

# **PPL** Corporation

# Premium utility attributes shining brighter relative to peers. Reiterate Buy

Reiterate Rating: BUY | PO: 29.00 USD | Price: 26.58 USD

# Differentiated utility on sale at an average price

We reiterate Buy on shares of Pennsylvania, Kentucky, and Rhode Island regulated utility PPL Corp (PPL). PPL has above-average EPS/DPS growth and credit metrics plus a light regulatory calendar in the year ahead, a favorable attribute. With utility peers facing more challenges and regulatory uncertainty, we believe that the favorable qualities will increasingly resonate and warrant a material premium valuation.

# Closing the gap between rate base and EPS growth

PPL increased its rate base growth to 6.3% with the 4Q23 update and PPL still expects the rate base CAGR to steadily 'tick higher' annually as larger capital programs are introduced in later years. We continue to view Kentucky transmission as a prime opportunity for hundreds of million incremental spending in the future. Stakeholder conversations in Kentucky have focused on building the 'right' transmission that improves reliability, with differences between the operating company investment plans of PPL and that transmission company capital replacement cycles of non-PPL peers.

# Advanced technology deployment gives assurance in plan

At our recent management meeting, the company expressed a high degree of confidence in the plan and specifically the cost cut initiatives with at least \$175Mn O&M savings by 2026 vs \$75Mn achieved through YE23 vs 2021 baseline. PPL has been one of the most advanced in deploying technology in our utility coverage universe which has accrued to both customers via lower costs and fewer/faster outages as well as shareholders. The EPS growth is still faster than rate base growth as discussed above with cost control a key contributor to EPS but this delta is shrinking as rate base growth strengthens.

# Reduce PO to \$29 primarily on mark-to-market

We forecast a 6.5% 2023A-2027 EPS CAGR (7.0% off 2023 guidance midpoint) and see guidance/Consensus as achievable. Before the challenges encountered in the now divested UK business, PPL had a consistent track record of beating Consensus estimates. From 2013-2018, PPL beat Consensus 21 of 24 quarters (88%) – with a simplified business mix, we are optimistic this cycle can return. We reduce the PO to \$29 from \$32 due primarily to a lower utility base multiple (MtM) with details on Page 4.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EPS	1.41	1.60	1.71	1.82	1.93
GAAP EPS	0.97	1.00	1.47	1.55	1.62
EPS Change (YoY)	34.3%	13.5%	6.9%	6.4%	6.0%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			1.71	1.82	1.95
DPS	0.95	0.95	1.01	1.08	1.16
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	18.9x	16.6x	15.5x	14.6x	13.8x
GAAP P/E	27.4x	26.6x	18.1x	17.1x	16.4x
Dividend Yield	3.6%	3.6%	3.8%	4.1%	4.4%
EV / EBITDA*	16.0x	14.2x	12.9x	12.4x	11.7x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	-2.2%	-3.2%	-0.1%	-4.2%	-3.2%
* For full definitions of <i>iQ</i> method <sup>SM</sup> measures, see page 7.					

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Refer to important disclosures on page 8 to 10. Analyst Certification on page 5. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 5.

Timestamp: 15 March 2024 10:56AM EDT

#### 15 March 2024

#### Equity

Key Changes		
(US\$)	Previous	Current
Price Obj.	32.00	29.00
2024E Rev (m)	6,880.2	6,171.0
2025E Rev (m)	7,032.9	6,311.8
2026E Rev (m)	NA	6,531.5
2024E EPS	1.73	1.71
2025E EPS	1.85	1.82
2026E EPS	NA	1.93
2024E DPS	1.02	1.01

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#### Stock Data

Price	26.58 USD
Price Objective	29.00 USD
Date Established	15-Mar-2024
Investment Opinion	B-1-7
52-Week Range	22.20 USD - 29.04 USD
Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out (mn)	19,585 USD / 736.8
Free Float	98.6%
Average Daily Value (mn)	148.32 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange	PPL / NYS
Bloomberg / Reuters	PPL US / PPL.N
ROE (2024E)	8.9%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2023A)	109.3%
ESGMeter™	High

ESGMeter is not indicative of a company's future stock price performance and is not an investment recommendation or rating. ESGMeter is independent of BofA Global Research's equity investment rating, volatility risk rating, income rating, and price objective for that company. For full details, refer to "BofA ESGMeter Methodology".

O&M: Operating and maintenance

MtM: Mark-to-market

# **iQ**profile<sup>™</sup> PPL Corporation

2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
3.2%	3.6%	4.2%	4.2%	4.2%
7.5%	8.5%	8.9%	9.2%	9.4%
17.4%	19.6%	33.1%	33.6%	34.6%
(425)	(632)	(23)	(819)	(618
2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
1.7x	1.5x	2.5x	2.2x	2.22
1.8x	1.9x	2.8x	3.2x	3.0:
22.0%	19.9%	22.0%	22.0%	22.0%
99.6%	109.3%	110.7%	117.4%	122.6%
2.7x	2.4x	2.6x	2.4x	2.2
2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
7,902	8,312	6,171	6,312	6,532
36.6%	5.2%			3.5%
	5.738			5,173
22.3%	8.6%	-16.1%	2.9%	4.4%
2,555	2,884	3,169	3,299	3,507
2.0%	12.9%	9.9%	4.1%	6.39
(459)	(706)	(654)	(654)	(721
1,041	1,183	1,263	1,348	1,429
29.2%	13.6%	6.8%	6.7%	6.0%
2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026
		,		1,198
		,		1,249
			, ,	(30
				N/
, ,	. ,			664
				(3,700
				-618 24.5%
				24.5%
				(857
. ,	( - /			1,48
1,302	1,103	001	1,023	1,10
20224	20237	2024E	2025E	2026
<b>2022A</b>	2023A	<b>2024E</b>	<b>2025E</b>	
357	382	274	279	285
357 1,046	382 1,221	274 906	279 927	285 959
357 1,046 1,421	382 1,221 1,329	274 906 926	279 927 933	285 959 944
357 1,046 1,421 30,238	382 1,221 1,329 31,418	274 906 926 33,326	279 927 933 35,801	285 959 944 38,144
357 1,046 1,421 30,238 4,775	382 1,221 1,329 31,418 4,886	274 906 926 33,326 4,882	279 927 933 35,801 4,878	285 959 944 38,144 4,874
357 1,046 1,421 30,238 4,775 <b>37,837</b>	382 1,221 1,329 31,418 4,886 <b>39,236</b>	274 906 926 33,326 4,882 <b>40,315</b>	279 927 933 35,801 4,878 <b>42,818</b>	285 959 944 38,144 4,874 <b>45,207</b>
357 1,046 1,421 30,238 4,775 <b>37,837</b> 1,339	382 1,221 1,329 31,418 4,886 <b>39,236</b> 993	274 906 926 33,326 4,882 <b>40,315</b> 813	279 927 933 35,801 4,878 <b>42,818</b> 895	285 959 944 38,144 4,874 <b>45,207</b>
357 1,046 1,421 30,238 4,775 <b>37,837</b> 1,339 2,450	382 1,221 1,329 31,418 4,886 <b>39,236</b> 993 2,347	274 906 926 33,326 4,882 <b>40,315</b> 813 1,925	279 927 933 35,801 4,878 <b>42,818</b> 895 1,935	285 959 944 38,144 4,874 <b>45,207</b> 969 1,949
357 1,046 1,421 30,238 4,775 <b>37,837</b> 1,339 2,450 12,889	382 1,221 1,329 31,418 4,886 <b>39,236</b> 993 2,347 14,611	274 906 926 33,326 4,882 <b>40,315</b> 813 1,925 15,454	279 927 933 35,801 4,878 <b>42,818</b> 895 1,935 16,996	285 959 944 38,144 4,874 <b>45,207</b> 969 1,949
357 1,046 1,421 30,238 4,775 <b>37,837</b> 1,339 2,450 12,889 7,241	382 1,221 1,329 31,418 4,886 <b>39,236</b> 993 2,347 14,611 7,352	274 906 926 33,326 4,882 <b>40,315</b> 813 1,925 15,454 7,674	279 927 933 35,801 4,878 <b>42,818</b> 895 1,935 16,996 7,996	285 959 944 38,144 4,874 <b>45,207</b> 969 1,949 18,403 8,318
357 1,046 1,421 30,238 4,775 <b>37,837</b> 1,339 2,450 12,889 7,241 <b>23,919</b>	382 1,221 1,329 31,418 4,886 <b>39,236</b> 993 2,347 14,611 7,352 <b>25,303</b>	274 906 926 33,326 4,882 <b>40,315</b> 813 1,925 15,454 7,674 <b>25,866</b>	279 927 933 35,801 4,878 42,818 895 1,935 16,996 7,996 27,821	2026l 285 955 944 38,144 4,874 45,207 965 1,945 18,403 8,318 29,638
357 1,046 1,421 30,238 4,775 <b>37,837</b> 1,339 2,450 12,889 7,241	382 1,221 1,329 31,418 4,886 <b>39,236</b> 993 2,347 14,611 7,352	274 906 926 33,326 4,882 <b>40,315</b> 813 1,925 15,454 7,674	279 927 933 35,801 4,878 <b>42,818</b> 895 1,935 16,996 7,996	28! 959 944 38,144 4,874 <b>45,207</b> 969 1,949 18,403 8,318
	3.2% 7.5% 17.4% (425)  2022A 1.7x 1.8x 22.0% 99.6% 2.7x  2022A 7,902 36.6% 5,285 22.3% 2,555 22.3% (459) 1,041 29.2%	3.2% 3.6% 7.5% 8.5% 17.4% 19.6% (425) (632)  2022A 2023A 1.7x 1.5x 1.8x 1.9x 22.0% 19.9% 99.6% 109.3% 2.7x 2.4x  2022A 2023A 7.902 8.312 36.6% 5.2% 5.285 5.738 22.3% 8.6% 2.555 2.884 2.0% 12.9% (459) (706) 1,041 1,183 29.2% 13.6%  2022A 2023A 714 740 1,181 1,254 0 0 0 NA NA NA (165) (236) (2,155) (2,390) -425 -632 NM -48.7% 0 0 (787) (704)	3.2%       3.6%       4.2%         7.5%       8.5%       8.9%         17.4%       19.6%       33.1%         (425)       (632)       (23)         2022A       2023A       2024E         1.7x       1.5x       2.5x         1.8x       1.9x       2.8x         22.0%       19.9%       22.0%         99.6%       109.3%       110.7%         2.7x       2.4x       2.6x         2022A       2023A       2024E         7,902       8,312       6,171         36.6%       5.2%       -25.8%         5,285       5,738       4,812         22.3%       8.6%       -16.1%         2,555       2,884       3,169         2.0%       12.9%       9.9%         (459)       (706)       (654)         1,041       1,183       1,263         29.2%       13.6%       6.8%         2022A       2023A       2024E         714       740       1,085         1,181       1,254       1,124         0       0       295         NA       NA       NA <td>3.2%       3.6%       4.2%       4.2%         7.5%       8.5%       8.9%       9.2%         17.4%       19.6%       33.1%       33.6%         (425)       (632)       (23)       (819)         2022A       2023A       2024E       2025E         1.7x       1.5x       2.5x       2.2x         1.8x       1.9x       2.8x       3.2x         22.0%       19.9%       22.0%       22.0%         99.6%       109.3%       110.7%       117.4%         2.7x       2.4x       2.6x       2.4x         2022A       2023A       2024E       2025E         7,902       8,312       6,171       6,312         36.6%       5.2%       -25.8%       2.3%         5,285       5,738       4,812       4,953         22.3%       8.6%       -16.1%       2.9%         2,555       2,884       3,169       3,299         2.0%       12.9%       9.9%       4.1%         (459)       (706)       (654)       (654)         1,041       1,183       1,263       1,348         29.2%       13.6%       6.8%</td>	3.2%       3.6%       4.2%       4.2%         7.5%       8.5%       8.9%       9.2%         17.4%       19.6%       33.1%       33.6%         (425)       (632)       (23)       (819)         2022A       2023A       2024E       2025E         1.7x       1.5x       2.5x       2.2x         1.8x       1.9x       2.8x       3.2x         22.0%       19.9%       22.0%       22.0%         99.6%       109.3%       110.7%       117.4%         2.7x       2.4x       2.6x       2.4x         2022A       2023A       2024E       2025E         7,902       8,312       6,171       6,312         36.6%       5.2%       -25.8%       2.3%         5,285       5,738       4,812       4,953         22.3%       8.6%       -16.1%       2.9%         2,555       2,884       3,169       3,299         2.0%       12.9%       9.9%       4.1%         (459)       (706)       (654)       (654)         1,041       1,183       1,263       1,348         29.2%       13.6%       6.8%

## **Company Sector**

Electric Utilities

#### **Company Description**

PPL operates regulated electric and gas assets in Kentucky, Pennsylvania, and Rhode Island. The Pennsylvania segment operates as a transmission and distribution business. The company's Kentucky segment, named Louisville Kentucky Electric, consists of two companies: Louisville Gas and Electric, and Kentucky Utilities. Louisville Gas and Electric focuses on regulated generation, transmission, distribution and sale of electricity and natural gas in Kentucky.

#### **Investment Rationale**

We rate PPL Corp Buy with shares providing an attractive entry point and with increasing visibility to catalysts on the horizon. PPL is one of the best utility operators based upon multiple metrics and accelerating growth prospects will increase the value over time. PPL's Kentucky utility generation fleet is predominately fossil (65% coal and 35% gas) and the company is undertaking a shift towards more natural gas and renewables.

#### Stock Data

Average Daily Volume 5,579,958

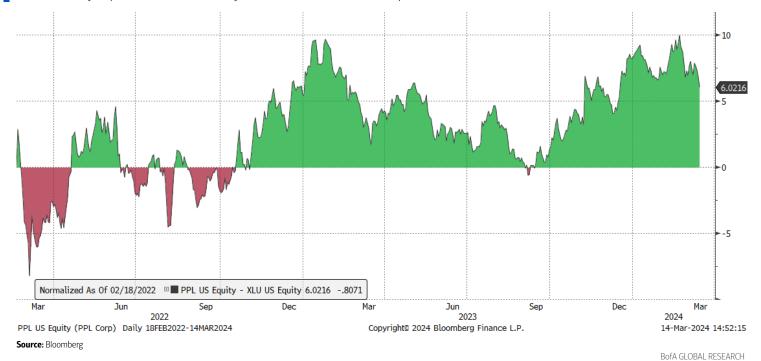
#### **Quarterly Earnings Estimates**

	2023	2024
Q1	0.48A	0.56E
Q2	0.29A	0.26E
Q3	0.43A	0.40E
04	0.15A	0.49E

\* For full definitions of  $\emph{iQ}$  method  $^{\text{SM}}$  measures, see page 7.

#### Exhibit 1: PPL Equity Performance Since Early 2022 Dividend Cut (%)

PPL has modestly outperformed since the February 2022 dividend cut but we see more potential ahead



Adjusted EPS in-line with Consensus/Guidance

Our new adjusted EPS forecast is within 1% of Consensus and annual guidance. PPL's dividend payout is favorably at the low-end/below the 60-65% target and there is latitude for faster dividend growth if management chooses to. With peer utilities increasingly slowing dividend growth, the ~7% DPS growth is yet another favorable

attribute plus the optionality for an acceleration.

#### **Exhibit 2: PPL Financial Snapshot**

Visible, consistent annual and compounded EPS growth

PPL Corp (PPL) Financial Snapshot	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	<b>'23-'27 CAGR</b>	Rate Base Growth
Pennsylvania Regulated	\$0.71	\$0.70	\$0.79	\$0.83	\$0.87	\$0.92	7.4%	5.0%
Guide	\$0.71	\$0.74	\$0.79					
Kentucky Regulated	\$0.76	\$0.80	\$0.83	\$0.85	\$0.91	\$0.97	4.2%	6.3%
Guide	\$0.71	\$0.81	\$0.84					
RI Regulated Acquisition	\$0.07	\$0.17	\$0.24	\$0.27	\$0.31	\$0.33	22.0%	9.9%
Guide	\$0.08	\$0.16	\$0.22					
Total Utilities	\$1.54	\$1.68	\$1.86	\$1.96	\$2.09	\$2.21	7.6%	6.2%
Parent/Other	(\$0.13)	(\$0.08)	(\$0.15)	(\$0.13)	(\$0.16)	(\$0.15)	27.8%	N/A
Guide	-\$0.10	-\$0.13	-\$0.16					
Consolidated EPS	\$1.41	\$1.60	\$1.71	\$1.82	\$1.93	\$2.06	6.5%	6.2%
Guidance: 6-8% \$1.48 2022 Base	\$1.35-\$1.45	\$1.50-\$1.65	\$1.63-\$1.75	\$1.81	\$1.93	\$2.07	7.0%	
BofA vs Guidance (%)	2.7%	1.8%	1.2%	0.9%	0.0%	-0.3%		
Consensus	\$1.41	\$1.58	\$1.70	\$1.82	\$1.95	\$2.06	8.5%	
BofA vs Consensus (%)	0.5%	1.4%	0.4%	0.3%	-0.6%	0.1%		
BofA Change vs Prior	0.2%	1.4%	-1.1%	-1.4%				
Dividend per Share	0.95	0.95	1.01	1.08	1.16	1.24	7.1%	
DPS Payout: 60-65% Guidance	66.9%	59.0%	59.2%	59.3%	60.0%	60.1%	-2.7%	
FFO (CFO pre-W/C) / Total Debt: 16-18%	15.4%	14.8%	17.2%	17.5%	17.0%	16.8%	2.5%	

 $\textbf{Source:} \ \mathsf{Company} \ \mathsf{Filings}, \ \mathsf{Bloomberg}, \\ \& \ \mathsf{BofA} \ \mathsf{Global} \ \mathsf{Research} \ \mathsf{estimates}$ 

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



### Reduce PO to \$29

We value PPL using a 2026 sum-of-the-parts analysis. We use the  $13.5x\ 2026$  average electric P/E multiple, grossed-up +5% to reflect capital appreciation, a consistent approach across the utilities coverage. This compares to  $16.0x\ on\ 2025$  previously.

We lift the P/E premium to 1.0x from 0.5x to reflect the faster rate base growth and increasing differentiation that balance sheet has vs peers: no equity issuances and ~17% funds from operations (FFO) to debt.

#### **Exhibit 3: PPL Sum of the Parts Analysis**

We believe that PPL strong fundamentals justify a large premium to peers

Base Electric P/E Calculation	Group Peer P/E	Group EPS CAGR	Group Valuation P/E	
	13.5x	5.0%	<u>14.2x</u>	
	13.5x	+ <b>0.7</b> x	<u>14.2x</u>	
		_		
Core Regulated Utilities	2026 EPS	Premium	Multiple Applied	Equity Value
PPL Electric Utilities	\$0.87	1.0x	15.2x	\$13.21
PPL Kentucky (KU/LG&A)	\$0.91	1.0x	15.2x	\$13.80
Rhode Island (Narragansett)	\$0.31	1.0x	15.2x	\$4.74
Parent & Other	(\$0.16)	1.0x	15.2x	(\$2.39)
Total PPL Value Per Share	\$1.93	0.8x	15.0x	\$29.00
Current Share Price				\$26.42
Potential Price Return				9.8%
Dividend Yield				3.8%
Potential Total Return				13.6%

**Source:** Company Filings, Bloomberg, & BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

#### **BofA Global Research Reports**

Title: Subtitle

<u>US Utilities &amp; Clean Tech: PowerPoints: ED Capex/Equity, LNT EPS, POR miss, IDA light guide, &amp; PPL delivers</u>
US Utilities & IPPs: PowerPoints: PNM M&A, PEG & OGE cases, PPL-TLN, & ES/IDA/AGR/Oregon regulatory
US Utilities & IPPs: PowerPoints: NEP M&A, PPL Kentucky Generation, EVRG EPS CAGR, & WTRG EPS
PPL Corporation: Kentucky Generation Plan Feedback: What do the intervenors think? Reiterate Buy
US Utilities & IPPs: PowerPoints: PPL investigation, SR marketing beat, & SRE CEO sale

PPL Corporation: PPL Takes Another Giant Step in Transformation: A Top Pick for 2023

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02 January 2024
07 November 2023
17 July 2023
01 February 2023
17 January 2023

# Price objective basis & risk

#### **PPL Corporation (PPL)**

Our \$29 price objective is based on a sum of the parts methodology applying respective premium/discounts to the 13.5x 2026E peer group multiple. Electric peer P/E multiple is grossed up by 5% to reflect capital appreciation across the sector, a consistent methodology across our coverage universe. We value all of the utility subsidiaries at +1.0x premium to the sector to reflect the lack of regulatory activity, above-average credit metrics, transmission earnings mix, and reasonable jurisdictions.

Risks to the achievement of our Price Objective are: 1) Integration of Rhode Island assets, 2) regulatory/political/legislative changes, 3) capital markets, 4) ability to earn at or above the regulatory allowed return on equity, 5) cost control, 6) capital expenditures forecasts and execution, 7) natural disasters/weather, 8) equity issuance/repurchase plans, 9) corporate taxes, 10) pension performance, and 11) litigation.

# **Analyst Certification**

I, Paul Zimbardo, hereby certify that the views expressed in this research report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers. I also certify that no part of my compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendations or view expressed in this research report.

#### North America - Utilities and Alt Energy Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Alliant Energy Corporation	LNT	LNT US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Array Technologies	ARRY	ARRY US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Atlantica Sustainable Infrastructure	AY	AY US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Atmos Energy Corporation	ATO	ATO US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	CenterPoint Energy	CNP	CNP US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Cheniere Energy Inc	LNG	LNG US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Clearway Energy	CWENA	CWEN/A US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Clearway Energy	CWEN	CWEN US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	CMS Energy	CMS	CMS US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Consolidated Edison	ED	ED US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	DTE Energy	DTE	DTE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Enlight Renewable Energy Ltd	ENLT	ENLT US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Enlight Renewable Energy Ltd	XENLF	ENLT IT	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Entergy	ETR	ETR US	Paul Zimbardo
	Evergy, Inc	EVRG	EVRG US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	First Solar, Inc.	FSLR	FSLR US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Fluence Energy	FLNC	FLNC US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Hannon Armstrong	HASI	HASI US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	MDU Resources Group, Inc.	MDU	MDU US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Nextracker Inc	NXT	NXT US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	NiSource Inc	NI	NI US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	NorthWestern Energy Group	NWE	NWE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	NRG Energy	NRG	NRG US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	PG&E Corporation	PCG	PCG US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	PNM Resources Inc.	PNM	PNM US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	PPL Corporation	PPL	PPL US	Paul Zimbardo
	Public Service Enterprise Group	PEG	PEG US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Sempra	SRE	SRE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Sunnova Energy	NOVA	NOVA US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	SunRun	RUN	RUN US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	TPI Composites	TPIC	TPIC US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Vistra Corp	VST	VST US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Xcel Energy Inc	XEL	XEL US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
NEUTRAL				
	AES	AES	AES US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith



### North America - Utilities and Alt Energy Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp	AQN	AQN US	Paul Zimbardo
	Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp	YAQN	AQN CN	Paul Zimbardo
	AltaGas	YALA	ALA CN	Cameron Lochridge
	Ameren Corporation	AEE	AEE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Ameresco	AMRC	AMRC US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	American Electric Power	AEP	AEP US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	ChargePoint Holdings	CHPT	CHPT US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Constellation Energy Corp	CEG	CEG US	Paul Zimbardo
	Duke Energy	DUK	DUK US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Emera Inc	YEMA	EMA CN	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Essential Utilities	WTRG	WTRG US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Exelon	EXC	EXC US	Paul Zimbardo
	Generac Holdings Inc.	GNRC	GNRC US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Hydro One	YH	H CN	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Idacorp	IDA	IDA US	Paul Zimbardo
	Maxeon Solar Technologies	MAXN	MAXN US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	NextEra Energy	NEE	NEE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	NextEra Energy Partners	NEP	NEP US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	OGE Energy Corp	OGE	OGE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Ormat Technologies	ORA	ORA US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Pinnacle West	PNW	PNW US	•
		POR	POR US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Portland General Electric Company			Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Southern Company	SO	SO US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Southwest Gas Holdings	SWX	SWX US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	TransAlta Corp	TAC	TAC US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	TransAlta Corporation	YTA	TA CN	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
UNDERPERFORM				
	Allete Inc	ALE	ALE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	American Water Works	AWK	AWK US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Avista	AVA	AVA US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Black Hills Corporation	BKH	BKH US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Bloom Energy	BE	BE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Dominion Energy	D	D US	Paul Zimbardo
	Edison International	EIX	EIX US	Paul Zimbardo
	Enphase Energy	ENPH	ENPH US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Eversource Energy	ES	ES US	Paul Zimbardo
	FirstEnergy	FE	FE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Fortis	YFTS	FTS CN	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Fortis Inc	FTS	FTS US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	FTC Solar	FTCI	FTCI US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Hawaiian Electric Industries	HE	HE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	New Jersey Resources Corp	NJR	NJR US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	ONE Gas, Inc.	OGS	OGS US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	SolarEdge Technologies	SEDG	SEDG US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Spire	SR	SR US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	SunPower Corp.	SPWR	SPWR US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	UGI Corp.	UGI	UGI US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	WEC Energy Group Inc	WEC	WEC US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
DVA				
RVW	N 5 . 5	NEE	NEETIC	LE D. B. C. W.
	New Fortress Energy	NFE	NFE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith



# **IQ**method<sup>™</sup> Measures Definitions

Business Performance	Numerator	Denominator
Return On Capital Employed	NOPAT = (EBIT + Interest Income) $\times$ (1 - Tax Rate) + Goodwill Amortization	Total Assets — Current Liabilities + ST Debt + Accumulated Goodwill
		Amortization
Return On Equity	Net Income	Shareholders' Equity
Operating Margin	Operating Profit	Sales
Earnings Growth	Expected 5 Year CAGR From Latest Actual	N/A
Free Cash Flow	Cash Flow From Operations — Total Capex	N/A
Quality of Earnings	Numerator	Denominator
Cash Realization Ratio	Cash Flow From Operations	Net Income
Asset Replacement Ratio	Capex	Depreciation
Tax Rate	Tax Charge	Pre-Tax Income
Net Debt-To-Equity Ratio	Net Debt = Total Debt - Cash & Equivalents	Total Equity
Interest Cover	EBIT	Interest Expense
Valuation Toolkit	Numerator	Denominator
Price / Earnings Ratio	Current Share Price	Diluted Earnings Per Share (Basis As Specified)
Price / Book Value	Current Share Price	Shareholders' Equity / Current Basic Shares
Dividend Yield	Annualised Declared Cash Dividend	Current Share Price
Free Cash Flow Yield	Cash Flow From Operations – Total Capex	Market Cap = Current Share Price × Current Basic Shares
Enterprise Value / Sales	EV = Current Share Price × Current Shares + Minority Equity + Net Debt +	Sales
	Other LT Liabilities	

EV / EBITDA Enterprise Value Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

\*\*Menethod 3\*\*\*is the set of BofA Global Research standard measures that serve to maintain global consistency under three broad headings: Business Performance, Quality of Earnings, and validations. The key features of iQmethod are: A consistently structured, detailed, and transparent methodology. Guidelines to maximize the effectiveness of the comparative valuation process, and to identify some common pitfalls.

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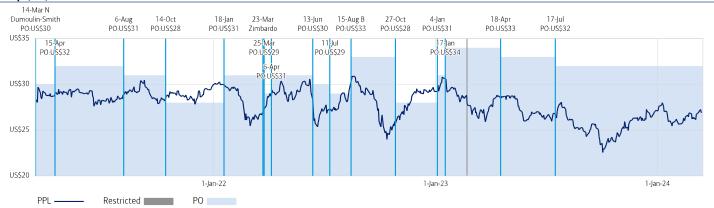
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B: Buy, N: Neutral, U: Underperform, PO: Price Objective, NA: No longer valid, NR: No Rating

The Investment Opinion System is contained at the end of the report under the heading "Fundamental Equity Opinion Key". Dark grey shading indicates the security is restricted with the opinion suspended. Medium grey shading indicates the security is under review with the opinion withdrawn. Light grey shading indicates the security is not covered. Chart is current as of a date no more than one trading day prior to the date of the report.

#### Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Utilities Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	72	46.45%	Buy	52	72.22%
Hold	45	29.03%	Hold	32	71.11%
Sell	38	24.52%	Sell	21	55.26%

#### Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Global Group (as of 31 Dec 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships R1	Count	Percent
Buy	1895	53.62%	Buy	1083	57.15%
Hold	832	23.54%	Hold	454	54.57%
Sell	807	22.84%	Sell	383	47.46%

R1 Issuers that were investment banking clients of BofA Securities or one of its affiliates within the past 12 months. For purposes of this Investment Rating Distribution, the coverage universe includes only stocks. A stock rated Neutral is included as a Hold, and a stock rated Underperform is included as a Sell.

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# Investment rating Total return expectation (within 12-month period of date of initial rating) Ratings dispersion guidelines for coverage cluster<sup>R2</sup>

Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Inderperform	N/A	≥ 20%

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