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Estimated Market Capitalization for Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina and the Utility Proxy Group

Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina<br>Recommended Capital Structure and Cost Rates for Ratemaking Purposes at December 31, 2017

| Type Of Capital | $\underline{\text { Ratios (1) }}$ | Cost Rate | Weighted Cost Rate |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Long-Term Debt | 47.11\% | 6.00\% (1) | 2.83\% |
| Common Equity | 52.89\% | 11.50\% - 11.90\% (2) | 6.08\% - 6.29\% |
| Total | 100.00\% |  | $\underline{8.91 \%} \xlongequal{9.12 \%}$ |

Notes:
(1) Company-Provided.
(2) From page 2 of this Schedule.


Notes: (1) From Schedule DWD-3.
(2) From page 1 of Schedule DWD-4.
(3) From page 1 of Schedule DWD-5.
(4) From page 1 of Schedule DWD-7.
(5) From Schedule DWD-8.


| Proxy Group of Six Water Companies <br> 2012-2016, Inclusive |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | $\underline{2017}$ | $\underline{2016}$ | $\underline{2015}$ | $\underline{2014}$ | $\underline{2013}$ | $\begin{gathered} 5 \text { YEAR } \\ \text { AVERAGE } \end{gathered}$ |
| American States Water Co. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Long-Term Debt | 37.75 \% | 39.40 \% | 41.15 \% | 39.15 \% | 40.30 \% | 39.55 \% |
| Preferred Stock | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Common Equity | 62.25 | 60.60 | 58.85 | 60.85 | 59.70 | 60.45 |
| Total Capital | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% |
| American Water Works Company Inc |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Long-Term Debt | 55.81 \% | 54.74 \% | 53.89 \% | 52.70 \% | 52.42 \% | 53.91 \% |
| Preferred Stock | 0.07 | 0.09 | 0.11 | 0.15 | 0.17 | 0.12 |
| Common Equity | 44.12 | 45.17 | 46.00 | 47.15 | 47.41 | 45.97 |
| Total Capital | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% |
| Aqua America Inc |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Long-Term Debt | 52.26 \% | 50.81 \% | 50.76 \% | 49.45 \% | 50.32 \% | 50.72 \% |
| Preferred Stock | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.01 | 0.00 |
| Common Equity | 47.74 | 49.19 | 49.24 | 50.55 | 49.67 | 49.28 |
| Total Capital | 100.00 \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% |
| California Water Service Group |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Long-Term Debt | 44.12 \% | 45.83 \% | 44.69 \% | 40.46 \% | 42.03 \% | 43.43 \% |
| Preferred Stock | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Common Equity | 55.88 | 54.17 | 55.31 | 59.54 | 57.97 | 56.57 |
| Total Capital | 100.00 \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% | 100.00 \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% |
| Middlesex Water Co. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Long-Term Debt | 38.65 \% | 38.91 \% | 40.44 \% | 41.55 \% | 41.37 \% | 40.18 \% |
| Preferred Stock | 0.64 | 0.68 | 0.69 | 0.71 | 0.88 | 0.72 |
| Common Equity | 60.71 | 60.41 | 58.87 | 57.74 | 57.75 | 59.10 |
| Total Capital | 100.00 \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% | 100.00 \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% | 100.00 \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% |
| York Water Co. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Long-Term Debt | 43.02 \% | 42.60 \% | 44.46 \% | 44.81 \% | 45.07 \% | 43.99 \% |
| Preferred Stock | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 | 0.00 |
| Common Equity | 56.98 | 57.40 | 55.54 | 55.19 | 54.93 | 56.01 |
| Total Capital | 100.00 \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% |
| Proxy Group of Six Water Companies |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Long-Term Debt | 45.27 \% | 45.38 \% | 45.90 \% | 44.69 \% | 45.25 \% | 45.30 \% |
| Preferred Stock | 0.12 | 0.13 | 0.13 | 0.14 | 0.18 | 0.14 |
| Common Equity | 54.61 | 54.49 | 53.97 | 55.17 | 54.57 | 54.56 |
| Total Capital | 100.00 \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% | 100.00 \% | $\underline{100.00}$ \% |



Average of Mean and Median
Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina
Indicated Common Equity Cost Rate Using the Discounted Cash Flow Model for
Proxy Group of Six Water Companies





\% 00' |  |
| ---: | :--- |

은 K K

| Proxy Group of Six Water Companies |
| :--- |
| American States Water Co. |
| American Water Works Company Inc |
| Aqua America Inc |
| California Water Service Group |
| Middlesex Water Co. |
| York Water Co. |

## \footnotetext{  

 <br> $\mathrm{NA}=$ Not Available <br> (5) Column $6+$ column 7. <br> $\ddot{0}$$\stackrel{0}{0}$
$\ddot{z}$}


Lake and in areas of San Bernardino County. Sold Chaparral City Water of Arizona (6/11). Has 736 employees. BlackRock, Inc. owns $11.7 \%$ 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.
opportunity for growth. No matter how efficiently a utility is run, its profitability is limited to what state regulators allow. Through its ASUS business, 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 privatization 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. J ames A. Flood

J anuary 12, 2018

[^0] (A) Primary earnings. Excludes nonrecurring
gains/(losses): $04,7 c$; ' $05,13 \mathrm{c}$; '06, 3c; '08,

BUSINESS: American States Water Co. operates as a holding company. Through its principal subsidiary, Golden State Water 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

## American States Water has solid earn-

 ings 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 treatment. 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 J uly 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




| Cash Assets | 8.8 | 25.5 | 28.3 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: | ---: |
| Other | 118.8 | 116.6 | 152.2 |
|  | 127.6 | 142.1 | 180.5 |
| Current Assets | 66.4 | 77.8 | 89.4 |
| Accts Payable | 40.2 | 123.3 | 231.1 |
| Debt Due | 41.9 | 49.1 | 59.9 |
| Other | 148.5 |  | 250.2 |
| Current Liab. |  | 380.4 |  |


|  |  |  | $\begin{aligned} & \text { Past Est'd '14-'16 } \\ & 5 \text { Yrs. to } 20.22 \end{aligned}$ |  |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ANNUAL RATES Past <br> of change (per sh) 10 Yrs |  |  |  |  |  |
| Revenues |  | 4.0\% | - 2.0\% 3.0\% |  |  |
| "Cash Flow" |  | 5.0\% | 3.5\% 5.5\% |  |  |
|  |  | 4.0\% |  |  |  |
| Earnings |  | 5.0\% |  |  |  |
| Book Value |  |  |  | \%$7.5 \%$ |  |
| Calendar | QUARTERLY REVENUES (\$ mill.) ${ }^{\text {E }}$ |  |  |  | Full Year |
|  | Mar. 31 | Jun. 30 | Sep. 30 | Dec. 31 |  |
| 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 |
| Calendar |  |  |  |  | Full <br> Year |
|  | EARNINGS PER SHARE AMar. 31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |
| $\begin{array}{\|l} \text { Cal- } \\ \text { endar } \\ \hline \end{array}$ |  |  |  |  | Full Year |
|  | QUARTERLY DIVIDENDS PAID ${ }^{\text {B/ }}$ -Mar 31 Jun. 30 Sep. 30 Dec. 31 |  |  |  |  |
| 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 |  |  |  |  |  |

BUSINESS: California Water Service Group provides regulated and nonregulated water service to 482,400 customers in 100 communities in the state of California. Accounts for over 94\% of total 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-
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 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 inhas added more than $\$ 30$ million in invorable changes to the corporate tax rate should help lift profits this year. To address the latter, the company's operating
quired Rio Grande Corp; West Hawaii Utilities (9/08). Revenue breakdown, '16: residential, $72 \%$; business, $20 \%$; industrial, $4 \%$; public authorities, $3 \%$; other $1 \%$. Off. and dir. own $1 \%$ of common 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.
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 to $\$ 500$ 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.
Nich
(E) Excludes non-reg. rev
(A) due late February
(B) Dividends historically paid in late Feb
(C) Incl. intangible assets. In '16 : $\$ 21.9$ mill., \$0.46/sh.


nues; commercial and industrial (29\%); other (8\%). It also provides sewer 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 approximately $\$ 25$ million in 2017 on aging infrastructure, 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 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
J anuary 12, 2018
A) Diluted earnings. Next earnings report due

Ate February.
(B) Dividends historically paid in late February

June, September, and December.
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Proxy Group of Six
Water Companies
Predictive Risk
Premium Model

| (PRPM) (1) | $13.43 \%$ |  |
| :--- | :--- | :--- |
| Risk Premium Using an |  |  |
| Adjusted Total Market |  |  |
| Approach (2) |  |  |
| $\%$ |  |  |

Notes:
(1) From page 2 of this Schedule.
(2) From page 3 of this Schedule.
$\frac{\text { Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina }}{\text { Indicated ROE }}$
Derived by the Predictive Risk Premium Model (1)
$\pm$

$$
\begin{aligned}
& \text { Average of Mean and Median }
\end{aligned}
$$

[^1]Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina

Indicated Common Equity Cost Rate
Through Use of a Risk Premium Model
Using an Adjusted Total Market Approach
Line No.

Proxy Group of Six
Water Companies

1. Prospective Yield on Aaa Rated
Corporate Bonds (1) $\begin{gathered}4.66 \% \\ 2 . \\ \begin{array}{l}\text { Adjustment to Reflect Yield Spread } \\ \text { Between Aaa Rated Corporate } \\ \text { Bonds and A Rated Public } \\ \text { Utility Bonds }\end{array}\end{gathered}$

Line No.
3. Adjusted Prospective Yield on A Rated Public Utility Bonds
4.94 \%
4. Adjustment to Reflect Bond Rating Difference of Proxy Group
5. Adjusted Prospective Bond Yield
5.00 \%
6. Equity Risk Premium (4)
5.80
7. Risk Premium Derived Common Equity Cost Rate
$\xlongequal{10.80} \%$

Notes: (1) Consensus forecast of Moody's Aaa Rated Corporate bonds from Blue Chip Financial Forecasts (see pages 10-11 of this Schedule).
(2) The average yield spread of A rated public utility bonds over Aaa rated corporate bonds of $0.28 \%$ from page 4 of this Schedule.
(3) Adjustment to reflect the A2 / A3 Moody's LT issuer rating of the proxy group of eight water companies as shown on page 5 of this Schedule. The $0.06 \%$ upward adjustment is derived by taking $1 / 6$ of the spread between A2 and A3 Public Utility Bonds (1/6* $0.34 \%=$ $0.06 \%$ ) as derived from page 4 of this Schedule.
(4) From page 7 of this Schedule.

## Selected Bond Yields

[1]
[2]
[3]
$\left.\begin{array}{lcccc} & \begin{array}{c}\text { Aaa Rated } \\ \text { Corporate Bond }\end{array} & & \begin{array}{c}\text { A Rated Public } \\ \text { Utility Bond }\end{array} & \end{array} \begin{array}{c}\text { Baa Rated Public } \\ \text { Utility Bond }\end{array}\right]$

Selected Bond Spreads

A Rated Public Utility Bonds Over Aaa Rated Corporate Bonds:

$$
0.28 \%(1)
$$

Baa Rated Public Utility Bonds Over A Rated Public Utility Bonds:

$$
0.34 \%(2)
$$

Notes:
(1) Column [2]-Column [1].
(2) Column [3] - Column [2].

Source of Information:
Bloomberg Professional Service

| Proxy Group of Six Water Companies | Long-Term Issuer Rating | $\begin{gathered} \text { Numerical } \\ \text { Weighting(1) } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ | Long-Term Issuer Rating | $\begin{gathered} \text { Numerical } \\ \text { Weighting(1) } \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| American States Water Co. (2) | A2 | 6.0 | A+ | 5.0 |
| American Water Works Company Inc (3) | A3 | 7.0 | A | 6.0 |
| Aqua America Inc (4) | NR | -- | A+ | 5.0 |
| California Water Service Group (5) | NR | -- | A+ | 5.0 |
| Middlesex Water Co. | NR | -- | A | 6.0 |
| York Water Co. | NR | -- | A- | 7.0 |
| Average | A2/A3 | 6.5 | A | 5.7 |

Notes:
(1) From page 6 of this Schedule.
(2) Ratings that of Golden State Water Company.
(3) Ratings that of New Jersey and Pennsylvania American Water Companies.
(4) Ratings that of Aqua Pennsylvania, Inc.
(5) Ratings that of California Water Service Company.

Numerical Assignment for

| Moody's Bond Rating | Numerical Bond Weighting | Standard \& Poor's Bond Rating |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Aaa | 1 | AAA |
| Aa1 | 2 | AA+ |
| Aa2 | 3 | AA |
| Aa3 | 4 | AA- |
| A1 | 5 | A+ |
| A2 | 6 | A |
| A3 | 7 | A- |
| Baa1 | 8 | BBB+ |
| Baa2 | 9 | BBB |
| Baa3 | 10 | BBB- |
| Ba1 | 11 | BB+ |
| Ba2 | 12 | BB |
| Ba3 | 13 | BB- |
| B1 | 14 | B+ |
| B2 | 15 | B |
| B3 | 16 | B- |


| Line |
| :--- |
| No. |

Proxy Group of Six
Water Companies

1. Calculated equity risk premium based on the total market using the beta approach (1)
6.64 \%
2. Mean equity risk premium based on a study using the holding period returns of public utilities with A rated bonds (2) 4.95
3. 

Average equity risk premium
5.80 \%

Notes: (1) From page 8 of this Schedule.
(2) From page 12 of this Schedule.

| Line No. | Equity Risk Premium Measure | Proxy Group of Six Water Companies |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ibbotson-Based Equity Risk Premiums: |  |  |
| 1. | Ibbotson Equity Risk Premium (1) | 5.56 \% |
| 2. | Regression on Ibbotson Risk Premium Data (2) | 7.31 |
| 3. | Ibbotson Equity Risk Premium based on PRPM (3) | 6.66 |
| 4. | Average Ibbotson Equity Risk Premium | 6.51 |
| Value Line-Based Equity Risk Premiums: |  |  |
| 5. | Equity Risk Premium Based on Value Line Summary and Index (4) | 4.68 |
| 6. | Equity Risk Premium Based on Value Line S\&P 500 Companies (5) | 11.07 |
| 7. | Average Value Line Equity Risk Premium | 7.87 |
| Bloomberg-Based Equity Risk Premium: |  |  |
| 8. | Equity Risk Premium Based on Bloomberg S\&P 500 Companies (6) | 9.93 |
| 9. | Conclusion of Equity Risk Premium (7) | 8.10 \% |
| 10. | Adjusted Beta (8) | 0.82 |
| 11. | Forecasted Equity Risk Premium | 6.64 \% |

Notes provided on page 9 of this Schedule.

## Notes:

(1) Based on the arithmetic mean historical monthly returns on large company common stocks from Ibbotson® SBBI® 2017 Market Report minus the arithmetic mean monthly yield of Moody's average Aaa and Aa corporate bonds from 1926-2016.
(2) This equity risk premium is based on a regression of the monthly equity risk premiums of large company common stocks relative to Moody's average Aaa and Aa rated corporate bond yields from 1928-2017 referenced in Note 1 above.
(3) The Predictive Risk Premium Model (PRPM) is discussed in the accompanying direct testimony. The Ibbotson equity risk premium based on the PRPM is derived by applying the PRPM to the monthly risk premiums between Ibbotson large company common stock monthly returns and average Aaa and Aa corporate monthly bond yields, from January 1928 through March 2018.
(4) The equity risk premium based on the Value Line Summary and Index is derived by subtracting the average consensus forecast of Aaa corporate bonds of $4.66 \%$ (from page 3 of this Schedule) from the projected 3-5 year total annual market return of 9.34\% (described fully in note 1 on page 2 of Schedule DWD-5).
(5) Using data from Value Line for the S\&P 500, an expected total return of $15.73 \%$ was derived based upon expected dividend yields and long-term earnings growth estimates as a proxy for capital appreciation. Subtracting the average consensus forecast of Aaa corporate bonds of $4.66 \%$ results in an expected equity risk premium of $11.07 \%$.
(6) Using data from the Bloomberg Professional Service for the S\&P 500, an expected total return of $14.59 \%$ was derived based upon expected dividend yields and long-term earnings growth estimates as a proxy for capital appreciation. Subtracting the average consensus forecast of Aaa corporate bonds of $4.66 \%$ results in an expected equity risk premium of $9.93 \%$.
(7) Average of lines 4, 7, and 8 .
(8) Average of mean and median beta from Schedule DWD-5.

Sources of Information:
Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation - 2017 SBBI Yearbook, John Wiley \& Sons, Inc.
Industrial Manual and Mergent Bond Record Monthly Update.
Value Line Summary and Index
Blue Chip Financial Forecasts, December 1, 2017 and April 1, 2018
Bloomberg Professional Service

Consensus Forecasts Of U.S. Interest Rates And Key Assumptions ${ }^{1}$

Interest Rates
Federal Funds Rate Prime Rate
LIBOR, 3-mo.
Commercial Paper, 1-mo.
Treasury bill, 3-mo.
Treasury bill, 6-mo.
Treasury bill, 1 yr.
Treasury note, 2 yr.
Treasury note, 5 yr.
Treasury note, 10 yr . Treasury note, 30 yr . Corporate Aaa bond Corporate Baa bond State \& Local bonds Home mortgage rate

Key Assumptions
Major Currency Index Real GDP
GDP Price Index


| Consumer Price Index | 2.3 | 1.8 | 3.0 | 3.1 | -0.3 | 2.0 | 3.7 | 3.3 | $\mathbf{1 . 9}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 1}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 2}$ | $\mathbf{2 . 3}$ |
| :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- | :--- |

Forecasts for interest rates and the Federal Reserve's Major Currency Index represent averages for the quarter. Forecasts for Real GDP, GDP Price Index and Consumer Price Index are seasonally-adjusted annual rates of change (saar). Individual panel members' forecasts are on pages 4 through 9. Historical data: Treasury rates from the Federal Reserve Board's H.15; AAA-AA and A-BBB corporate bond yields from Bank of America-Merrill Lynch and are 15+ years, yield to maturity; State and local bond yields from Bank of America-Merrill Lynch, A-rated, yield to maturity; Mortgage rates from Freddie Mac, 30-year, fixed; LIBOR quotes from Intercontinental Exchange. All interest rate data is sourced from Haver Analytics. Historical data for Fed's Major Currency Index is from FRSR H.10. Historical data for Real GDP and GDP Chained Price Index are from the Bureau of Economic Analysis (BEA). Consumer Price Index (CPI) history is from the Department of Labor's Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). ${ }^{*}$ Interest rate data for $1 Q$ 2018 based on historical data through the week ended March $16^{\text {th }}$. ${ }^{*}$ Data for 1Q 2018 Major Currency Index is based on data through week ended March $16^{\text {th }}$. Figures for $1 Q$ 2018 Real GDP, GDP Chained Price Index and Consumer Price Index are consensus forecasts based on a special question asked of the panelists' this month.


## Long-Range Survey:

The table below contains the results of our twice-annual long-range CONSENSUS survey. There are also Top 10 and Bottom 10 averages for each variable. Shown are consensus estimates for the years 2019 through 2023 and averages for the five-year periods 2019-2023 and 2024-2028. Apply these projections cautiously. Few if any economic, demographic and political forces can be evaluated accurately over such long time spans.

| Interest Rates |  | ---------Average For The Year---------- |  |  |  |  | Five-Year Averages |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2019-2023 | 2024-2028 |
| 1. Federal Funds Rate | CONSENSUS | 2.5 | 2.7 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.0 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 2.9 | 3.2 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.5 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 2.1 | 2.0 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.2 | 2.4 |
| 2. Prime Rate | CONSENSUS | 5.5 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 5.8 | 5.9 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 5.9 | 6.3 | 6.4 | 6.5 | 6.6 | 6.3 | 6.5 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 5.0 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.1 | 5.3 |
| 3. LIBOR, 3-Mo. | CONSENSUS | 2.8 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.1 | 3.2 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 3.2 | 3.6 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 3.8 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.6 |
| 4. Commercial Paper, 1-Mo. | CONSENSUS | 2.6 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 2.9 | 3.1 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 3.1 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.5 | 3.8 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 2.2 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.6 |
| 5. Treasury Bill Yield, 3-Mo. | CONSENSUS | 2.5 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 2.9 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 2.9 | 3.3 | 3.4 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.3 | 3.5 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 2.1 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.4 |
| 6. Treasury Bill Yield, 6-Mo. | CONSENSUS | 2.6 | 2.9 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 3.0 | 2.9 | 3.1 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 3.0 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.5 | 3.7 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 2.2 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.5 |
| 7. Treasury Bill Yield, 1-Yr. | CONSENSUS | 2.7 | 3.0 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.2 | 3.0 | 3.2 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 3.2 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.9 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 2.3 | 2.5 | 2.6 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.5 | 2.6 |
| 8. Treasury Note Yield, 2-Yr. | CONSENSUS | 2.8 | 3.1 | 3.3 | 3.2 | 3.3 | 3.1 | 3.3 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 3.3 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.8 | 3.9 | 3.7 | 4.0 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 2.4 | 2.6 | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.7 |
| 10. Treasury Note Yield, 5-Yr. | CONSENSUS | 3.1 | 3.4 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.5 | 3.4 | 3.6 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 3.6 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 4.1 | 3.9 | 4.3 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 2.6 | 2.8 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.9 | 2.8 | 3.0 |
| 11. Treasury Note Yield, 10-Yr. | CONSENSUS | 3.3 | 3.6 | 3.7 | 3.7 | 3.8 | 3.6 | 3.8 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 3.9 | 4.2 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.3 | 4.2 | 4.5 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 2.8 | 2.9 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.1 | 3.0 | 3.2 |
| 12. Treasury Bond Yield, 30-Yr. | CONSENSUS | 3.8 | 4.1 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.2 | 4.1 | 4.3 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 4.4 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.8 | 4.7 | 5.0 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 3.3 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.6 | 3.5 | 3.7 |
| 13. Corporate A aa Bond Yield | CONSENSUS | 4.9 | 5.1 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.1 | 5.4 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 5.5 | 5.9 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.9 | 6.2 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 4.3 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.7 |
| 13. Corporate Baa Bond Yield | CONSENSUS | 5.7 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 6.1 | 6.0 | 6.2 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 6.4 | 6.8 | 6.8 | 6.9 | 6.9 | 6.8 | 7.0 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.4 |
| 14. State \& Local Bonds Yield | CONSENSUS | 4.4 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.6 | 4.5 | 4.8 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.2 | 5.5 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 3.9 | 4.0 | 4.0 | 3.9 | 4.1 | 4.0 | 4.1 |
| 15. Home Mortgage Rate | CONSENSUS | 5.0 | 5.2 | 5.3 | 5.3 | 5.4 | 5.2 | 5.5 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 5.5 | 5.8 | 5.9 | 6.0 | 6.0 | 5.8 | 6.1 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 4.5 | 4.7 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.7 | 4.6 | 4.9 |
| A. FRB - Major Currency Index | CONSENSUS | 90.4 | 90.0 | 89.9 | 89.9 | 90.0 | 90.0 | 90.4 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 94.7 | 94.8 | 95.0 | 95.1 | 95.3 | 95.0 | 95.4 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 86.9 | 85.8 | 85.4 | 85.5 | 85.6 | 85.8 | 86.1 |
|  |  |  | Year-Over-Year, |  | Change--------- |  | Five-Year Averages |  |
|  |  | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | 2022 | 2023 | 2019-2023 | 2024-2028 |
| B. Real GDP | CONSENSUS | 2.2 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.4 | 2.3 | 2.4 | 2.4 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 1.8 | 1.4 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.7 | 1.6 | 1.7 |
| C. GDP Chained Price Index | CONSENSUS | 2.2 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 | 2.1 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 2.5 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 1.8 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 1.9 | 1.9 | 1.9 |
| D. Consumer Price Index | CONSENSUS | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.3 | 2.2 | 2.2 | 2.3 | 2.2 |
|  | Top 10 Average | 2.7 | 2.6 | 2.6 | 2.4 | 2.4 | 2.5 | 2.4 |
|  | Bottom 10 Average | 1.9 | 1.9 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 | 2.0 |

chedule DWD-4<br>Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina<br>Page 12 of 12<br>Derivation of Mean Equity Risk Premium Based Studies<br>Using Holding Period Returns and<br>Projected Market Appreciation of the S\&P Utility Index

| Line No. |  | Implied Equity Risk Premium |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | Equity Risk Premium based on S\&P Utility Index Holding Period Returns (1): |  |
| 1. | Historical Equity Risk Premium | 4.04 \% |
| 2. | Regression of Historical Equity Risk Premium (2) | 5.61 |
| 3. | Forecasted Equity Risk Premium Based on PRPM (3) | 4.18 |
| 4. | Average Equity Risk Premium Using S\&P Holding Period Returns | 4.61 \% |
|  | Equity Risk Premium based on Projected Market Appreciation of the S\&P Utility Index |  |
| 5. | Forecasted Equity Risk Premium based on Projected Total Return on the S\&P Utilities Index (Value Line Data) (4) | 4.86 |
| 6. | Forecasted Equity Risk Premium based on Projected Total Return on the S\&P Utilities Index (Bloomberg Data) (5) | 5.37 |
| 7. | Average Equity Risk Premium (6) | 4.95 \% |

Notes: (1) Based on S\&P Public Utility Index monthly total returns and Moody's Public Utility Bond average monthly yields from 1928-2017. Holding period returns are calculated based upon income received (dividends and interest) plus the relative change in the market value of a security over a one-year holding period.
(2) This equity risk premium is based on a regression of the monthly equity risk premiums of the S\&P Utility Index relative to Moody's A rated public utility bond yields from 1928-2017 referenced in note 1 above.
(3) The Predictive Risk Premium Model (PRPM) is applied to the risk premium of the monthly total returns of the S\&P Utility Index and the monthly yields on Moody's A rated public utility bonds from January 1928 - March 2018.
(4) Using data from Value Line for the S\&P Utilities Index, an expected return of 9.80\% was derived based on expected dividend yields and long-term growth estimates as a proxy for market appreciation. Subtracting the expected A rated public utility bond yield of $4.94 \%$, calculated on line 3 of page 3 of this Schedule results in an equity risk premium of $4.86 \%$. $(9.80 \%-4.94 \%=4.86 \%)$
(5) Using data from Bloomberg Professional Service for the S\&P Utilities Index, an expected return of $10.31 \%$ was derived based on expected dividend yields and longterm growth estimates as a proxy for market appreciation. Subtracting the expected A rated public utility bond yield of $4.94 \%$, calculated on line 3 of page 3 of this Schedule results in an equity risk premium of $5.37 \%$. (10.31\% - 4.94\% = 5.37\%)
(6) Average of lines 4 through 6.
of the Traditional Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) and Empirical Capital Asset Pricing Model (ECAPM)

```
\square
\(\stackrel{\square}{2}\)
```



| J ${ }^{\circ}$ | $\delta^{\circ}$ | ১ | - | $\bigcirc \bigcirc$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | $\stackrel{\sim}{\mathrm{N}}$ | $\stackrel{N}{7}$ | $\stackrel{\text { m }}{7}$ |

$$
\bar{m}
$$





| Proxy Group of Six Water Companies |
| :--- |
| American States Water Co. |
| American Water Works Company Inc |
| Aqua America Inc |
| California Water Service Group |
| Middlesex Water Co. |
| York Water Co. |



Notes on page 2 of this Schedule.

| $\begin{array}{l}\text { Market Risk } \\ \text { Premium (1) }\end{array}$ |
| :--- |

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> $\stackrel{n}{2}$

Notes:
(1) The market risk premium (MRP) is derived by using six different measures from three sources: Ibbotson, Value Line, and Bloomberg as illustrated below:

Historical Data MRP Estimates:
Measure 1: Ibbotson Arithmetic Mean MRP (1926-2016)

| Arithmetic Mean Monthly Returns for Large Stocks 1926-2016: | 11.97 | $\%$ |
| :--- | ---: | :--- |
| Arithmetic Mean Income Returns on Long-Term Government Bonds: | 5.17 |  |
| MRP based on Ibbotson Historical Data: | $6.80 \%$ |  | MRP based on Ibbotson Historical Data:

Measure 2: Application of a Regression Analysis to Ibbotson Historical Data (1926-2016)

|  | 8.49$\%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Average Historical Data MRP | 7.55$\%$ |
|  | $=$ |

Value Line MRP Estimates:
Measure 4: Value Line Projected MRP (Thirteen weeks ending March 30, 2018)

| Total projected return on the market 3-5 years hence*: | $9.34 \%$ |
| :--- | :--- |
| Projected Risk-Free Rate (see note 2): | 3.69 |
| MRP based on Value Line Summary \& Index: | $-5.65 \%$ |

$$
3.69
$$

MRP based on Value Line Summary \& Index:
*Forcasted 3-5 year capital appreciation plus expected dividend yield

Measure 5: Value Line Projected Return on the Market based on the S\&P 500

| Total return on the Market based on the S\&P 500: | $15.73 \%$ |
| :--- | ---: |
| Projected Risk-Free Rate (see note 2): | 3.69 |
| MRP based on Value Line data |  |
| 12.04 |  |
|  | Average Value Line MRP: |

Measure 6: Bloomberg Projected MRP

| Total return on the Market based on the S\&P 500: |  |
| :--- | ---: |
| Projected Risk-Free Rate (see note 2): |  |
|  |  |
|  |  |

(2) For reasons explained in the direct testimony, the appropriate risk-free rate for cost of capital purposes is the average forecast of 30 year Treasury Bonds per the consensus of nearly 50 economists reported in Blue Chip Financial Forecasts. (See pages 10-11 of Schedule DWD-4.) The projection of the risk-free rate is illustrated below:

| Second Quarter 2018 | $3.20 \%$ |
| ---: | ---: |
| Third Quarter 2018 | 3.30 |
| Fourth Quarter 2018 | 3.50 |
| First Quarter 2019 | 3.60 |
| Second Quarter 2019 | 3.70 |
| Third Quarter 2019 | 3.80 |
| $2019-2023$ | 4.10 |
| 2024-2028 | $\underline{4.30}$ |
|  |  |

(3) Average of Column 6 and Column 7.

Sources of Information:
Value Line Summary and Index
Blue Chip Financial Forecasts, December 1, 2017 and April 1, 2018
Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation - 2017 SBBI Yearbook, John Wiley \& Sons, Inc.
Bloomberg Professional Services

Carolina Water Service, Inc. of North Carolina

Comparable in Total Risk to the Utility Proxy Group

The criteria for selection of the Non-Price Regulated Proxy Group was that the nonprice regulated companies be domestic and reported in Value Line Investment Survey (Standard Edition).

The Non-Price Regulated Proxy Group was then selected based on the unadjusted beta range of 0.38-0.78 and residual standard error of the regression range of 2.4465 - 2.9177 of the Utility Proxy Group.

These ranges are based upon plus or minus two standard deviations of the unadjusted beta and standard error of the regression. Plus or minus two standard deviations captures $95.50 \%$ of the distribution of unadjusted betas and residual standard errors of the regression.

The standard deviation of the Utility Proxy Group's residual standard error of the regression is 0.1178 . The standard deviation of the standard error of the regression is calculated as follows:

Standard Deviation of the Std. Err. of the Regr. = Standard Error of the Regression

$$
\sqrt{2 N}
$$

where: $\mathrm{N}=$ number of observations. Since Value Line betas are derived from weekly price change observations over a period of five years, $\mathrm{N}=259$

$$
\text { Thus, } 0.1178=\frac{2.6821}{\sqrt{518}}=\frac{2.6821}{22.7596}
$$

| Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina | Pchedule DWD-6 |
| :---: | ---: |
| Basis of Selection of Comparable Risk 2 of 3 |  |
| Domestic Non-Price Regulated Companies |  |


|  | [1] | [2] | [3] | [4] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Proxy Group of Six Water Companies | Value Line <br> Adjusted <br> Beta | Unadjusted Beta | Residual <br> Standard <br> Error of the <br> Regression | Standard <br> Deviation <br> of Beta |
| American States Water Co. | 0.75 | 0.62 | 2.7925 | 0.1058 |
| American Water Works Company Inc | 0.65 | 0.42 | 2.0354 | 0.0771 |
| Aqua America Inc | 0.70 | 0.54 | 2.1992 | 0.0833 |
| California Water Service Group | 0.75 | 0.62 | 2.6641 | 0.1010 |
| Middlesex Water Co. | 0.80 | 0.63 | 3.1066 | 0.1177 |
| York Water Co. | 0.80 | 0.67 | 3.2949 | 0.1249 |
| Average | 0.74 | 0.58 | 2.6821 | 0.1016 |
| Beta Range ( $+/-2$ std. Devs. of Beta) | 0.38 | 0.78 |  |  |
| 2 std. Devs. of Beta | 0.20 |  |  |  |
| Residual Std. Err. Range ( + /- 2 std. |  |  |  |  |
| Devs. of the Residual Std. Err.) | 2.4465 | 2.9177 |  |  |
| Std. dev. of the Res. Std. Err. | 0.1178 |  |  |  |
| 2 std. devs. of the Res. Std. Err. | 0.2356 |  |  |  |

Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina
Proxy Group of Non-Price Regulated Companies
Comparable in Total Risk to the
Proxy Group of Six Water Companies

|  | [1] | [2] | [3] | [4] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Proxy Group of Seventeen Non-Price Regulated Companies | VL Adjusted Beta | Unadjusted Beta | Residual <br> Standard <br> Error of the <br> Regression | Standard Deviation of Beta |
| ABM Industries Inc. | 0.80 | 0.67 | 2.5536 | 0.0968 |
| AutoZone Inc. | 0.80 | 0.69 | 2.6223 | 0.0994 |
| Cheesecake Factory | 0.75 | 0.55 | 2.7238 | 0.1032 |
| CBOE Holdings | 0.70 | 0.49 | 2.5467 | 0.0965 |
| Chemed Corp. | 0.80 | 0.63 | 2.9158 | 0.1105 |
| C.H. Robinson | 0.85 | 0.71 | 2.6970 | 0.1022 |
| Cigna Corp. | 0.85 | 0.76 | 2.7306 | 0.1035 |
| Darden Restaurants | 0.85 | 0.74 | 2.7669 | 0.1049 |
| DaVita Inc. | 0.85 | 0.77 | 2.7539 | 0.1044 |
| Forrester Research | 0.70 | 0.48 | 2.6673 | 0.1011 |
| Hormel Foods | 0.75 | 0.56 | 2.5540 | 0.0968 |
| IQVIA Holdings | 0.85 | 0.75 | 2.5724 | 0.0989 |
| Mercury General | 0.80 | 0.62 | 2.4507 | 0.0929 |
| Vail Resorts | 0.80 | 0.69 | 2.5050 | 0.0949 |
| Pinnacle Foods | 0.80 | 0.66 | 2.5411 | 0.0973 |
| Spectrum Brands | 0.85 | 0.70 | 2.8926 | 0.1096 |
| West Pharmac. Svcs. | 0.85 | 0.74 | 2.6305 | 0.0997 |
| Average | 0.80 | 0.66 | 2.6500 | 0.1000 |
| Proxy Group of Six Water Companies | 0.74 | 0.58 | 2.6821 | 0.1016 |

Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina
Summary of Cost of Equity Models Applied to
Proxy Group of Seventeen Non-Price Regulated Companies
Comparable in Total Risk to the
Proxy Group of Six Water Companies

| Principal Methods |  | Proxy Group of Seventeen NonPrice Regulated Companies |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Discounted Cash Flow Model (DCF) (1) |  | 14.15 \% |
| Risk Premium Model (RPM) (2) |  | 12.46 |
| Capital Asset Pricing Model (CAPM) (3) |  | 11.78 |
|  | Mean | 12.80 \% |
|  | Median | 12.46 \% |
|  | Average of Mean and Median | 12.63 \% |

Notes:
(1) From page 2 of this Schedule.
(2) From page 3 of this Schedule.
(3) From page 6 of this Schedule.

| Indicated <br> Common Equity <br> Cost Rate（1） |
| :---: |
| $17.73 \quad \%$ |
| NA |
| 13.34 |
| 18.45 |
| 11.32 |
| 11.166 |
| 13.33 |
| 15.57 |
| NA |
| 12.98 |
| 9.08 |
| NA |
| 28.32 |
| 24.77 |
| 11.79 |
| 10.81 |
| 12.67 |
| 15.13 |

[^2]■

| Proxy Group of Seventeen <br> Non－Price Regulated <br> Companies |  |  |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
|  |  | Average <br> Dividend Yield |
|  |  |  |
| ABM Industries Inc． |  |  |
| AutoZone Inc． | - | $\%$ |
| Cheesecake Factory | 2.42 |  |
| CBOE Holdings | 0.89 |  |
| Chemed Corp． | 0.42 |  |
| C．H．Robinson | 2.00 |  |
| Cigna Corp． | 0.02 |  |
| Darden Restaurants | 2.66 |  |
| DaVita Inc． | - |  |
| Forrester Research | 1.88 |  |
| Hormel Foods | 2.22 |  |
| IQVIA Holdings | - |  |
| Mercury General | 5.25 |  |
| Vail Resorts | 2.68 |  |
| Pinnacle Foods | 2.25 |  |
| Spectrum Brands | 1.56 |  |
| West Pharmac．Svcs． | 0.60 |  |
|  |  |  |
|  |  |  |

Source of Information：
（1）The application of the DCF model to the domestic，non－price regluated comparable risk companies is identical to the application of the DCF to the utility proxy group．The projected growth rate in EPS，which is calculated by averaging the 5 year projected growth in EPS provided by Value Line，www．reuters．com，www．zacks．com，and
www．yahoo．com（excluding any negative growth rates）and then adding that growth rate to the adjusted dividend yield．
，
$N A=$ Not Available
NA＝Not Available
NMF $=$ Not Meaningf


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$\square$
Carolina Water Services，Inc．of North Carolina
Group of Non－Price－Regulated Companies Comparable in Total Risk to the
［3］
［4］

| Zack＇s Five | Yahoo！Finance |
| :---: | :---: |
| Year Projected | Projected Five |
| Growth Rate in | Year Growth in |
| EPS | EPS |

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$\sqrt[2]{2}$

玉 | $\begin{array}{c}\text { Adjusted } \\ \text { Dividend Yield }\end{array}$ |
| :---: |
| $2.06 \quad \%$ |
| - |
| 2.55 |
| 0.97 |
| 0.44 |
| 2.10 |
| 0.02 |
| 2.83 |
| - |
| 1.98 |
| 2.30 |
| - |
| 5.84 |
| 2.97 |
| 2.36 |
| 1.63 |
| 0.64 | $\sum^{\text {® }}$ $89^{\circ}$ II

$00^{\circ} 9 \mathrm{I}$
 옹웅 9.86
3.92 13.93
23.74

$\%$
\％VN 17.60
10.00
9.00
12.90
10.90
16.80
12.00
9.30
13.80
25.30
NA
8.00
14.60

13.70 | Reuters Mean |
| :---: |
| Consensus Projected |
| Five Year Growth |
| Rate in EPS |

\％00＇91 욱 윽 윽 윽 ${ }^{\circ}$ $26^{\circ} \varepsilon \tau$
$98^{\circ} 6$
13.52
23.74


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$\mathrm{SO} 0^{\circ} \mathrm{S}$ Value Line
Projected Five
Year Growth in 오구국
১ং 16.50
13.50 13.50
9.50
12.50 12.50
13.00
9.00 9.00
8.00
10.50 $0 \mathrm{~S}^{\prime} \downarrow \mathrm{L}$
$0 \mathrm{~S}^{\prime} 0 \mathrm{~L}$
$00^{\prime} \mathrm{ZI}$
$0 \mathrm{~S}^{2} 0 \mathrm{~L}$
$00^{\circ} 8 \mathrm{~L}$
$00^{\circ} \mathrm{tI}$ $00^{\circ} \downarrow \mathrm{L}$
$00^{\prime} \mathrm{ZI}$
ت

ABM Industries Inc． CBOE Holdings Chemed Corp Cigna Corp． DaVita Inc．
Forrester Research Hormel Foods
IQVIA Holdings Mercury General Spectrum Brands
West Pharmac．Svcs．
 WWW．yahoo．com（excluding any negative growth rates）and then adding that growth rate to the adjusted dividend yield


 Proxy Group of Six Water Companies

DCF Results for the Proxy Group of Non－Price－Regulated Companies Comparable in Total Risk to the
［2］

Proxy Group of Seventeen NonPrice Regulated Companies
$\left.\begin{array}{lll}\text { 1. } & \text { Prospective Yield on Baa Rated } \\ \text { Corporate Bonds (1) }\end{array}\right)$

Notes: (1) Average forecast of Baa corporate bonds based upon the consensus of nearly 50 economists reported in Blue Chip Financial Forecasts dated December 1, 2017 and April 1, 2018 (see pages 10 and 11 of Schedule DWD-4). The estimates are detailed below.

| Second Quarter 2018 | $4.80 \%$ |
| ---: | :---: |
| Third Quarter 2018 | 5.00 |
| Fourth Quarter 2018 | 5.10 |
| First Quarter 2019 | 5.30 |
| Second Quarter 2019 | 5.40 |
| Third Quarter 2019 | 5.50 |
| 2019-2023 | 6.00 |
| 2024-2028 | 6.20 |
| Average |  |

(2) From page 5 of this Schedule.

| Proxy Group of Seventeen Non- <br> Price Regulated Companies | Long- <br> Term <br> Issuer <br> Rating | Numerical Weighting (1) | LongTerm Issuer Rating | $\begin{gathered} \text { Numerical } \\ \text { Weighting (1) } \\ \hline \end{gathered}$ |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| ABM Industries Inc. | NR | -- | NR | -- |
| AutoZone Inc. | Baa1 | 8.0 | BBB | 9.0 |
| Cheesecake Factory | NR | -- | NR | -- |
| CBOE Holdings | Baa1 | 8.0 | BBB+ | 8.0 |
| Chemed Corp. | WR | -- | NR | -- |
| C.H. Robinson | NR | -- | BBB+ | 8.0 |
| Cigna Corp. | Baa1 | 8.0 | A | -- |
| Darden Restaurants | Baa2 | 9.0 | BBB | 9.0 |
| DaVita Inc. | Ba3 | 13.0 | BB | 12.0 |
| Forrester Research | NR | -- | NR | -- |
| Hormel Foods | A1 | 5.0 | A | 6.0 |
| IQVIA Holdings | NR | -- | BBB- | 10.0 |
| Mercury General | Baa2 | 9.0 | NR | -- |
| Vail Resorts | NR | -- | NR | -- |
| Pinnacle Foods | NR | -- | BB- | 13.0 |
| Spectrum Brands | NR | -- | NR | -- |
| West Pharmac. Svcs. | NR | -- | NR | -- |
| Average | Baa2 | 8.6 | BBB | 9.4 |

Notes:
(1) From page 6 of Schedule DWD-4.

## Source of Information:

Bloomberg Professional Services

Using the Beta for
Proxy Group of Seventeen Non-Price Regulated Companies of Comparable risk to the
Proxy Group of Six Water Companies

| Line No. | Equity Risk Premium Measure | Proxy Group of Seventeen NonPrice Regulated Companies |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Ibbotson-Based Equity Risk Premiums: |  |  |
| 1. | Ibbotson Equity Risk Premium (1) | 5.56 \% |
| 2. | Regression on Ibbotson Risk Premium Data (2) | 7.31 |
| 3. | Ibbotson Equity Risk Premium based on PRPM (3) | 6.66 |
| 4. | Average Ibbotson Equity Risk Premium | 6.51 |
| Value Line-Based Equity Risk Premiums: |  |  |
| 5. | Equity Risk Premium Based on Value Line Summary and Index (4) | 4.68 |
| 6. | Equity Risk Premium Based on Value Line S\&P 500 Companies (5) | 11.07 |
| 7. | Average Value Line Equity Risk Premium | 7.87 |
| Bloomberg-Based Equity Risk Premium: |  |  |
| 8. | Equity Risk Premium Based on Bloomberg S\&P 500 Companies (6) | 9.93 |
| 9. | Conclusion of Equity Risk Premium (7) | 8.10 \% |
| 10. | Adjusted Beta (8) | 0.87 |
| 11. | Forecasted Equity Risk Premium | 7.05 \% |

## Notes:

(1) From note 1 of page 9 of Schedule DWD-4.
(2) From note 2 of page 9 of Schedule DWD-4.
(3) From note 3 of page 9 of Schedule DWD-4.
(4) From note 4 of page 9 of Schedule DWD-4.
(5) From note 5 of page 9 of Schedule DWD-4.
(6) From note 6 of page 9 of Schedule DWD-4.
(7) Average of lines 4, 7, and 8.
(8) Average of mean and median beta from page 6 of this Schedule.

Sources of Information:
Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation - 2017 SBBI Yearbook, John Wiley \& Sons, Inc.
Value Line Summary and Index
Blue Chip Financial Forecasts, December 1, 2017 and April 1, 2018
Bloomberg Professional Services

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Proxy Group of Seventeen Non-Price
Regulated Companies

> ABM Industries Inc. AutoZone Inc. Cheesecake Factory CBOE Holdings Chemed Corp. C.H. Robinson Cigna Corp. Darden Restaurants DaVita Inc. Forrester Research Hormel Foods IQVIA Holdings Mercury General Vail Resorts Pinnacle Foods Spectrum Brands West Pharmac. Svcs.

## Average of Mean and Median

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(3) Average of CAPM and ECAPM cost rates.
Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina
Ibbotson Associates' Size Premia for the Decile Portfolios of the NYSE/AMEX/NASDAQ
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$\begin{array}{ll}\$ 1,609,575.62 & \$ 7,968.20 \\ \$ 1,010,851.81 & \$ 4,573.99\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\$ 1,010,851.81 & \$ 2,982.91\end{array}$
$\begin{array}{ll}\$ 677,120.07 & \$ 2,082.91 \\ \$ 541,038.00 & \$ 2,088.95 \\ \$ 384,129.20 & \$ 1,357.35\end{array}$

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*From 2017 Stocks, Bonds, Bills, and Inflation (SBBI) Yearbook

 $4.61 \%=5.59 \%-0.98 \%$.
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[3]

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Market Capitalization of Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina and Proxy Group of Six Water Companies

|  |  | [1] |  |  |  | $3]$ |  | 4] | [5] |  |  | [6] |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Company | Exchange | Common Stock Shares Outstanding at Fiscal Year End 2017 |  | lue per <br> Fiscal <br> d 2017 <br> ) |  | mon Equity <br> Year End <br> 17 |  |  | Market-to- <br> Book Ratio on <br> March 29, <br> $2018(2)$ |  |  | Market <br> italization <br> March 29, <br> 2018 (3) |
|  |  | ( millions) |  |  |  | lions ) |  |  |  |  |  | millions) |
| Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina |  | NA |  | NA | \$ | 60.726 |  | NA |  |  |  |  |
| Based upon Proxy Group of Six Water Companies |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  | 300.5 | (5) | \$ | 182.481 |
| Proxy Group of Six Water Companies |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| American States Water Co. | NYSE | 36.681 | \$ | 14.447 | \$ | 529.945 |  | 53.060 | 367.3 | \% | \$ | 1,946.283 |
| American Water Works Company Inc | NYSE | 178.445 |  | 30.177 | \$ | 5,385.000 |  | 82.130 | 272.2 |  |  | 14,655.651 |
| Aqua America Inc | NYSE | 177.714 |  | 11.016 | \$ | 1,957.621 |  | 34.060 | 309.2 |  |  | 6,052.937 |
| California Water Service Group | NYSE | 48.012 |  | 14.443 | \$ | 693.462 |  | 37.250 | 257.9 |  |  | 1,788.463 |
| Middlesex Water Co. | NASDAQ | 16.352 |  | 14.015 | \$ | 229.175 |  | 36.700 | 261.9 |  |  | 600.118 |
| York Water Co. | NASDAQ | 12.873 |  | 9.276 | \$ | 119.405 |  | 31.000 | 334.2 |  |  | 399.055 |
| Average |  | 78.346 | \$ | 15.562 | \$ | 1,485.768 |  | 45.700 | 300.5 | \% | \$ | 4,240.418 |

NA= Not Available

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& \begin{array}{l}
\text { Column } 3 \text { / Column } 1 . \\
\text { Column } 4 \text { / Column } 2 \text {. } \\
\text { Column } 1^{*} \text { Column } 4 \text {. } \\
\text { Equals Company-requested rate base multiplied by the Company-requested equity ratio. } \\
\text { The market-to-book ratio of Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina on March } 29,2018 \text { is assumed to be equal to the market-to- } \\
\text { book ratio of Proxy Group of Six Water Companies on March 29, } 2018 \text {. } \\
\text { Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North Carolina's common stock, if traded, would trade at a market-to-book ratio equal to the average } \\
\text { market-to-book ratio at March 29, } 2018 \text { of the Proxy Group of Six Water Companies, } 300.5 \% \text {, and Carolina Water Services, Inc. of North } \\
\text { Carolina's market capitalization on March 29, } 2018 \text { would therefore have been } \$ 182.48 \text { million. }
\end{array}
\end{aligned}
$$

Source of Information: 2017 Annual Forms 10K


[^0]:    (A) Primary earnings. Excludes nonrecurring

[^1]:    NMF = Not Meaningful Figure

    The Predictive Risk Premium Model uses historical data to generate a predicted variance and a GARCH coefficient. The historical data used are the equity risk premiums for the first available trading month as reported by Bloomberg Professional Service.
    $\ddot{\ddot{0}} \underset{\stackrel{0}{0}}{ }$

[^2]:    Value Line Investment Survey
    www．reuters．com Downloaded on 03／29／2018 www．zacks．com Downloaded on 03／29／2018 www．zacks．com Downloaded on $03 / 29 / 2018$

