

## **PG&E** Corporation

# Opportunity to Buy after YTD -10% Relative Correction.

Reiterate Rating: BUY | PO: 19.00 USD | Price: 16.40 USD

## Shares are overly discounted and an opportunity

We reiterate our Buy rating on shares of California regulated utility PG&E Corp (PCG) which offers one of the best long-term risk/reward profiles. PCG has started 2024 with a correction -10% underperformance versus utilities peers. PCG trades at a 25%+ discount vs utilities peers which more than compensates investors for the above-average risk profile given the visible 9%+ EPS growth rate with embedded conservatism.

## Why have shares lagged? Two regulatory overhangs

From our investor conversations, the top two reasons why PCG shares have lagged is the (1) delay in the Pacific Generation [PacGen] proposed minority interest asset sale process; and (2) late filed challenge to the cost of capital [CCM] advice letter approval. The PacGen administrative law judge (ALJ) was targeted for January 6<sup>th</sup> but there has been no regulatory updates or progress. PCG last disclosed target to close the transaction is June 2024, assuming an accelerated Advice Letter process. The ~\$3.4Bn 2024 rate base asset sale is critical to eliminating near-term equity needs. We ultimately expect regulatory approval of the PacGen transaction, although delays are likely. As to the cost of capital increase, we do not believe the CPUC will lower the cost of capital versus the increase to 10.7% that is currently in rates. In the adverse case that the cost of capital is reset lower, we still generally see the EPS growth rate is intact, although much of the conservatism in our forecast would be lost.

## Wildfire risk unfortunately is top of mind for investors

Shares of PCG have been under particular pressure since late February when the Smokehouse Creek Texas wildfire began and the filing of Berkshire Hathaway's annual letter generally casting a cautious tone on wildfire-exposed regulated utilities, including PCG. Wildfire risk has been the clear priority for utility investors in recent weeks, including at our Power, Utilities, & Clean Energy Conference last week. It is correct that California has had the most catastrophic wildfires and has one of the highest risk profiles per NOAA; however, California has the favorable Assembly Bill (AB) 1054 with a liability cap at ~\$3.7Bn (20% of CPUC T&D rate base) on a rolling three-year basis.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E
EPS	1.10	1.25	1.37	1.49	1.63
GAAP EPS	0.84	1.25	1.37	1.49	1.63
EPS Change (YoY)	1.9%	13.6%	9.6%	8.8%	9.4%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			1.35	1.47	1.59
DPS	0	0	0.05	0.09	0.13
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	14.9x	13.1x	12.0x	11.0x	10.1x
GAAP P/E	19.5x	13.1x	12.0x	11.0x	10.1x
Dividend Yield	0%	0%	0.3%	0.5%	0.8%
EV / EBITDA*	4.0x	3.7x	3.4x	3.2x	2.9x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	-18.1%	-3.9%	-6.6%	-12.2%	-6.1%
* For full definitions of <i>IQ</i> method <sup>SM</sup> measures, see page 8.					

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Refer to important disclosures on page 9 to 11. Analyst Certification on page 6. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 6.

Timestamp: 14 March 2024 06:00AM EDT

## 14 March 2024

#### Equity

Voy Changes		
Key Changes		
(US\$)	Previous	Current
2024E Rev (m)	22,822.1	22,771.4
2025E Rev (m)	24,170.2	24,079.5
2026E Rev (m)	NA	25,491.2
2024E EPS	1.38	1.37
2025E EPS	1.54	1.49
2026E EPS	NA	1.63

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## **Stock Data**

Price	16.40 USD
Price Objective	19.00 USD
Date Established	14-Dec-2022
Investment Opinion	B-1-7
52-Week Range	14.71 USD - 18.32 USD
Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out	35,812 USD / 2,183.7
(mn)	
Free Float	96.7%
Average Daily Value (mn)	297.03 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange	PCG / NYS
Bloomberg / Reuters	PCG US / PCG.N
ROE (2024E)	10.2%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2023A)	182.9%
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".

#### Glossary

ALJ: Administrative Law Judge CCM: Cost of Capital Mechanism CPUC: California Public Utilities Commission T&D: Transmission & Distribution

# *iQprofile* <sup>™</sup> PG&E Corporation

Asset Replacement Ratio Tax Rate NM 30.0 Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio Interest Cover 1.0x 22.1.5% Income Statement Data (Dec)  (US\$ Millions) Sales % Change 5.0% Gross Profit 16,824 % Change 3.5% 9.2 EBITDA 31,229 33,6- % Change 6.5% 7.7 Net Interest & Other Income (1,361) Net Income (Adjusted) 8 Change 9.9% 13.9  Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)  (US\$ Millions)  Ret Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) Depreciation & Amortization Change in Working Capital Deferred Taxation Charge (452) Other Adjustments, Net Capital Expenditure (10,214) Free Cash Flow Change 1,269 Change 1,275 Change in Working Capital Expenditure (10,214) Free Cash Flow Free Ca			
Return on Equity 10.7% 10.7 Operating Margin 8.5% 22.3 Free Cash Flow (6,493) (1,38    ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ### ###	3A 2024E	E 2025E	2026
Operating Margin   8.5%   22.3	2% 3.3%	3.4%	3.5%
Free Cash Flow   (6,493)   (1,38	'% 10.2%	10.2%	10.2%
	3% 23.2%	24.2%	25.3%
Cash Realization Ratio	36) (2,349)	(4,374)	(2,186
Cash Realization Ratio         1.6x         3.           Asset Replacement Ratio         2.6x         2.           Tax Rate         NM         30.0           Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio         221.5%         182.9           Interest Cover         1.0x         2.           Interest Cover         2.022A         2022A           % Change         5.0%         0.           Gross Profit         16,824         18,30           % Change         3.5%         9.2           EBITDA         31,229         33,60           % Change         6.5%         7.7           Net Interest & Other Income         (1,361)         (1,00           Net Income (Adjusted)         2,350         2,67           % Change         9.9%         13.9           Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)			
Asset Replacement Ratio 2.6x 2. Tax Rate NM 30.0 Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio 221.5% 182.9 Interest Cover 1.0x 2.  Income Statement Data (Dec)  (US\$ Millions) 2022A 202.  Sales 21,680 21,680 21,68 0.0 % Change 5.0% 0.0 Gross Profit 16,824 18,31 % Change 3.5% 9.2 EBITDA 31,229 33,69 % Change 6.5% 7.7 Net Interest & Other Income (1,361) (1,000 Net Income (Adjusted) 2,350 2,67 % Change 9.9% 13.9  Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)  (US\$ Millions) 2022A 2022  VUS\$ Millions) 2022A 2025  Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP) 1,814 2,69 0.0 Depreciation & Amortization 3,856 3,59 0.0 Change in Working Capital 376) Deferred Taxation Charge (452) 5.0 Other Adjustments, Net (1,121) 2,09 0.0 Change in Working Capital 376) Deferred Taxation Charge (452) 5.0 Other Adjustments, Net (1,121) 2,09 0.0 Change in Debt 7,080 1,46  Balance Sheet Data (Dec)  (US\$ Millions) 2022A 2022  Balance Sheet Data (Dec)  (US\$ Millions) 3,886 3,59 0.0 Cost of Dividends Paid 0 0 0.0 Change in Debt 7,080 1,46  Balance Sheet Data (Dec)  (US\$ Millions) 2022A 2022  Cash & Equivalents 947 1,47 Trade Receivables 8,837 8,88 Other Current Assets 3,031 3,00 Property, Plant & Equipment 76,208 82,62 Other Non-Current Assets 29,621 29,14  Total Assets 118,644 125,09 Short-Term Debt 4,323 4,323 Other Current Liabilities 11,465 11,46 Long-Term Debt 47,742 47,28	3A 2024E	E 2025E	2026
Tax Rate         NM         30.0           Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio         221.5%         182.9           Interest Cover         1.0x         2.           Income Statement Data (Dec)         1.0x         2.           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Sales         21,680         21,68           % Change         5.0%         0           Gross Profit         16,824         18,36           % Change         3.5%         9.2           EBITDA         31,229         33,66           % Change         6.5%         7.7           Net Income (Adjusted)         2,350         2,67           % Change         9.9%         13.9           Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)         2022A         202:           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)         1,814         2,69           Depreciation & Amortization         3,856         3,59           Change in Working Capital         (376)         2022A           Deferred Taxation Charge         (452)         5           Other Adjustments, Net         (1,121)         2,09           Capital Expenditure         (10,214)	1x 2.8x	2.6x	2.6
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio   1.0x   22.15%   182.9     Interest Cover   1.0x   2.5     Sales   21,680   21,680   21,680   6.5%   6.5%   6.5%   6.5%   6.5%   6.5%   7.7     Interest Change   3.5%   9.2     EBITDA   31,229   33,69   6.5%   7.7     Net Interest & Other Income   (1,361)   (1,00   1,00   1,00   1,00   1,00   1,00   1,00     Net Income (Adjusted)   2,350   2,65   (1,361)   1,90   1,39   1,39     Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)   (US\$ Millions)   2022A   202:   (US\$ Millions)   2022A   202:   (US\$ Millions)   3,856   3,50   3,50   1,30   1,40	8x 2.6x	2.7x	2.2:
Interest Cover   1.0x   2.	30.0%	30.0%	30.0%
Income Statement Data (Dec)	9% 172.5%	169.1%	158.0%
Cuss   Millions   Cuss   Cus	8x 2.8x	2.9x	3.1:
Sales       21,680       21,68         % Change       5.0%       0         Gross Profit       16,824       18,38         % Change       3.5%       9.2         EBITDA       31,229       33,6         % Change       6.5%       7.7         Net Interest & Other Income       (1,361)       (1,00         Net Income (Adjusted)       2,350       2,67         % Change       9.9%       13.9         Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)         (US\$ Millions)       2022A       202:         Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)       1,814       2,69         Depreciation & Amortization       3,856       3,59         Change in Working Capital       (376)       20         Deferred Taxation Charge       (452)       3,59         Other Adjustments, Net       (1,121)       2,00         Capital Expenditure       (10,214)       (9,80         % Change       -39.8%       78.6         Share / Issue Repurchase       0       0         Cost of Dividends Paid       0       0         Change in Debt       7,080       1,46         Balance Sheet Data (Dec)         (US\$ Milli			
% Change       5.0%       0         Gross Profit       16,824       18,38         % Change       3.5%       9.2         EBITDA       31,229       33,64         % Change       6.5%       7.7         Net Interest & Other Income       (1,361)       (1,00         Net Income (Adjusted)       2,350       2,67         % Change       9.9%       13.9         Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)         (US\$ Millions)       2022A       202:         Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)       1,814       2,69         Depreciation & Amortization       3,856       3,51         Change in Working Capital       (376)       3,51         Deferred Taxation Charge       (452)       3,51         Other Adjustments, Net       (1,121)       2,09         Capital Expenditure       (10,214)       (9,80         Free Cash Flow       -6,493       -1,38         % Change       -39.8%       78.6         Share / Issue Repurchase       0       0         Cost of Dividends Paid       0       0         Change in Debt       7,080       1,46         Balance Sheet Data (Dec) <t< td=""><td>3A 2024E</td><td>E 2025E</td><td>2026</td></t<>	3A 2024E	E 2025E	2026
Gross Profit         16,824         18,30           % Change         3.5%         9.2           EBITDA         31,229         33,64           % Change         6.5%         7.7           Net Interest & Other Income         (1,361)         (1,00           Net Income (Adjusted)         2,350         2,67           % Change         9.9%         13.9           Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)         1,814         2,69           Depreciation & Amortization         3,856         3,51           Change in Working Capital         (376)         3,51           Deferred Taxation Charge         (452)         1           Other Adjustments, Net         (1,121)         2,08           Capital Expenditure         (10,214)         (9,80           Free Cash Flow         -6,493         -1,38           % Change         -39.8%         78.6           Share / Issue Repurchase         0         0           Cost of Dividends Paid         0         0           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)	87 22,771	24,080	25,491
% Change       3.5%       9.2         EBITDA       31,229       33,6         % Change       6.5%       7.7         Net Interest & Other Income       (1,361)       (1,00         Net Income (Adjusted)       2,350       2,67         % Change       9.9%       13.9         Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)         (US\$ Millions)       2022A       202         Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)       1,814       2,69         Depreciation & Amortization       3,856       3,59         Change in Working Capital       (376)       202         Deferred Taxation Charge       (452)       202         Other Adjustments, Net       (1,121)       2,09         Capital Expenditure       (10,214)       (9,80         Free Cash Flow       -6,493       -1,38         % Change       -39.8%       78.6         Share / Issue Repurchase       0       0         Cost of Dividends Paid       0       0         Change in Debt       7,080       1,46         Balance Sheet Data (Dec)         (US\$ Millions)       2022A       202         Cash & Equivalents       947       1,4	0% 5.0%	5.7%	5.9%
BITDA   31,229   33,60   % Change   6.5%   7.7   Net Interest & Other Income   (1,361)   (1,000   Net Income (Adjusted)   2,350   2,67   % Change   9.9%   13.9	68 19,393	20,641	21,992
% Change         6.5%         7.7           Net Interest & Other Income         (1,361)         (1,00           Net Income (Adjusted)         2,350         2,67           % Change         9.9%         13.9           Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202.           Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)         1,814         2,69           Depreciation & Amortization         3,856         3,59           Change in Working Capital         (376)         3,856         3,59           Change in Working Capital         (376)         2,00         4,52         3,59           Other Adjustments, Net         (1,121)         2,08         2,00         3,856         3,59         3,59         3,60         3,59         3,59         3,60         3,59         3,60         3,60         3,59         3,60         3,60         3,59         3,60         3,60         3,59         3,60			
Net Interest & Other Income         (1,361)         (1,000           Net Income (Adjusted)         2,350         2,67           % Change         9.9%         13.9           Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)         Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)         1,814         2,69           Depreciation & Amortization         3,856         3,59           Change in Working Capital         (376)         2022A         202:           Other Adjustments, Net         (1,121)         2,09           Capital Expenditure         (10,214)         (9,80           Free Cash Flow         -6,493         -1,38           % Change         -39.8%         78.6           Share / Issue Repurchase         0         Cost of Dividends Paid         0           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)         2022A         202:           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,8           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Pl	43 36,115	39,183	42,484
Net Income (Adjusted)         2,350         2,65           % Change         9.9%         13.9           Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)         1,814         2,69           Depreciation & Amortization         3,856         3,59           Change in Working Capital         (376)         (376)           Deferred Taxation Charge         (452)         7           Other Adjustments, Net         (1,121)         2,09           Capital Expenditure         (10,214)         (9,80           Free Cash Flow         -6,493         -1,38           % Change         -39.8%         78.6           Share / Issue Repurchase         0         0           Cost of Dividends Paid         0         0           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,8           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,0           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208 </td <td></td> <td></td> <td></td>			
% Change         9.9%         13.9           Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)         2022A         202:           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)         1,814         2,69           Depreciation & Amortization         3,856         3,59           Change in Working Capital         (376)         3,856         3,59           Change in Working Capital         (376)         2,00 <td></td> <td></td> <td>(1,333</td>			(1,333
Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)         2022A         2022           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202           Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)         1,814         2,69           Depreciation & Amortization         3,856         3,59           Change in Working Capital         (376)         (376)           Deferred Taxation Charge         (452)         7           Other Adjustments, Net         (1,121)         2,09           Capital Expenditure         (10,214)         (9,80           Free Cash Flow         -6,493         -1,38           * Change         -39.8%         78.6           Share / Issue Repurchase         0         0           Cost of Dividends Paid         0         0           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,8           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,6           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,1           Total A			3,569 11.1%
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)         1,814         2,65           Depreciation & Amortization         3,856         3,55           Change in Working Capital         (376)         (376)           Deferred Taxation Charge         (452)         3           Other Adjustments, Net         (1,121)         2,05           Capital Expenditure         (10,214)         (9,80           Free Cash Flow         -6,493         -1,38           % Change         -39.8%         78.6           Share / Issue Repurchase         0         0           Cost of Dividends Paid         0         0           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)         2022A         202:           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,83           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,63           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,14           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,33 <th></th> <th></th> <th></th>			
Depreciation & Amortization         3,856         3,55           Change in Working Capital         (376)           Deferred Taxation Charge         (452)           Other Adjustments, Net         (1,121)         2,03           Capital Expenditure         (10,214)         (9,80           Free Cash Flow         -6,493         -1,38           % Change         -39.8%         78.6           Share / Issue Repurchase         0         0           Cost of Dividends Paid         0         0           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)         2022A         202:           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,83           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,63           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,1-           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,33           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt <t< td=""><td>3A 2024E</td><td>E 2025E</td><td>2026</td></t<>	3A 2024E	E 2025E	2026
Change in Working Capital       (376)         Deferred Taxation Charge       (452)         Other Adjustments, Net       (1,121)       2,03         Capital Expenditure       (10,214)       (9,80         Free Cash Flow       -6,493       -1,38         % Change       -39.8%       78.6         Share / Issue Repurchase       0       0         Cost of Dividends Paid       0       0         Change in Debt       7,080       1,46         Balance Sheet Data (Dec)         (US\$ Millions)       2022A       202         Cash & Equivalents       947       1,4         Trade Receivables       8,837       8,83         Other Current Assets       3,031       3,03         Property, Plant & Equipment       76,208       82,63         Other Non-Current Assets       29,621       29,14         Total Assets       118,644       125,05         Short-Term Debt       4,323       4,33         Other Current Liabilities       11,465       11,46         Long-Term Debt       47,742       47,742	91 2,934	3,226	3,573
Deferred Taxation Charge         (452)           Other Adjustments, Net         (1,121)         2,08           Capital Expenditure         (10,214)         (9,80           Free Cash Flow         -6,493         -1,38           % Change         -39.8%         78.6           Share / Issue Repurchase         0         0           Cost of Dividends Paid         0         0           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)         2022A         202:           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,83           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,63           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,14           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,33           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,465           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,742	55 4,025	4,637	5,278
Other Adjustments, Net         (1,121)         2,08           Capital Expenditure         (10,214)         (9,80           Free Cash Flow         -6,493         -1,38           % Change         -39.8%         78.6           Share / Issue Repurchase         0         Cost of Dividends Paid         0           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,83           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,63           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,14           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,32           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,465           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,742         47,742	0 0	0	(
Capital Expenditure         (10,214)         (9,80           Free Cash Flow         -6,493         -1,38           % Change         -39.8%         78.6           Share / Issue Repurchase         0         0           Cost of Dividends Paid         0         0           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,83           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,63           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,14           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,33           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,742	73 184	184	184
Free Cash Flow         -6,493         -1,38           % Change         -39.8%         78.6           Share / Issue Repurchase         0         0           Cost of Dividends Paid         0         1,46           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,83           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,63           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,14           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,33           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,465           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,742	94 908	279	279
% Change         -39.8%         78.6           Share / Issue Repurchase         0         0           Cost of Dividends Paid         0         1,46           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         2021           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,8           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,6           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,1-           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,32           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,742	, , , ,	,	(11,500
Share / Issue Repurchase         0           Cost of Dividends Paid         0           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,8           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,6           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,1-           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,32           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,742	86 -2,349	-4,374	-2,186
Cost of Dividends Paid         0           Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,8           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,0           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,6           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,1-           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,32           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,742	-69.4%	-86.2%	50.0%
Change in Debt         7,080         1,46           Balance Sheet Data (Dec)         2022A         202:           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,8           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,6           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,1-           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,32           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,742	0 0		(
Balance Sheet Data (Dec)           (US\$ Millions)         2022A         2023           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,8           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,6           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,1-           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,32           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,742	0 (107)	. ,	
(US\$ Millions)         2022A         202:           Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,8           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,0           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,6           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,1-           Total Assets         118,644         125,05           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,32           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,26	64 3,497	3,400	3,300
Cash & Equivalents         947         1,4           Trade Receivables         8,837         8,8           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,0           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,6           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,14           Total Assets         118,644         125,09           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,32           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,26	24 2024	- 20255	2026
Trade Receivables         8,837         8,83           Other Current Assets         3,031         3,03           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,63           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,14           Total Assets         118,644         125,09           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,33           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,465           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,24			
Other Current Assets         3,031         3,031           Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,63           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,14           Total Assets         118,644         125,09           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,33           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,24			
Property, Plant & Equipment         76,208         82,63           Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,14           Total Assets         118,644         125,09           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,33           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,24			8,837 3,03
Other Non-Current Assets         29,621         29,14           Total Assets         118,644         125,09           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,32           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,24			
Total Assets         118,644         125,03           Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,32           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,44           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,23			
Short-Term Debt         4,323         4,32           Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,46           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,28			,
Other Current Liabilities         11,465         11,465           Long-Term Debt         47,742         47,28			
Long-Term Debt 47,742 47,28			
· ·			
52,000			
Total Liabilities 95,569 97,61			108,995
Total Equity 23,075 27,44	•	•	
Total Equity & Liabilities 118,644 125,05			146,102

## **Company Sector**

Electric Utilities

## **Company Description**

PG&E Corporation (PCG) is the owner of the Pacific Gas & Electric Company, a regulated utility servicing 13 million people in a 70,000 square mile service area in Northern and Central California. The utility has businesses in electric and natural gas distribution, electricity generation, procurement and transmission, as well as natural gas procurement, transportation, and storage. Pacific Gas & Electric manages over 5 million electric and 4 million natural gas customer accounts.

#### **Investment Rationale**

We rate PG&E Corp (PCG) Buy due to the large discount versus peers that shares trade at. PCG offers positive multiple re-rating as it distances itself from legacy wildfire claims and makes progress on mitigating future wildfire risks. PCG offers one of the highest EPS CAGRs at approximately 9% that compensates investors for the above-average risk profile of California. Execution of the strategic undergrounding plan will reduce the risk profile over time.

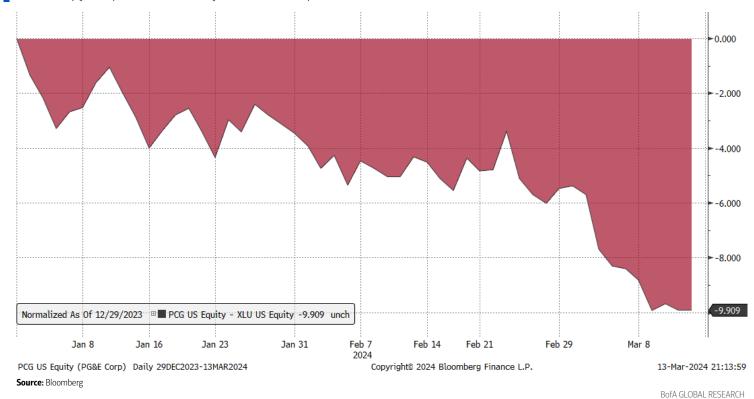
## Stock Data

Average Daily Volume

18,093,668

## Exhibit 1: PCG Equity Relative Underperformance YTD vs Utilities Peers (%)

PCG has sharply underperformed in recent days as Texas wildfire topics have dominated the national headlines



## Adjusted EPS: 2-3% above consensus with 9% CAGR

Our latest adjusted EPS and DPS forecast is below where we see a path towards 9% EPS growth, even when introducing equity into the plan later in the forecast. Operational variances/negative lag grows and represents an areas of embedded conservatism. We increase the quarterly dividend +\$0.01 per year which leads to a very low  $\sim 5-10\%$  payout ratio but a high growth rate. The dividend yield is not expected to be a meaningful contributor to the total return proposition for some time given the 9%+ EPS growth rate guidance. The new forecast is 2-3% above Consensus 2025+.

We see a scenario for a positive capital-markets linked 'virtuous cycle' should PacGen be approved, alongside other financing routes to improve shares. Watch for further cash benefits to the outlook to be discussed by June including potential return of working capital. We see real reasons why the CPUC would approve generation divestment considering the overall backdrop in the state around utility ownership of generation is not the norm and secondarily the benefits to ongoing capex. Risks of capex cuts without PacGen would appear a credible reason enough for the state to acquiesce. Finally, we see the protracted backdrop as not necessarily indicative of challenges in the process considering the numerous delayed dockets historically in the state. On balance, we like the shares.



## **Exhibit 2: PCG Financial Profile**

Premium growth rate with conservatism embedded

PCG EPS Estimates	2021A	2022A	2023A	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2028E	'23-'28
PG&E Total Ratebase	47,470	49,500	58,000	63,500	68,000	74,222	81,878	89,203	9.0%
PG&E Blended Allowed ROE	10.29%	10.29%	10.03%	10.65%	10.65%	10.65%	10.65%	10.65%	
PG&E Blended Allowed Equity	51.54%	51.52%	51.56%	51.58%	51.59%	51.59%	51.58%	51.58%	
Allowed EPS	\$1.27	\$1.23	\$1.40	\$1.64	\$1.74	\$1.87	\$2.02	\$2.17	9.1%
Less: Operational Variances	-\$0.27	-\$0.13	-\$0.15	-\$0.26	-\$0.24	-\$0.24	-\$0.25	-\$0.24	9.6%
PCG EPS - BofA	\$1.00	\$1.10	\$1.25	\$1.37	\$1.50	\$1.63	\$1.77	\$1.93	9.0%
Guidance: ~9% EPS Growth from 2023	\$0.95-\$1.05	\$1.07-\$1.13	\$1.29-\$1.23	51.33-\$1.37	\$1.47	\$1.60	\$1.75	\$1.91	
Guidance: ~9% EPS Growth from 2023  BofA vs Guidance	\$0.95-\$1.05 -0.4%	\$1.07-\$1.13 0.4%	\$1.29-\$1.23 \$ 3.5%	51.33-\$1.37 1.6%	\$1.47 <b>1.7%</b>	\$1.60 <b>1.6%</b>	\$1.75 <b>1.5%</b>	\$1.91 <b>1.3%</b>	
									9.8%
BofA vs Guidance	-0.4%	0.4%	3.5%	1.6%	1.7%	1.6%	1.5%	1.3%	9.8%
BofA vs Guidance Consensus EPS	<b>-0.4%</b> \$1.00	<b>0.4%</b> \$1.10	<b>3.5%</b> \$1.21	<b>1.6%</b> \$1.35	<b>1.7%</b> \$1.47	<b>1.6%</b> \$1.59	<b>1.5%</b> \$1.73	<b>1.3%</b> \$1.88	9.8%
BofA vs Guidance Consensus EPS BofA vs Consensus	<b>-0.4%</b> \$1.00	<b>0.4%</b> \$1.10	<b>3.5%</b> \$1.21 <b>3.2%</b>	<b>1.6%</b> \$1.35 <b>1.4%</b>	1.7% \$1.47 1.7%	<b>1.6%</b> \$1.59	<b>1.5%</b> \$1.73	<b>1.3%</b> \$1.88	9.8% 43.2%

Source: Company Filings, Bloomberg, & BofA Global Research

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

## Valuation: Maintain \$19 PO

Our PO of \$19 reflects an in-line P/E versus the 13.9x electric 2026 peer P/E groups, grossed-up by 5% to reflect capital appreciation across the sector). The acute wildfire risk is incorporated separately via a scenario probability weighted at 50% assuming PCG hits the cap in three-year increments.

We maintain our \$19 PO with two approximately offsetting factors.

- -\$4/share: Applying the 13.9x average 2026 P/E multiple versus 16.0x 2025 previously
- +\$4/share Lowering the wildfire liability probability to 50% to 100% after the risk reduction efforts and regulatory/legislative visibility.

## Exhibit 3: PG&E Corp (PCG) Sum of the Parts Valuation

We still see strong potential total return despite -\$4/share for prospective wildfire risk and not valuing the base business at a premium

PG&E Corp (PCG) Sum of the Parts Valuation	2026 EPS		P/E Multiple			<b>Equity Value</b>
PG&E Corp		<u>Peer</u>	Prem/ Discount	<u>Base</u>		
Group Peer Multiple		<u>13.9x</u>	-	=		
Group EPS CAGR		5.0%	=	=		
<b>1</b>		=	-	=		
Electric Businesses				=	= -	
Electric Utility (CPUC) & Parent Drag	\$0.47	<u>14.6x</u>	0.0x	14.6x		\$6.86
FERC Electric Transmission	\$0.34		0.0x	14.6x		\$4.94
Gas Businesses						
Gas Utility (CPUC)	\$0.58	14.6x	0.0x	14.6x		\$8.47
GT&S	\$0.24		0.0x	14.6x		\$3.51
Total EPS	\$1.63					\$23.79
Less: NPV of Ongoing Wildfire Contribution	-\$682					-\$0.31
	Prob weight	Annual prob-wei	ighted	EPS impact	Multiple	Weighted
Annual wildfire fund reimbursement (\$3.7 cap, 3-Yr impact)	50%	(617)		(0.28)	14.6x	-\$4.12
Total Equity Value Per Share						\$19.00
Current Equity Price						\$16.39
Potential Share Price Return						15.9%
NTM Dividend Yield: FY1 Dividend Yield						0.3%
Potential Total Return						16.2%

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

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



## **BofA Global Research Reports**

## **Title: Subtitle**

PG&E Corporation: Reaffirming LT EPS CAGR After Rate Case. Dividend Starting Very Low at \$0.01/Otr PG&E Corporation: Proposed decisions recommend shift away from undergrounding capex PG&E Corporation: Lean, green capex machine: Investor Day focuses on capital ahead of GRC outcome PG&E Corporation: Adding to US 1 List: Not too late to invest in a long-term beneficiary. Reiterate Buy US Utilities & Clean Tech: PowerPoints: PCG Guide up, ETR, D lower pension income, LNG, ORA, CWEN, & OGS US Utilities & IPPs: PowerPoints: PCG Fire Victim Trust, UGI mgmt, FE Ohio, NI, SRE, & M&A latest US Utilities & IPPs: PowerPoints: PCG Convert, ES CT ROE, SO Georgia Election, NEE Maine, AES Coal US Utilities & IPPs: PowerPoints: PCG FVT & Headquarters, Texas Power M&A, ETR, AES, & Inflation

## **Primary Author**

Julien Dumoulin-Smith

## **Date Published**



## Price objective basis & risk

## **PG&E Corporation (PCG)**

Our PO of \$19 reflects an in-line P/E versus the 13.9x electric 2026 peer P/E groups, grossed-up by 5% to reflect capital appreciation across the sector). The acute wildfire risk is incorporated separately via a scenario probability weighted at 50% assuming PCG hits the cap in three-year increments.

Risks to achievement to estimates and Price Objective are: 1) Wildfire and other natural disasters/catastrophic events, 2) changes in regulatory/legislative/political outcomes, 3) interest rates, 4) equity needs, 5) earned returns and operating costs, 6) nuclear performance, 7) ability to deploy capital, 8) asset sales, 9) management changes, and 10) environmental, social, & governance [ESG] profile.

## **Analyst Certification**

I, Julien Dumoulin-Smith, 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
	Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp	AQN	AQN US	Paul Zimbardo
	Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp	YAQN	AQN CN	Paul Zimbardo
	AltaGas	YALA	ALA CN	Cameron Lochridge
				Ü

## North America - Utilities and Alt Energy Coverage Cluster

Investment rating	Company	BofA Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	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	Cameron Lochridge
	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	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Portland General Electric Company	POR	POR US	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
JNDERPERFORM	Allete Inc	ALE	ALE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	American Water Works	AWK	AWK US	Iulien 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
		FREY	FREY US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	FREYR Battery			<b>7</b>
	FTC Solar Hawaiian Electric Industries	FTCI	FTCLUS	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
		HE MGEE	HE US MGEE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	MGE Energy			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
	Stem, Inc.	STEM	STEM US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	SunPower Corp.	SPWR	SPWR US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	UGI Corp.	UGI	UGIUS	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	WEC Energy Group Inc	WEC	WEC US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
RVW				
	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 + Other LT Liabilities	Sales

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.

\*\*Redatabase\*\* is our real-time global research database that is sourced directly from our equity analysts' earnings models and includes forecasted as well as historical data for income statements, balance sheets, and cash flow statements for companies covered by BofA Global Research.

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## **Disclosures**

## **Important Disclosures**

#### PG&E Corp. (PCG) Price Chart



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.

FUNDAMENTAL EQUITY OPINION KEY: Opinions include a Volatility Risk Rating, an Investment Rating and an Income Rating. VOLATILITY RISK RATINGS, indicators of potential price fluctuation, are: A - Low, B - Medium and C - High. INVESTMENT RATINGS reflect the analyst's assessment of both a stock's absolute total return potential as well as its attractiveness for investment relative to other stocks within its Coverage Cluster (defined below). Our investment ratings are: 1 - Buy stocks are expected to have a total return of at least 10% and are the most attractive stocks in the coverage cluster; 2 - Neutral stocks are expected to remain flat or increase in value and are less attractive than Buy rated stocks and 3 - Underperform stocks are the least attractive stocks in a coverage cluster. An investment rating of 6 (No Rating) indicates that a stock is no longer trading on the basis of fundamentals. Analysts assign investment ratings considering, among other things, the 0-12 month total return expectation for a stock and the firm's guidelines for ratings dispersions (shown in the table below). The current price objective for a stock should be referenced to better understand the total return expectation at any given time. The price objective reflects the analyst's view of the potential price appreciation (depreciation).

# 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%	≤ /0%
Neutral	≥ 0%	≤ 30%
Underperform	N/A	≥ 20%

Ratings dispersions may vary from time to time where BofA Global Research believes it better reflects the investment prospects of stocks in a Coverage Cluster.

INCOME RATINGS, indicators of potential cash dividends, are: 7 - same/higher (dividend considered to be secure), 8 - same/lower (dividend not considered to be secure) and 9 - pays no cash dividend. Coverage Cluster is comprised of stocks covered by a single analyst or two or more analysts sharing a common industry, sector, region or other classification(s). A stock's coverage cluster is included in the most recent BofA Global Research report referencing the stock.

Price Charts for the securities referenced in this research report are available on the Price Charts website, or call 1-800-MERRILL to have them mailed.

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