

Company, it supplies water to 261,002 customers in 75 cities and 10 counties. Service areas include the greater metropolitan areas of Los Angeles and Orange Counties. The company also provides electric utility services to 23,940 customers in the city of Big Bear

11.7% of out. shares; Vanguard, 9.5%;; off. & dir. 1.5%. (4/17 Proxy). Chairman: Lloyd Ross. President & Chief Executive Officer: Robert J. Sprowls. Inc: CA. Address: 630 East Foothill Blvd., San Dimas, CA 91773. Tel: 909-394-3600. Internet: www.aswater.com.

151.9 Past Est'd '14-'16 ANNUAL RATES Past of change (per sh) to '20-'22 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 3.0% 6.5% 5.5% 7.5% Revenues "Cash Flow 4.5% 6.0% 10.5% Dividends 5.5% Book Value 5.0% 4.0%

132.7

50.6

44 6 123.5

Current Assets

Accts Payable

Debt Due

Current Liab

Other

166.9

43.7 90.3 43.9

177.9

146 7

53.8

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 endar 2014 102.0 115.6 138.3 133.0 458.6 2015 100.9 114.6 110.1 2016 93.5 112.0 123.8 106.8 436. 2017 98.8 113.2 124.4 108.6 2018 102 118 135 115 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal-Full endar Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 Year 2014 1.57 .39 2015 .32 .41 .56 .31 1.60 .30 2016 .28 .45 .59 1.62 2017 .34 .62 .57 .32 1.85 .48 .60 2018 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year endar 2014 .2025 .2025 .213 .213 2015 .213 .213 .224 .224 .87 2016 .224 .224 .224 .242 .91 .242 .242 .255 2017 2018

American States Water has solid earnings prospects. We estimate that the water utility earned \$1.85 per share in 2017, thanks, in part, to an unusual gain resulting from the sale of certain assets. Even without this windfall, however, the company would still have likely recorded a 6% increase in its share net. The positive momentum from its core water operations should enable the company's share net to reach \$1.85 once again in 2018.

Our earnings forecasts are based upon constructive regulatory **ment.** As is the protocol in California, a utility petitions state authorities for rate relief every three years. The company's Golden Gate Water subsidiary filed a general case in July of last year. The application is for the years 2019, 2020, and 2021. A final decision is expected by the end of 2018. The California Public Utility Commission has been reasonable in the past, as it has worked with utilities that have had to spend heavily to upgrade antiquated pipeline systems as well as successfully get customers to reduce consumption because of droughts.

The nonregulated business provides

opportunity for growth. No matter how efficiently a utility is run, its profitability is limited to what state regulators allow. its ASUS business, Through which represents about 20% of net income, the company has been involved in taking over the management of water systems of major U.S. military installation. ASUS has already signed several 50-year contracts, and we expect to see more agreements reached in the coming years as privatiza-

tion in this sector increases.

Timely shares of American States have been doing well, of late. Since our last report three months ago, AWR has increased over 10%. By comparison, the S&P 500 has risen only about 6%. Typically, water stocks have been defensive investments for those seeking income. This pattern has changed, possibly due to the limited amount of shares available in the large-cap sector of the water industry. Indeed, AWR is now trading above our projected 2020-2022 Target Price Range. Also, potential interest rates hikes by the Federal Reserve may now make this group less suitable for conservative accounts. January 12, 2018

Price Growth Persistence

Earnings Predictability

James A. Flood (A) Primary earnings. Excludes nonrecurring gains/(losses): '04, 7¢; '05, 13¢; '06, 3¢; '08, (14¢); '10, (23¢); '11, 10¢. Next earnings report (B) Dividends historically paid in early March, June, September, and December. ■ Div'd rein-Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability

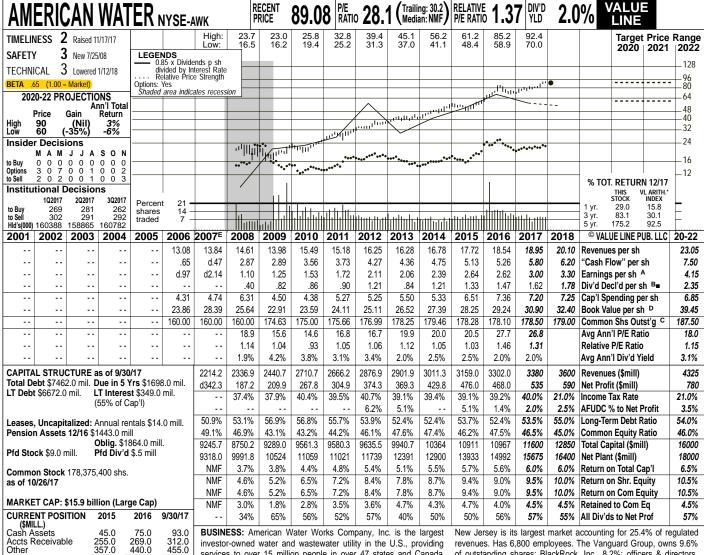
due early February. © 2018 Value Line, Inc. All rights reserved. Factual material is obtained from sources believed to be reliable and is provided without warranties of any kind. THE PUBLISHER IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR ANY ERRORS OR OMISSIONS HEREIN. This publication is strictly for subscriber's own, non-commercial, internal use. No part of it may be reproduced, resold, stored or transmitted in any printed, electronic or other form, or used for generating or marketing any printed or electronic publication, service or product.

vestment plan available.

75

75

85



investor-owned water and wastewater utility in the U.S., providing services to over 15 million people in over 47 states and Canada. (Regulated presence in 16 states.) Nonregulated business assists municipalities and military bases with the maintenance and upkeep as well. Regulated operations made up 86.5% of 2016 revenues.

revenues. Has 6,800 employees. The Vanguard Group, owns 9.6% of outstanding shares; BlackRock, Inc., 8.2%; officers & directors, less than 1.0%. (3/17 Proxy). President & CEO: Susan N. Story. Chair.: George MacKenzie. Address: 1025 Laurel Oak Road, Voorhees, NJ 08043. Tel.: 856-346-8200. Internet: www.amwater.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) to '20-'22 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 3.5% 8.5% Revenues "Cash Flow 3.0% 4.5% 6.5% 23.0% 10.0% Book Value 1.5% 5.5%

784 0

154 0

815.0 2392.0 860.0

144 0

790.0 813.0

1747.0

657.0

126.0

725.0

1533 0

Current Assets

Accts Payable

Debt Due

Dividends

Current Liab

Other

QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 endar 2014 679.0 754.8 846.1 3011 698.0 782.0 896.0 3159.0 2015 783.0 2016 743.0 827.0 930.0 802.0 3302.0 756.0 936.0 2017 844.0 3380 2018 770 895 1040 895 3600 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Full Calendar Mar.31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 Year 2014 .39 2.39 2015 .44 .68 .96 .56 2.64 2016 .46 .77 .83 .57 2.62 2017 .52 .73 1.13 .62 3.00 .84 2018 .69 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B. Cal-Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year endar 2014 1.21 2015 .31 1.33 2016 .34 .375 .375 375 1.47 .375 2017 .415 .415 1.62 2018

American Water Works' prospects are **bright.** In a December investor presentation, management stated once again that the in-house target for annual growth over the next five-year period for both earnings and dividends is at the high end of the 7% to 10% range. This is well above the projected industry average.

Acquisitions and cost controls will likely remain the twin pillars of the utility's operating strategy. The water industry in the United States is very fragmented and inefficient. As a result, there are many small and midsize authorities that do not have the funds required to make the necessary upgrades to their aging water facilities. Hence, American Water has a continual pipeline of purchases in the works. The company is able to integrate these new additions into its asset base while achieving substantial cost savings. Moreover, regulators are happy (more below) when utilities can provide better service at a lower price.

Regulators will probably have a major say in the company's future perform**ance.** As the utility continues to expand, its relationship with different state water

authorities should become even more important as it will have to file more rate cases. On the positive side of the ledger, American Water's internal (non-GAAP) operating expense margin continues to decline. Indeed, the ratio has decreased from 44% in 2010 to about 34% this year. The goal is 32.5% by 2020-2022. In any case, being able to quantify savings keeps a utility in the good graces of those ruling on rate filings.

The capital budget has been raised substantially. Even though the company is already in the midst of a major construction program, management just increased the estimated outlays by about \$1 billion to bring the new expected five-year total to somewhere between \$8.0 billion and \$8.6 billion. American Water's finances are average, and probably will remain so for the next several years.

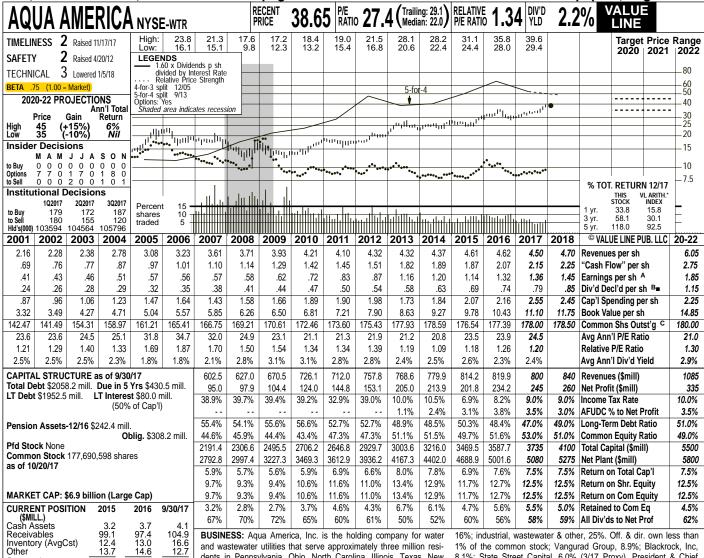
These timely shares will most likely not interest long-term investors. AWK has outperformed the broader market averages, of late. Indeed, the stock recently traded above our projected 2020-2022 Target Price Range.

James A. Flood January 12, 2018

(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring losses: '08, \$4.62; '09, \$2.63; '11, \$0.07. Discontinued operations: '06, (\$0.04); '11, \$0.03; '12, (\$0.10); '13,(\$0.01). GAAP used as of September, and December. ■ Div. reinvest- '07.

2014. Next earnings report due mid-February.
Quarterly earnings do not sum in '16 due to rounding. (B) Dividends paid in March, June, \$7.70/share. (E) Pro forma numbers for '06 &

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



BUSINESS: Aqua America, Inc. is the holding company for water and wastewater utilities that serve approximately three million residents in Pennsylvania, Ohio, North Carolina, Illinois, Texas, New Jersey, Florida, Indiana, and five other states. Has 1,551 employees. Acquired AquaSource, 7/13; North Maine Utilities, 7/15; and others. Water supply revenues '2016: residential, 59%; commercial,

16%; industrial, wastewater & other, 25%. Off. & dir. own less than 1% of the common stock; Vangurad Group, 8.9%; Blackrock, Inc, 8.1%; State Street Capital, 6.0% (3/17 Proxy). President & Chief Executive Officer: Christopher Franklin. Incorporated: Pennsylvania. Address: 762 West Lancaster Avenue, Bryn Mawr, Pennsylvania 19010. Tel.: 610-525-1400. Internet: www.aquaamerica.com.

Current Liab. 193.2 301.5 253.0 Past ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '14-'16 to '20-'22 f change (per sh) 5 Yrs. 4.0% 7.5% 2.0% 7.0% Revenues 5.0% 'Cash Flow" 9.0% 6.5% 8.0% 7.0% **Book Value** QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) Cal-Full

128.4

56.5

523

128.7

59.9 157.2 138.3

63.4 105.7

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2014 182.7 195.3 210.5 779.9 2015 190.3 205.8 221.0 197 1 814 2 226.6 819.9 2016 192.6 203.9 196.8 2017 187.8 203.4 215.0 193.8 ลกก 2018 195 215 225 205 840 EARNINGS PER SHARE A Cal Full Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 endar Year 2014 1.20 .24 .38 .27 .27 .32 .38 .17 2015 1.14 .34 .41 .29 .28 1.32 2016 .31 1.36 2017 28 .34 43 2018 .30 .37 .46 .32 1.45 QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID B = endar Mar.31 Jun.30 Sep.30 Dec.31 Year 2014 .152 .152 .165 .165 2015 .165 .165 .178 .178 .69 2016 .178.178.1913 .1913 .74 2017 .1913 .1913 .2047 .2047 .79 2018

earnings estimates for Aqua Our America remain unchanged. But we have lowered our revenue forecast for both last year's fourth quarter and 2018 as water sales have been declining. On the positive side, the water utility's operating expenses have been decreasing at a higher rate thanks to lower power and chemical costs. Indeed, we think Aqua's 2017 share net came in at \$1.36, versus 2016's tough \$1.32 comparison. Rate relief granted by several states over the past 12 months will be in effect all of this year. This, plus expected new hikes in Virginia and Indiana, should enable Aqua's share earning to climb a healthy 7%, to \$1.45.

Acquisitions are being made at a modest pace. Due to the fragmentation in the market (there are over 100,000 separate water districts in the U.S.), large-cap water utilities such as Aqua are continuously buying small water entities. Also, most of these authorities do not have the funds required to replace and upgrade their aging network of pipes and waste systems. Not only do the bigger water entities have the funds available for the needed capital outlays, they are also able

to realize significant cost saving because the industry is rife with redundancies. The company's acquisitions made through September of last year combined with organic growth, led to only a 0.8% increase in the customer base. Management has targeted annual growth to be approximately 1.5%-2.0%, so we expect the pace to possible accelerate here.

Aqua has a healthy balance sheet. Of the nine members in this group, only two merit an "A" Financial Strength rating. This leaves the company with the capacity to borrow to buy more water assets. In addition, Aqua's policy of hardly issuing any new equity is a real positive. With the stock near its all-time high, a new equity offering would probably be well received, as institutional demand for large-cap water utilities stock remains strong.

These shares are timely. Also, even though WTR's long-term total return potential isn't great, it is more attractive than most other mid- and large-cap stocks in this group. So, investors that must own a water utility equity may find WTR of interest.

James A. Flood

January 12, 2018

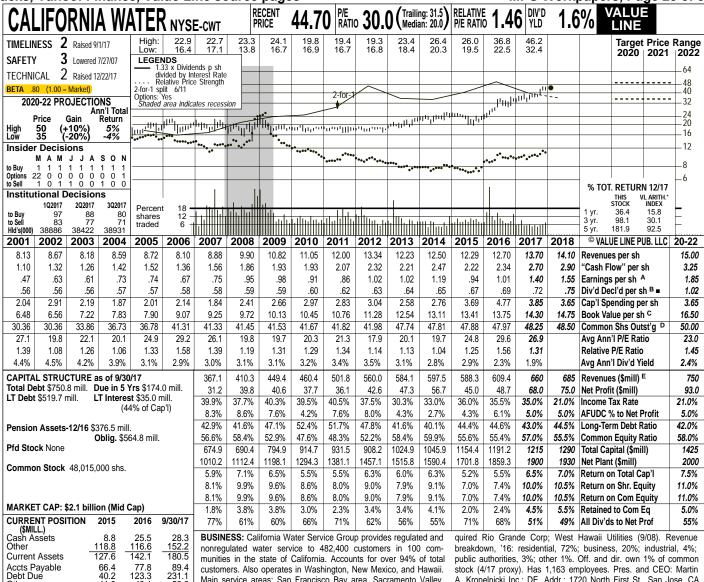
(A) Diluted egs. Excl. nonrec. gains: '01, 2¢; '02, 4¢; '03, 3¢; '12, 18¢. Excl. gain from disc. operations: '12, 7¢; '13, 9¢; '14, 11¢. May not sum due to rounding. Next earnings report due

mid-February.

(B) Dividends historically paid in early March, June, Sept. & Dec. = Div'd. reinvestment plan available (5% discount).

(C) In millions, adjusted for stock splits.

Company's Financial Strength A Stock's Price Stability 95 Price Growth Persistence 65 Earnings Predictability 90



customers. Also operates in Washington, New Mexico, and Hawaii. Main service areas: San Francisco Bay area, Sacramento Valley, Salinas Valley, San Joaquin Valley & parts of Los Angeles. Ac-

stock (4/17 proxy). Has 1,163 employees. Pres. and CEO: Martin A. Kropelnicki Inc.: DE. Addr.: 1720 North First St., San Jose, CA 95112-4598. Tel.: 408-367-8200. Internet: www.calwatergroup.com.

ANNUAL RATES Past **Past** Est'd '14-'16 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 of change (per sh) 3.0% 5.5% 10.0% 4.0% 5.0% 2.0% 3.5% Revenues "Cash Flow" Dividends **Book Value** 5.0% 5.0% 3.5%

148.5

250.2

380.4

Other

Current Liab.

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31	TERLY REV Jun.30	VENUES (\$ Sep.30		Full Year
2014	110.5	158.4	191.2	137.4	597.5
2015	122.0	144.4	183.5	138.4	588.3
2016	121.7	152.4	184.3	151.0	609.4
2017	122.0	171.1	211.7	155.2	660
2018	130	175	215	165	685
Cal-	EA	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	d.11	.36	.70	.24	1.19
2015	.03	.21	.52	.18	.94
2016	d.02	.24	.48	.31	1.01
2017	.02	.39	.70	.29	1.40
2018	.08	.42	.72	.33	1.55
Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.1625	.1625	.1625	.1625	.65
2015	.1675	.1675	.1675	.1675	.67
2016	.1725	.1725	.1725	.1725	.69
2017	.18	.18	.18	.18	.72
2018					

California Water Service Group stock is trading around recently established all-time highs. The regulated water utility wrapped up 2017 by surging through the \$45-per-share price threshold on more than one occasion, with shares rising 33% on the year. Since our previous review, the equity is up more than 10% in value. Indeed, the investment community has handsomely rewarded the company for delivering consistent top- and bottom-line growth, quarter to quarter. However, fourth-quarter share-net may slip by two cents. For 2018, our ranking system suggests another strong performance may be in store, as CWT shares are poised to outpace the year-ahead broader market averages (Timeliness: 2).

We think the positives will continue to outweigh the negatives here. California Water Service is enjoying the fruits of recent rate increases by the California regulatory authority. In fact, the decision has added more than \$30 million in incremental revenues so far. In addition, favorable changes to the corporate tax rate should help lift profits this year. To address the latter, the company's operating

expenses are still on the rise, despite some progress in the second quarter. Water costs (only investment upgrades can be recouped) from greater customer usage, as well as periodic increases in wholesale supplier rates, are pushing expenses higher. Overall, we are adding \$10 million and \$0.10 to our 2018 revenue and earnings estimates, to \$685 million and \$1.55 a share, respectively.

Aggressive infrastructure spending remains on tap through next decade. As previously noted, California has close \$500 million left on its investment budget, and has earmarked the funds for upgrades to its aging infrastructure and water systems. On top of that, these improvements are likely to be accompanied by bolt-on acquisitions

This issue is best suited for short-term accounts. On the other hand, CWT shares have been on a multiyear price ascent and, as a result, total return potential 3 to 5 years out is unappealing. Thus, we think investors with a longer-term holding period can find more-attractive options

elsewhere, at this time. Nicholas P. Patrikis

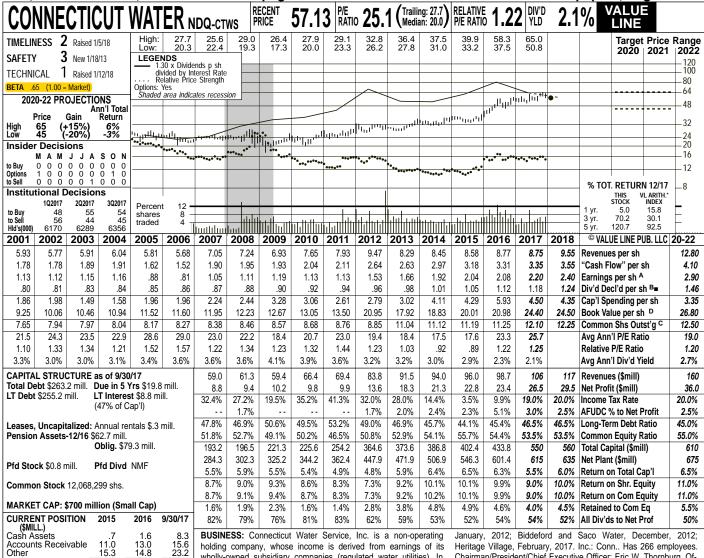
January 12, 2018

(A) Basic EPS. Excl. nonrecurring gain (loss): '01, 2¢; '02, 4¢; '11, 4¢. Next earnings report due late February. (B) Dividends historically paid in late Feb.,

(C) Incl. intangible assets. In '16: \$21.9 mill.,

May, Aug., and Nov. Div'd reinvestment plan (D) In millions, adjusted for splits available.

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



holding company, whose income is derived from earnings of its wholly-owned subsidiary companies (regulated water utilities). In 2016, 95% of net income was derived from these activities. Provides water services to 440,000 people in 79 municipalities throughout Connecticut and Maine. Acquired The Maine Water Company,

Heritage Village, February, 2017. Inc.: Conn.. Has 266 employees. Chairman/President/Chief Executive Officer: Eric W. Thornburg. Officers and directors own 2.5% of the common stock; BlackRock, Inc., 7.2% (4/17 proxy). Address: 93 West Main Street, Clinton, CT 06413. Telephone: (860) 669-8636. Internet: www.ctwater.com

55.1 39.8 36.9 ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) to '20-'22 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 3.0% 9.5% 12.0% 4.0% 6.5% 7.0% 4.5% Revenues "Cash Flow Dividends **Book Value** 6.0% 9.0% 5.0%

27.0

11.9

2.8

Current Assets

Accts Payable

Debt Dué

Current Liab

Other

29.4

13.1 4.9 37.1

47 1

8.6 8.0

Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Year			
2014	20.3	25.4	27.6	20.7	94.0
2015	20.0	26.6	28.4	21.0	96.0
2016	21.6	26.1	29.5	21.5	98.7
2017	22.5	27.9	31.8	23.8	106
Cal- endar			35.0 ER SHARE Sep. 30		Full Year
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	.27 .28 .28 .36 .37	.67 .77 .89 .73	.76 .79 .84 .90	.22 .20 .07 . 21 . 30	1.92 2.04 2.08 2.20 2.40
Cal-	QUAR	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Year			
2014 2015 2016 2017 2018	.2475 .2575 .2675 .2825	.2475 .2575 .2825 .2975	.2575 .2675 .2825 .2975	.2575 .2675 .2825 .2975	1.01 1.05 1.12 1.18

Connecticut Water Service reported third-quarter financial results in line with our expectations. Revenues of \$31.8 million rose 8%, year over year, while earnings of \$0.90 per share logged a similar advance. There were several noteworthy highlights during the September period. These consist of the completion and inclusion of the Heritage Village Water and Avon Water acquisitions, which added about 9,500 customers and \$2.4 million to the top line. Moreover, Connecticut finalized a \$30 million water treatment facility upgrade.

The company has received approval to raise its rates. As noted in our previous review, Connecticut Water's subsidiary, The Maine Water Company, filed for a rate hike to recoup about \$5 million in past water system upgrades and associated operating costs. The rate increase (effective as of December 1st) will impact roughly 16,500 customers and lift its annual revenue haul by more than \$1.5 million.

Additional hikes are expected down the road. No doubt, infrastructure upgrades are apt to persist over the pull to

next decade, as the push to revamp outdated water pipes and mains continues to be the primary focus for most water utilities. Improvements in water treatment plants are also in the cards. Over the course of this year, we believe CTWS will match its 2017 spending budget, at around \$66 million. As always, to help fund (or recoup) these investments, we expect periodic rate filings to come across the public utilities commission's desk.

We have modestly raised our 2018 topand bottom-line estimates. Due to the abovementioned rate approval and wider customer base, we are adding \$2 million and \$0.05 to this year's revenue and earnings forecasts, to \$117 million and \$2.40 a share, respectively. Meanwhile, our financial projections for 2017 are unchanged.

This issue ought to appeal primarily to those with a short-term strategy (Timeliness: 2). On the other hand shares of CTWS are already trading well within our 3- to 5-year Target Price Range. Therefore, we recommend longerterm accounts wait on the sidelines for a more attractive entry point.

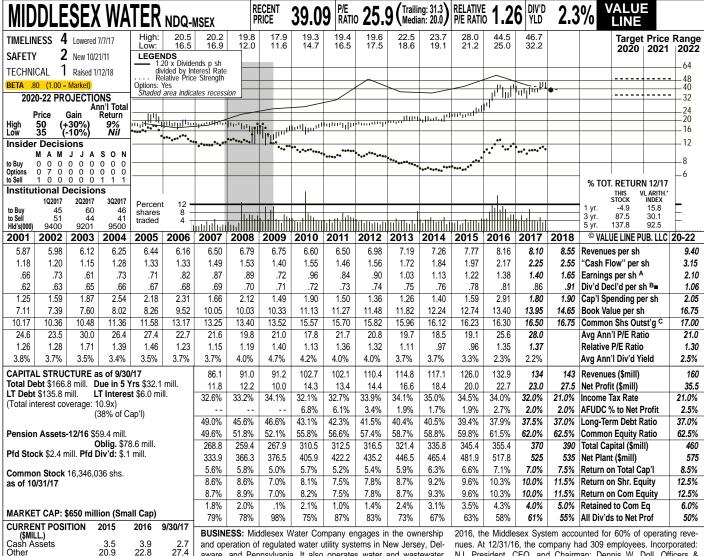
Nicholas P. Patrikis January 12, 2018

(A) Diluted earnings. Next earnings report due late February. (B) Dividends historically paid in mid-March, June, September, and December. ■ Div'd rein-

vestment plan available. (C) In millions

(D) Includes intangibles. In 2016: \$30.4 million/\$2.70 a share.

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



24.4 26.7 30.1 Current Assets 6.5 8.7 Accts Payable Debt Due 12.3 18.2 12.1 31.0 16.6 28.3 47.1 59.0

Current Liab. ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. to '20-'22 Revenues "Cash Flow" 2.0% 4.5% 3.0% 6.5% 3.5% 8.0% Dividends Book Value 5.0% 4.5% 3.0%

Cal-	QUAR	Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year	
2014	27.1	29.2	32.7	28.1	117.1	
2015	28.8	31.7	34.7	30.8	126.0	
2016	30.6	32.7	37.8	31.8	132.9	
2017	30.1	33.0	36.2	34.7	134	
2018	33.0	37.0	38.0	35.0	143	
Cal-	EA	EARNINGS PER SHARE A				
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year	
2014	.20	.29	.42	.22	1.13	
2015	.22	.31	.41	.28	1.22	
2016	.29	.36	.54	.19	1.38	
2017	.27	.33	.46	.34	1.40	
2018	.33	.38	.60	.34	1.65	
Cal-	QUAR	Full				
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year	
2014	.19	.19	.19	.1925	.76	
2015	.1925	.1925	.1925	.19875	.78	
2016	.19875	.19875	.19875	.21125	.81	
2017	.21125	.21125	.21125	.22375	.86	
2018						

and operation of regulated water utility systems in New Jersey, Delaware, and Pennsylvania. It also operates water and wastewater systems under contract on behalf of municipal and private clients in NJ and DE. Its Middlesex System provides water services to 61,000 retail customers, primarily in Middlesex County, New Jersey. In

Middlesex Water Company's battle with mother nature has yet to subside. The story hasn't changed much over the past three months, as weather-related disruptions took a toll on its top line once again. Operating in the Northeast region of the U.S. leaves MSEX vulnerable to extremely volatile weather conditions, which can noticeably impact customer water consumption. Specifically, its Middlesex New Jersey operations saw revenues contract \$1.8 million, year over year, due to softer consumption, while its Delaware utility system was essentially flat, thanks to contributions from added residential customers during the period. Overall, Middlesex generated \$36.2 million in revenues for the September period, \$1.6 million less than last year's haul. This has spurred us to trim \$3.0 million off our 2017 top-line forecast, to \$134 million.

The outlook for profit growth in 2018 is good. Operating margins ought to remain relatively steady, with few changes to the cost structure expected. Meantime, a reduced income tax rate (new tax act and various investment spending deductions) is the main driver behind our imNJ. President, CEO, and Chairman: Dennis W. Doll. Officers & directors own 3.5% of the common stock; BlackRock Institutional Trust Co., 7.2% (4/17 proxy). Add.: 1500 Ronson Road, Iselin, NJ 08830. Tel.: 732-634-1500. Internet: www.middlesexwater.com. proved perspective. All told, we look for earnings to expand 18% this year, to \$1.65

a share (+0.05), on revenues of \$143 million (-\$2.0 million). Long-term, infrastructure upgrades

ought to bear fruit. Approximately \$12 million per year (for the next three years) is earmarked for the replacement of aging water mains, valves, and other infrastructure upgrades.

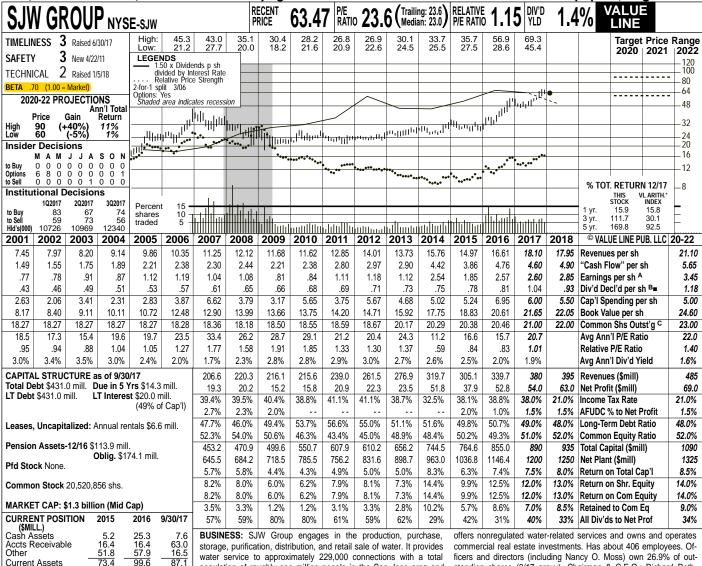
The company boosted its quarterly dividend payout by about 6%, to \$0.224 per share. Shareholders have enjoyed 45 years of consecutive dividend increases, and we don't think this streak will be broken anytime soon. At present, MSEX shares offer a yield that fractionally outpaces the average of all dividend paying stocks in The Value Line Investment Survey.

This issue is still a subpar selection for relative year-ahead price performance (Timeliness: 4). What's more, total return potential over the pull to 2020-2022 is nothing to write home about. Thus, we think investors can find better options elsewhere, at this juncture Nicholas P. Patrikis January 12, 2018

(A) Diluted earnings. Next earnings report due early February.

(B) Dividends historically paid in mid-Feb., May, Aug., and November.■ Div'd reinvestment plan available. (C) In millions, adjusted for split.

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B++ 70 Price Growth Persistence 40 **Earnings Predictability** 80



water service to approximately 229,000 connections with a total population of roughly one million people in the San Jose area and 13,000 connections that reaches about 39,000 residents in the region between San Antonio and Austin, Texas. The company also

ficers and directors (including Nancy O. Moss) own 26.9% of outstanding shares (3/17 proxy). Chairman & C.E.O.: Richard Roth. Inc.: California. Address: 110 West Taylor Street, San Jose, CA 95110. Telephone: (408) 279-7800. Internet: www.sjwater.com

ANNUAL RATES Past Past Est'd '14-'16 of change (per sh) to '20-'22 10 Yrs. 5 Yrs. 5.5% 12.0% 20.5% 5.0% 7.0% Revenues "Cash Flow 5.0% 4.5% Dividends **Book Value** 5.5% 6.5% 4.5%

16.2

38.1 25.3

79.6

187

14.3 30.6

63.6

30.7

59.7

90.4

Accts Payable

Debt Dué

Current Liab

Other

Cal- endar	QUAR Mar.31		VENUES (Sep. 30		Full Year
2014	54.6	70.4	125.4	69.3	319.7
2015	62.1	72.4	83.0	87.6	305.1
2016	61.1	86.9	112.3	79.4	339.7
2017	69.0	102.1	124.6	84.3	380
2018	75.0	105	125	90.0	395
Cal-	E/	RNINGS P	ER SHARI	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
2014	.04	.34	1.88	.28	2.54
2015	.23	.36	.46	.80	1.85
2016	.16	.82	.92	.67	2.57
2017	.18	.90	.94	.58	2.60
2018	.27	.90	1.00	.68	2.85
Cal-	QUART	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.1875	.1875	.1875	.1875	.75
2015	.1950	.1950	.1950	.1950	.78
2016	.2025	.2025	.2025	.2025	.81
2017	.2175	.2175	.2175	.3875	1.04
2018					

SJW Group has finalized the sale of its wholly-owned subsidiary, Texas Water Alliance Limited. Early last year, SJW entered into an agreement with the Guadalupe-Blanco River Authority for total consideration of \$31 million. SJW netted cash proceeds of \$23.5 million, excluding a \$3 million holdback fee (due 2021). As a result of the completed sale and subsequent proceeds, the board of directors paid a special dividend of \$0.17 a share to stockholders on record as of November 29, 2017. Of note, this is in addition to its regular quarterly distribution.

We are boosting our 2018 financial projections for several reasons. First, revenue growth is in the cards, driven by cumulative rate increases and higher customer water usage. Meantime, operating expenses have yet to abate (marginally higher in the third quarter), but we think production costs can subside somewhat next year, while administrative expenses can be held in check. Lastly, a lower effective tax rate stemming from the recent corporate tax overhaul is the primary factor underpinning our bottom-line ramp. All told, we now look for revenues of \$395

million (+\$25 million from last report's estimate) and earnings of \$2.85 a share (+\$0.25) this year.

Investment spending is still the main theme rolling into next decade. Its spending budget, with approximately \$250 million to \$300 million in available funds, will be periodically tapped to support various projects, infrastructure upgrades, and water system investments. general Presently, management's focus is on the Montevina Water Treatment Plant project (retrofitting was expected to be completed by the end of 2017).

neutrally ranked equity has danother high-water mark. This etched of the California-based utility pushed past \$65 per share for the first time in its history, before settling slightly below that level. Still, the stock logged an advance of about 10% over the past three months. While we are bullish on the company's business prospects over the pull to 2020-2022, SJW's rapid climb in share price gives us pause. In sum, we recommend investors wait for a better entry point before initiating a position here. Nicholas P. Patrikis January 12, 2018

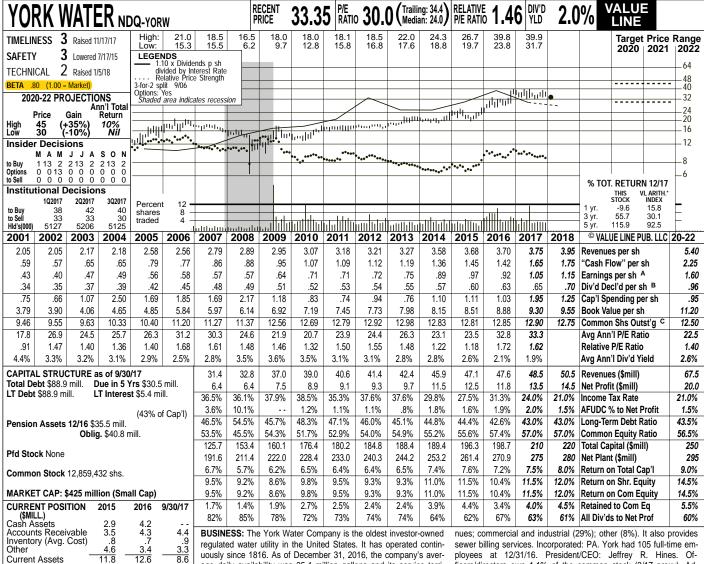
(A) Diluted earnings. Excludes nonrecurring losses: '03, \$1.97; '04, \$3.78; '05, \$1.09; '06, \$16.36; '08, \$1.22; '10, \$0.46. GAAP accounting as of 2013. Next earnings report due late

February. Quarterly earnings may not add due to rounding. (B) Dividends historically paid in early March,

vestment plan available.
(C) In millions, adjusted for stock splits. (D) Paid special dividend of \$0.17 per share on

Earnings Predictability

Company's Financial Strength Stock's Price Stability B+ 70 Price Growth Persistence 35 45



regulated water utility in the United States. It has operated continuously since 1816. As of December 31, 2016, the company's average daily availability was 35.4 million gallons and its service territory had an estimated population of 196,000. Has more than 67,000 customers. Residential customers accounted for 63% of 2016 revesewer billing services. Incorporated: PA. York had 105 full-time employees at 12/31/16. President/CEO: Jeffrey R. Hines. Officers/directors own 1.1% of the common stock (3/17 proxy). Address: 130 East Market Street, York, Pennsylvania 17401. Telephone: (717) 845-3601. Internet: www.yorkwater.com

Capital expenditures ought to remain

par for the course going forward.

Management estimates it spent approxi-

mately \$25 million in 2017 on aging infra-

structure, raw water pumping stations,

and pipe replacements, more than double the year-earlier total. With plenty of its

footprint still needing to be brought up to

speed, we anticipate at least several years

ANNUAL RATES Past Est'd '14-'16 Past of change (per sh) to '20-'22 3.5% 6.5% Revenues 4.0% 6.5% "Cash Flow" 3.5% 5.0% 3.0% 3.5% 8.0% 4.5% Book Value Cal- QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.)

11.8

1.8

4.4

6.2

12.6

3.7

4.5

8.2

4.0

10.1

Current Assets

Accts Payable Debt Due

Current Liab.

endar			Sep. 30		Year
2014	10.6	11.8	12.0	11.5	45.9
2015	11.2	11.9	12.4	11.6	47.1
2016	11.3	11.8	12.6	11.9	47.6
2017	11.3	12.3	12.7	12.2	48.5
2018	12.0	12.5	13.3	12.7	50.5
Cal-	E/	RNINGS F	ER SHAR	A	Full
endar	Mar.31	Jun. 30	Sep. 30	Dec. 31	Year
2014	.16	.22	.23	.28	.89
2015	.20	.22	.28	.27	.97
2016	.19	.23	.27	.23	.92
2017	.20	.23	.31	.31	1.05
2018	.24	.25	.34	.32	1.15
Cal-	QUAF	Full			
endar	Mar.31	Jun.30	Sep.30	Dec.31	Year
2014	.1431	.1431	.1431	.1431	.572
2015	.1495	.1495	.1495	.1555	.604
2016	.1555	.1555	.1555	.1602	.627
2017	.1602	.1602	.1602	.1666	.647
2018					

York Water delivered a better-thanexpected bottom-line performance in the third quarter. The regulated water utility earned \$0.31 a share for the September period (+15% year over year), besting our \$0.29 call by two cents. The advance can be largely attributed to a lower effective tax rate (asset improvements qualify for deductions), higher surcharges to customers, and an increased allowance for funds used during construction (interest deduction). Meanwhile, operation and maintenance expenses as a percentage of revenues rose 200 basis points, on an annual basis, which makes the share-net showing even more encouraging. On the other hand, revenue growth was essentially nonexistent, dragged down by generally lower consumption.

We are adjusting our 2018 top- and bottom-line estimates. Despite an excustomer (acquisitionpanding base driven), York's top line is under some pressure. We now look for revenues of \$50.5 million in 2018, down from our prior forecast of \$52.0 million. Conversely, we are adding a dime to our earnings-per-share estimate, to \$1.15.

of aggressive investment spending York Water raised its quarterly dividend by 4%, to \$0.17 a share. This marks 21 consecutive years that the company has increased its annual dividend payout. The current yield is fractionally above that of the Value Line median, but should trend higher into next decade thanks to additional dividend hikes.

York Water shares have moved up one notch for Timeliness, to 3, and are now pegged to track the year-ahead broader market averages. Prospects out to the 2020-2022 time frame are bright, though most of the benefits we envision appear to already be baked into the stock price. Capital appreciation potential does not stand out at the recent quotation. Nicholas P. Patrikis January 12, 2018

(A) Diluted earnings. Next earnings report due (C) In millions, adjusted for split. late February.

(B) Dividends historically paid in late February, June, September, and December.

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