment here. Eversource recently upped its dividend by 5.9%, and looks poised to regain its stride among utilities prized for their above-average dividend growth prospects. The equity trades at a deep discount to its peer group's average P/E multiple of 16.1. Anthony J. Glennon May 10, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS excl. nonrecur. gain/(losses): '08, (19¢); '10, 9¢; '19, (64¢); '20, (9¢); '21, (32¢); '22, (4¢); '23, (\$3.45). Next egs. report due early Aug. Quarterly figures may not sum

to full year due to rounding. (B) Div'ds paid late | com. eq. in MA: (elec.) '22, 9.8%; (gas) '20, Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment | 9.7%-9.9%; in CT: (elec.) '18, 9.25%; (gas) '18, plan avail. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '23: \$26.45/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate allowed on CT, Below Avg.; NH, Avg.; MA, Above Avg.

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



Colorado (PSCo), which supplies electricity & gas to CO; & Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS), which supplies electricity to TX and NM. Customers: 3.8 mill. electric, 2.2 mill. gas. Electric

Xcel Energy stock is down sharply

this year due to the company's role in

nues. '23 deprec. rate: 3.6%. Employs 11,311. Chrmn., President, and CEO: Robert Frenzel. Inc.: MN. Addr.: 414 Nicollet Mall, Minneapolis, MN 55401. Tel.: 612-330-5500. Int.: www.xcelenergy.com.

| Fixed Charge Cov. (%) | | 262 | 255 24 | 5 |
|--|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------|----|
| ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues | Past 10 Yrs. 2.0% | Past 5 Yrs. 3.0% | | 23 |
| "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value | 7.0% 5.5% 6.0% 5.0% | 7.0% 6.5% 6.5% 6.0% | 7.0% 5.5% | |

NA NA

Peak Load, Summer (Mw)

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

| DOOK Value | | 5.0 | /o U. | 0 /0 | 0,070 |
|---------------|----------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------|--------------|
| Cal- endar | QUAR Mar.31 | TERLY RE Jun.30 | VENUES (Sep.30 | | Full Year |
| 2021 | 3541 | 3068 | 3467 | 3355 | 13431 |
| 2022 | 3751 | 3424 | 4082 | 4053 | 15310 |
| 2023 | 4080 | 3022 | 3662 | 3442 | 14206 |
| 2024 | 4100 | 3325 | 4050 | 4025 | 15500 |
| 2025 | 4275 | 3475 | 4230 | 4220 | 16200 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS F | ER SHARI | Α | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | .67 | .58 | 1.13 | .58 | 2.96 |
| 2022 | .70 | .60 | 1.18 | .69 | 3.17 |
| 2023 | .76 | .52 | 1.23 | .83 | 3.35 |
| 2024 | .80 | .60 | 1.30 | .85 | 3.55 |
| 2025 | .85 | .65 | 1.40 | .90 | 3.80 |
| Cal- | QUART | ERLY DIVI | DENDS PA | IDB∎† | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .405 | .43 | .43 | .43 | 1.70 |
| 2021 | .43 | .4575 | .4575 | .4575 | 1.80 |
| 2022 | .4575 | .4875 | .4875 | .4875 | 1.92 |
| 2023 | .4875 | .52 | .52 | .52 | 2.05 |
| 2024 | .52 | .5475 | | | |

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain/(losses): '10, 5¢; '15, (16¢); '17, (5¢); '23, (14¢); gain/(loss) on discontinued ops.: '09, (1¢); '10, 1¢. Qtly. EPS may not sum to full yr. due to round-

the recent Texas Panhandle wildfires. There are multiple ongoing blazes in this region under various names with different levels of containment. The utility holding company disputes it's subsidiary acted negligently, but has acknowledged that its equipment had a part in igniting what's being called the Smokehouse Creek fire. That blaze has scorched more than one million acres, destroyed about 80 homes, and caused at least two deaths. Xcel does not believe that its equipment had a part in other contiguous wildfires, such as the Windy Deuce blaze. At one point, the equity was down nearly 25% in value on a year-to-date basis. As the fires have become contained and liabilities reasonably assessed Xcel shares have started to recover, but are still down 13% year to date. These drops are off of what were already discount levels late last year from the pressure higher interest rates unleashed on the rate-sensitive utility sector. We doubt that this unfortunate disaster will result in claims that exceed Xcel's Meanwhile, little has changed on the Marshall Wildfire litigation scene in There, Xcel faces 14 complaints with 675 plaintiffs, which have been consolidated into a single case. There were two deaths and nearly 1,100 structures were either damaged or fully destroyed in the December, 2021 fire. The state of Colorado estimated the damages to be over \$2 billion. Xcel has \$560 million of liability coverage associated with that incident. The company expects to get a litigation calender some time this year with a trial most likely taking place in 2025. Management strongly disputes the findings of Colorado officials regarding Xcel's equipment being a source of ignition. On an operating basis, this company has been a model of consistency few

utilities can match. It almost always delivers solid annual earnings and dividend increases to shareholders. We think the valuation hit the company has taken recently is likely overdone. Although ranked to underperform over the near term, the shares offer significant recovery potential in the 18-month timeframe.

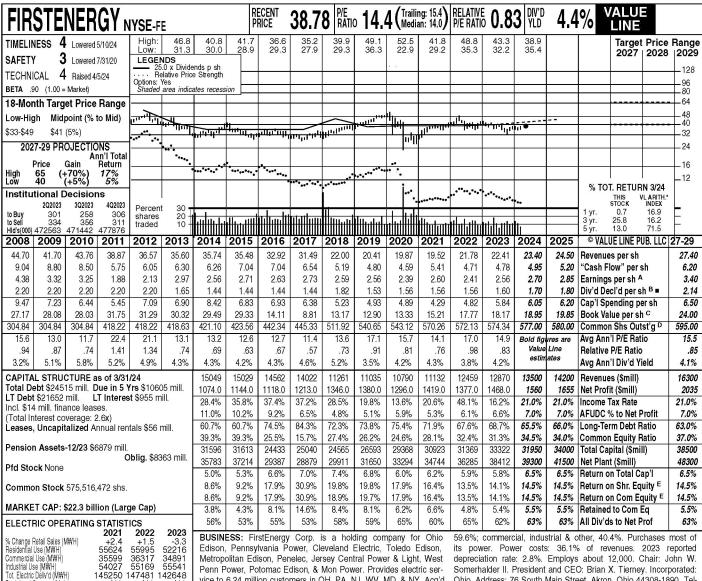
Anthony J. Glennon April 19, 2024

(C) Incl. intangibles. In '23: \$2798 mill., \$5.04/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Varies. Rate allowed on common equity (blended): 9.6%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A 95 Price Growth Persistence 65 **Earnings Predictability** 100

ing. Next egs. report due April 25th. (B) Div'ds typically paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct.
■ Div'd reinvestment plan available.

\$560 million of liability insurance.



Penn Power, Potomac Edison, & Mon Power. Provides electric service to 6.24 million customers in OH, PA, NJ, WV, MD, & NY. Acq'd Allegheny Energy 2/11. Electric revenue breakdown: residential,

Somerhalder II. President and CEO: Brian X. Tierney. Incorporated: Ohio. Address: 76 South Main Street, Akron, Ohio 44308-1890. Telephone: 800-736-3402. Internet: www.firstenergycorp.com.

171 225 290 Fixed Charge Cov. (% ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 -5.5% -2.0% 1.0% Revenues -6.0% -4.5% 4.5% 4.5% 5.5% 5.5% Cash Flow -1.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value -2.5% -6.0% 7.0%

% Change Customers (yr-end)

NA +.4

NA +.4

NΑ

+.5

| Cal- | QUAR | \$ mill.) | Full | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|--------|-------|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 2726 | 2622 | 3124 | 2660 | 11132 |
| 2022 | 2989 | 2818 | 3475 | 3177 | 12459 |
| 2023 | 3231 | 3006 | 3487 | 3146 | 12870 |
| 2024 | 3287 | 3163 | 3650 | 3400 | 13500 |
| 2025 | 3480 | 3300 | 3850 | 3570 | 14200 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS F | ER SHAR | E A | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | .69 | .59 | .82 | .51 | 2.60 |
| 2022 | .60 | .53 | .79 | .50 | 2.41 |
| 2023 | .60 | .47 | .88 | .62 | 2.56 |
| 2024 | .55 | .55 | .90 | .70 | 2.70 |
| 2025 | .60 | .55 | .95 | .75 | 2.85 |
| Cal- | QUAR' | TERLY DIV | IDENDS P. | AIDB∎ | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .39 | .39 | .39 | .39 | 1.56 |
| 2021 | .39 | .39 | .39 | .39 | 1.56 |
| 2022 | .39 | .39 | .39 | .39 | 1.56 |
| 2023 | .39 | .39 | .39 | .41 | 1.58 |
| 2024 | .41 | .425 | | | |

FirstEnergy is off to a decent start to **2024.** Despite mild winter weather in its service area, the company bettered its own earnings-per-share target by \$0.02 during the first quarter. Management reaffirmed its bottom-line target of \$2.61-\$2.81 per share for the full year, representing 6% growth at the midpoint of its range. We expect FirstEnergy will continue to leverage the flexibility of its vast Mid-Atlantic to Midwest network by prioritizing transmission and distribution projects. type of investment provides a relatively quick regulated return on capital employed. Meanwhile, rate relief should add to the bottom line, as well. In October, a favorable outcome was concluded in the Maryland rate case and constructive settlements just concluded in West Virginia and New Jersey. Recently, cases were filed in Pennsylvania and Ohio.

Finances are improving. In 2021, First-Energy settled its bribery charges with federal prosecutors and Ohio regulators. After this year's payment of \$45 million, just a \$25 million disbursement remains. New leadership continues to cooperate with federal prosecutors as the DPA

prosecution agreement) (deferred cludes this July. To recap, equity injections of \$1 billion were received in late 2021, followed by the mid-2022 sale of a minority interest in the company's longrange transmission assets for \$2.4 billion. Fitch restored FirstEnergy's credit rating to investment grade in 2022. Upgrades from the other major credit rating agencies recently took place, as the DPA is concluding soon and the company is set to receive \$3.5 billion in proceeds this year from the sale of a second minority interest. FirstEnergy raised its dividend. Last year, the board lifted the payout target to 60%-70% of adjusted profits. The recent hike in the quarterly rate, to \$0.425 per share, represents over 6% annual growth relative to 2023's level. We think 5%-7% increases per annum are likely to follow, commensurate with earnings growth.

Utility investors with a longer-term slant should keep this stock on their watch list. An entry point that provides more worthwhile upside to the midpoint of our 18-month Target Price Range should be sought

Anthony J. Glennon

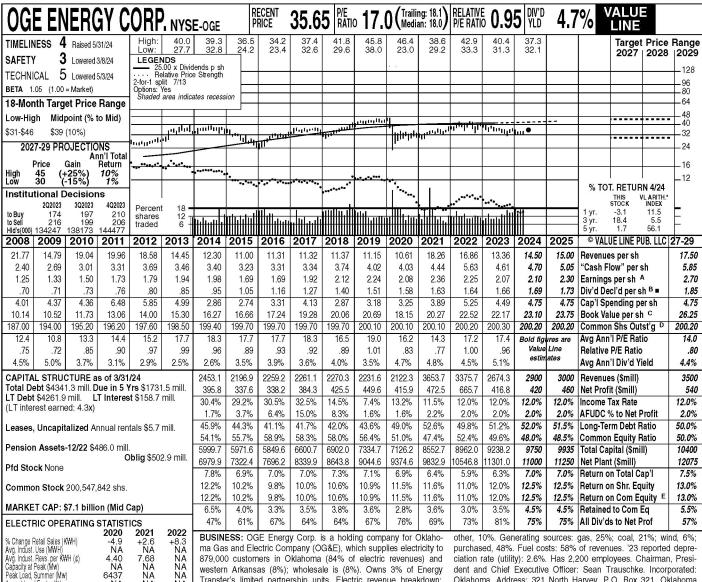
May 10, 2024

(A) Diluted egs. excl. nonrc. loss: '13, \$2.07; '14, \$2.05; '15, \$1.34; '16, \$17.12; '17, \$6.61; '18, \$1.26; '19, 89¢; '20, 54¢; '21, 33¢; '22, \$1.70; '23, 60¢; gain/loss from disc. ops.: '18,

5 in ¹18. ■ Div'd reinv. avail. (C) Incl. intang. in Above Avg.; PA/NJ Avg.; MD/WV Below Avg.

66¢; '20, 14¢; '21, 8¢; '23, d4¢. Qtly. EPS don't sum due to rnd'g. Next egs. report in Jul. (B) large writeoffs. Rate base: Depr. orig. cost. Div. pd. Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. 3 div. in '13, Rates all'd on com. eq.: 9.6-11,7%; Reg.: OH

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



western Arkansas (8%); wholesale is (8%). Owns 3% of Energy Transfer's limited partnership units. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 44%; commercial, 25%; industrial, 11%; oilfield, 10%;

dent and Chief Executive Officer: Sean Trauschke. Incorporated: Oklahoma. Address: 321 North Harvey, P.O. Box 321, Oklahoma City, OK 73101-0321. Tel.: 405-553-3000. Internet: www.oge.com.

| Fixed Charge Cov. (%) | | 326 | 336 | 335 |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|----------------|-----|-------------------|
| ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) | Past 10 Yrs. | Past 5 Yrs. | | '20-'22 27-'29 |
| Revenues "Cash Flow" | -3.0% 2.5% | 5.0% 5.0% | | 5.5% 7.0% |
| Earnings Dividends | 3.0% 7.5% | 4.5% | 6 | 3.5% |
| Book Value | 7.5% 4.0% | 1.5% | | 3.0% 5.5% |

NA +1.4

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

| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY RE | VENUES (| | Full |
|--------------------------------------|---|---|-----------------------------|--|--|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | | Year |
| 2021 | 1630.0 | | 864.4 | 581.3 | 3653.7 |
| 2022 | 589.3 | | 1270.0 | 711.9 | 3375.7 |
| 2023 | 557.2 | | 945.4 | 566.7 | 2674.3 |
| 2024 | 596.8 | | 920 | 633.2 | 2900 |
| 2025 | 620 | | 950 | 650 | 3000 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS F | PER SHARI | Dec.31 | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | | Year |
| 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 | .26 .33 .19 .09 | | 1.31 1.20 1.30 | .28 .25 .24 .26 . 25 | 2.36 2.25 2.07 2.10 2.30 |
| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY DIV | IDENDS Pa | AID B ■ | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 | .3875 .4025 .41 .4141 .4182 | .3875 .4025 .41 .4141 .4182 | .4025 .41 | .4025 .41 .4141 .4182 | 1.57 1.62 1.64 1.66 |

OGE Energy's utility subsidiary is awaiting a rate order in Oklahoma. Oklahoma Gas and Electric is seeking an increase of \$332 million, based on a return on equity of 10.5% and a common-equity ratio of 53.5%. The utility needs to recover its additional capital investment in grid enhancements to improve reliability since its last rate case. OGE is making progress and testimony is under way, with new rates expected to be implemented sometime this summer. Meanwhile, the utility recently lowered Oklahoma customers' bills by \$25 a month due to a reduction in fuel costs. The cost of fuel to produce electricity is reviewed by federal regulators twice a year, and fluctuates greatly.

We have lowered our 2024 earningsper-share estimate by a dime. The firstquarter performance was negatively impacted by higher depreciation and interest expense, along with regulatory lag due to the pending Oklahoma rate case. Our profit estimate is now just below the midpoint of OGE Energy's targeted range of \$2.06-\$2.18, and within the company's long-term growth rate target of 5%-7% annually. We think the utility will have sharper earn-

ings growth next year. Prospects over that interim should benefit from investments in the grid, as well as being a pure-play electric utility. A decision in Oklahoma will likely also bolster top- and bottom-line growth and help the utility pass on higher costs to the consumer. Accordingly, our 2025 earnings estimate is staying put at \$2.30 a share.

OGE shares have risen nicely of late. Indeed, the stock has jumped around 10% in value since our early March report. And, the stock price is now up slightly over the past year, after reaching its new 12-month high recently.

The stock is untimely, but appealing for income-oriented investors. Indeed, the dividend yield of 4.7% stands comfortably above the high-paying utility average, and remains this issue's most notable feature. On the other hand, these shares are ranked 4 (Below Average) for Timeliness. Too, intermediate- and longterm return prospects are not attractive, as the current quotation is already trading within our Target Price Range for the 18month and 3- to 5-year time frames.

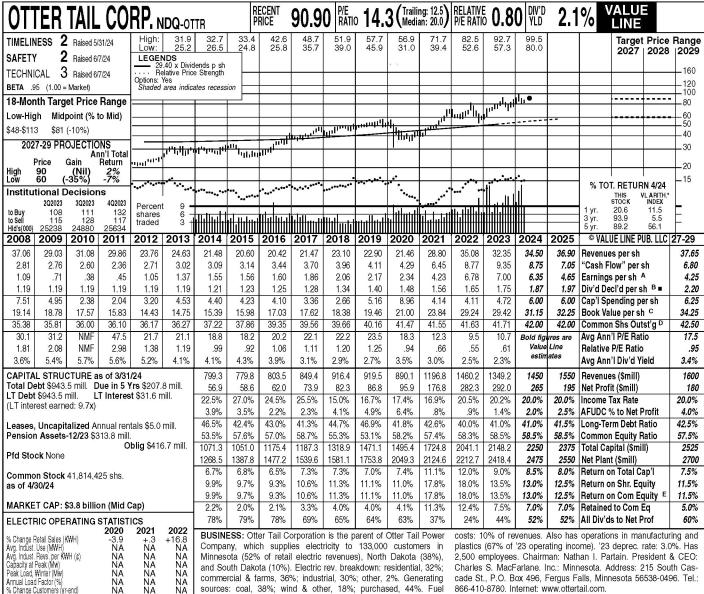
Zachary J. Hodgkinson June 7, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gains (losses): '15, (33¢); '17, \$1.18; '19, (8¢); '20, (\$2.95); '21, \$1.32; '22, \$1.06; gain on discont. ops.: '19 & '21 EPS don't sum due to rounding.

Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds shitstorically paid in late Jan., Apr., July, & Oct. | Split. (E) Rate base: Net original cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in OK in '19: 9.5%; in AR in 18: 9.5%; earned on avg. com. eq., '21: 12.7%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

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

B++ 85 **Earnings Predictability** 95



Minnesota (52% of retail electric revenues), North Dakota (38%), and South Dakota (10%). Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 32%; commercial & farms, 36%; industrial, 30%; other, 2%. Generating sources: coal, 38%; wind & other, 18%; purchased, 44%. Fuel

2,500 employees. Chairman: Nathan I. Partain. President & CEO: Charles S. MacFarlane. Inc.: Minnesota. Address: 215 South Cascade St., P.O. Box 496, Fergus Falls, Minnesota 56538-0496. Tel.: 866-410-8780. Internet: www.ottertail.com.

651 653 405 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 4.0% 9.5% 14.5% Revenues -1.0% 5.0% Cash Flow 4.5% 7.0% 8.0% 18.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 2.5% 3.5% 4.0% 6.0%

Annual Load Factor

% Change Customers (yr-end)

NA

NA NA

| Cal- | | | VENUES (| | Full | | | |
|-------|--------|----------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|--|--|--|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | |
| 2021 | 261.7 | 285.6 | 316.3 | 333.2 | 1196.8 | | | |
| 2022 | 374.9 | 400.0 | 383.9 | 301.4 | 1460.2 | | | |
| 2023 | 339.1 | 337.7 | 358.1 | 314.3 | 1349.2 | | | |
| 2024 | 347.1 | 365 | 390 | 347.9 | 1450 | | | |
| 2025 | 375 | 395 | 395 | 385 | 1550 | | | |
| Cal- | EA | EARNINGS PER SHARE A | | | | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Full Year | | | |
| 2021 | .73 | 1.01 | 1.26 | 1.23 | 4.23 | | | |
| 2022 | 1.72 | 2.05 | 2.01 | 1.00 | 6.78 | | | |
| 2023 | 1.49 | 1.95 | 2.19 | 1.37 | 7.00 | | | |
| 2024 | 1.77 | 1.70 | 1.75 | 1.13 | 6.35 | | | |
| 2025 | 1.10 | 1.15 | 1.20 | 1.20 | 4.65 | | | |
| Cal- | QUAR' | TERLY DIV | IDENDS PA | AID B∎ | Full | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | |
| 2020 | .37 | .37 | .37 | .37 | 1.48 | | | |
| 2021 | .39 | .39 | .39 | .39 | 1.56 | | | |
| 2022 | .4125 | .4125 | .4125 | .4125 | 1.65 | | | |
| 2023 | .4375 | .4375 | .4375 | .4375 | 1.75 | | | |
| 2024 | .4675 | | | | | | | |

Otter Tail Corporation raised its earnings target for 2024 upon reporting March-period results. Management now looks for profits this year to end up in a range of \$6.23-\$6.53 per share, from the previous target range of \$5.13-\$5.43 a share. The Plastics segment continues to outperform expectations due to higher sales driven by growth in customer volumes and strong distributor and end market demand. Indeed, earnings in the Plastics division rose 39% from the first quarter of 2023, and PVC pipe is expected to recede at a much slower rate than previously anticipated, which is largely responsible for Otter Tail's updated guidance range. Meanwhile, the manufacturing segment's profit target was cut due to lower-than-expected sales volumes and margins. Too, the Electric division is projected to make up just 34% of the bottom line, versus the long-term goal of 65% electric and 35% non-electric.

We have raised our 2025 earnings estimate by \$0.65, to \$4.65 per share. Otter Tail should benefit from rate relief in Minnesota and North Dakota over that interim. Furthermore, the utility's updated

expectations for the Plastics segment will likely pour into next year, lifting profits higher than previously projected. The company is also well positioned to take advantage of its clean-energy transmission investments, which include \$1.3 billion of capital spending over the next five years, and is expected to produce 7.7% rate base growth.

Otter Tail shares have risen slightly in value since our March report, and are now up nearly 20% over the past year. Investors are enthused by betterthan-expected earnings and power demand from tech innovations and data centers. At the recent quotation, upside potential here in the 18-month and 3to 5-year time frames is negative.

The dividend yield is below average by utility standards. Even after the payout was raised in the March quarter, the current yield of 2.1% sits below the highpaying industry median. Too, long-term prospects are unattractive. On the other hand, these shares are ranked to outpace the broader-market averages over the coming six to 12 months.

Zachary J. Hodgkinson

June 7, 2024

80

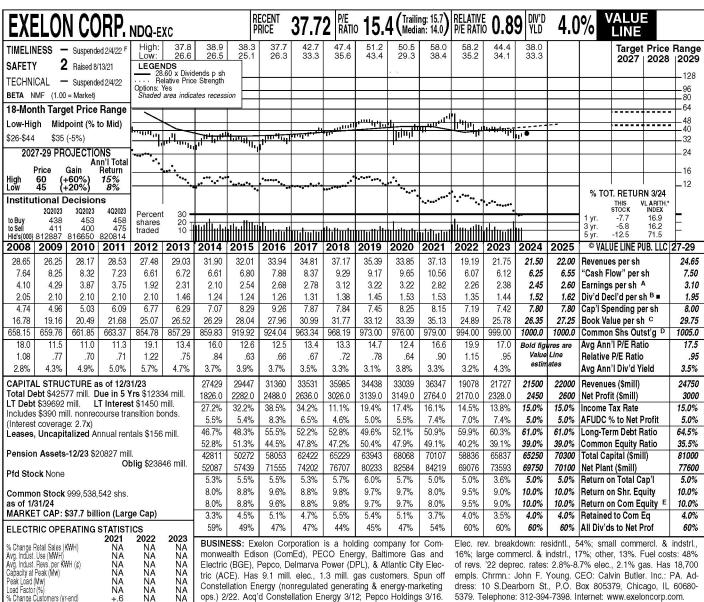
70

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (loss): '10, (44¢); '11, 26¢; '13, 2¢; gains (losses) from disc. ops.: '11, (\$1.11); '12, (\$1.22); '13, 2¢; '14, 2¢; '15, 2¢; '16, 1¢; '17, 1¢. '19 EPS may

not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds histor. pd. in early Mar., Jun., Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '23: \$4.72/sh. (D) In

mill. (E) Rate allowed on com. eq. in MN in '22: 9.48%; in ND in '18: 9.77%; in SD in '19: 8.75%; earned on avg. com. eq., '21: 19.2%.

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



237 NA 325 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 1.0% 5.5% 2.5% Revenues 2.5% 3.0% NMF NMF - 5% Earnings Dividends Book Value -3.0% 4.5% 4.0% 3.5% NMF NMF

| Cal- endar | QUAR Mar.31 | TERLY RE Jun.30 | VENUES (Sep.30 | \$ mill.) Dec.31 | Full Year | | | | | |
|---------------|----------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|--------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| 2021 | 9890 | 7915 | 8910 | 9632 | 36347 | | | | | |
| 2022 | 5327 | 4239 | 4845 | 4667 | 19078 | | | | | |
| 2023 | 5562 | 4818 | 5980 | 5367 | 21727 | | | | | |
| 2024 | 5600 | 4850 | 6100 | 4950 | 21500 | | | | | |
| 2025 | 5750 | 5000 | 6250 | 5000 | 22000 | | | | | |
| Cal- | E/ | EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full | | | | | | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | | | |
| 2021 | d.06 | .89 | 1.09 | .90 | 2.82 | | | | | |
| 2022 | .64 | .44 | .75 | .43 | 2.26 | | | | | |
| 2023 | .70 | .41 | .67 | .60 | 2.38 | | | | | |
| 2024 | .70 | .45 | .80 | .50 | 2.45 | | | | | |
| 2025 | .75 | .45 | .85 | .55 | 2.60 | | | | | |
| Cal- | QUAR' | TERLY DIV | IDENDS P | AID B∎ | Full | | | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | | | |
| 2020 | .3825 | .3825 | .3825 | .3825 | 1.53 | | | | | |
| 2021 | .3825 | .3825 | .3825 | .3825 | 1.53 | | | | | |
| 2022 | .3375 | .3375 | .3375 | .3375 | 1.35 | | | | | |
| 2023 | .360 | .360 | .360 | .360 | 1.44 | | | | | |
| 2024 | 380 | | | | | | | | | |

Exelon Corporation continues to look more stable and predictable as an entirely regulated utility. Indeed, the company delivered a better-than-expected fourth-quarter performance, while also raising its quarterly dividend and capital spending plan. Management now looks for \$35 billion of capital expenditures through 2027, a 10% increase from its previous outlook, and expects annual profit growth of 5%-7% over that interim. Investors were enthused with the strong final stanza and the stock has risen nearly 10% in value since our early February review, outperforming most electric utility equities. Exelon was set to release first-quarter financial results shortly after this report went to press. We look for earnings of \$0.70 a share on revenues of \$5.6 billion.

Our full-year 2024 profit estimate is staying put at \$2.45 per share. This is the midpoint of management's initial target range of \$2.40-\$2.50 a share, which was released in late February. Exelon's earnings continue to be much less volatile as an entirely regulated utility, and results are benefiting from additional revenues from regulatory mechanisms and

higher distribution rates. Along with rate relief, volume growth and growing power demand should contribute to higher profits. Regarding 2025, we estimate that the bottom line will advance 6%, to \$2.60 a share, within managements aforementioned growth target.

The Illinois rate case rejection and higher power bills are challenging long-term energy goals. Remember, Exelon's Commonwealth Edison (COMED) unit had its \$1.5 billion integrated grid plans rejected by the Illinois Commerce Commission in December, 2023. Since then, the transition toward renewable power has slowed as the utility has cut \$1.4 billion in capital spending in Illinois and laid off 900 direct contractors, which impacted more than 2,000 indirect jobs. As of now, the company remains committed to reducing emissions by 50% by 2030 and achieving net-zero by 2050.

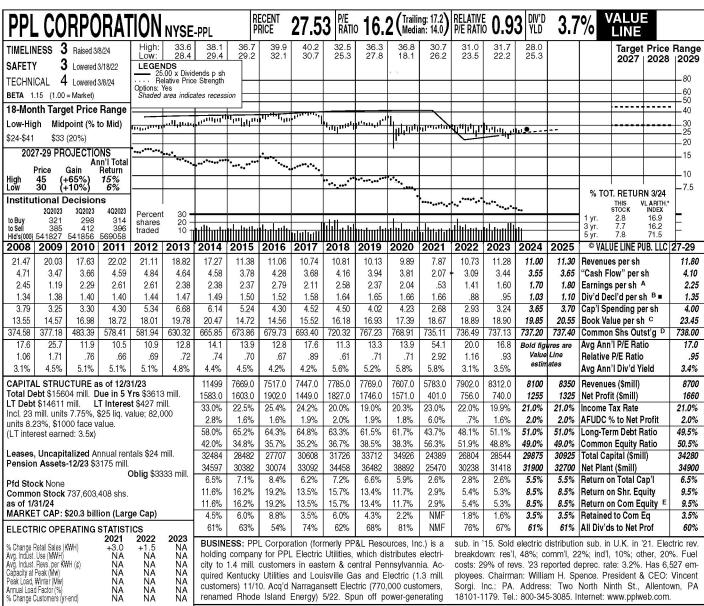
Income-oriented accounts may want to take a look at this issue. Exelon holds an above-average dividend yield and is generally considered to be a solid addition to a well-rounded portfolio.

Zachary J. Hodgkinson May 10, 2024

(A) Dil. egs. Excl. nonrec. gain (loss): '09, Div'ds paid in early Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. (20¢); '12, (50¢); '13, (31¢); '14, (22¢); '16, Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred (latory Climate: PA, NJ: Average; IL, MD: Be-(\$1.46); '17, \$1.19; '18, (\$1.05); '19, (21¢); '20, (\$1.21); '21, (\$1.08); Next egs. report: Aug. (B) allowed on common equity in IL in '15: 9.25%; Constellation Energy spinoff.

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

R++ NMF NMF



We look for PPL Corp. to deliver solid

Kentucky, Rhode Island, and Pennsylvania will likely benefit the company's bottom line. Too, the utility hopes to save \$150 million in cost savings through the

end of 2025, largely due to infrastructure

improvements

154 NA 348 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 10 Yrs. of change (per sh) 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 -3.0% -8.5% -17.0% Revenues -7.5%5.0% Cash Flow 3.0% 7.5% Earnings -9.0% -1.0% 5% 3.0% Book Value 4.0%

2024 results. The company finished the 2023 final stanza on a good note with better-than-expected financial results. while also raising the quarterly dividend and capital expenditure plan. Too, management reaffirmed its long-term annual earnings growth target of 6%-8% through 2028 and released its 2024 earnings forecast range of \$1.63-\$1.75 per share. At \$1.70 per share, our profit call is right near PPL's midpoint and represents an increase of 6% over the \$1.60 that the Pennsylvania-based electric utility tallied last year. The company was set to release first-quarter financial results as this report went to press. We expect earnings of \$0.50 a share on revenues of \$2.06 billion

The board of directors recently raised the dividend. The increase was \$0.018 a share (7.3%), making the quarterly distribution \$0.2575 per share. The dividend yield of 3.8% sits just above the utility median.

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) endai Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 2021 5783 1498 1288 1512 1485 2022 1782 1696 2134 2290 7902 2023 2415 1823 2043 2031 8312 2024 2060 1675 2130 2235 8100 2250 2025 2245 1700 2155 8350 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar 2021 .26 .53 d.20 .27 .19 1.41 2022 .41 .30 .41 .28 .48 .29 .43 .40 2023 1.60 2024 50 .30 .45 .45 1.70 .45 .50 .35 1.80 2025 .50 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B . Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2020 4125 415 415 415 1.66 2021 .415 .415 .415 .415 1.66 2022 .415 .20 .225 .225 1.07 2023 .225 .24 .24 .24 2024 .24 .258

Our full-year 2025 earnings estimate is staying put at \$1.80 per share. This represents a 6% increase from our 2024 target, and is within PPL's long-term annual profit growth estimate. Additional revenues from regulatory mechanisms and lower operating and maintenance expenses should benefit prospects over that interim. Indeed, a full year of rate relief in

Shares of PPL are now ranked 3 (Average) for relative year-ahead performance, having raised a notch on our Timeliness scale since February. The major draw here remains the dividend, especially after the aforementioned hike. The stock's prospects for the 18-month period are solid by utility standards. And, the total return potential for the 3- to 5-year time frame is respectable, given the strong yield and reduced risk of this equity. We recommend that conservative buy-and-hold investors seeking utility exposure take a closer look at this equity. Zachary J. Hodgkinson May 10, 2024

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): '10, (8¢); '11, 8¢; '13, (62¢); '20, (13¢); '21, (50¢); gains (losses) on disc. ops.: '08, 3¢; '09, (10¢); '10, (4¢); '12, (1¢); '14, 23¢; '15, (\$1.36); '21,

(\$1.94). '20 & '21 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next egs. rept. due early Aug. (B) Div'ds paid in early Jan., April, July, & Oct. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '23:

\$3.10/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Fair val. Rate all'd on com. eq. in PA in '16: none spec. in KY in '19: 9.725%; earned on avg. com. eq. '21: 2.8%. Reg. Clim.: Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A 75 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 45

| PG | RE C | ORI | NYS | E-PCG | | | R | ECENT RICE | 16.8 | P/E RATI | o 12 . | 3 (Traili Medi | ng: 13.7) an: 20.0) | RELATIVE P/E RATIO | | 7 DIV'D YLD | 0.2 | | ALUI LINE | | |
|--|---|-------------------|---|---|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|---|---|---|--|---|---|---|---|---|--|---|--|--|--|---|
| | | Raised 3 | | High: | 48.5 | 55.2 39.4 | 60.2 47.3 | 65.4 50.7 | 71.6 41.6 | 49.4 17.3 | 25.2 | 18.3 | 12.7 | 16.5 | 18.3 | 18.2 | | | | | Range |
| SAFETY | 3 | New 10/2 | 20/23 | Low: | 39.9 NDS | | 47.3 | 50.7 | 41.6 | 17.3 | 3.6 | 6.3 | 8.2 | 9.6 | 14.7 | 15.9 | | | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 |
| TECHNI | | Lowered | | Options: | elative Pric Yes | | | | | | | X 181 | | | | | | | | | L 80 |
| | 10 (1.00 | | 111001 | Shaded | area indic | ates recess | ion II | 111111111111111111111111111111111111111 | J ^{1011/11} | | | | | | | | | | | | 60 |
| 18-Mon | th Targ | et Price | Range | operation, | ուրդու | THE PERSON | | | -" | րերո | | | | | | | | | | | -50 -40 |
| Low-Hig | jh Mid | ooint (% | to Mid) | | | | | | | - " | | | | | | | | \vdash | | | 30 |
| \$14-\$22 | \$18 | (5%) | | ****** | ••••• | | | ******* | | \dashv | lili | | | | | | | | | | 25 20 |
| 202 | 7-29 PR | OJECTIC | ONS | | •••, | | ***** | | ٠. | 1 | | j. | | ad. | որությու | l _{ii} • | | | | | T ₁₅ |
| ١, | Price | Aı Gain | nn'l Total Return | | | | | | • | | IԿ հու | Hai Je | line il | հլալ,յ ^{լը} ՝ | | | | | | | 2000 |
| Hiah | 35 (+1 | 10%) | 21% | | | | | | | | " . | | ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, | 11 11 | | | | | | | 10 7.5 |
| | | -20%) Pecision | 5% | - | | | | | | | ٠,٠, ا | Ħ | | | | | | | RETUR | | 7.5 |
| 111311111 | 2Q2023 | 3Q2023 | 4Q2023 | Percen | ı t 75 - | | | | | | <u>. </u> | <u> </u> | | | | | | | STOCK | L ARITH.* | L |
| to Buy to Sell | 309 189 | 347 183 | 350 241 | shares | 50 - | | | | | | | 1.1. | | 14.0 | | | | 1 yr. 3 yr. | 3.8 43.3 | 16.9 16.2 | F |
| HId's(000) | 1847867 | 19944722 | 2066891 | traded | 25 - | ulumili | шиши | Huldu | | | | 111111111111 | ullillilli | ulltaili | uldludd | įį | | 5 yr. | -5.7 | 71.5 | |
| 2008 | 2009 | 2010 | 2011 | 2012 | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | © VALU | E LINE P | JB. LLC | |
| 40.51 | 36.15 | 35.02 | 36.28 | 34.92 | 34.16 | 35.91 | 34.21 | 34.85 | 33.29 | 32.21 | 32.37 | 9.31 | 10.40 | 10.91 | 11.45 | 11.75 | 11.65 | Revenue | | | 12.20 |
| 8.44 | 8.37 | 8.22 | 8.08 | 7.32 | 6.33 | 8.13 | 7.29 | 8.23 | 9.03 | d7.30 | d8.36 | 1.08 | 2.79 | 3.12 | 2.98 | 3.30 | 3.45 | "Cash Flo | decision in | | 4.40 |
| 3.22 1.56 | 3.03 1.68 | 2.82 1.82 | 2.78 1.82 | 2.07 1.82 | 1.83 1.82 | 3.06 1.82 | 2.00 1.82 | 2.83 1.93 | 3.50 1.55 | d13.25 | d14.50 | d1.05 | 1.00 | 1.10 | 1.23 | 1.35 .04 | 1.45 .08 | Earnings Div'd Dec | | | 1.90 .20 |
| 10.05 | 10.68 | 9.62 | 9.79 | 10.74 | 11.40 | 10.16 | 10.51 | 11.26 | 10.96 | 12.52 | 11.93 | 3.87 | 3.87 | 4.82 | 4.55 | 5.00 | 5.20 | Cap'l Spe | | | 5.80 |
| 25.97 | 27.88 | 28.55 | 29.35 | 30.35 | 31.41 | 33.09 | 33.69 | 35.39 | 37.34 | 24.31 | 9.59 | 10.58 | 10.56 | 11.48 | 11.74 | 13.30 | 14.95 | Book Val | | | 20.65 |
| 361.06 | 370.60 | 395.23 | 412.26 | 430.72 | 456.67 | 475.91 | 492.03 | 506.89 | 514.76 | 520.34 | 529.24 | 1984.7 | 1985.4 | 1987.8 | 2133.6 | 2200.00 | 2300.00 | Common | | - | 2500.00 |
| 12.1 | 13.0 | 15.8 | 15.5 | 20.7 | 23.7 | 15.0 | 26.4 | 21.1 | 18.3 | 2.5 | 1010 | | 10.9 | 11.4 | 13.6 | Bold figu | | Avg Ann' | | (C) | 14.5 |
| .73 4.0% | .87 4.3% | 1.01 | .97 4.2% | 1.32 4.2% | 1.33 | .79 | 1.33 | 1.11 3.2% | .92 | | | | .59 | .66 | .76 .1% | Value estim | | Relative I | | | .80 |
| | | 4.1% | | | 4.2% | 4.0% | | | 2.4% | | | | | | | 25222 | ***** | Avg Ann' | 2000 Harana | eia | .7% |
| | | | is of 12/3 Due in 5 \ | | R6 mill | 17090 | 16833 | 17666 | 17135 1807.0 | 16760 | 17129 | 18469 | 20642 | 21680 | 24428 | 25800 3110 | 26800 3455 | Revenue | | | 30500 4925 |
| LT Debt | \$51529 | mill. L | T Interes | st \$2850 | mill. | 1450.0 19.2% | 988.0 | 1431.0 3.7% | 16.8% | d6818 | d7642 | d1304 | 2152.0 44.2% | 2357.0 | 2644.0 6.6% | 6.0% | 8.0% | Net Profit | 1. / | | 11.0% |
| | | | ent finan | ce leases | s) | 10.0% | 15.7% | 11.4% | 7.0% | | | | 8.8% | 11.2% | 9.9% | 9.0% | 9.0% | AFUDC % | | rofit | 9.0% |
| | | verage: | ∠.∪x) nnual ren | tals \$116 | mill. | 48.5% | 48.8% | 47.1% | 47.7% | | | 63.7% | 64.3% | 67.4% | 67.1% | 64.0% | 61.5% | Long-Ter | | | 56.5% |
| · · | | | | | | 50.7% | 50.4% | 52.1% | 51.6% | 98.0% | 95.2% | 35.9% | 35.3% | 32.2% | 32.6% | 35.5% | 38.0% | Common | | | 43.0% |
| Pension | n Assets | -12/23 \$1 | 17211 mil O | l. blig \$176 | 97 mill | 31050 | 32858 | 34412 | 37225 | 12903 | 5335.0 | 58541 | 59448 | 70817 | 76821 | 81925 | | Total Cap | | II) | 120000 |
| | | | | | ~ 11 ml. | 43941 | 46723 | 50581 | 53789 | 58557 | 61635 | 66136 NMF | 69826 | 76208 | 82321 | 89175 | 96625 5.0% | Net Plant | | nn'i | 122000 |
| Pfd Sto | | | ofd Div'd | | | 5.8% 9.1% | 4.1% 5.9% | 5.2% 7.9% | 5.9% 9.3% | NMF NMF | NMF NMF | NMF | 10.1% | 4.6% 10.2% | 5.3% 10.5% | 5.0% 10.5% | 10.0% | Return or Return or | | No. | 5.5% 9.5% |
| as of 2/ | | 2,133,62 | 3,076 sh | S. | | 9.1% | 5.9% | 7.9% | 9.3% | NMF | NMF | NMF | 10.1% | 10.2% | 10.5% | 10.5% | | Return or | | | 9.5% |
| | | 35.9 bill | lion (Larç | ge Cap) | | 3.9% | .7% | 2.8% | 4.0% | NMF | NMF | NMF | 10.2% | 10.3% | 10.5% | 10.5% | CONTRACTOR NOT | Retained | | | 8.5% |
| ELECT | RIC OPE | RATING | STATIST | | | 58% | 88% | 65% | 57% | NMF | NMF | NMF | 1% | 1% | 1% | 3% | 6% | All Div'ds | to Net P | rof | 10% |
| Avg. Indust. Avg. Indust. Capacity at I Peak Load, S Annual Load | Revs. per KV Peak (Mw) Summer (Mw I Factor (%) | VH (¢)) | 2021 +.1 NA NA NA NA NA | 2022 9 NA NA NA NA NA | 2023 -6.2 NA NA NA NA | Gas and electric (popular ral gas | nd Electr ity and nation 16 r custome | ic Comp atural ga: nillion). H ers. Elec | coration is any and s to most las 5.6 mi tric reven | nonutilit of north illion ele ue brea | y subsid ern and o ctric and kdown: re | iaries. S central Ca 4.6 millio esidential | upplies alifornia on natu- l, 40%; | large hy revenue ployees. Poppe. | dro, 10% s. '23 re Chair d Incorpora | 6; fossil f ported de of the Bo ated: Calit | uel, 26% epr. rate: eard: Rob fornia. Ac | nuclear, 4 6. Power 6 3.56% (Ubert C. Fl ddress: 30 | and Fue utility). H lexon. C 00 Lakes | l costs: las 28,0 EO: Pat ide Drive | 17% of 00 em- ricia K. e, Oak- |
| % Change C | Justomers (yr | -end) | +.8 | +.4 | +.4 | corrime | irciai, 37 | %, muus | trial, 12% | o, agricu | ntural, 95 | , omer, | apout | ianu, Ua | unornia 9 | 4012. TE | 1 415-9 | 73-7000. I | III.: WWW | .pgecor | p.com. |

296 188 162 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 5 Yrs. of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. to '27-'29 Revenues -11.0% -20.0% 2.5% 7.5% 9.0% -2.0% -6.5% Farnings Dividends Book Value NMF 10.0% -9.5% -19.0%

| Cal- | QUAR | QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) | | | | | | | | |
|-------|--------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------|-------|--|--|--|--|--|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | | | |
| 2021 | 4716 | 5215 | 5465 | 5246 | 20642 | | | | | |
| 2022 | 5798 | 5118 | 5394 | 5370 | 21680 | | | | | |
| 2023 | 6209 | 5290 | 5888 | 7041 | 24428 | | | | | |
| 2024 | 6660 | 6030 | 6590 | 6520 | 25800 | | | | | |
| 2025 | 6925 | 6275 | 6850 | 6750 | 26800 | | | | | |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS F | ER SHAR | ΕA | Full | | | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | | | |
| 2021 | .23 | .27 | .24 | .28 | 1.00 | | | | | |
| 2022 | .30 | .25 | .29 | .26 | 1.10 | | | | | |
| 2023 | .29 | .23 | .24 | .47 | 1.23 | | | | | |
| 2024 | .33 | .28 | .29 | .45 | 1.35 | | | | | |
| 2025 | .35 | .30 | .32 | .48 | 1.45 | | | | | |
| Cal- | QUAF | TERLY DI | VIDENDS I | PAID B | Full | | | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | | | |
| 2020 | | | | | 1-1- | | | | | |
| 2021 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2022 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2023 | | | | | | | | | | |
| 2024 | .01 | | | | | | | | | |

PG&E raised its profit targets for 2024 and subsequent years through late decade. The utility received a favorable outcome on its general rate case with the authorized return on equity moving up to 10.7% from 10.0%. Management initially projected core earnings of \$1.31-\$1.35 a share this year but upon further review has lifted its outlook to \$1.33-\$1.37 a share. PG&E also extended its expectation of at least 9% share-earnings growth through 2028. (Previously, management was only willing to project that level of growth through 2026.) The company now sees the potential to increase its capital plan by as much as 20% through late decade, which should keep the rate base growing at a very healthy 9%-10% level.

Wildfire mitigation work remains the key emphasis here. PG&E is using high-tech solutions coupled with regular maintenance and labor to lower the chance of a repeat of the massive wildfires that put the company in bankruptcy court years ago. Automated shutoff switching systems, drones, vegetation management, and, where possible, burying power lines are all being deployed. The California

Wildfire Fund makes the odds of bankruptcy far lower, as well. (It's like a large self-funded insurance policy for the state's utilities.) But, a utility can still rack up significant losses if its equipment is found to have caused a fire. There is essentially a \$1 billion deductible per incident. Gross negligence is not covered.

The company reinstated its dividend. At a penny per share, quarterly, PG&E has the opportunity to keep the disbursement growing at a high rate. With well over two billion shares outstanding, the "growth from a small base" strategy does make sense, as a high payout ratio would be a large cash drain. We've projected that the quarterly dividend will be raised by a penny a share, once a year. But investors should know that the dividend policy is a work in progress and no payout target ratio has been set. The company could decide to make increases in fractional cents. This stock is neutrally ranked (Timeli-

ness: 3, Average). PG&E has decent upside potential. Still, we think most utility investors will prefer a more conventional dividend policy with a higher yield. Anthony J. Glennon April 19, 2024

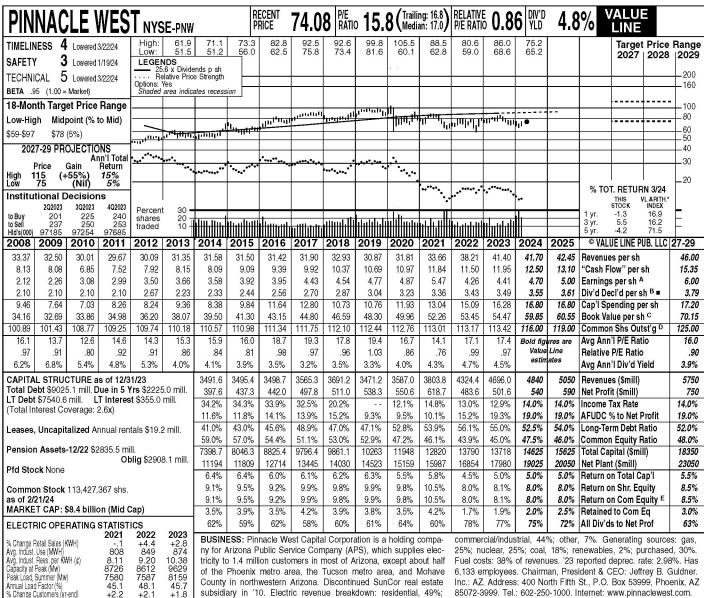
(A) Diluted EPS. Adjusted (non-GAAP) egs. (A) Diluted Ers. Adjusted (horrows), 295. from 2021 on. Excl. nonrecur. gains/(losses); '09, 17¢; '11, (68¢); '12, (15¢); '15, (21¢); '16, (5¢); '17, (29¢); '21, (\$1.05); '22, (26¢); '23

early May. (B) Div'ds suspended 12/17, Regulatory Climate: Average.

(18¢); gain from disc. ops.: '08, 41¢. Otly. EPS reinstated 11/23. (C) Incl. def'd chgs. In '23: may not sum to full year due to rounding and/or \$8.06/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: net orig. changes in share count. Next egs. report due cost. Rate allowed on com. eq. in '23: 10.7%;

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

B++ 15



County in northwestern Arizona. Discontinued SunCor real estate subsidiary in '10. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 49%;

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

| Fixed Charge Cov. (%) | | 317 | 226 | 220 |
|--|---|--|---------------------|-----------------------|
| ANNUAL RATES of change (per sh) Revenues "Cash Flow" Earnings Dividends Book Value | Past 10 Yrs. 2.0% 4.0% 3.5% 4.0% 4.0% | Past 5 Yrs. 3.5% 3.5% 2.0% 5.0% 3.5% | 3.5 4.5 6 1.5 | '29)% 5% 5% |

| Cal- | QUAF | QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) | | | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------------|--|--|--|
| endar | Mar.31 | Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec. | | | | | | |
| 2021 | 696.5 | | 1308.2 | 798.9 | 3803.8 | | | |
| 2022 | 783.5 | | 1469.9 | 1009.3 | 4324.4 | | | |
| 2023 | 945.0 | | 1637.8 | 991.5 | 4696.0 | | | |
| 2024 | 1000 | | 1640 | 1010 | 4840 | | | |
| 2025 | 1045 | | 1710 | 1055 | 5050 | | | |
| Cal- | E/ | RNINGS F | ER SHAR | E A | Full | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | |
| 2021 | .32 | 1.91 | 3.00 | | 5.47 | | | |
| 2022 | .15 | 1.45 | 2.88 | | 4.26 | | | |
| 2023 | d.03 | .94 | 3.50 | | 4.41 | | | |
| 2024 | .05 | 1.25 | 3.40 | | 4.70 | | | |
| 2025 | .05 | 1.33 | 3.62 | | 5.00 | | | |
| Cal- | QUAR | | IDENDS P | AID B ■ | Full | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | |
| 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 | .783 .83 .85 .865 .88 | .783 .83 .85 .865 | .783 .83 .85 .865 | .83 .85 .865 .88 | 3.18 3.34 3.42 3.48 | | | |

February, Pinnacle In late received a constructive general rate case (GRC) decision. Investors may recall that from early 2022, the utility had been operating under revised regulatory parameters that cut its authorized return on equity (ROE) from 10% to 8.7% (one of the lowest levels for a major market at that time). The change effectively reduced Pinnacle's annual earnings power by over \$1.00 per share. A revamped state regulatory commission, which has some new members and a different chairperson (due to term limits), heeded the recommendation of a state administrative law judge who consulted on the case. The newly established ROE of 9.55% plus an additional fair value increment (FVI) of .25% passed by a 4-1 vote. According to Pinnacle's CEO, assuming certain criteria are met for the FVI to kick in, the company's effective ROE will be 9.85%. The net effect of the GRC lifts the company's earning power by \$1.33 per share. We're raising our rating on the Arizona regulatory climate back to "average." The 20Ž1 GRČ decision landed it in the below-average camp.

We've raised our 2024 share-earnings

estimate. It's only going up by a dime, but that's because we expected a favorable GRC outcome from PNW's perspective. Notably, the additional earnings power is substantial, though not readily apparent in our estimates because the company benefited by \$0.48 a share last year from an extreme heat wave. Moreover, there are a number of factors this year that are likely to offset the additional revenue from the increased ROE. The utility had been tightening its belt on operating and maintenance expense and that's set to rise, as are depreciation/amortization and interest expense. On the positive side of the ledger, weather-normalized retail sales growth in Arizona comes to about \$0.25 a share annually on average. Pinnacle has a premium service area in terms of growth from interstate migration and rising energy demand from a thriving economy. There's no lack of capital investment prospects to drive rate-base growth there.

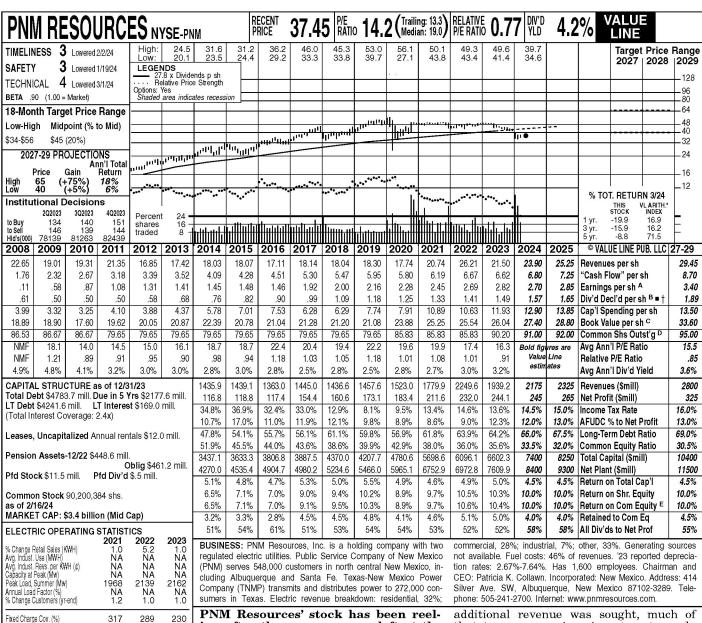
Though untimely, we think long-term utility investors should keep this stock on their watch list and target a pullback as an entry point. $\overline{A}nthony J. Glennon$ April 19, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain/(loss): '09, (\$1.45); '17, 8¢; gains/(losses) from discont. ops.: '08, 28¢; '09, (13¢); '10, 18¢; '11, 10¢; 12, (5¢). Qtly. EPS may not sum to full year

in '12. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail.

due to rounding. Next egs. report due early (C) Incl. deferred charges/other intangibles. In May. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar., 23: \$27.22/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Fair June, Sept., & Dec. There were 5 declarations value. Rate allowed on common equity in '23: 9.55%-9.85%. Regulatory Climate: Average.

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



Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 2.0% 7.0% 7.5% Revenues 5.0% 5.0% 4.5% 'Cash Flow' 8.0% 7.0% 4.0% 5.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 5.0% 4.5%

| Cal- | QUAR | Terly re | \$ mill.) | Full | | | | | |
|-------|--------|----------------------|-----------|--------|--------------|--|--|--|--|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | | |
| 2021 | 364.7 | 426.5 | 554.6 | 434.1 | 1779.9 | | | | |
| 2022 | 444.1 | 499.7 | 729.9 | 575.9 | 2249.6 | | | | |
| 2023 | 544.1 | 477.2 | 505.9 | 412.0 | 1939.2 | | | | |
| 2024 | 560 | 525 | 580 | 510 | 2175 | | | | |
| 2025 | 595 | 560 | 630 | 540 | 2325 | | | | |
| Cal- | EA | EARNINGS PER SHARE A | | | | | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Full Year | | | | |
| 2021 | .32 | .55 | 1.37 | .21 | 2.45 | | | | |
| 2022 | .50 | .57 | 1.46 | .15 | 2.69 | | | | |
| 2023 | .55 | .55 | 1.54 | .18 | 2.82 | | | | |
| 2024 | .45 | .55 | 1.45 | .25 | 2.70 | | | | |
| 2025 | .50 | .60 | 1.50 | .25 | 2.85 | | | | |
| Cal- | QUARTE | ERLY DIVII | DENDS PAI | DB∎† | Full | | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | | |
| 2020 | .3075 | .3075 | .3075 | .3075 | 1.23 | | | | |
| 2021 | .3275 | .3275 | .3275 | .3275 | 1.31 | | | | |
| 2022 | .3475 | .3475 | .3475 | .3475 | 1.39 | | | | |
| 2023 | .3675 | .3675 | .3675 | .3675 | 1.47 | | | | |
| 2024 | .3875 | 5 | | | | | | | |

ing after the company was left at the alter by its former merger partner. Investors may recall that PNM stockholders were to receive \$50.30 per share in an all-cash deal from Northeast utility, Avangrid, Inc. (NYSE: AGR). At various stages of a lengthy courtship it looked as if the marriage would eventually be consummated despite regulators standing in the way. Ultimately, it was Avangrid's parent company, Iberdrola of Spain, who nixed the deal. The Spanish energy giant decided that buying the 18.4% minority stake in Avangrid itself for \$34.25 a share is a better use of funds, as that deal is now on the table for AGR shareholders. Year to date, PNM stock is down 11%.

New Mexico regulators' early January rate decision didn't help matters. The New Mexico Public Regulation Commission ruled against the company on every front, making good on the state's reputation for being a difficult regulatory environment. Instead of the rise in its return on equity (ROE) that PNM was seeking, the company instead received a cut from 9.575% to 9.26%. Overall, \$64 million in

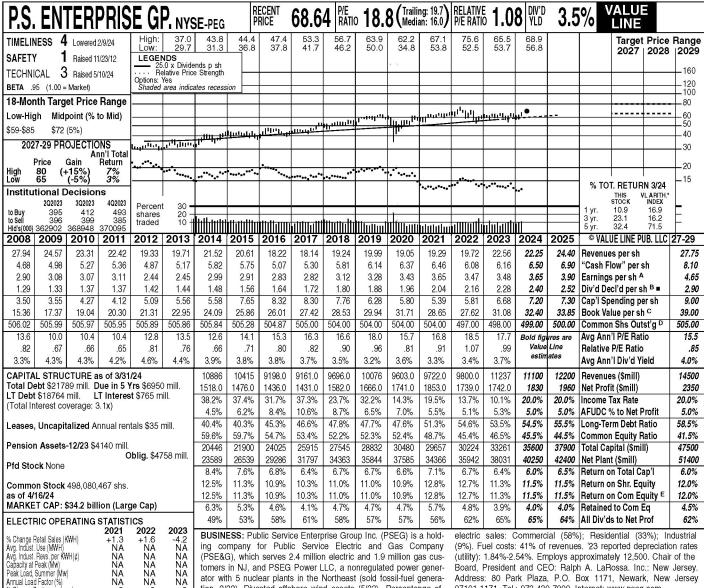
that to recoup various investments made in the past to extend the lives of a coalfired generating facility and a nuclear power plant. Regulators ruled that those investments were "imprudent" and disallowed them. The poor rate-base outcome and increased interest expense on an expanding debt load will likely weigh on this year's bottom line.

Even so, this equity may appeal to utility investors. The New Mexico operation is an average business of this sort, as it has reasonable long-term growth prospects, but is in a tough regulatory climate. Meanwhile, PNM's smaller, interstate long-range transmission & distribution (T&D) businesses, which serve around 300,000 consumers in Texas and New Mexico, are engines of growth for the company and suffer little regulatory lag. Beyond 2024, the recoupment of substantial T&D investments, via regulatory pricing mechanisms, can drive 5%-6% annual earnings and dividend gains. That should translate to worthwhile total return prospects out to late decade. Anthony J. Glennon April 19, 2024

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain/(loss): '08, (\$3.77); '10, (\$1.36); '11, 88¢; '13, (16¢); '15, (\$1.28); '17, (92¢); '18, (93¢); '19, (\$1.19); '20, (13¢); '21, (18¢); '22, (72¢); '23, (\$1.80). Excl.

disc. op. gains: '08, 42¢; '09, 78¢. Next egs. report due early May. (B) Div'ds paid mid-Feb., May, Aug., & Nov. ■ Div'd reinv. plan avail. 9.26%; in TX in '18: 9.65%; Regulatory (C) Incl. def. charges/other intang. In '23: Climate: NM, Below Average.; TX, Average.

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



(PSE&G), which serves 2.4 million electric and 1.9 million gas customers in NJ, and PSEG Power LLC, a nonregulated power generator with 5 nuclear plants in the Northeast (sold fossil-fuel generation, 2/22). Divested offshore wind assets (5/23). Percentange of

(utility): 1.84%-2.54%. Employs approximately 12,500. Chair of the Board, President and CEO: Ralph A. LaRossa. Inc.: New Jersey. Address: 80 Park Plaza, P.O. Box 1171, Newark, New Jersey 07101-1171. Tel.: 973-430-7000. Internet: www.pseg.com.

285 403 297 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 Revenues 2.0% 3.0% 'Cash Flow' 2.0% 3.0% Earnings 4.0% 5.0% Dividends Book Value 4.5% 3.0% 4.5% 1.5% 5.0% 5.0%

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

NA

NA +.9

+.9

| Cal- | | | VENUES (| \$ mill.) | Full | | | | |
|-------|--------|----------------------|-----------|-----------|-------|--|--|--|--|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | | |
| 2021 | 2889 | 1874 | 1903 | 3056 | 9722 | | | | |
| 2022 | 2313 | 2076 | 2272 | 3139 | 9800 | | | | |
| 2023 | 3755 | 2421 | 2456 | 2605 | 11237 | | | | |
| 2024 | 2760 | 2590 | 2750 | 3000 | 11100 | | | | |
| 2025 | 3500 | 2650 | 2900 | 3150 | 12200 | | | | |
| Cal- | EA | EARNINGS PER SHARE A | | | | | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | | |
| 2021 | 1.28 | .70 | .98 | .69 | 3.65 | | | | |
| 2022 | 1.33 | .64 | .86 | .64 | 3.47 | | | | |
| 2023 | 1.39 | .70 | .85 | .54 | 3.48 | | | | |
| 2024 | 1.31 | .77 | .95 | .62 | 3.65 | | | | |
| 2025 | 1.41 | .82 | 1.01 | .66 | 3.90 | | | | |
| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY DIV | IDENDS PA | AID B ■ | Full | | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | | | | |
| 2020 | .49 | .49 | .49 | .49 | 1.96 | | | | |
| 2021 | .51 | .51 | .51 | .51 | 2.04 | | | | |
| 2022 | .54 | .54 | .54 | .54 | 2.16 | | | | |
| 2023 | .57 | .57 | .57 | .57 | 2.28 | | | | |
| 2024 | .60 | | | | | | | | |

Public Service Enterprise Group has been one of the top-performing electric utilities, of late. The equity held up better than most peers last year in a weak overall period for the group, which has a high negative correlation with rising interest rates. PSEG shares are up 28% from their October low and 12% year to date, outperforming the Value Line Utility Index by 18 percentage points (PPs) and 13 PPs, respectively. Investors apparently appreciate the lower risk of a nearly pure-play utility. The only significant business held outside of the regulatory pricing umbrella is the company's nuclear power generators, which provide a steady stream of cash flow to the company. PSEG's balance sheet is in good shape, interest expense is well covered by profits, and a relatively low amount of debt comes due in the next five years. There is also no intermediateterm need to do a major equity offering, which dilutes existing shareholders. The dividend was recently raised by 5.3% and the payout ratio is near the industry median. Longer-term growth prospects for both earnings and dividends are slightly above the peer-group average.

Profits should be up this year. Utility revenue is rising due to regulatory pricing mechanisms that allow for nearly realtime returns on capital deployed for electric grid improvements. Relatively mild weather in the second half of 2023 provides a somewhat easy comparison, while interest expense and pension contributions likely to moderate. Management recently affirmed its earnings target of \$3.60-\$3.70 per share for 2024 and its 5%-7% annual growth expectation through late decade (supported by New Jersey's clean energy goals).

PSEG wants to extend the life of its nuclear power plants. The company hopes to receive federal approval to keep its units operational for 20 additional years, extending the average life to 2061.

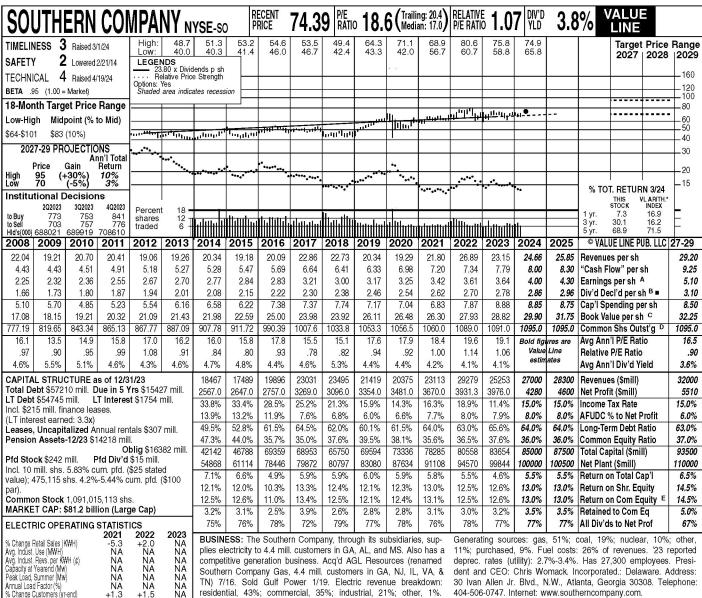
The valuation has gotten a little rich as a result of the stock's outperformance. The P/E multiple, at 18.8 times 2024 expected earnings, compares unfavorably to PSEG's electric utility peer median of 16.1. Total return prospects look somewhat limited over the longer term and the stock is untimely. Anthony J. Glennon May 10, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains/(losses): '08, (96¢); '09, 6¢; '11, (34¢); '12, 7¢; '15, 39¢; '16, (\$1.08); '17, 28¢ (net); '18, (29¢); '19, 5¢; '20, 33¢; '21, (\$4.94); '22, (\$1.41); '23, \$1.65;

disc. ops.: '08, 40¢; '10, 1¢; '11, 19¢. Next egs. report due late July.

(B) Div'ds historically paid in late Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A 95 Price Growth Persistence 60 **Earnings Predictability** 100



residential, 43%; commercial, 35%; industrial, 21%; other, 1%

404-506-0747. Internet: www.southerncompany.com.

275 NA 270 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 Revenues .5% 6.0% 4.0% 4.5% 3.0% 3.5% 2.5% 'Cash Flow' 5.0% 6.5% 3.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 3.5% 3.5%

| Cal- | QUA | (mill.) | Full | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|-------|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 5910 | 5198 | 6238 | 5767 | 23113 |
| 2022 | 6648 | 7206 | 8378 | 7047 | 29279 |
| 2023 | 6480 | 5748 | 6980 | 6045 | 25253 |
| 2024 | 6550 | 6100 | 7300 | 7050 | 27000 |
| 2025 | 6800 | 6500 | 7600 | 7400 | 28300 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS P | ER SHARE | Α | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 1.09 | .67 | 1.22 | .44 | 3.42 |
| 2022 | .97 | 1.07 | 1.31 | .26 | 3.61 |
| 2023 | .79 | .79 | 1.42 | .64 | 3.64 |
| 2024 | .90 | 1.00 | 1.45 | .65 | 4.00 |
| 2025 | 1.00 | 1.10 | 1.50 | .70 | 4.30 |
| Cal- | QUAR' | TERLY DIV | IDENDS PA | AID B ■ | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .62 | .64 | .64 | .64 | 2.54 |
| 2021 | .64 | .66 | .66 | .66 | 2.62 |
| 2022 | .66 | .68 | .68 | .68 | 2.70 |
| 2023 | .68 | .70 | .70 | .70 | 2.78 |
| 2024 | .70 | .72 | | | 200.7 |

Southern Company's Georgia Power subsidiary has completed its nuclear construction project. In late April, unit 4 entered commercial operation, and plant Vogtle became the largest generator of clean energy in the U.S. Units 3 and 4 will combine to produce enough electricity to power approximately 1 million homes for at least 60-80 years. The construction project faced significant delays reached completion seven years later than Southern's initial forecast, while costing more than \$20 billion over original budget estimates. We look for the Vogtle station to greatly improve earnings prospects moving forward, as the project will provide clean, reliable, cost-effective energy amid greater demand for energy and growing power volumes. The transition to cleaner energy should also begin to accelerate with earnings and dividend growth as units 3 and 4 start to pick up steam this year.

We look for full-year 2024 earnings of \$4.00 a share. This is the midpoint of management's initial profit target range of \$3.95-\$4.05 per share, which was released in February. Too, Southern reaffirmed its long-term EPS growth estimate of 5%-7%.

We expect even greater growth of 10% this year due to an almost full year of operations from Vogtle units 3 and 4, as well as rate relief and an improved macro-economic environment. As a result, we project earnings of \$4.30 per share on revenues of \$28.3 billion for full-year 2025.

The board of directors recently raised **the dividend.** The increase was \$0.02 a share, making the quarterly distribution \$0.72 per share. The dividend has now been raised in 23 consecutive years, and the yield of 3.8% sits above the utility average.

This issue is best-suited to conservative. income-oriented accounts. Inthe consistently raised dividend remains Southern's most notable feature. These shares also hold a strong financial strength rating (A), and an Above Average (2) Safety rank. Plus, risks from the nuclear construction project have concluded and prospects ahead for the Vogtle station are bright. On the other hand, the current quotation is already trading on the low-end of our 3- to 5-year Target Price range, as long-term prospects are weak. Zachary J. Hodgkinson May 10, 2024

(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; '20, (17¢); '21, (54¢). Next earnings report due in

mid-May. (B) Div'ds paid in early Mar., June, Sept., and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd charges. In '23: \$17.35/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: AL, MS, fair value; FL, GA, orig. cost. Allowed return on common eq. (blended): 12.5%; earned on avg. com. eq., 2'1: 12.8%. Regulatory Climate: GA, AL Above Average; MS, FL Average.

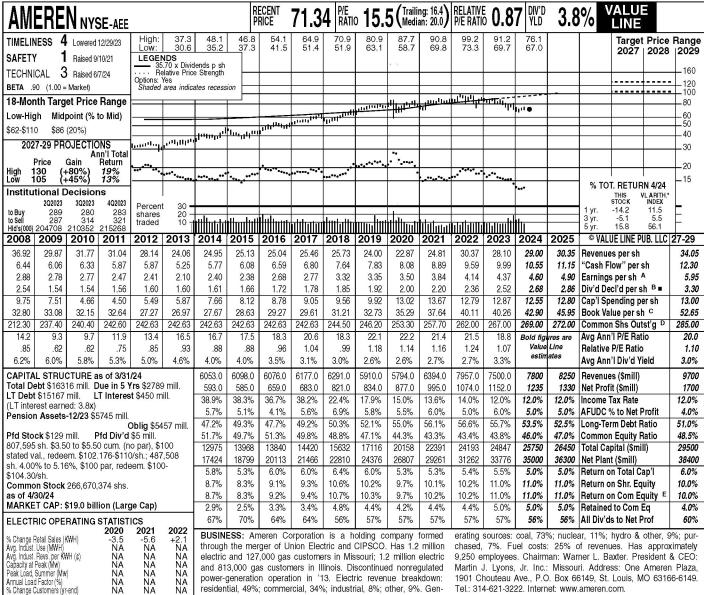
Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability**

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90

55

95



and 813,000 gas customers in Illinois. Discontinued nonregulated power-generation operation in '13. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 49%; commercial, 34%; industrial, 8%; other, 9%. Gen-

Martin J. Lyons, Jr. Inc.: Missouri. Address: One Ameren Plaza, 1901 Chouteau Ave., P.O. Box 66149, St. Louis, MO 63166-6149. Tel.: 314-621-3222. Internet: www.ameren.com.

325 307 291 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '20-'22 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 Revenues -1.5% .5% 4.0% 6.5% 5.5% 6.5% 4.0% 4 0% 8.0% Earnings Dividends Book Value 3.5% 2.0% 5.0% 5.5% 6.5% 6.5%

Annual Load Factor (

% Change Customers (yr-end)

NA

NA NA

| Cal- | | \$ mill.) | Full | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|----------|--------|------|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 1566 | 1472 | 1811 | 1545 | 6394 |
| 2022 | 1879 | 1726 | 2306 | 2046 | 7957 |
| 2023 | 2062 | 1760 | 2060 | 1618 | 7500 |
| 2024 | 1816 | 1830 | 2150 | 2004 | 7800 |
| 2025 | 2000 | 1900 | 2250 | 2100 | 8250 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS P | ER SHARI | A | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | .91 | .80 | 1.65 | .48 | 3.84 |
| 2022 | .97 | .80 | 1.74 | .63 | 4.14 |
| 2023 | 1.00 | .90 | 1.87 | .60 | 4.37 |
| 2024 | .98 | .95 | 2.00 | .67 | 4.60 |
| 2025 | 1.20 | .95 | 2.00 | .75 | 4.90 |
| Cal- | QUAR' | TERLY DIV | IDENDS P | AID B∎ | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .495 | .495 | .495 | .515 | 2.00 |
| 2021 | .55 | .55 | .55 | .55 | 2.20 |
| 2022 | .59 | .59 | .59 | .59 | 2.36 |
| 2023 | .63 | .63 | .63 | .63 | 2.52 |
| 2024 | .67 | .67 | | | |

Ameren's profits should rise nicely in **2024.** Higher earnings in its transmission segment from clean-energy investments, along with electric and gas rate increases, will probably be the main factors. The utility will likely also benefit from elevated power demand due to artificial intelligence innovations and data centers. earnings-per-share estimate remains at \$4.60, which is within the company's updated outlook range of \$4.52-\$4.72. Man $agement\ expects\ significant\ year-over-year$ operations and maintenance cost reductions in the second half of this year from several savings initiatives, which should prop up the bottom line.

We look for stronger bottom-line growth in 2025. Ameren will receive additional rate relief from its transmission and Illinois electric operations, which are currently under way. The utility recently updated its goal for annual earnings growth of 6%-8%, and our estimate of \$4.90 a share represents an increase of 6% from our 2024 estimate. This target is supported by annual rate base growth of 8.2%. Ameren is making progress in a number of regulatory matters in Illinois.

In April, the utility filed an electric distribution annual rate request for \$160 million of reconciliations for 2023 actual revenue costs. A decision is expected by the end of this year, and the full amount will likely be collected in 2025. And, in its multiyear grid plan, Ameren Illinois revised its request for an annual increase from 2023 rates of \$321 million. The request is based on a return on equity of 8.72% and an equity ratio of 50%. A final order is expected by the end of 2024. Ameren Missouri is also active on the regulatory front, and recently filed a 60-day notice for its next rate review

Risk-averse, income-oriented investors may want to take a closer look here. The dividend yield of this untimely but top-quality stock is about average by utility standards. And, long-term capital appreciation potential is attractive in comparison to most of its peers. Indeed, the midpoint of our 18-month Target Price Range indicates a 20% premium over the current quotation. And, we look for the stock to trade within \$105-\$130 by 2027-2029.

Zachary J. Hodgkinson

June 7, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (losses): 10, (\$2.19); 11, (32¢); 12, (\$6.42); 17, (63¢); gain (loss) from discontinued ops.: 13, (92¢); 15, 214. Next confirmation 15, 21¢. Next earnings report due early Aug.

cost depr. Rate allowed on com. eq. in MO in

(B) Div'ds paid late Mar., June, Sept., & Dec. ■ 22: elec. & gas, none specified; in IL: electric, Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In 21: \$6.60/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base. Orig. eq., '21: 10.6%.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A+ 95 Price Growth Persistence 75 **Earnings Predictability** 100

| UNITIL CORP. AME | X- -UTL | | RE PR | CENT 52.4 | 19 TRAILING P/E RATIO | 18.6 | LATIVE 1.1 | 1 DIV'D 3. | 2% VA | _UE NE |
|---|-----------------------|---|----------------|----------------|-----------------------|----------------|---|----------------|----------------|---------------------------------|
| RANKS | 39.00 32.63 | 46.00 34.70 | 52.84 43.03 | 53.07 40.92 | 64.53 47.05 | 65.76 32.80 | 59.32 38.00 | 61.10 44.02 | 60.59 41.43 | 54.08 High 45.26 Low |
| PERFORMANCE 3 Average Technical 4 Below Average | 12 Mc | ENDS os Mov Avg ice Strength dicates recession | | | <u></u> | | Шп | | *********** | ● 50 |
| SAFETY 3 Average BETA .85 (1.00 = Market) | !!••••!* ! | 11101111111 | <u> </u> | | ••• | 1300 | | ,, – ,, | .111 | 25 |
| Financial Strength B | •••• | | | | | •• | | | | 15 |
| Price Stability 75 | | | | | | - 1 | ··· · · · | • | •• | 10 |
| Price Growth Persistence 50 Earnings Predictability 85 | | | | ı | 1 | | | | 111 | 5 1900 |
| © VALUE LINE PUBLISHING LLC | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | VOL. (thous.) |
| SALES PER SH | 30.51 | 27.26 | 27.42 | 29.85 | 29.35 | 27.88 | 29.62 | 35.11 | 34.57 | 2024/2023 |
| "CASH FLOW" PER SH | 5.15 | 5.24 | 5.12 | 5.61 | 6.43 | 5.78 | 5.98 | 6.48 | 6.99 | |
| EARNINGS PER SH | 1.89 | 1.94 | 2.06 | 2.23 | 2.97 | 2.15 | 2.35 | 2.59 | 2.82 | 2.92 A,B/3.08 C |
| DIV'DS DECL'D PER SH CAP'L SPENDING PER SH | 7.43 | 1.42 6.97 | 1.44 8.05 | 1.46 6.88 | 1.48 7.98 | 1.50 8.17 | 1.52 7.20 | 1.56 7.61 | 1.62 8.75 | |
| BOOK VALUE PER SH | 20.20 | 20.82 | 22.72 | 23.60 | 25.22 | 25.91 | 28.06 | 29.13 | 30.35 | |
| COMMON SHS OUTST'G (MILL) | 13.99 | 14.07 | 14.82 | 14.88 | 14.93 | 15.01 | 15.98 | 16.04 | 16.12 | |
| AVG ANN'L P/E RATIO | 18.5 | 21.0 | 23.3 | 21.6 | 19.4 | 22.1 | 20.3 | 20.0 | 18.3 | 18.0/17.0 |
| RELATIVE P/E RATIO | .95 | 1.15 | 1.17 | 1.22 | 1.13 | 1.29 | 1.24 | 1.33 | 1.15 | |
| AVG ANN'L DIV'D YIELD | 4.0% | 3.5% | 3.0% | 3.0% | 2.6% | 3.2% | 3.2% | 3.0% | 3.1% | and the Control Control Control |
| SALES (\$MILL) | 426.8 | 383.4 | 406.2 | 444.1 | 438.2 | 418.6 | 473.3 | 563.2 30.0% | 557.1 | Bold figures |
| OPERATING MARGIN DEPRECIATION (\$MILL) | 29.6% 45.7 | 34.3% 46.6 | 33.9% 46.9 | 32.4% 50.4 | 33.7% 52.0 | 35.8% 54.5 | 34.2% 59.5 | 62.6 | 32.8% 67.4 | are consensus earnings |
| NET PROFIT (\$MILL) | 26.3 | 27.1 | 29.0 | 33.0 | 32.0 44.2 | 32.2 | 36.1 | 41.4 | 45.2 | earnings |
| INCOME TAX RATE | 36.9% | 36.2% | 37.6% | 20.3% | 23.8% | 24.1% | 24.2% | 21.3% | 22.6% | and, using the |
| NET PROFIT MARGIN | 6.2% | 7.1% | 7.1% | 7.4% | 10.1% | 7.7% | 7.6% | 7.4% | 8.1% | recent prices, |
| WORKING CAP'L (\$MILL) | d18.7 | d45.3 | .3 | d40.3 | d28.9 | 3.2 | d13.8 | d65.3 | d100.2 | P/E ratios. |
| LONG-TERM DEBT (\$MILL) | 319.1 | 325.1 | 382.0 | 390.1 | 437.5 | 523.1 | 497.8 | 489.1 | 509.1 | |
| SHR. EQUITY (\$MILL) | 282.8 | 293.1 | 336.8 | 351.3 | 376.8 | 389.2 | 448.5 | 467.6 | 489.3 | |
| RETURN ON TOTAL CAP'L | 6.2% | 6.1% | 5.6% | 6.0% | 6.8% | 4.8% | 5.2% | 5.6% | 6.0% | |
| RETURN ON SHR. EQUITY | 9.3% | 9.2% | 8.6% | 9.4% | 11.7% | 8.3% | 8.0% | 8.9% | 9.2% | |
| RETAINED TO COM EQ ALL DIV'DS TO NET PROF | 2.4% 75% | 2.4% 74% | 2.6% 70% | 3.2% 66% | 5.8% 50% | 2.5% 70% | 2.8% 65% | 3.5% 61% | 3.9% 58% | |
| ANo. of analysts changing earn. est. in la | | | | | | | | | | nate |

Ano. of analysts changing earn. est. in last 4 days: 1 up, 0 down, consensus 5-year earnings growth 7.1% per year. Based upon one analyst's estimate. CBased upon one analyst's estimate.

| | , | ANNUAL | RATES | | | ASSETS (\$mill.) | 2021 | 2022 | 12/31/23 |
|-------------------------|-----------|---------|-----------|--------|-----------------------|------------------------------|----------------------------|---------------|---------------|
| of chan | ge (per s | share) | 5 Yrs. | | 1 Yr. | Cash Assets | 6.5 | 9.0 | 6.5 |
| Sales | - | 14.0 | 3.5% | - | 1.5% | Receivables | 66.9 | 73.8 | 75.0 |
| "Cash I | | | 4.0% | | 8.0% | Inventory | 9.6 | 13.2 | 14.5 |
| Earning | | | 4.5% | | 9.0% | Other | 76.7 | 98.8 | 81.1 |
| Dividen | | | 1.5% | | 4.0% | Current Assets | 159.7 | 194.8 | 177.1 |
| Book V | alue | | 5.5% | | 4.0% | | | | |
| Fiscal | QUA | RTERLY | SALES (\$ | mill.) | Full | Property, Plant | | | |
| Year | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | Year | & Equip, at cost | 1688.9 | 1791.3 | 1907.8 |
| 10/01/01 | 100.0 | 00.0 | 00.4 | 100.0 | 470.0 | Accum Depreciation | 431.7 | 459.6 | 486.9 |
| 12/31/21 | 138.8 | 96.6 | 98.1 | 139.8 | 473.3 | Net Property Other | 1257.2 | 1331.7 | 1420.9 |
| 12/31/22 | 192.6 | 98.9 | 110.2 | 161.5 | 563.2 | | 123.4 | 63.9 | 72.4 |
| 12/31/23 | 220.2 | 103.4 | 103.9 | 129.6 | 557.1 | Total Assets | 1540.3 | 1590.4 | 1670.4 |
| 12/31/24 | | | | | | LIADULTEO (AIII) | | | |
| Fiscal | EA | RNINGS | PER SHAI | RE | Full | LIABILITIES (\$mill.) | FO 4 | 00.0 | 47.7 |
| Year | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | Year | Accts Payable Debt Due | 52.4 72.3 | 68.6 122.7 | 47.7 166.9 |
| 20 000000 | 18555555 | 8908.65 | 99994 | | | Other | 72.3 48.8 | 68.8 | 62.7 |
| 12/31/20 | 1.02 | .21 | .02 | .90 | 2.15 | Current Liab | 173.5 | 260.1 | 277.3 |
| 12/31/21 | 1.26 | .18 | | .91 | 2.35 | Current Liab | 173.5 | 260.1 | 211.3 |
| 12/31/22 | 1.35 | .30 | .03 | .91 | 2.59 | | | | |
| 12/31/23 | 1.51 | .25 | .09 | .97 | 2.82 | E E SANCE -0-0-2000 -200000- | | 9700 | |
| 12/31/24 | 1.58 | .27 | .05 | | | LONG-TERM DEBT A | ND EQUIT | Υ | |
| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY D | IVIDENDS | PAID | Full | as of 12/31/23 | | | |
| endar | 1Q | 2Q | 3Q | 4Q | Year | Total Debt \$676.0 mill | . Due i | n 5 Yrs. \$2 | 276.1 mill. |
| 2021 | .38 | .38 | .38 | .38 | 1.52 | LT Debt \$509.1 mill. | | | |
| 2022 | .39 | .39 | .39 | .39 | 1.56 | Including Cap. Lease | s None | /= | |
| 2023 | .405 | .405 | .405 | .405 | 1.62 | | al American in | | 6 of Cap'l) |
| 2024 | .425 | 100 | 100 | .400 | 1.02 | Leases, Uncapitalize | a Annual re | antais \$2.1 | miii. |
| 2024 | .420 | | | | 1 | Pension Liability \$45. | 6 mill in '2' | 3 vs \$46 8 | mill in '22 |
| INSTITUTIONAL DECISIONS | | | | | Chain Liability \$40. | O 1111111. 111 Z | , το. φ τ ο.ο ι | 11111. 111 22 | |
| | | 2Q'23 | 3Q'23 | 4 | Q'23 | Pfd Stock \$.2 mill. | | Pfd Div | 'd Paid Nil |
| to Buy | | 82 | 64 | | 92 | Common Stock 16,117 | 000 oboroo | | |
| to Sell | | 79 | 95 | | 70 | COMMINION SLOCK 10,117 | ,000 Shales | | % of Cap'l) |
| Hld'e/0 | 00) | 12355 | 12321 | 4 | 2/12 | | | (43 | 10 or cap i) |

12412

Hld's(000)

12355

12321

INDUSTRY: Electric Utility (East)

BUSINESS: Unitil Corp. engages in the distribution of electricity and natural gas in the US. 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. It also operates 86 underground natural gas transmission pipeline that provides interstate natural gas pipeline access and transportation services in Maine and New Hampshire. In addition, Unitil provides energy brokering and advisory services to commercial and industrial customers; and real estate management services. Currently, it serves 108,100 electric customers and 87,500 natural gas customers. Unitil's electric distribution operations are conducted through two of the company's utilities, Unitil Energy and Fitchburg. Has 516 employees. Chairman & C.E.O.: Thomas P. Meissner Address: 6 Liberty Lane West, Hampton, NH 03842. Tel.: (603) 772-0775. Internet: www.unitil.com.

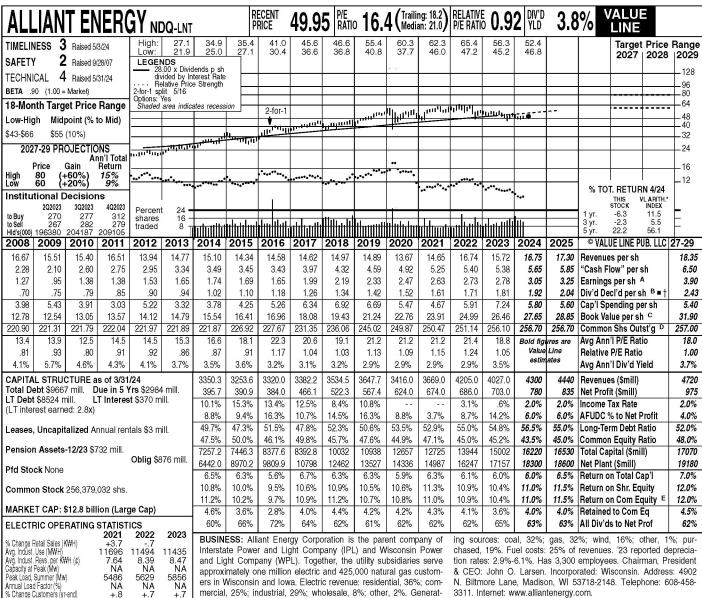
L.Y.

March 15, 2024

TOTAL SHAREHOLDER RETURN

Dividends plus appreciation as of 2/29/2024

| 3 Mos. | 6 Mos. | 1 Yr. | 3 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. |
|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| 6.05% | 6.22% | -3.08% | 33.73% | 8.38% |



ers in Wisconsin and Iowa. Electric revenue: residential, 36%; commercial, 25%; industrial, 29%; wholesale, 8%; other, 2%. GeneratN. Biltmore Lane, Madison, WI 53718-2148. Telephone: 608-458-3311. Internet: www.alliantenergy.com.

| Fixed Charge Cov. (%) | | 259 | NA | NA |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|-------|---------|
| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | to '2 | '21-'23 |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. | | '7-'29 |
| Revenues | .5% | 1.5% | 2 | .5% |
| "Cash Flow" | 6.0% | 6.5% | | .0% |
| Earnings | 6.0% | 7.0% | | .0% |
| Divideňds | 6.5% | 6.5% | | .0% |
| Book Value | 6.0% | 6.5% | | .0% |

| Cal- | QUAR | \$ mill.) | Full | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|---------------------|--------------------|--|
| endar | Mar.31 | Dec.31 | Year | | |
| 2021 | 901 | 817 | 1024 | 927 | 3669 |
| 2022 | 1068 | 943 | 1135 | 1059 | 4205 |
| 2023 | 1077 | 912 | 1077 | 961 | 4027 |
| 2024 | 1031 | 975 | 1150 | 1144 | 4300 |
| 2025 | 1065 | 1005 | 1185 | 1185 | 4440 |
| Cal- | EA | | ER SHARE | A | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 | .68 .77 .65 .62 .74 | .57 .63 .64 .66 | 1.02 1.10 | | 2.63 2.73 2.78 3.05 3.25 |
| Cal- | QUARTI | | DENDS PA | ID ^B ■† | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 | .38 .4025 .4275 .4525 .48 | .4275 | .4275 | .4275 | 1.52 1.61 1.71 1.81 |

Alliant Energy kicked off 2024 on a fairly weak note. Indeed, earnings at the Wisconsin-based electric and gas utility fell nearly 5% in the March quarter, as unseasonably mild weather resulted in lower heating demand across the company's Midwest service area. Notably, the key markets of Cedar Rapids, Iowa and Madison, Wisconsin each had the warmest start to a year since 2012 and were 6%-9% less frigid, year over year, based on the total number of heating degree days through the first three months of 2024. On a consolidated basis, the incremental earnings hit due to the unseasonable weather was roughly \$0.04 a share. Other, nonweatherrelated costs were a \$0.02 drag.

Recent rate hikes are providing some support. Late last year, Alliant's Wisconsin Power & Light (WPL) subsidiary received regulatory authorization to raise electric and gas rates by \$49 million and \$13 million respectively, coinciding with capital investments in, among other things, solar power and battery storage. As we understand it, the recent quarterly benefit was roughly \$0.03, net of associated increases in borrowing costs and depreciation expense.

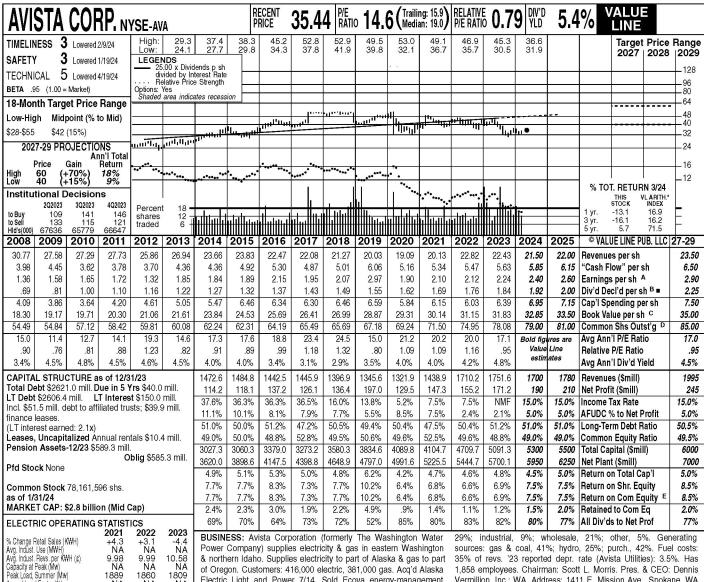
Alliant remains a compelling longterm investment play on renewable energy. WPL was recently expected to complete the last of several projects that will increase the utility's overall solarpower capacity in the Badger State to 1.1 gigawatts. Meantime, Interstate Power & Light continues to target 400 megawatts of solar power generation by the end of this year. Importantly, these solar projects have zero fuel costs, thus reducing Alliant's susceptibility to swings in naturalgas prices and the like. Its investments in 'green" power also yield significant tax credits that can be sold to regional manufacturers and other third parties looking to maintain compliance with restrictions on carbon emissions. In 2025 alone, Alliant could realize as much as \$400 million from the sale of tax credits.

remain Alliant shares neutrally ranked for relative year-ahead price performance. Still, the utility company boasts both a fairly attractive dividend (current yield: 3.8%) and solid long-term total return potential. Nils C. Van Liew June 7, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrecurring losses: '11, 1¢; '12, 8¢, '20 & '21 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Aug.

May, Aug., and Nov. ■ Dividend reinvestment plan avail. † Shareholder investment plan avail. † Shareholder investment plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '21: \$1,980 mill., \$7,91/sh. (D) In millions, adj. for split. (E) Rate

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A 95 Price Growth Persistence 60 **Earnings Predictability** 100



NA +1.4 NA -1.0 % Change Customers (yr-end) 175 Fixed Charge Cov. (% 216 200 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 Revenues -2.0% 3.5% 2.0% 'Cash Flow' 1.5% 3.0% 1.0% 6.0% Earnings 4.5% 3.5% 4.5% 3.5%

4.0%

NA

+1.4

Annual Load Factor

Book Value

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 2021 1438.9 412.9 298.2 296.0 431.8 2022 462.7 378.6 3594 509.5 1710.2 2023 474.6 3799 379.6 517.5 1751 6 2024 470 370 400 460 1700 1780 2025 490 380 410 500 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2021 .98 .20 .20 .712.10 90 2022 .16 d.08 1.05 2.12 .73 2023 .23 .19 1.08 2.24 2024 95 20 20 1.05 2.40 1.00 .25 1.10 2.60 2025 .25 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B . Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2020 405 405 405 405 1.62 2021 .4225.4225 .4225 .4225 1.69 2022 .44 .44 .44 .44 1.76 2023 46 .46 .46 46 1.84 2024 .475

of Oregon. Customers: 416,000 electric, 381,000 gas. Acq'd Alaska Electric Light and Power 7/14. Sold Ecova energy-management sub. 6/14. Electric rev. breakdown: residential, 36%; commercial,

Avista Utilities, a subsidiary of Avista Corporation, has pending electric and natural gas rate cases. In January, the utility filed multiyear electric and natural gas rate cases with the Washington Utiliand Transportation Commission (WUTC). These proposed adjustments aim to increase annual base electric revenues by \$77.1 million (13.0%) in December 2024 and \$53.7 million (11.7%) in December 2025. For natural gas, the proposed hikes are \$17.3 million (13.6%) in December 2024 and \$4.6 million (3.2%) in December 2025. These rate increases are based on a 10.4% return on equity with a common equity ratio of 48.5% and a rate of return on a rate base of 7.61%. Upon approval, the new rates are anticipated to take effect in December 2024 and 2025, remaining intact until 2026. The company is also seeking changes to the Energy Recovery Mechanism (ERM), intending to shift to a 95% customer and 5% company sharing of power supply costs above or below the authorized level. The decision period by WUTC for the filing is usually 11 months.

Share profits this year and next will likely advance at a mid- to high-

1,858 employees. Chairman: Scott L. Morris. Pres. & CEO: Dennis Vermillion. Inc.: WA. Address: 1411 E. Mission Ave., Spokane, WA 99202-2600. Tel.: 509-489-0500. Internet: www.avistacorp.com

pace. single-digit Although anticipates some weakness in the bottom line due to the adverse effects of the ERM, the overall net outlook for the year and beyond appears promising. This optimism mostly stems from the continued support of results by the improved cost recovery thanks to the 2023 general rate cases. Nevertheless, power supply costs and interest rates are still on the higher side. All told, we remain cautiously optimistic.

Ongoing capital investments should pave the way for future rate cases. Avista plans to prioritize investments aimed at enhancing and expanding its infrastructure. It also remains committed to advancing clean energy goals. To mention briefly, during rate case negotiations, utilities usually present their ongoing or completed capital projects as evidence for the need for increased revenue to cover costs. All told, these efforts should justify upcoming rate increases.

Shares of Avista have good capital appreciation potential over the next 18 months. What's more, the dividend yield (5.4%) is higher than the sector's average. Emma Jalees April 19, 2024

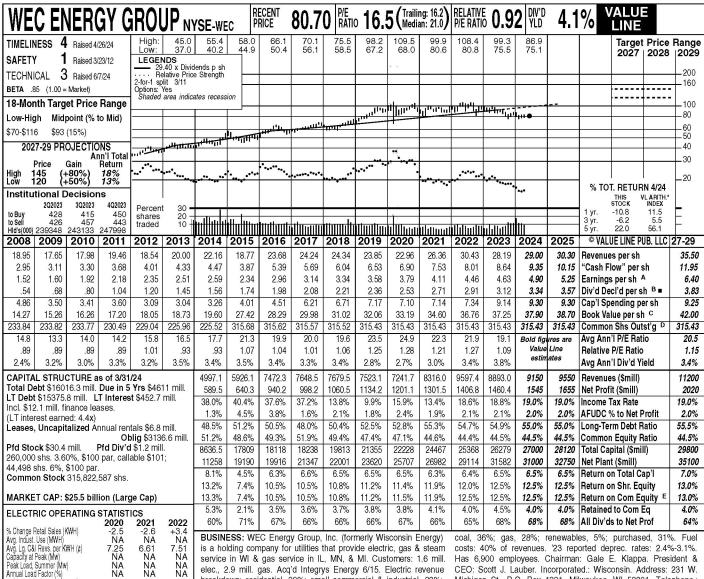
(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gain (loss): '14, '17, (16¢); gains on discont. ops.: '14, 7; '15, 8¢. EPS may not sum due to round ing. Next earnings report due May 1st.

(E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate allowed on Avg.; ID, Above Avg.

(B) Div'ds paid in mid-Mar., June, Sept. & Dec.
■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred chgs. In '23: \$973.8 mill., \$12.47/sh. (D) In mill.

22: 7.1%. Regulatory Climate: WA, Below

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



service in WI & gas service in IL, MN, & MI. Customers: 1.6 mill. elec., 2.9 mill. gas. Acq'd Integrys Energy 6/15. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 39%; small commercial & industrial, 32%; large commercial & industrial, 21%; other, 8%. Generating sources:

Has 6,900 employees. Chairman: Gale E. Klappa. President & CEO: Scott J. Lauber. Incorporated.: Wisconsin. Address: 231 W. Michigan St., P.O. Box 1331, Milwaukee, WI 53201. Telephone.: 414-221-2345. Internet: www.wecenergygroup.com.

300 338 357 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '21-'23 Past of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 5.0% 6.5% 6.0% 7.0% 4.0% 2.0% 7.5% 7.0% Revenues "Cash Flow" 3.0% 7.0% Earnings Dividends 6 5% 10.0% 6.5% 3.5% Book Value

+.6

% Change Customers (vr-end)

NΑ

+.7

+.2

| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY RE | VENUES (| \$ mill.) | Full |
|-------|--------|-----------|----------|-----------|--------|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 2691 | 1676 | 1746 | 2201 | 8316.0 |
| 2022 | 2908 | 2127 | 2003 | 2558 | 9597.4 |
| 2023 | 2888 | 1830 | 1957 | 2218 | 8893.0 |
| 2024 | 2680 | 1870 | 2000 | 2600 | 9150 |
| 2025 | 2750 | 2000 | 2150 | 2650 | 9550 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS P | ER SHARI | A | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2021 | 1.61 | .87 | .92 | .71 | 4.11 |
| 2022 | 1.79 | .91 | .96 | .80 | 4.46 |
| 2023 | 1.61 | .92 | 1.00 | 1.10 | 4.63 |
| 2024 | 1.97 | .75 | 1.05 | 1.13 | 4.90 |
| 2025 | 2.00 | 1.00 | 1.10 | 1.15 | 5.25 |
| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY DIV | IDENDS P | AIDB∎ | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .6325 | .6325 | .6325 | .6325 | 2.53 |
| 2021 | .6775 | .6775 | .6775 | .6775 | 2.71 |
| 2022 | .7275 | .7275 | .7275 | .7275 | 2.91 |
| 2023 | .7800 | .7800 | .7800 | .7800 | 3.12 |
| 2024 | .8350 | | | | |
| 2023 | .7800 | | | | |

WEC Energy's utilities in Wisconsin have filed general rate cases. The utilities are seeking approximately \$800 million in rate increases over the next two years to improve reliability, reduce outages, and assist the transition from coal to renewables. An order is expected by the end of this year, and new tariffs are subject to take effect at the start of 2025. In Illinois, there is a rehearing underway regarding the request to restore \$145 million for its safety program. Remember, the Illinois Commerce Commission disallowed \$236.2 million of capital costs related to the construction of Peoples Gas & Light service centers, causing WEC to pause the multi billion-dollar pipeline replacement program.

We look for 2024 profits to advance 6%, to \$4.90 a share. We are sticking with our estimate, even though it is on the high-end of WEC Energy's targeted range of \$4.80-\$4.90 per share. The company has a strong track record of exceeding its guidance, and management typically winds up raising it as the year progresses. The utility will likely continue to benefit from electric and gas volume increases due to

elevated power demand, construction initiatives and positive developments in the infrastructure and transmission segments. Profit growth should also be driven by rate relief in Wisconsin. WEC reaffirmed its goal for annual earnings growth of 6.5%-7%. We are maintaining our 2025 profit estimate of \$5.25 per share, which is management's updated target within range. Indeed, this would provide an increase of 7% above our 2024 estimate.

WEC Energy agreed to acquire a 90% ownership interest in a Texas solar project for \$459 million. The Delilah 1 center in North Texas is one of the largest solar facilities under construction, and will generate renewable energy. Commercial operation of the project is set to start by the end of this month, and will likely be eligible for production tax credits.

This issue is best suited for conservative, income-oriented investors with a long-term investment horizon. The dividend yield of 4.1% stands above the utility average, and total return potential for the next 18-months and 3- to 5-years is attractive versus most of its peers. Zachary J. Hodgkinson June 7, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. gain on discontinued ops.: '11, 6¢; nonrecurring gain: '17, 65¢. Next earnings report due early July. (B) Div'ds paid in early Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. ■ Div'd reinv-

estment plan avail. (C) Incl. intang. In '23: \$20.05/sh. (D) In mill., adj. for split. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rates all'd on com. eq. in WI in '15: 10.0%-10.2%; in IL in '21: 9.67%; in WI have Average; IL, Below Average; MN & MI, Average.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A+ 85 Price Growth Persistence **Earnings Predictability** 100 All major electric utilities located in the eastern region of the United States are reviewed in this Issue; western-based electrics, in Issue 11; and the remaining industry participants, in Issue 5. Since our last review of the Electric Utility (East) group three months ago, utility stocks covered in *The Value Line Investment Survey* increased 3.1% in value on average versus a 3.7% gain in the S&P 500. Meanwhile, the industry's Timeliness rank has moved up to 66 (of 93) from 80.

During the past year, utilities under our coverage have declined 12.1% versus a 13.6% increase in *The Value Line Arithmetic Index*. The rise in interest rates through much of 2023 weighed heavily on utility stocks. The equities have only begun to recover some in more recent months as the uptrend in rates has paused. Because U.S. debt securities provide a competitive investment vehicle to the stocks in this industry, it's important to be cognizant of the spread between the benchmark 10-year Treasury rate (4.63%) and the dividend yields on electric utilities (4.0% on average).

Though the aforementioned spread is important, expectations of where interest rates will go next is the key factor that will drive this ratesensitive group's performance. The other major factor is how investors feel about the prospects for the economy in general. Overall, this is a defensive industry with low-Beta stocks that tend to outperform when investors rotate out of economically-sensitive, higher-Beta stocks.

Portfolio Considerations

With the uptick in share prices over the past three months, 3- to 5-year total annual return potential for electrics has fallen a bit, to 10.2% on average from 10.9%. The new level is still towards the high end of what we've witnessed over the past two to three years, and there are some decent intermediate values to be found among this group. Additionally, if interest rates begin to drop again, it's highly likely that well-positioned electrics will rebound further.

However, while many stocks within the Electric Utility (East) Industry remain depressed relative to their highs of a couple of years ago, we're not overly bullish on this group. Over the past several months, we've lowered our 3- to 5-year targeted earnings multiples and raised our dividend yield expectations, as the higher-for-longer scenario of the world's central banks seems to be the new normal. In other words, interest rates were in a secular downtrend for decades, with cyclical interruptions along the way. If that course has reversed, it's a big negative for rate-sensitive utilities.

Investors in this group can help their cause by being disciplined buyers. New commitments should only be made when the midpoint of our annual total return projection is at or above 12%. Emphasizing utilities with above-average dividend growth prospects is a good practice. The median is about 4.5% at present. Staying away from utilities in below-average regulatory climates and keeping a well-diversified group of dividend payers are also good practices to follow.

At present, we like *Eversource Energy* as it possesses all of the aforementioned qualities. We also think *FirstEnergy* is close to being a good long-term buy at the recent price and is a name to keep on the watch list. Another stock that's particularly notable in this Issue is *Avangrid*, as its majority shareholder, Iberdrola of

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 66 (of 93)

Spain, has proposed an all-cash buyout of the public float at \$34.25 per share.

Topical Subjects

Key challenges this industry is facing include the rise in interest rates and overall inflation. Due to how regulatory mechanisms work, some higher costs can rapidly be passed along to consumers. This is true of fluctuations in natural gas prices, for instance. Conventions differ among states, but most utilities suffer from some degree of regulatory lag and have to go through a rate-filing process with regulators in order to gain "rate relief." That's industry parlance for regulatory approval to charge customers, through higher delivery rates on the electric bill, for certain expenses previously or about to be incurred. Notably, some companies are better situated and benefit from near real-time pricing adjustments with little regulatory lag on grid improvements.

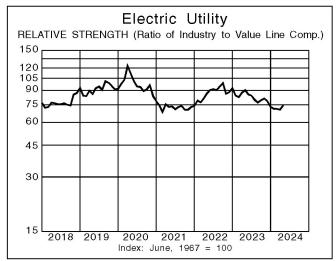
These challenges have been particularly troublesome for companies attempting to build and fund expensive and complicated renewables projects. This has been especially true of offshore wind generation, where the lead times are lengthy. The planning of those ventures took place under a different macroeconomic environment when borrowing, materials, and labor costs were far lower. As a result, many of those projects are only economic at higher electric rates than originally planned for.

Another major problem for this industry is the level of authorized return on equity (ROE) that's being set by some regulators. They're deriving ROEs based on a historically low and now out-of-date cost of capital. Note that the ROE applied to cumulative investments made in grid infrastructure (known as the rate base) is what drives revenue and profit levels for utilities.

Conclusion

Individual companies within this industry vary widely. The regulatory climate and the overall health of the underlying regional and local economies within a utility's service area are impactful. This includes demographics and migratory trends over time. States committing to progressive clean energy goals are generating a lot of invested capital opportunities for utilities, which should translate to improved earnings and dividend growth prospects. Selectivity is key for investors.

Anthony J. Glennon



All major electric utilities located in the Central region of the United States are reviewed in this Issue; Eastern-based electrics, in Issue 1; and the Western-based electrics, in Issue 11.

Electric Utility (Central) stocks covered in *The Value Line Investment Survey* increased 6.9% in value, on average since our last review three months ago, surpassing the 4.7% jump in the S&P 500.

Utilities, which have been one of the worstperforming sectors over the past few years, have started to recover of late due to elevated power demand from artificial intelligence (AI) innovations and data centers, along with the uptrend in interest rates pausing. While utility equities are typically seen as a safe competitive investment vehicle to U.S. debt securities for conservative investors, the artificial intelligence boom is changing this traditional landscape. Indeed, data centers are set to grow exponentially over the next few years, requiring record levels of electricity. Electric utilities are well positioned to take advantage of the AI boom, as well as bring in new types of investors. Too, the expectation of where interest rates will go next is starting to favor these equities in anticipation of the Federal Reserve's dovish pivot. And, the spread between the 10-year Treasury rate and dividend yields on electric utilities has narrowed since our last report.

Long-Term Prospects

Total return potential for electrics in the 3- to 5-year time frame is at the high end of what we've seen over the past couple of years. And, a number of equities continue to trade at double-digit discounts to historical valuations. But, we remain somewhat concerned with the macroeconomic backdrop, and utility investors should move forward with caution, despite a number of upcoming catalysts. We recommend buying electrics with annual total return potential of at least 12%. Investors should also keep an eye on utilities with above-average dividend growth prospects (4.5%), a strong balance sheet, and a well-diversified portfolio. While equities covered in the Electric Utility (Central) Industry do not stand out for price appreciation potential, the reduced risk of electrics adds to their appeal.

Macro Environment

Well-positioned electrics should rebound nicely for a number of reasons if interest rates begin to drop. Income-oriented investors closely monitor the spread between the yield on government bonds, such as Treasurys, and the yield on the typical electric utility. As interest rates have soared over the past few years, more and more investors have dropped utility equities in favor of Treasurys. But this may be reversing moving forward. What's more, higher interest rates, as well as wage, material, and fuel inflation, continue to negatively impact regulatory recoupments. Some stocks are better positioned than others, with rate cases and real-time pricing adjustments to minimize regulatory lag. And, the regulatory climate varies significantly by territory. Thus, it is important to be selective and look for equities with strong regional economies and regulatory environments. States that are committed to the AI infrastructure build-out and green-energy goals will probably fare

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 81 (of 93)

better over the coming years. Indeed, *American Electric Power* recently filed a request in Ohio, which is one of the most-favorable climates regarding new data centers. The utility expects data centers to double the current power demand in the Ohio region by 2030.

Artificial Intelligence Boom

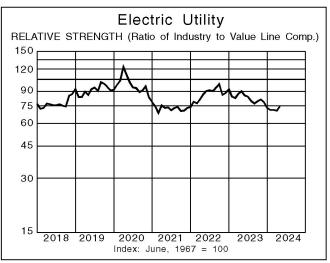
As mentioned earlier, demand for power is expected to reach record levels over the next few years due to technological innovations and the copious amounts of electricity used by AI-focused data centers. A number of electrics anticipate that power demand will more than double over the next five years. ALLETE recently agreed to be acquired, in part to be better positioned for the AI boom and record power demand. As a small utility in public markets, ALLETE was struggling to raise the necessary capital for its transmission transformation and building the grid. The pending buyout would allow ALLETE to take advantage of the biggest demand jump in its history, and build the infrastructure for new data centers. These technological advancements are a strong catalyst for long-term prospects and have brought a whole new group of investors to electric utilities.

Conclusion

Utilities have outpaced the broader-market averages of late. Growing electricity demand from data centers, the emerging AI boom, and the prospect of lower interest rates in the near future are positive factors. That said, other macro challenges continue to negatively impact performance from the group. We recommend that investors stay selective when committing funds.

Utilities currently have strong long-term capital appreciation potential compared to the *Value Line* median. We recommend looking for equities with 12% or greater long-term annual return potential, and average dividend growth of 4.5% or more. The favorable risk profile of electric utilities is also worth considering. Investors should also take note of states with positive data center and green energy transition regulatory environments, as companies in these regions will likely be the best positioned for the future. As always, investors should look out for future rate-setting meetings.

Zachary J. Hodgkinson



All major electric utilities located in the Western region of the United States are reviewed in this Issue; Eastern-based electrics, in Issue 1; and the remainder in Issue 5. Since our January review of the Electric Utility (West) group, utility stocks covered in *The Value Line Investment Survey* fell 3.3% in value on average, compared to a 9.2% increase in the S&P 500.

On a 12-month basis, utilities under our coverage have declined 14.6% versus a 16.2% gain in the Value Line Arithmetic Index. The sharp rise in interest rates through mid-October, when the 10-year Treasury yield hit 4.98%, a level last seen in 2007, depressed utility values. Treasurys provide a competitive investment vehicle, so it's important to be mindful of the spread between bond rates and the dividend yields on utilities (recently 4.02% on average). As rates fell 110 basis points, from 4.98% in mid-October to 3.88% in late December, utility stocks rallied. Year to date, however, they're back to underperforming, as the 10-year Treasury yield has risen to 4.42%.

With this year's drop in utility share prices, 3- to 5-year total annual return potential for this group has risen to 10.5% from 8.6% three months ago. Although there is a generally reduced risk level in owning utilities, given that they're regulated monopolies, we like to see the prospect of at least 10%-11% total returns for a given equity before recommending it. That level is in line with historical returns for the broader market.

Utility Portfolio Considerations

While many equities within the Electric Utility (West) Industry remain depressed relative to their highs of a few years ago, we're not overly bullish on this industry. If interest rates fall, it's highly likely that well-positioned utility stocks will perform relatively well. But, we think it's doubtful that the overly favorable backdrop for interest-rate sensitive stocks, often witnessed over the past several years, is on its way back. In long-term historical terms, if interest rates on government bonds normalized to the mid- to high-single-digit range, utilities would be relatively overvalued.

Utility investors can help their cause by being disciplined buyers. New commitments should be made when the midpoint of the annual total return projections are no less than 11%. It would also be a good practice to emphasize utilities with above-average dividend growth prospects. We'd put the industry median at about 4.5% for that measure. Staying away from utilities in a poor regulatory climate is a good practice, as is keeping a well-diversified group of dividend-paying stocks.

Topical Considerations

Key challenges electrics are facing include higher interest rates and overall inflation. Due to how the regulatory mechanisms work, some costs can rapidly be passed on to consumers, such as natural gas prices. Others cannot and have to go through a filed rate-case process with regulators. The regulatory lag before recoupment may be as short as one year or less, but in some instances can drag on for a few years. Some companies are fortunate to have a very minimal lag on a reasonable percentage of outlays, owing to their approved use of near real-time pricing mechanisms.

Another recent problem for this industry is the level of authorized return on equity (ROE) that's being set by

INDUSTRY TIMELINESS: 84 (of 93)

regulators. They're looking back to a time of historically low interest rates over the past several years and using that snap shot to price returns in the present. Note that the ROE applied to investments made in grid infrastructure (known as the rate base) is what drives profits in these regulated monopolies. Utilities recoup their investment plus a return on it through the regulatory-approved delivery rates they bill for.

High purchased power costs during peak load periods have been exacerbated by the shuttering of cheap and reliable coal generation in the West. We've also seen that under certain conditions, such as mild weather, the supply of "green" energy, including hydro, can get depressed. The impact is especially problematic because open-market power purchases are not necessarily an automatic and quick pass-through to consumers. This problem also represents an opportunity, as it increasingly makes sense for more generating capacity to be approved for utility ownership.

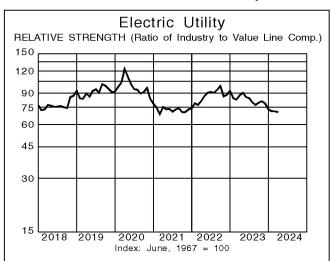
Lastly, with *PG&E Corp*. back within our coverage, and *Edison Int'l* embroiled in some new wildfire lawsuits, a discussion on business risk in California is always topical in the Electric Utility (West) Industry. Regarding the mounting lawsuits impacting *Hawaiian Electric* and to a lesser degree *Xcel Energy*, we'd refer subscribers to the respective company reviews.

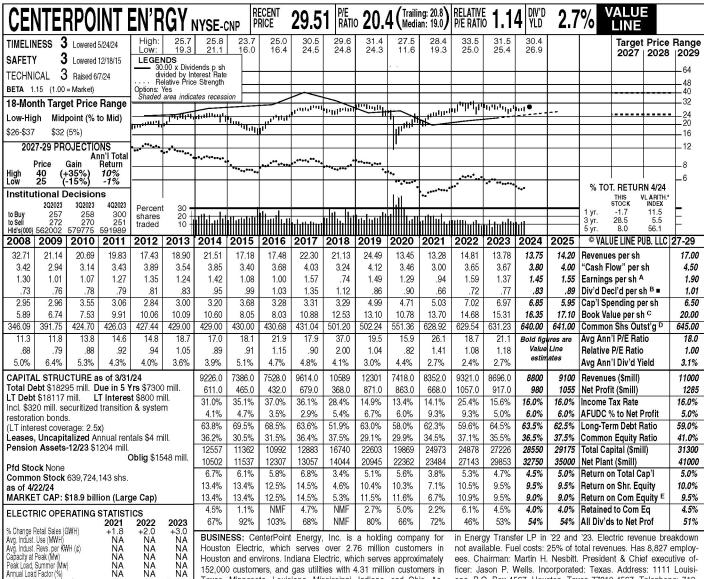
The California Wildfire Fund, established in 2019, is a form of insurance for the state's three major electric utility holding corporations (Sempra Energy is the third), funded by the companies and their customer base up to \$21 billion. Pre-2019 disasters are not covered and individual claims are paid after a \$1 billion deductible is incurred. The fund covers catastrophic losses, but does not cover gross negligence. With this extra layer of protection above regular liability insurance, bankruptcy risk for the aforementioned California holding companies is very much reduced.

Conclusion

Individual utilities vary widely. Regulatory climate and the overall health of the underlying regional and local economies encompassed within a service area are impactful. And, states with progressive renewable-energy goals are providing solid growth prospects to utilities. As always, investors need to be selective.

Anthony J. Glennon





Houston and environs. Indiana Electric, which serves approximately 152,000 customers, and gas utilities with 4.31 million customers in Texas, Minnesota, Louisiana, Mississippi, Indiana, and Ohio. Acquired Vectren 2/19. Sold nonutility operations in '20. Sold its stake

ees. Chairman: Martin H. Nesbitt. President & Chief executive officer: Jason P. Wells. Incorporated: Texas. Address: 1111 Louisiana, P.O. Box 4567, Houston, Texas 77210-4567. Telephone: 713-207-1111. Internet: www.centerpointenergy.com.

135 252 Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 251 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '21-'23 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '27-'29 Revenues "Cash Flow" -3.0% -.5% -7.0% -1.0% 3.5% 4.5% 6.5% Earnings 3 5% -9.5% 7.0% Dividends 6.0% 5.5% Book Value 4 0% OHADTEDI V DEVENITES /S mill

+2.5

+2.0+2.0%

% Change Customers (avg.)

| Cal- | | | VENUES (| | Full |
|-------|--------|-----------|-----------|---------|------|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| 2021 | 2547 | 1742 | 1749 | 2314 | 8352 |
| 2022 | 2763 | 1944 | 1903 | 2711 | 9321 |
| 2023 | 2779 | 1875 | 1860 | 2182 | 8696 |
| 2024 | 2620 | 1900 | 1950 | 2330 | 8800 |
| 2025 | 2250 | 2250 | 2300 | 2300 | 9100 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS P | ER SHARE | Α | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| 2021 | .41 | .29 | .21 | .03 | .94 |
| 2022 | .82 | .28 | .30 | .19 | 1.59 |
| 2023 | .49 | .17 | .40 | .30 | 1.37 |
| 2024 | .55 | .20 | .45 | .25 | 1.45 |
| 2025 | .50 | .25 | .50 | .30 | 1.55 |
| Cal- | QUAR | TERLY DIV | IDENDS PA | AIDB∎ | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .29 | .15 | .15 | .15 | .74 |
| 2021 | .16 | .16 | .16 | .17 | .65 |
| 2022 | .17 | .17 | .18 | .18 | .70 |
| 2023 | .18 | .19 | .19 | .20 | .76 |
| 2024 | .20 | .20 | | | |
| | | | | | |

CenterPoint Energy registered mixed first-quarter results. The top line fell 6% year over year, to \$2.6 billion, primarily due to soft utility revenues, particularly in natural gas. However, the bottom line increased 12%, to \$0.55 per share, driven by rate recovery, favorable weather, and improved usage metrics.

The utility appears to be progressing as planned with its previously announced gas asset sales. CenterPoint filed approval applications with the regulator in April regarding the transaction involving the Louisiana and Mississippi Gas local distribution companies (LDCs). The divestiture is projected to yield approximately \$1 billion in after-cash proceeds and is expected to conclude in the first quarter of 2025. The decision to sell these LDCs reflects the company's strategic focus on jurisdictions where it maintains a notable presence in electric and gas utilities. After the sale, CenterPoint estimates its utility mix to be 66% electric and 34% gas.

We look for near-term share earnings to proceed at a mid-single-digit pace. Benefits from rate relief and new customer wins should support the bottom line. Also,

operations and maintenance cost controls have been ongoing, aimed at 1% to 2% annual cost reductions. All things considered, we expect 2024 and 2025 earnings per share to clock in at about \$1.45 and \$1.55, respectively

CenterPoint has developed a comprehensive plan to enhance the resilience of the electric grid in Texas. The proposal includes upgrading transmission infrastructures, modernizing old transmission lines to meet current standards, and elevating substations to reduce flood risks. We believe this initiative represents a valuable capital investment, especially in light of recent power outages and restoration efforts in the region. The company anticipates making capital investments in the range of \$2.2 billion to \$2.7 billion through 2027.

Shares of CenterPoint have below average capital gains prospects over the next 18 months and the 2027-2029 time frame. The dividend yield is low for a utility, as well. Consequently, incomeoriented investors may find better selections in the sector. Emma Jalees

June 7, 2024

(A) GAAP Dil. EPS 2022 & onwards. Excl. non-recur. gains (losses): '11, \$1.89; '12, (38¢); '13, (52¢); '15, (\$2.69); '17, \$2.56; '20, (\$2.74); gain (loss) on disc. ops.: '20, (34¢); '21, \$1.34. Next (C) Incl. intang. In '23: \$6.59/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate base: Net orig. cost. Rate all'd on com. eq. (elec.) in '20: 9.4%; (gas): 9.45%-11.25%; earned on avg. com. eq., '22: 8.27%. Regulatory Climate: TX, Avg.; IN, Above Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A 75 Price Growth Persistence 40 **Earnings Predictability** 55

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| AVANGRID, INC. | NYSE | -AGR | | R | ECENT RICE | 36.6 | 3 P/E RATIO | 16. | 3 (Traili | ng: 15.7) an: NMF) | RELATIVE P/E RATIO | 0.9 | 4 DIV'D YLD | 4.8 | % Y | ALUE Line | | |
|--|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------------|---|--|---------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------------------|---|----------------------|----------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|--|---------------------|------------------|
| TIMELINESS — Suspended 3/22/24 | | | High: | 38.9 | 46.7 | 53.5 | 54.6 | 52.9 | 57.2 | 55.6 | 51.7 | 44.8 | 37.3 | | | | | Range |
| SAFETY 2 Raised 5/10/24 | LEGEN | NDS | Low: | 32.4 | 35.4 | 37.4 | 45.2 | 47.4 | 35.6 | 44.0 | 37.6 | 27.5 | 29.7 | | | 2027 | 2028 | 2029 |
| TECHNICAL — Suspended 3/22/24 | Rel | .7 x Divide | ends p sh e Strength | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 100 |
| BETA .95 (1.00 = Market) | Options: Y Shaded a | les area indica | ates recess | ion | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 80 64 |
| 18-Month Target Price Range | | | | | | 111111111111111111111111111111111111111 | m ^{ill} land | անան | يان بال | որույլու | 11 | | | | | | | \sum_{48}^{04} |
| Low-High Midpoint (% to Mid) | | ĺ | | | i lui ^{l'i} ii | 10.00 | | | 1111 " | 111 | | , | | | | | | 8 |
| \$23-\$43 \$33 (-10%) | | | | | | | | | | | | , th | h- | | | | | -32 -24 |
| 2027-29 PROJECTIONS | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | ²⁴ 20 |
| Ann'l Total Price Gain Return | - | | | | | | | | •. | | | | | | - | | | 16 |
| High 45 (+25%) 9% | | | | • | | | ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, | · | ••••• | | | | | | 1 | | | 12 |
| Low 35 `(-5%) 4% Institutional Decisions | - | <u> </u> | | | | | | | | ******* | ••• | | | | | RETUR | | _8 |
| 2Q2023 3Q2023 4Q2023 | Percent | ı t 9 – | | | | | | | | | | | | | S. | TOCK | L ARITH.* | L |
| to Buy 146 166 142 to Sell 132 136 152 | shares | 6 - | | | | | | | Just In | | and L | | 1. | | | -3.7 16.9 | 16.9 16.2 | F |
| Hld's(000) 50434 51130 51016 | traded | 3 - | | | | lluull | | | | | | | | | 5 ýr | 11.6 | 71.5 | |
| Avangrid, Inc. was formed thr | ough a r | nerger | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | | E LINE PU | JB. LLC | |
| between Iberdrola USA, Inc. | | | | 14.14 | 19.48 | 19.30 | 20.96 | 20.51 | 20.45 | 18.04 | 20.49 | 21.48 | 22.20 | 23.00 | Revenues | | | 25.85 |
| ings Corporation in Decembe drola S.A., a worldwide leade | | | | 3.44 | 4.74 | 4.49 | 4.89 | 5.41 | 5.22 | 4.64 | 5.14 | 5.08 | 5.30 | 5.60 | "Cash Flo | | | 6.25 |
| industry, owns 81.5% of Avai | | | | 1.05 | 1.98 1.73 | 1.67 1.73 | 1.92 1.74 | 2.17 1.76 | 2.02 1.76 | 2.18 | 2.32 1.76 | 2.09 1.76 | 2.25 1.76 | 2.40 1.76 | Earnings Div'd Dec | | | 2.70 1.76 |
| decessor company was fou | inded in | 1852 | | 3.50 | 5.52 | 7.82 | 5.78 | 8.87 | 9.00 | 7.70 | 6.52 | 7.68 | 7.50 | 7.60 | Cap'l Spe | | | 8.00 |
| and is headquartered in Ne | w Glou | cester. | | 48.74 | 48.90 | 48.79 | 48.88 | 49.31 | 49.21 | 49.35 | 50.13 | 50.80 | 51.25 | 51.90 | Book Valu | ٠. | | 54.50 |
| Maine. It was incorportated in | n 1997 ir | n New | | 308.86 | 308.99 | 309.01 | 309.01 | 309.01 | 309.08 | 386.57 | 386.63 | 386.77 | 387.00 | 387.00 | Common | | | 387.00 |
| York under the name NGE F | | | | 33.5 | 20.5 | 27.3 | 26.1 | 23.1 | 23.6 | 23.2 | 19.6 | 17.5 | Bold figu | | Avg Ann'l | | | 15.0 |
| Avangrid began trading on the | e NYSE (| on De- | | 1.69 | 1.08 | 1.37 | 1.41 | 1.23 | 1.21 | 1.25 | 1.13 | .98 | Value estim | | Relative F | | | .85 |
| cember 17, 2015. | | | | | 4.3% | 3.8% | 3.5% | 3.5% | 3.7% | 3.5% | 3.9% | 4.8% | 63017 | ates | Avg Ann'l | Div'd Yi | eld | 4.3% |
| CAPITAL STRUCTURE as of 3/31 | | S 111 | 4594.0 | 4367.0 | 6018.0 | 5963.0 | 6478.0 | 6338.0 | 6320.0 | 6974.0 | 7923.0 | 8309.0 | 8600 | 8900 | Revenues | | | 10000 |
| Total Debt \$12965 mill. Due in 5 'LT Debt \$9859 mill. LT Interes | | | 424.0 | 267.0 | 611.0 | 516.0 | 595.0 | 673.0 | 625.0 | 780.0 | 901.0 | 808.0 | 870 | 930 | Net Profit | | | 1050 |
| Incl. \$81 mill. finance leases. | | | 39.9% 6.8% | 11.3% 12.7% | 37.4% 7.5% | 32.4% 12.4% | 22.1% 9.4% | 17.0% 15.0% | 7.2% 17.1% | 6.2% 15.5% | 3.2% 12.9% | 7.0% 17.9% | 7.0% 18.0% | 7.0% 18.0% | Income Ta | | rofit | 7.0% 16.0% |
| (Total Interest coverage: 2.8x) Leases, Uncapitalized Annual rer | otolo \$10 r | mill | 16.8% | 23.1% | 23.0% | 25.6% | 26.2% | 30.6% | 40.8% | 29.3% | 29.8% | 33.7% | 36.5% | | Long-Tern | | | 44.5% |
| Leases, Oncapitalized Allitual lei | nais Ø12 H | mil. | 83.2% | 76.9% | 77.0% | 74.4% | 73.8% | 69.4% | 59.2% | 70.7% | 70.2% | 66.3% | 63.5% | | Common | | | 55.5% |
| Pension Assets-12/23 \$2159 mill. | | | 14956 | 19583 | 19619 | 20273 | 20472 | 21953 | 25687 | 26998 | 27603 | 29632 | 31375 | 33075 | Total Cap | | | 38000 |
| Pfd Stock None | Oblig. \$25 | 00 mill. | 17099 | 20711 | 21548 | 22669 | 23459 | 25218 | 26751 | 28866 | 30994 | 32857 | 34575 | 36300 | Net Plant | | | 41150 |
| I IN OLOUR HOUS | | | 3.7% | 2.1% | 3.8% | 3.1% | 3.5% | 3.7% | 3.0% | 3.4% | 3.8% | 3.4% | 3.5% | | Return on | | | 3.5% |
| Common Stock 386,906,260 shs. | | | 3.4% | 1.8% | 4.0% | 3.4% | 3.9% | 4.4% | 4.1% | 4.1% | 4.6% | 4.1% | 4.5% | 03/10/90/00/00 | Return on | 233000111300−300 • 1 | | 5.0% |
| as of 4/23/24 MARKET CAP: \$14.2 billion (Lar | ge Cap) | | 3.4% | 1.8% 1.8% | 4.0% 1.4% | 3.4% NMF | 3.9% | 4.4% | 4.1% | 4.1% | 4.6% 1.1% | 4.1% | 4.5% 1.0% | 4.5% 1.0% | Return on Retained t | | | 5.0% 2.0% |
| ELECTRIC OPERATING STATIST | | | 3.4% | 1.0% | 66% | 104% | 90% | .8% 81% | 87% | 79% | 76% | .0% 84% | 78% | | All Div'ds | | | 2.0% 65% |
| | 2022 | 2023 | BLICIN | ESS: Au | 7515 1151 | c. (former | 17(3)(3)(3) | 1/2//4//2 | (5)(5)(5)(5) | (5)(5)(5) | | 4.1.14 | (0)(0)(0)(0) | 50500000 | accounted | 20100000 | 10000 | |
| 2021 | ZUZZ | | I DUSIN | LOO. AV | anynu, III | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| % Change Retail Sales (MWH) +1.8 Avg. Indust. Use (MWH) NA | +.7 NA | -3.3 NA | sified e | | | company | | | | | | | | | wer/fuel o | | | |
| % Change Retail Sales (MWH) +1.8 | +.7 | -3.3 NA NA NA | sified e | ers in Ne | ew York, | Connectio | ut, and N | /laine an | d 1.0 mill | ion gas | reported | depr. ra | te: 2.5%. | berdrol | a owns 81 | 1.6% of | stock. E | mploys |
| % Change Retail Sales (MWH) +1.8 Avg. Indust. Use (MWH) NA Avg. Indust. Revs. per KWH (¢) NA | +.7 NA NA | NA NA | sified e custom custom | ers in Ne ers in Ne | ew York, ew York, | | cut, and Notes | Aaine an achuset | d 1.0 mill ts & Mair | ion gas ie. Has | reported about 8 | depr. ra ,000. Bo | ite: 2.5% ard Cha | . Iberdrol ir: Ignac | | l.6% of z Galar | stock. E n. CEO: | mploys Pedro |

+1.2+.4 247 203 Est'd '21-'23 to '27-'29 4.0% 3.5%

Nil 1.5%

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full Cal-Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year endar 2021 1966 1477 1598 1933 6974 2022 2133 1794 1838 2158 7923 2023 2466 1587 1974 2282 8309 2024 2417 1733 2150 2300 8600 2025 1800 2225 2375 8900 2500 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 endar Year 2021 1.14 .35 .34 .44 2.18 2022 1.16 .46 .31 .39 2.32 2023 .64 .21 .27 .97 2.09 2024 .88 .37 .40 .60 2.25 2025 .90 .40 .45 .65 2.40 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B . Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 2020 1.76 .44 44 .44 .44

300

10 Yrs.

Past

5 Yrs.

1.0%

3.5% 0.5%

0.5%

.44

.44

1.76

1.76

Fixed Charge Cov. (%

of change (per sh)

Revenues "Cash Flow

Dividends

2021

2022

2023

2024

.44

Book Value

ANNUAL RATES

Avangrid's parent company, Iberdrola S.A., has made a \$34.25-per-share cash offer for the public float. The Spanish multinational power company already owns about 81.6% of Avangrid's common stock. The non-binding proposal to purchase the remaining stake was made to Avangrid's board of directors on March 6th. The company's board stated that it will review, evaluate, negotiate, and ap-prove or disapprove of the offer based on the recommendations of its legal and financial advisers. Consummation of the proposed transaction is conditional upon the independent board's approval and a vote by minority shareholders

We see very little potential of a competing third-party offer coming for the whole of the company. This is because of Iberdrola's majority stake and the additional regulatory constraints involved in purchasing a utility holding company such as Avangrid. Approval from the utility regulatory agencies of each of the four states it does business in plus the green light from a host of federal agencies would be necessary. Following the parent company's proposal, Avangrid's stock price has

managed to remain above the buyout price, trading within a tight range of \$35.50-\$37.00 per share. We think the recent price mainly reflects the presumption that the independent board of directors will be able to negotiate a better deal. Ironically, the last major buyout proposed for a utility holding company that can be used as a benchmark for valuation was Avangrid's long-standing offer to purchase PNM Resources. (The merger was never able to gain regulatory approval.) Using a comparable valuation on operating profits to the PNM deal, while taking into account the varied debt levels, would imply about a \$39-per-share price for Avangrid. Hence, there is a bit of room for an improved offer from Iberdrola.

shareholders should Most existing exit their positions in the open mar**ket.** This can be a lengthy process and the offer is nonbinding, so there's no guarantee a deal will get done. On the other hand, there may be \$1-\$3 per share of upside and a few more dividends to collect. The Timeliness rank for this equity is suspended due to the buyout proposal. Anthony J. GlennonMay 10, 2024

(A) Diluted egs. Excl. nonrecur. gain/(loss): '16, 6¢; '17, (44¢); '19, 9¢; '20, (14¢); '21, (21¢); '22, (5¢); '23, (6¢); 1Q '24, 3¢. Qtly. EPS may not sum to full-year due to rounding. Next egs.

.44

.44

report due late July. (B) Div'ds paid in early Jan., Apr., July and Oct. ■ Div'd reinvestment plan available. (C) Incl. intangibles. In '23: elec.; in CT in '19: 9.3% gas; in ME in '22: \$6,214 mill., \$16.07/sh. (D) In mill. (E) Rate 9.25%. Regulatory Climate: Below Average.

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

| EVERGY, INC. NY | 'SE-EVF | RG | | F | RECENT PRICE | 53.43 | 3 P/E RATIO | 14. | B (Trailii Media | ng: 18.8) an: NMF) | RELATIVE P/E RATIO | 0.8 | 3 DIV'D | 4.9 | % | /ALUI LINE | | |
|--|------------------|---|--------------|---------|-----------------|---------------------------|----------------|----------------|--|---------------------------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|--------------------|----------------|----------------|---------------------------|---------------|-----------------------|
| TIMELINESS 3 Raised 6/7/24 | | | | | | High: Low: | 61.1 50.9 | 67.8 54.6 | 76.6 42.0 | 69.4 51.9 | 73.1 54.1 | 65.4 46.9 | 56.3 48.0 | | | | Price | |
| SAFETY 2 New 9/14/18 | LEGE | NDS elative Pric | - Ch | | | LOW. | 50.8 | 34.0 | 42.0 | 31.8 | 34.1 | 40.5 | 40.0 | | | 2027 | 2028 | |
| TECHNICAL 4 Raised 6/7/24 | Options: ' | Yes | | | | | | | 4 N | | | | | | | | | 128 |
| BETA .95 (1.00 = Market) | Snaueu | area indici | ates recessi | on | | | | | | | | | | | | | | +96 80 |
| 18-Month Target Price Range | | | | | | | րդի | dietellar | Щ,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,,, | , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , , | ' | ուղո _{վել} | | | | | | -64 |
| _ow-High Midpoint (% to Mid) | | | | | | | 1 | | , I, I) | | | 111 | 1111 | | | | | + 48 40 |
| \$46-\$75 \$61 (15%) | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | 32 |
| 2027-29 PROJECTIONS Ann'l Total | | | | | 1 | | | | | | | | | | | | | -24 |
| Price Gain Return | | | | | | | ,· | ···· | • | | ***** | | | | | | | 16 |
| ligh 95 (+80%) 19% ow 70 (+30%) 11% | | | | | | | | | • | | ••• | ····. | | | 0/ TO | | | _12 |
| nstitutional Decisions | | | | | | | | | | | | Ī | ·•• | | | T. RETUR | /L ARITH.* | |
| 2Q2023 3Q2023 4Q2023 to Buy 298 320 357 | Percen | | \vdash | | | | | | v 1 . v | | _ | | | | 1 yr. | STOCK -11.6 | INDEX 11.5 | - |
| to Sell 272 273 292 Hld's(000) 192350 196134 203440 | shares traded | 24 – 12 – | | | | | ulul | ntoodth | | Hama. | | 11.11.11 | Hi | | 3 yr. 5 yr. | -7.8 9.3 | 5.5 56.1 | F |
| Evergy, Inc. was formed throu | ıah the i | merger | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | | 2019 | 2020 | | 2022 | | 2024 | 2025 | | UE LINE P | | 27-29 |
| of Great Plains Energy and V | Nestar I | Energy | | | | | 16.75 | 22.71 | 21.66 | 24.36 | 25.49 | 23.98 | 25.20 | 26.10 | | es per sh | | 29.80 |
| n June of 2018. Great F | | | -1- | | | 1-1-1 | 4.89 | 7.18 | 7.06 | 8.18 | 7.34 | 8.33 | 7.95 | 8.50 | | low" per s | | 9.20 |
| nolders received .5981 of a sl | | | | | | | 2.50 | 2.79 | 2.72 | 3.83 | 3.26 | 3.17 | 3.60 | 4.00 | | s per sh | | 4.6 |
| or each of their shares, and \ nolders received one share | of Eve | rav for | | | | | 1.74 4.19 | 1.93 5.34 | 2.05 6.88 | 2.18 8.60 | 2.33 9.41 | 2.48 9.23 | 2.61 9.25 | 2.74 9.30 | | cl'd per s ending pe | | 3.0 9.5 |
| each of their shares. The me | rger wa | s com- | | | | | 39.28 | 37.82 | 38.50 | 40.32 | 41.86 | 42.06 | 44.10 | 45.65 | | lue per si | | 47.5 |
| oleted on June 4, 2018. Sha | ares of | Evergy | | | | | 255.33 | 226.64 | 226.84 | 229.30 | 229.90 | 229.73 | 230.00 | 230.00 | | n Shs Out | | 230.0 |
| pegan trading on the New Y | ork Sto | ck Ex- | | | | | 22.7 | 21.8 | 21.7 | 16.2 | 19.9 | 18.0 | Bold figu Value | | • | 'I P/E Rat | | 17.5 |
| change one day later. | | | | | | | 1.23 3.1% | 1.16 3.2% | 1.11 3.5% | .88 3.5% | 1.15 4.0% | 1.01 5.1% | estim | | | P/E Ratio I'l Div'd Yi | | .9. 3.7% |
| CAPITAL STRUCTURE as of 3/31. Total Debt \$12470 mill. Due in 5 Y | | mill | 22 | | | | 4275.9 | 5147.8 | 4913.4 | 5586.7 | 5859.1 | 5508.2 | 5800 | 6000 | | es (\$mill) | icia | 685 |
| _T Debt \$11658 mill. LT Interes | | | | | | | 535.8 | 669.9 | 618.3 | 879.7 | 752.7 | 731.3 | 830 | 920 | Net Prof | | | 106 |
| ncl. \$40.9 mill. finance leases. 'LT interest earned: 3.8x) | | | | | | | 9.8% | 12.6% | 14.1% | 11.7% | 5.8% | 2.1% | 9.0% | 9.0% | Income ' | | | 9.0% |
| , | | | | | 8.5 | | 2.5% | 2.5% | 5.5% | 5.0% | 5.1% | 5.4% | 6.0% | 6.0% | | % to Net F | | 5.0% |
| _eases, Uncapitalized Annual ren | itals \$18.8 | 3 mill. | | | | | 40.0% | 50.6% | 51.3% | 50.1% | 50.0% | 51.5% | 51.5% | 52.0% | | rm Debt F | | 53.5% |
| Pension Assets-12/22 \$1714.7 mi | | 90 00 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 000 | ** | | | | 60.0% 16716 | 49.4% 17337 | 48.7% 17924 | 49.9% 18542 | 48.0% 19668 | 48.0% 20019 | 48.5% 21250 | 48.0% 22500 | | n Equity F pital (\$mi | | 46.5% 23400 |
| Ob Pfd Stock None | olig \$256 | 1.7 mill. | | | | | 18952 | 19346 | 20106 | 21150 | 22277 | 23729 | 24200 | 25300 | Net Plan | | ., | 2630 |
| | | | | | | 1 | 4.0% | 4.8% | 4.5% | 5.7% | 6.9% | 6.4% | 5.5% | 5.5% | | n Total C | | 6.0% |
| Common Stock 229,929,116 shs. MARKET CAP: \$12.3 billion (Larg | no Can) | | | | | | 5.3% | 7.8% | 7.1% | 9.5% | 8.1% | 7.6% | 9.0% | 9.0% | | n Shr. Eq | | 10.0% |
| ELECTRIC OPERATING STATIST | | | | | | | 5.3% | 7.8% | 7.1% | 9.5% 4.1% | 8.1% 3.1% | 7.6% 2.5% | 9.0% 3.0% | 9.0% | | n Com Ed to Com I | | 10.0% 3.5% |
| 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | | | | | 89% | 69% | 75% | 57% | 73% | 69% | 68% | | All Div'd | s to Net F | rof | 63% |
| % Change Retail Sales (KWH) -3.9 Avg. Indust. Use (MWH) NA | +3.1 NA | +6.7 NA | BUSINE | SS: Ev | rerav. Inc. | was form | ned throu | ugh the | meraer o | f Great | 13%: ot | her. 13% | . Genera | | | al, 54%; | | . 17% |
| Avg. Indust. Revs. per KWH (¢) 7.14 Capacity at Peak (Mw) NA | 6.94 NA | NA NA | Plains E | nergy a | and Westa | ar Energy | in June | of 2018. | Through | its sub- | purchase | ed, 29%. | Fuel cos | ts: 28% | of revenu | ues. '23 re | eported | depred |
| Peak Lóad, Summer (Mw) NA | NA | NA | | | | siness und Ilion custo | | | | | | | | | | n: Mark A evin E. B | | |
| Annual Load Factor (%) NA % Change Customers (yr-end) NA | NA NA | NA NA | | | | as City ar | | | | | | | | | | s City, N | | |
| Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 286 | 350 | 382 | | | | ercial, 27 | | | | | | | 00. Intern | | | | | |
| | st Est'd | | | | | ouri W | | | | | | | | | | mentic | | |
| of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yr | s. to | 27-'29 | | | | nding. | | | | | | | | | | d prov | | |
| Revenues 'Cash Flow'' | | 2.5% 5.0% | | | | d for a | | | | | | | | | | rith ot ne pei | | |
| | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Earnings Dividends | | 7.5% 7.0% | | | | over g | | | | | | | | | | rove i | | |

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

Cal-

Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 1616.5 5586.7 2021 1611.4 1236.7 1122.1 5859.1 2022 1223.9 1446.5 1909.1 1279.6 1354.2 1669.3 5508 2 2023 1296.8 1187.9 1750 2024 1331.0 1400 1319 5800 2025 1350 1450 1850 1350 6000 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Dec.31 endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Year 2021 .84 .81 1.95 .23 3.83 2022 .53 .84 1.86 .03 3.26 .78 1.53 3.17 2023 .62 .24 1.75 .85 .47 3.60 2024 .53 2025 .85 2.00 .45 4.00 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B . Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2.05 2020 .505 505 505 535 2021 .535 .535 .535 5725 2.18 2.33 2022 .5725 .5725 .5725 .6125 2023 .6125 .6125 .6125 .6425 2.48 2024 6425 .6425

in January 2025, if approved. In Kansas, the utility filed its 2024 integrated resource plan (IRP), which will add 360 MW over the next 10 years compared to the 2023 update. Note, Evergy's \$12.5 billion capital investment plan does not yet include the changes in its 2024 IRP.

Our 2024 bottom-line target is staying put at \$3.60 per share. The company should continue to benefit from investments in its transmission system, and rate relief through this year and beyond. What's more, elevated power demand due to artificial intelligence innovations and data centers will likely rise exponentially and prop up profits nicely. Evergy remains committed to its earnings-per-share growth target of 4%-6% annually through 2026 based on management's original 2023 outlook midpoint. And, it expects annual rate base growth of 6% through 2028. We look for earnings to improve in 2025 to as Evergy generally has low return rates on total capital and relies heavily on high debt levels.

Evergy's stock price has risen nicely of late. The stock is up almost 10% since our early March report, erasing year-todate losses. Indeed, these shares are now up slightly so far this year, after struggling in the early months.

Income-oriented investors may want to take a look here. The dividend yield of this stock stands far above the utility average, and prospective annual dividend increases of 7% add to the appeal. Meanwhile, intermediate- and long-term capital appreciation potential is decent in comparison to most of its peers. Indeed, our 18-month Target Price Range indicates a 15% premium to the current quotation. And, we look for the stock to trade between \$70-\$95 by 2027-2029.

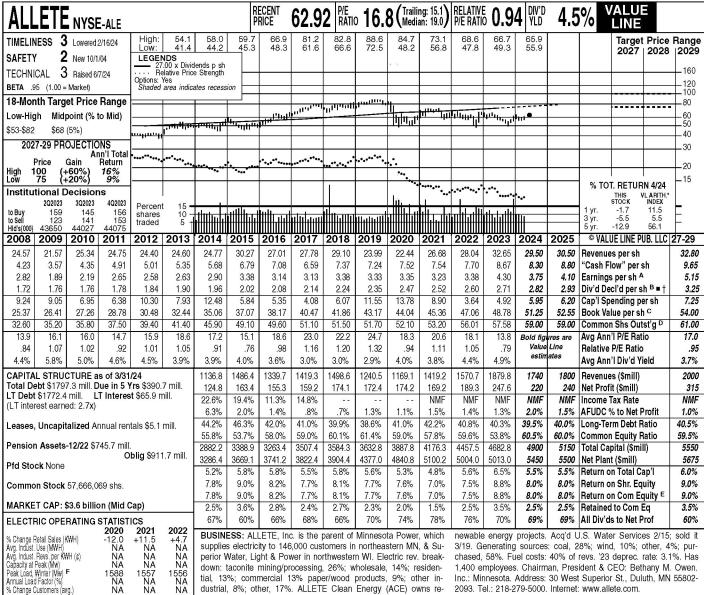
June 7, 2024 Zachary J. Hodgkinson

(A) Diluted earnings. Next earnings report due tangibles. (D) In millions. (E) Rate base: Origi-mon equity, '22: 9.8%. Regulatory Climate: early Aug. (B) Dividends paid in mid-March, June, September, and December.

Dividend

nal cost depreciated. Rate allowed on common Average. equity in Missouri in '18: none specified; in reinvestment plan available. (C) Incl. in- Kansas in '18: 9.3%; earned on average com-

Company's Financial Strength B++ Stock's Price Stability 90 Price Growth Persistence 25 **Earnings Predictability**



tial, 13%; commercial 13% paper/wood products, 9%; other industrial, 8%; other, 17%. ALLETE Clean Energy (ACE) owns reInc.: Minnesota. Address: 30 West Superior St., Duluth, MN 55802-2093. Tel.: 218-279-5000. Internet: www.allete.com.

Fixed Charge Cov. (%) 230 219 220 ANNUAL RATES Est'd '21-'23 to '27-'29 3.0% of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. Revenues 2.0% 4.5% 6.0% 'Cash Flow" 4 5% 3.0% Earnings Dividends 3 5% 3.0% Book Value

% Change Customers (avg.)

NA

| Cal- | QUAR | \$ mill.) | Full | | |
|-------|--------|-----------|----------|---------|--------|
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| 2021 | 339.2 | 335.6 | 345.4 | 399.0 | 1419.2 |
| 2022 | 383.5 | 373.1 | 388.3 | 425.8 | 1570.7 |
| 2023 | 564.9 | 533.4 | 378.8 | 402.7 | 1879.8 |
| 2024 | 403.3 | 475 | 421.7 | 440 | 1740 |
| 2025 | 430 | 480 | 440 | 450 | 1800 |
| Cal- | EA | RNINGS F | ER SHARI | Α | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 | Year |
| 2021 | .99 | .53 | .53 | 1.18 | 3.23 |
| 2022 | 1.24 | .67 | .59 | .90 | 3.38 |
| 2023 | 1.02 | .90 | 1.49 | .89 | 4.30 |
| 2024 | .88 | .85 | .80 | 1.22 | 3.75 |
| 2025 | 1.05 | .90 | .90 | 1.25 | 4.10 |
| Cal- | QUART | ERLY DIVI | DENDS PA | IDB∎† | Full |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 2020 | .6175 | .6175 | .6175 | .6175 | 2.47 |
| 2021 | .63 | .63 | .63 | .63 | 2.52 |
| 2022 | .65 | .65 | .65 | .65 | 2.60 |
| 2023 | .6775 | .6775 | .6775 | .6775 | 2.71 |
| 2024 | .7050 | .7050 | | | |

ALLETE agreed to be acquired by a combination of Canada Pension Plan Investment Board and Global Infrastructure Partners. ALE stockholders would receive \$67 per share in a deal to be taken private at a total value of \$6.2 billion. The stock price has risen nicely of currently and the transaction represents a very slight premium to the present quotation. The deal is expected to close in mid-2025. The company plans to spend \$4.3 bil-

lion on renewable energy over the next five years. While utilities are well positioned to benefit from artificial intelligence innovations and data centers that boost power demand, the clean-energy transition requires raising significant investments, which is very challenging for small utilities in public markets. If proved, the buyout would allow ALLETE to take advantage of the biggest demand jump in its history, and provide the utility assistance in its long-term goals. Indeed, ALLETE's largest subsidiary, Minnesota Power, has a carbon-free mandate by 2040, among other initiatives that should be easier to obtain as a private company.

We think the deal makes sense. AL-LETE is looking to grow at a significant rate to keep up with the elevated demand from tech innovations. The pending acquisition should set up the company nicely in the long term to meet the all-time high power demand. This would likely not be possible as a small-cap utility in the currently volatile markets. The purchase price of \$67 per share is right near the midpoint of our 18-month Target Price Range, indicating a modest premium to our future projected stock price. ALLETE plans to retain its workforce and continue to operate locally in Minnesota.

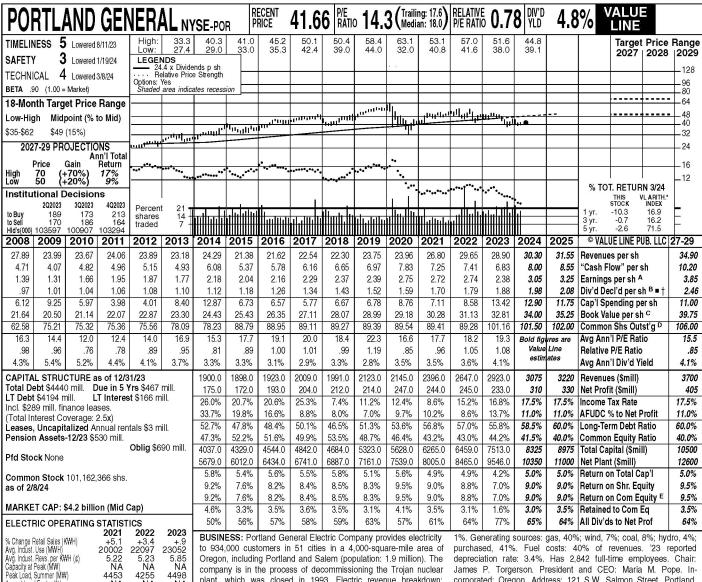
The stock is inching closer to its buyout price. Investors seem enthused with the deal and the likelihood of it being completed, accounting for the recent runup. If the transaction does not go through, capital appreciation potential for the 3- to 5-year time frame is above average in comparison to most of ALLETE's peers. We look for the stock to trade around \$75-\$100 by 2027-2029. ALLETE is also ranked Above Average (2) for Safety and holds a high score for Price Stability. Zachary J. HodgkinsonJune 7, 2024

(A) Diluted EPS. Excl. nonrec. gains (loss): '15, (46¢); '17, 25¢; '19, 26¢; '19 EPS don't sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due early Aug. (B) Div'ds historically paid in early Mar.,

(E) Rate base. Orig. cost depr. Rate all'd in MN

June, Sept. and Dec. ■ Div'd reinvest. plan avail. † Shareholder invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. deferred charges. In '23: \$9.60/sh. (D) In mill. mer peak in '21.

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



Oregon, including Portland and Salem (population: 1.9 million). The company is in the process of decommissioning the Trojan nuclear plant, which was closed in 1993. Electric revenue breakdown: residential, 52%; commercial, 33%; industrial, 15%; other, less than

depreciation rate: 3.4%. Has 2,842 full-time employees. Chair: James P. Torgerson. President and CEO: Maria M. Pope. Incorporated: Oregon. Address: 121 S.W. Salmon Street, Portland, OR 97204. Tel.: 503-464-8000. Internet: www.portlandgeneral.com.

| Fixed Charge Cov. (%) | | 261 | 254 217 |
|-----------------------|---------|--------|---------------|
| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | Est'd '21-'23 |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. | to '27-'29 |
| Revenuës | 2.0% | 5.0% | 3.5% |
| "Cash Flow" | 3.5% | 3.0% | 6.0% |
| Earnings | 3.5% | 3.0% | 6.0% |
| Dividends | 5.0% | 6.0% | 5.5% |
| Book Value | 3.5% | 3.0% | 4.0% |

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

4453

4255

ΝA

+1.1

4498

NA

| QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) | | | Full | |
|--------------------------------|--|--|--|--|
| Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 609 | 537 | 642 | 608 | 2396 |
| 626 | 591 | 743 | 687 | 2647 |
| 748 | 648 | 802 | 725 | 2923 |
| 750 | 700 | 850 | 775 | 3075 |
| 785 | 735 | 890 | 810 | 3220 |
| EARNINGS PER SHARE A | | | | Full |
| Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| 1.07 | .36 | .56 | .73 | 2.72 |
| .67 | .72 | .65 | .70 | 2.74 |
| .80 | .44 | .46 | .67 | 2.38 |
| .95 | .60 | .70 | .80 | 3.05 |
| 1.00 | .65 | .75 | .85 | 3.25 |
| QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † | | | | Full |
| Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year |
| .385 | .385 | .385 | .4075 | 1.56 |
| .4075 | .4075 | .43 | .43 | 1.68 |
| | | 4505 | 4 FOF | 4 77 |
| .43 | .43 | .4525 | .4525 | 1.77 |
| .43 .4525 | | | .4525 .475 | 1.77 |
| | Mar.31 609 626 748 750 785 EA Mar.31 1.07 .67 .80 .95 1.00 QUART Mar.31 .385 .4075 | Mar.31 Jun.30 609 537 626 591 748 648 750 700 785 735 EARNINGS PMar.31 1.07 .36 .67 .72 .80 .44 .95 .60 1.00 .65 QUARTERLY DIVI Mar.31 Jun.30 .385 .4075 .4075 .4075 | Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 609 537 642 626 591 743 748 648 802 750 700 850 785 735 890 EARNINGS PER SHARI Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 1.07 .36 .56 .67 .72 .65 .80 .44 .46 .95 .60 .70 1.00 .65 .75 QUARTELY DIVIDENDS PA Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 .385 .385 .385 .4075 .43 | Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 609 537 642 608 626 591 743 687 750 700 850 775 785 735 890 810 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 1.07 .36 .56 .73 .67 .72 .65 .70 .80 .44 .46 .67 1.00 .65 .75 .85 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 385 .385 .4075 .4075 .43 .43 |

Portland General Electric's per-share profits should bounce back this year and next. In 2023, the company suffered from weather that was exceedingly mild, resulting in less than 1% volume growth for a service area that is accustomed to 2% or better. On top of that, purchased-power costs were excessively high, as mild weather is not ideal for hydroelectric and wind power production in the Pacific Northwest. This resulted in a tight supply situation that drove up pricing. Management expects the utility will earn \$2.98-\$3.18 a share in 2024. To a large extent, the recovery is based on normalized weather conditions, as well as utility rate relief, to address last year's rise in costs and investments made in the electric grid. In 2025, a general rate case decision is due. Portland General is seeking \$225 million in additional annual revenues for recoupment of investments made, plus timely recovery mechanisms via customer billing pass-throughs. The company appears to have a reasonably good partnership with the state of Oregon in terms of addressing the state's "green" energy commitments. We think that will translate to

a constructive rate-case outcome.

Longer term, the utility's 5%-7% earnings and dividend growth targets seem achievable. Over time, Portland General's bottom line should be less volatile, as the company reduces its reliance on open market power purchases, which have a tendency to spike in price. The company has the green light from regulators to add at least 375-500 megawatts of nonemitting annual power generation in the intermediate term, plus significant battery storage capacity. Projects committed to appear to have solid partnerships in place with lengthy annual purchased-power agreements on portions of generating capacity the company does not directly own. There should be several years of 8%-plus rate base growth, as the general outline of the projects described above are replicated sixfold into the 2030s. On the demand front, 2% annual load growth is supported by a healthy high-tech industrial segment in Portland General's service area.

Though untimely, patient utility investors can do well here, as the stock offers good total return prospects.

Anthony J. Glennon

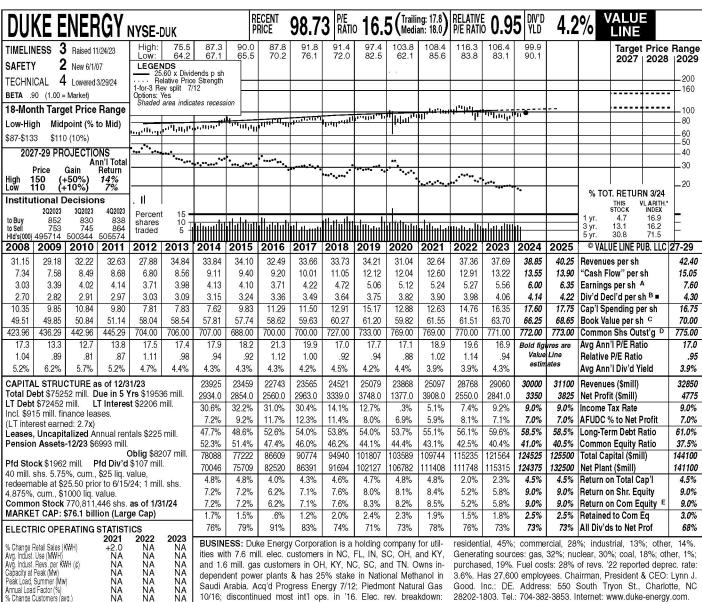
(A) Diluted earnings. Excl. nonrecurring gains/(losses): '13, (42¢); '17, (19¢); '20, (\$1.03); '22, (14¢); '23, (5¢). Quarterly EPS many not sum to full year due to rounding. Next

vestment plan available. (C) Incl. deferred Climate: Average.

earnings report due early May. (B) Dividends paid mid-Jan., Apr., July, and Oct. ■ Dividend (E) Rate base: Net original cost. Rate allowed reinvestment plan available. † Shareholder in-

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 90 Price Growth Persistence 40 **Earnings Predictability** 95

April 19, 2024



NA

Est'd '21-'23 to '27-'29 2.5% 5.0% 5.0%

2.0% 2.5%

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Full endai Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 2021 25097 6150 5758 6951 6238 2022 7132 6685 7968 6983 28768 2023 7276 6578 7994 7212 29060 2024 7350 6650 8250 7750 30000 8100 31100 2025 7700 6850 8450 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2021 .94 1.26 1.15 1.88 5.24 2022 1.30 1.14 1.78 1.11 5.27 .91 1.94 2023 1.20 1.51 5.56 2024 1.40 1.05 2.05 1.50 6.00 6.35 1.40 1.35 2.10 1.50 2025 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B . Calendar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2020 945 945 .965 965 3.82 2021 965 .965 .985 985 3.90 2022 .985 .985 1.005 1.005 3.98 2023 1.005 1.005 1.025 1.025 4.06 2024 1.025

209

Past

5 Yrs.

-.5% 5.0% 4.5% 3.5%

1.0%

Past

10 Yrs.

4.0%

3.0%

3.0% 2.0%

285

Fixed Charge Cov. (%)

ANNUAL RATES

of change (per sh)

Cash Flow

Revenues

Earnings

Book Value

Duke Energy recently filed some rate cases. In Indiana, the utility filed for a hike of \$492 million (16%) over 2026 for its investments in improving the electric grid. In North Carolina, Piedmont Gas is seeking recovery for its infrastructure investments to improve reliability, an overall 11.7% increase. And, Duke Energy Florida requested an increase of approximately \$820 million between 2025-2027 to increase efficiency, reduce outages, and add 14 new solar sites.

We are sticking with our 2024 earnings-per-share estimate of \$6.00. This is around the midpoint of the company's targeted range of \$5.85-\$6.10 per share. Management also reaffirmed its long-term profit growth target of 5%-7% annually through 2028. We think rate relief and growing power demand will produce a 8% rise in earnings this year, and a 6% increase in 2025. Duke Energy expects its power demand to grow by 1.5%-2% annually in the near-term and looks for a sharper rise of 2.5% a year over the next decade or so. The adoption of electric vehicles should make up about 40% of this increase. Meanwhile, the company's earn-

ings over the next few years should benefit from the aforementioned pending rate cases and energy-efficiency programs.

Duke remains focused on improving the electricity grid and providing solar investments. The utility recently completed its Bad Creek upgrade, which added 320 MWh of energy to support electricity demand. The upgrades took four years to complete and the total capacity of the station is now 1,680 MWh, enough to power over a million homes. The company is looking to extend its license of the Bad Creek facility and potentially add a second powerhouse at the site.

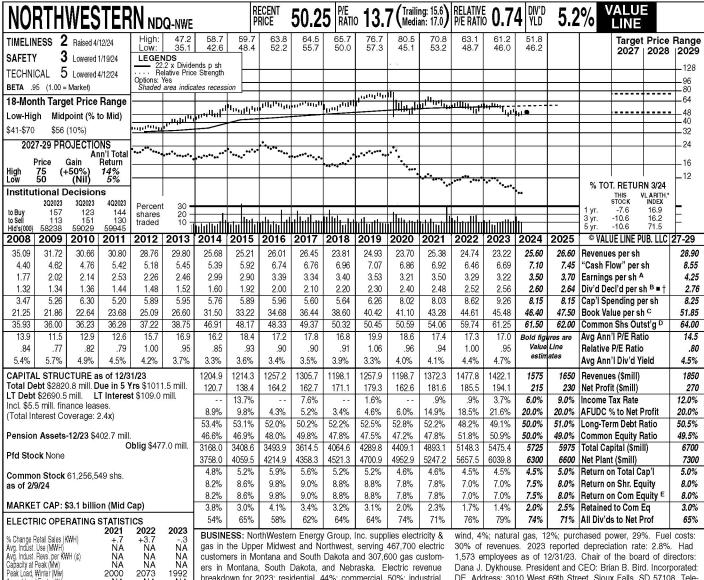
This issue is tailor made for incomeoriented accounts. Duke stock has an above-average dividend yield for a utility. And, the company has proven to be one of the better-managed and best-performing utilities in the industry. We also slightly increased our 3- to 5-year Target Price Range, and now look for these shares to trade around \$110-\$150 over that interim. At the current quotation, however, longterm capital appreciation potential is nothing to write home about.

Zachary J. Hodgkinson

May 10, 2024

(A) Dil. EPS. Excl. net nonrec. losses: '12, 64¢; '13, 22¢; '14, 59¢; '15, 5¢; '16, 60¢; '18, 96; '18, 96; '20, \$3.40; '21, 30¢; net nonrec gain: '17, 14¢. 2021 EPS may not sum to annual due to '\$41,34/sh. (D) In mill., (E) Rate base: Net orig. | Avg.; OH, IN Above Avg.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability A 95 Price Growth Persistence 45 **Earnings Predictability** 100



customers in Montana and South Dakota and 307,600 gas customers in Montana, South Dakota, and Nebraska. Electric revenue breakdown for 2023: residential, 44%; commercial, 50%; industrial, 4%; and other, 2%. Generating sources: coal, 18%; hydro, 37%;

1,573 employees as of 12/31/23. Chair of the board of directors: Dana J. Dykhouse. President and CEO: Brian B. Bird. Incorporated: DE. Address: 3010 West 69th Street, Sioux Falls, SD 57108. Telephone: 605-978-2900. Internet: www.northwesternenergy.com.

| Fixed Charge Cov. (%) | | 245 | 219 | 216 |
|-------------------------|--------------|--------|------|--------------|
| ANNUAL RATES | Past | Past | to ' | '21-'23 |
| of change (per sh) | 10 Yrs. | 5 Yrs. | | 27-'29 |
| Revenues | -2.0% | -1.0% | | 2.5% |
| "Cash Flow" Earnings | 2.5% 3.5% | 5% | - 4 | 3.5% 4.0% |
| Dividends | 5.5% | 3.5% | | 2.0% |
| Book Value | 6.0% | 4.0% | | 3.0% |

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

2000

NA +1.6

2073

NA +1.5

1992

NA

| 20 1040 0 0 0 0 0 | | 00000000 | 100.00 | | 1010(101 00100) | |
|-------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------|--------------------|---------------------|-----------------|--|
| Cal- endar | QUAR Mar.31 | TERLY RE Jun.30 | VENUES (Sep.30 | \$ mill.) Dec.31 | Full Year | |
| 2021 | 400.8 | 298.2 | 326.0 | 347.3 | 1372.3 | |
| 2022 | 394.5 | 323.0 | 335.1 | 425.2 | 1477.8 | |
| 2023 | 454.5 | 290.5 | 321.1 | 356.0 | 1422.1 | |
| 2024 | 475 | 325 | 370 | 405 | 1575 | |
| 2025 | 500 | 340 | 385 | 425 | 1650 | |
| Cal- | EA EA | EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full | | | | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | |
| 2021 | 1.24 | .59 | .70 | .97 | 3.50 | |
| 2022 | 1.08 | .58 | .47 | 1.16 | 3.29 | |
| 2023 | 1.10 | .32 | .48 | 1.32 | 3.22 | |
| 2024 | 1.25 | .50 | .60 | 1.15 | 3.50 | |
| 2025 | 1.30 | .55 | .65 | 1.20 | 3.70 | |
| Cal- | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = † | | | | Full | |
| endar | Mar.31 | Jun.30 | Sep.30 | Dec.31 | Year | |
| 2020 | .60 | .60 | .60 | .60 | 2.40 | |
| 2021 | .62 | .62 | .62 | .62 | 2.48 | |
| 2022 | .63 | .63 | .63 | .63 | 2.52 | |
| 2023 | .64 | .64 | .64 | .64 | 2.56 | |
| 2024 | .65 | | | | | |

NorthWestern Energy's profits should be on the rise this year from higher electric and natural gas delivery rates. In October, Montana regulators approved the settlement agreement the utility had negotiated with key members of the state's business community. prices lift annual electric and natural gas revenues by \$67.4 million and \$14.1 million, respectively. Those levels are based on an authorized return on equity (ROE) of 9.65% for electric and 9.55% for gas. The utility also received pricing mechanisms that allow for the expedient pass through of changes in both fuel/purchased power costs and property taxes. Those will reduce regulatory lag. In January, South Dakota officials came to terms with the company on electric rates that will raise annual revenue by \$21.5 million based on a 6.81% rate of return. Management is targeting a range of \$3.42 to \$3.62 for 2024 earnings per share. The company raised the quarterly dividend to an annualized rate of \$2.60 a share from \$2.56. Leadership affirmed its 4% to 6% annual earnings growth expectation. It

provided an updated five-year capital in-

vestment plan that calls for average expenditures of \$500 million per year from 2024 through 2028. The \$2.5 billion total investment should grow the company's rate base (the dollar value of assets for which a utility is allowed to earn a regulated return on) by about 4% to 6% per annum. That, in turn, should translate to 4% to 6% yearly earnings-per-share gains. The fairly conservative plan assumes no equity needs are necessary unless there are opportunities to expand generation build beyond the \$143 million budgeted for that category. We're projecting there will be some on both fronts. The plan also calls for \$1.8 billion to be spent on the expansion and modernization of electric and gas transmission and distribution systems across its territories, with the remainder on infrastructure maintenance.

This equity is timely. Longer term, however, it doesn't really stand out relative to its peer group on an annual total-return basis. This is partially because it's growth prospects are about average and dividend hikes will likely remain limited until the payout ratio returns to the mid-60% area. Anthony J. Glennon April 19, 2024

(A) Diluted egs. Excl. nonrec. gains/(losses): '12, 40¢; '15, 27¢; '18, 52¢; '19, 45¢; '20, (15¢); '21, 10¢; '22, (4¢). Qtly EPS may not sum to full yr. due to rounding. Next egs. report

due early May. (B) Div'ds paid late Mar., June, Sept. & Dec. Div'd reinvest. plan avail. Com. eq. in MT in '22 (elec.): 9.65%, in '22 Shrhldr. invest. plan avail. (C) Incl. def'd charges and intag. '23: \$17.90/sh. (D) In mill. 10.4%. Reg. Climate: Below Avg.

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

95

The following files are not convertible:

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Spreadsheet 2.xls
Spreadsheet 3.xls
Spreadsheet 4.xlsx
Spreadsheet 5.xlsx
Spreadsheet 6.xls
Spreadsheet 7.xlsx
Spreadsheet 8.xlsx
Spreadsheet 9.xlsx
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Spreadsheet 23.xlsx
Spreadsheet 24.xls
Spreadsheet 25.xlsx
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