

# **Eversource Energy**

# Offshore Impairment Grows. Long-term EPS pressured by future CT rate cases

Reiterate Rating: UNDERPERFORM | PO: 69.00 USD | Price: 72.33 USD

# 2Q23 beat due to 2020-2021 storm cost recovery

We reiterate our non-consensus Underperform on Eversource Energy (ES) after 2Q23 earnings release and our latest model refresh where we cut EPS estimates. Eversource reported 2Q23 0.04 GAAP EPS and 0.00 adjusted EPS with the offshore wind impairment larger than guided. 0.00 is a beat vs 0.94 BofA/0.91 Street. ES incurred a 0.00 Street and 0.00 Street and

# Offshore wind long-term ROE removed after impairment

ES has removed the 11-13% "expected long-term average ROE" for offshore wind projects and the expected future spending beyond 2023. The \$1.4-\$1.6Bn 2023 expected spending and project in-service targets were maintained.

# Long-term EPS growth appears challenged. Reduce PO

We lower our adj. EPS forecasts and are now -5% below FY25 Consensus and -3% vs the 6% guidance midpoint. Drivers are (1) forecasted headwinds to Connecticut earnings for Connecticut Light & Power and Yankee Gas; (2) less offshore wind proceeds; and (3) higher interest rates. Incremental equity needs would be further downside. We lower our PO to \$69 from \$78 from -\$5/sh lower EPS, -\$3/sh peer MtM, and -\$1/sh CT discount up.

# Balance sheet remains the question

ES added additional disclosures on "key drivers to enhance funds from operations" to debt (FFO/Debt) from the 12.4% Moody's adjusted 2022. These are mostly known categories including (1) 2022 regulatory credits/tax payments; (2) lower storm costs; (3) collection of deferrals; (4) recent & planned distribution rate increases; (5) offshore wind proceeds; and (6) equity issuances. We look to understand the prospective lower tax obligation/refunds as ES invests \$575Mn in the offshore wind tax equity partnership to generate investment tax credits in 4Q23 and 1H24.

Estimates (Dec) (US\$)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
EPS	3.86	4.09	4.38	4.56	4.71
GAAPEPS	3.54	4.05	4.38	4.56	4.71
EPS Change (YoY)	6.0%	6.0%	7.1%	4.1%	3.3%
Consensus EPS (Bloomberg)			4.36	4.65	4.96
DPS	2.41	2.55	2.70	2.85	3.01
Valuation (Dec)					
P/E	18.7x	17.7x	16.5x	15.9x	15.4x
GAAP P/E	20.4x	17.9x	16.5x	15.9x	15.4x
Dividend Yield	3.3%	3.5%	3.7%	3.9%	4.2%
EV/EBITDA*	16.2x	14.0x	14.1x	13.3x	12.4x
Free Cash Flow Yield*	-4.8%	-4.1%	-0.6%	-6.7%	-6.5%
* For full definitions of <i>iQ</i> method <sup>SM</sup> measures, see page 9.					

BofA Securities does and seeks to do business with issuers covered in its research reports. As a result, investors should be aware that the firm may have a conflict of interest that could affect the objectivity of this report. Investors should consider this report as only a single factor in making their investment decision.

Refer to important disclosures on page 10 to 12. Analyst Certification on page 7. Price
Objective Basis/Risk on page 7.

01 August 2023

Equity

Key Changes		
(US\$)	Previous	Current
Price Obj.	78.00	69.00
2023E Rev (m)	9,678.6	9,700.5
2024E Rev (m)	9,974.8	9,971.7
2025E Rev (m)	10,303.9	10,296.6
2023E EPS	4.34	4.38
2024E EPS	4.60	4.56
2025E EPS	4.86	4.71

Paul Zimbardo

Research Analyst BofAS +1 646 855 1470 paul.zimbardo@bofa.com

Julien Dumoulin-Smith
Research Analyst
BofAS
julien.dumoulin-smith@bofa.com

Heidi Hauch Research Analyst BofAS heidi.hauch@bofa.com

#### **Stock Data**

Price	72.33 USD
Price Objective	69.00 USD
Date Established	01-Aug-2023
Investment Opinion	B-3-7
52-Week Range	67.79 USD - 94.41 USD
Mrkt Val (mn) / Shares Out	25,259 USD / 349.2
(mn)	
Average Daily Value (mn)	141.04 USD
BofA Ticker / Exchange	ES / NYS
Bloomberg / Reuters	ES US / ES.N
ROE (2023E)	9.5%
Net Dbt to Eqty (Dec-2022A)	140.8%
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".

# **iQ**profile<sup>™</sup> Eversource Energy

(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Return on Capital Employed	3.5%	3.5%	3.7%	3.8%	3.8%
Return on Equity	9.2%	9.3%	9.5%	9.4%	9.2%
Operating Margin	20.2%	17.9%	24.7%	25.9%	26.7%
Free Cash Flow	(1,212)	(1,041)	(140)	(1,687)	(1,641)
i <b>Q</b> method <sup>™</sup> – <b>Quality of Earnings*</b>					
(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025
Cash Realization Ratio	1.5x	1.7x	3.1x	1.9x	1.9>
Asset Replacement Ratio	2.4x	2.1x	3.5x	3.3x	3.1x
Tax Rate	21.9%	24.3%	23.2%	23.2%	23.2%
Net Debt-to-Equity Ratio	132.5%	140.8%	134.8%	115.6%	119.6%
Interest Cover	3.4x	3.2x	3.7x	3.4x	3.2>
Income Statement Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	20251
Sales	9,863	12,289	9,701	9,972	10,297
% Change	10.8%	24.6%	-21.1%	2.8%	3.3%
Gross Profit	6,491	7,275	5,656	5,927	6,252
% Change	9.7%	12.1%	-22.3%	4.8%	5.5%
EBITDA	3,328	3,841	3,809	4,054	4,331
% Change	5.7%	15.4%	-0.8%	6.4%	6.8%
Net Interest & Other Income	(582)	(678)	(652)	(770)	(856)
Net Income (Adjusted)	1,330	1,419	1,542	1,659	1,751
% Change	8.0%	6.7%	8.7%	7.5%	5.6%
Free Cash Flow Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E
Net Income from Cont Operations (GAAP)	1,228	1,412	1,550	1,666	1,637
Depreciation & Amortization	1,335	1,643	1,410	1,470	1,586
Change in Working Capital	(277)	(75)	1,672	41	(18)
Deferred Taxation Charge	347	347	293	42	7
Other Adjustments, Net	(670)	(926)	(83)	(83)	38
Capital Expenditure	(3,175)	(3,442)	(4,982)	(4,823)	(4,892)
Free Cash Flow	-1,212	-1,041	-140	-1,687	-1,641
% Change	3.8%	14.2%	86.6%	NM	2.7%
Balance Sheet Data (Dec)					
(US\$ Millions)	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025
Cash & Equivalents	221	522	562	507	398
Trade Receivables	1,226	1,517	2,781	2,848	2,902
Other Current Assets	1,823	2,184	1,278	1,316	1,356
Property, Plant & Equipment	33,378	36,113	39,685	43,038	46,344
Other Non-Current Assets	11,844	12,895	12,895	12,895	12,895
Total Assets	48,492	53,231	57,200	60,604	63,894
Short-Term Debt	2,742	2,806	1,222	1,311	1,249
Other Current Liabilities	3,105	3,994	6,023	6,170	6,246
Long-Term Debt	17,024	19,724	21,918	20,498	22,638
Other Non-Current Liabilities	10,866	11,079	11,372	14,363	14,371
Total Liabilities	33,737	37,602	40,535	42,342	44,503
Total Equity	14,755	15,629	16,749	18,428	19,641
Total Equity & Liabilities	48,492	53,231	57,283	60,770	64,144

## **Company Sector**

Electric Utilities

#### **Company Description**

ES is a regulated utility company providing electric and gas distribution as well as electric transmission services to customers in CT, MA and NH. It is also owns a water utility (Aquarion) which serves the same three states. ES has invested in offshore wind and announced a strategic review of the business in 2022.

#### **Investment Rationale**

Our Underperform rating on Eversource is based on our view of a below-average EPS growth profile and lower balance sheet credit metrics than the overall utility average. ES' northeast utilities have some of the highest electric and gas rates in the US, increasing the risk of adverse regulatory & political outcomes. We model the offshore wind investment plan as not achieving management's targets, consistent with prior unregulated investment prospects.

Stock	Data
-------	------

Average Daily Volume 1,949,939

#### **Quarterly Earnings Estimates**

	2022	2023
Q1	1.30A	1.40A
Q2	0.86A	0.95A
Q3	1.01A	1.20E
Q4	0.88A	0.97E

\* For full definitions of  $\emph{IQ}$  method  $^{\text{SM}}$  measures, see page 9.

# 2Q23 includes non-core drivers

As expected, ES reaffirmed the \$4.25-\$4.43 FY23 adjusted EPS range and the expectation to be solidly in the upper-half of the 5-7% EPS CAGR off a \$4.09 2022 base.

We update FY23 to incorporate 2Q23 actuals and the \$45.3Mn New Hampshire Public Service Commission (PSC) petition for recovery of storm expenses in 2020-2021 (Docket DE 22-031). Management did not specify or quantify what the New Hampshire regulatory outcome was but this would represent substantially all of the +\$0.10 distribution earnings. Additionally storm costs were lower than we expected in 2Q23 and we calculate -\$0.03 lower effective tax rate. Our \$4.38 FY23 is now higher than the \$4.36 guidance midpoint; however, this does not impact our FY24+ estimates as the drivers are discrete to FY23.

Exhibit 1: ES FY23 Annual and Quarterly Drivers

Increasing FY23 adjusted EPS on prior year storm cost recovery, fewer FY23 storms, and lower taxes

ES Earnings Walk	EPS	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
Adjusted EPS - Prior Year	\$4.09	\$1.30	\$0.86	\$1.01	\$0.92
Electric Distribution					
NSTAR Electric +\$64Mn Jan 1, 2023	0.14	0.03	0.03	0.03	0.03
NSTAR Electric Rate Design	-	0.04	-	(0.08)	0.04
PSNH Distribution: \$8.9Mn Nov. 1 2022	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
PSNH Storm Cost Recovery \$45.3Mn May 2023	0.10		0.10		
O&M: Lower storm costs\$0.05 YoY in 2022	0.07	0.02	0.01	0.02	0.02
Trackers: ~\$0.01 per quarter	0.04	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01
Interest Expense	(0.10)	(0.01)	(0.04)	(0.03)	(0.03)
Pension Income Decline: \$0.04 guidance	(0.06)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Energy Assistance Contribution \$10Mn pre-tax	0.02				0.02
Depreciation & Property Taxes	(0.05)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Electric Transmission					
Ratebase Increase: \$0.02-\$0.04 per Quarter	0.11	0.03	0.02	0.03	0.03
Change in ROE/Equity Ratio					
Other					
Natural Gas Distribution					
Trackers: Sub-\$0.01 per quarter	0.02	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
NSTAR Gas PBR: \$21.7Mn (\$4.5Mn taxes)	0.05	0.02	0.01	0.00	0.02
EGMA: ~\$11Mn October 31, 2022	0.03	0.02	0.01	0.01	-
Regulatory Lag	(0.03)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Water Distribution					
Aquarion Rate Case: -\$1Mn March 2023/Stayed	-				
Torrington Water Company: \$72Mn	0.01	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
Regulatory Lag	(0.00)	(0.01)	-	0.01	(0.00)
Parent & Other					
Interest Expense	(0.06)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.01)
Parent Renewable Energy Investment	0.03	0.03			
Lower Effective Tax Rate	0.03		0.03		
Dilution	(0.05)	(0.02)	(0.01)	(0.01)	(0.02)
FY23E Adjusted EPS	\$4.38	\$1.41	\$1.00	\$0.96	\$1.00
FY23 Consensus	\$4.36	\$1.36	\$0.91	\$1.05	\$1.00
Bof A Forecasted Beat/(Miss) vs Consensus	0.4%	3.7%	9.9%	-8.3%	0.1%
FY23 Adj EPS Guidance	4.25-4.43				
Bof A Forecasted Beat/(Miss) vs Guide	0.9%	2.3%	9.4%	-10.1%	2.5%
FY23 Adj EPS Guidance	4.34	1.38	0.91	1.07	0.98
Comment Comment Citizen Discourbance & DefA Clabel December		50	0.51		3.30

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

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



### Downside to Consensus EPS is the main focus

Below we show our latest adjusted EPS forecast where we are -5% below 2025 Consensus with the deltas growing to -8% in 2026 and -12% in 2027.

Exhibit 2: Eversource EPS by Business: reducing CL&P more meaningfully on account of recent regulatory developments

We are now further below Consensus and the 5-7% guidance midpoint. The delta vs 'solidly in the upper half of the 5-7% range would be larger

Eversource EPS by Business	2019A	2020A	2021A	2022A	2023E	2024E	2025E	2026E	2027E	2022-2027 CAGR	2023-2027 CAGR
CL&P: CT	1.27	1.35	1.36	1.52	1.50	1.53	1.50	1.48	1.45	-0.9%	-1.1%
PSNH: NH	0.42	0.43	0.44	0.49	0.51	0.53	0.58	0.62	0.66	5.9%	7.4%
WMECO + NSTAR: MA	1.33	1.31	1.38	1.41	1.59	1.60	1.68	1.78	1.77	4.6%	5.8%
NSTAR Gas: MA	0.12	0.15	0.21	0.22	0.34	0.37	0.39	0.39	0.41	13.3%	16.9%
EGMA: MA		0.04	0.16	0.20	0.20	0.24	0.31	0.33	0.36	12.5%	15.8%
Yankee Gas: CT	0.18	0.20	0.22	0.25	0.26	0.27	0.27	0.28	0.28	2.5%	3.1%
Parent & Other	0.03	0.02	(0.03)	(0.12)	(0.13)	(0.12)	(0.16)	(0.16)	(0.16)	6.2%	7.9%
Aquarion	0.10	0.12	0.11	0.11	0.11	0.13	0.15	0.18	0.19	13.1%	16.7%
ES Consolidated EPS	3.45	3.64	\$3.86	\$4.09	\$4.38	\$4.56	\$4.71	\$4.89	\$4.97	4.0%	5.0%
Guidance: 5-7% 2021A Base	3.40-3.50	3.60-3.70	3.81-3.93	4.04-4.14	4.25-4.43	4.60	4.87	5.16	5.47	6.0%	6.0%
Bof A vs. Guidance				0.0%	1.1%	-0.8%	-3.3%	-5.2%	<b>-9.1</b> %		
Consensus		3.64	3.85	4.10	4.36	4.65	4.96	5.31	5.66	6.7%	
BofA vs. Consensus				-0.1%	0.5%	<b>-2.0</b> %	-5.1%	- <b>7.9</b> %	-12.1%		
BofA Change in Estimates				0.0%	1.0%	-0.9%	-3.1%	N/A	N/A		
Previous Estimates	3.45	3.64	3.86	4.09	4.34	4.60	4.86				
FFO / Debt	12.4%	10.2%	12.2%	12.4%	14.6%	15.1%	14.5%	13.9%	13.5%		

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

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

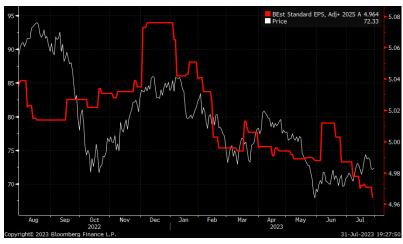
While the Connecticut Light & Power (CLP) rate case is not expected until 2025, we see a scenario where distribution earnings run-rate 2027 are lower than in 2022. Using the peer United Illuminating (UI – Avangrid [AGR] subsidiary) as an example, a -10% ratebase reduction (vs -20% for UI), 8.8% base authorized return on equity (down from 9.25% currently), and 50% equity ratio (down from 53% currently and more consistent with the prior rate case 50.4%) would support \$269Mn 2027 net income. We stress the regulatory backdrop and risks loom large. Watch Performance Base Rate (PBR) process as well for potential further decrements to earned returns over time as well. On balance, expect outsized concerns on any (long-term) reset in CT earnings power.

See the UI case details here: <u>US Utilities & IPPs: Connecticut Regulatory Caution</u> <u>Affirmed: Negative Avangrid Proposed Decision 24 July 2023</u>

FY25 Consensus of \$4.96 is well above the \$4.87 6% CAGR guidance midpoint with Street giving credit for management's refinement of being 'solidly in the upper-half'.

#### Exhibit 3: Eversource FY25 Adjusted EPS Consensus (Red) vs Stock Price (White)

ES has had continued negative long-term adjusted EPS revisions.



Source: Bloomberg

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



# Valuation: Lower valuation to \$69 from \$78

The valuation is based on a 2025 sum of the parts analysis. Electric and gas utility base multiples are grossed-up +5% to reflect sector capital appreciation potential, a consistent approach across the coverage universe. We update for the latest utility subsector 2025 P/Es of 15.9x electric and 15.8x natural gas, and 23.8x water. This compares with 16.4x electric, 16.4x natural gas, and 24.8x water previously. We value CL&P and Yankee Gas at -20% discounts which grows with the increase in the base multiples. The other utilities are valued at -1x discounts based on below average consolidated growth and weaker balance sheet metrics.

#### Key changes are:

- Reduce EPS estimates: ~\$5/sh of the lower PO is related to -3% FY25 EPS
- **Sector mark-to-market:** ~\$3/sh reduction when applying the latest peer multiples
- **Increasing Connecticut discount:** ~\$1/sh reduction from slightly increasing the discounts to 20% (-3.3x P/E) from 18% (-3.0x P/E)

#### Exhibit 4: Eversource (ES) Sum of the Parts Valuation

Discount valuations are appropriate for the below average growth and balance sheets. CT large discount warranted for regulatory uncertainty, post 2025 in particular

Eversource (ES) Sum of the Parts Valuation						
	2025 EPS	Peer	Prem/ Discount	Base	%	\$/Sh
Electric Utilities						
Group Peer Multiple & EPS CAGR	<b>15.9x</b> x <b>5.0</b>	% = <b>16.7</b> x				
CL&P: CT	\$1.50	16.7x	-3.3x	13.4x	-20%	\$20.00
PSNH: NH	\$0.58	16.7x	-1.0x	15.7x	-6%	\$9.03
WMECO + NSTAR: MA	\$1.68	16.7x	-1.0x	15.7x	-6%	\$26.33
Total Electric Utilities	\$3.75	16.7x	-1.9x	14.8x	-12%	\$55.36
Gas Utilities						
Group Peer Multiple & EPS CAGR	<b>15.8x</b> x <b>5.0</b>	% = <b>16.6x</b>				
NSTAR Gas: MA	\$0.39	16.6x	-1.0x	15.6x	-6%	\$6.12
EGMA: MA	\$0.31	16.6x	-1.0x	15.6x	-6%	\$4.76
Yankee Gas: CT	\$0.27	16.6x	-3.3x	13.3x	-20%	\$3.58
Total Gas Utilities	\$0.97	16.7x	-1.8x	14.9x	-10%	\$14.45
Water Utilities						
Group Peer Multiple & EPS CAGR	23.8x x N/	A = 23.8x				
Aquarion	\$0.15	23.8x	-10.5x	13.3x	-44%	\$2.04
Parent & Other						
Parent & Other	-\$0.16	16.6x	0.0x	16.6x	0%	-\$2.68
Grand Total Equity Value	\$4.71	16.7x	-1.2x	14.7x	-12%	\$69.17
Shares Outstanding 2025E						372
Total Potential Equity Value						\$69.00
Current Eversource price as of 07/31/2023						72.33
Potential Stock Return						-4.6%
FY1 Dividend Yield						3.7%
Total Potential Return						-0.9%
Total	\$4.71	16.9x	-2.2x	14.7x	-13%	\$69.17

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

BofA GLOBAL RESEARCH



#### **Exhibit 5: ES Mini Sum of the Parts**

Summarizing the formal Sum of the Parts above

ES Mini Sum of the Parts	2025 EPS	EPS Mix	Peer		P/E		\$/Sh	
Electric	\$3.75	80%	16.7x	-1.9x	14.8x	-12%	\$55.36	80%
Gas	\$0.97	21%	16.7x	-1.8x	14.9x	-10%	\$14.45	21%
Water	\$0.15	3%	23.8x	-10.5x	13.3x	-44%	\$2.04	3%
Parent & Other	-\$0.16	-3%	16.7x	-0.1x	16.6x	0%	-\$2.68	-4%
Total	\$4.71		16.9x	-2.2x	14.7x	-13%	\$69.17	
ES Mini Sum of the Parts	2025 EPS	EPS Mix	Peer		P/E		\$/Sh	Value Mix
Connecticut	\$1.92	41%	17.2x	-3.9x	13.3x	-23%	\$25.62	37%
Massachusetts	\$2.38	50%	16.7x	-1.0x	15.7x	-6%	\$37.21	54%
New Hampshire	ĊO FO	120/	16.7x	-1.0x	15.7x	-6%	\$9.03	13%
rie ir riai i poriti e	\$0.58	12%	10.7X	- 1.UX	13.78	-070	رن.رپ	15 /0
Parent & Other	\$0.58 	-3%	16.7x 16.7x	-1.0x -0.1x	16.6x	0%	-\$2.68	-4%

Source: Company Filings, Bloomberg, & BofA Global Research

RofA GLOBAL RESEARCH

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

Titla:	Subtitle	ı

US Utilities & IPPs: Connecticut Regulatory Caution Affirmed: Negative Avangrid Proposed Decision US Utilities & IPPs: PowerPoints: DUK Renew Sale, ES/AGR CT, SO Vogtle, Cali ROE/AWK, Wind, AEP, AQN US Utilities & Clean Tech: PowerPoints: XEL fire, NEE hydrogen, ES offshore wind contingencies, & PPL US Utilities & IPPs: Connecticut Legislation Negative for Utilities: Watching ES and AGR Impacts US Utilities & IPPs: Connecticut Regulatory & Political Profile Set to Spread? Underperform ES & AGR Eversource Energy: Offshore Under Water? Why we still see a cautious setup for this Connecticut utility Eversource Energy: Capex up and EPS down. ES delivers \$3.3Bn capex but LT guide disappoints Eversource Energy: Remain Cautious on Prospects Post-IRA: How much capex can the team deliver? Eversource Energy: Life after offshore: contemplating the pro-forma regulated profile & pension negative Eversource Energy: Revisiting Offshore Wind Strategy after Earlier Reset: How much value is there? Eversource Energy: Blown Away: Elevated Risks as Offshore Uncertainty Mounts: D/G to Underperform

#### **Date Published Primary Author** Paul Zimbardo Julien Dumoulin-Smith Iulien Dumoulin-Smith

Paul Zimbardo Julien Dumoulin-Smith

# 24 July 2023

# Price objective basis & risk

### **Eversource Energy (ES)**

Our sum of the parts based price objective of \$69 uses P/E multiples on 2025E earnings. The valuation is based on a 2025 sum of the parts analysis. We apply the 2025 average peer P/Es of 15.9x electric, 15.8x natural gas, and 23.8x water. For Connecticut electric & gas utilities, we value at -20% discount (-3.3x) to reflect historical challenges and prospective earnings risks. Connecticut water is valued in-line with natural gas. The other utilities are valued at a -1x discount for below-average consolidated growth and weaker balance sheet metrics. Parent net loss per share is valued at an average electric utility multiple.

Upside and downside risks to our Price Objective are 1) regulatory/political/legislative changes, 2) capital expenditures forecasts, 3) ability to earn the regulatory allowed ROE, 4) offshore wind development, 5) natural disasters & storms, 6) operational performance and gas incidents, 7) integration of historical and prospective M&A, 8) pension plan performance, and 9) equity issuances.

# **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	Bof A Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
BUY				
	Alliant Energy Corporation	LNT	LNT US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Ameren Corporation	AEE	AEE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Ameresco	AMRC	AMRC 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
	Bloom Energy	BE	BE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	CenterPoint Energy	CNP	CNP US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	ChargePoint Holdings	CHPT	CHPT US	Alex Vrabel
	Cheniere Energy Inc	LNG	LNG 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
	Duke Energy	DUK	DUK US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Enlight Renewable Energy Ltd	ENLT	ENLT US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Enlight Renewable Energy Ltd	XENLF	ENLT IT	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Exelon	EXC	EXC US	Paul Zimbardo
	First Solar, Inc.	FSLR	FSLR US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	FREYR Battery	FREY	FREY US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	FTC Solar	FTCI	FTCI US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Hydro One	YH	H CN	Dariusz Lozny, CFA
	Maxeon Solar Technologies	MAXN	MAXN US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	MDU Resources Group, Inc.	MDU	MDU US	Dariusz Lozny, CFA
	Nextracker Inc	NXT	NXT US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	NiSource Inc	NI	NI US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	NorthWestern Corporation	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
	Portland General Electric Company	POR	POR US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	PPL Corporation	PPL	PPL US	Paul Zimbardo
	Public Service Enterprise Group	PEG	PEG US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	ReNew Power	RNW	RNW US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith



## North America - Utilities and Alt Energy Coverage Cluster

vestment rating	Company	Bof A Ticker	Bloomberg symbol	Analyst
	Sempra Energy	SRE	SRE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	SolarEdge Technologies	SEDG	SEDG US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Sunnova Energy	NOVA	NOVA US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	SunRun	RUN	RUN US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
		TPIC	TPIC US	•
	TPI Composites			Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Vistra Energy	VST	VST US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	WEC Energy Group Inc	WEC	WEC US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Xcel Energy Inc	XEL	XEL US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
JTRAL				
/ I KAL	AES	AES	AFCLIC	Iulian Dumanulin Craith
			AES US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp	AQN	AQNUS	Dariusz Lozny, CFA
	Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp	YAQN	AQN CN	Dariusz Lozny, CFA
	AltaGas	YALA	ALA CN	Dariusz Lozny, CFA
	American Electric Power	AEP	AEP US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Clearway Energy	CWENA	CWEN/A US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Clearway Energy	CWEN	CWEN US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Constellation Energy Corp	CEG	CEG US	Paul Zimbardo
	63 .			
	Emera Inc	YEMA	EMA CN	Dariusz Lozny, CFA
	Entergy	ETR	ETRUS	Paul Zimbardo
	Essential Utilities	WTRG	WTRG US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Fluence Energy	FLNC	FLNC US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Hannon Armstrong	HASI	HASI US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	ldacorp	IDA	IDA US	Paul Zimbardo
	New Fortress Energy	NFE	NFE US	Cameron Lochridge
	NextEra Energy	NEE	NEE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
		NEP	NEP US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	NextEra Energy Partners			,
	Northwest Natural Holdings	NWN	NWN US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	OGE Energy Corp	OGE	OGE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	ONE Gas, Inc.	OGS	OGS US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Ormat Technologies	ORA	ORA US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Pinnacle West	PNW	PNW US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Southwest Gas Holdings	SWX	SWX US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	TransAlta Corp	TAC	TACUS	Dariusz Lozny, CFA
	•	YTA	TA CN	3.
	TransAlta Corporation	TIA	TA CIV	Dariusz Lozny, CFA
DERPERFORM				
	Allete Inc	ALE	ALE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	American Water Works	AWK	AWK US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
			AGR US	Paul Zimbardo
	Avangrid	AGR		
	Avista	AVA	AVA US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Black Hills Corporation	BKH	BKH 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
	Evergy, Inc	EVRG	EVRG US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Eversource Energy	ES	ES US	Paul Zimbardo
		EVGO	ES US EVGO US	Alex Vrabel
	EVgo Inc.			
	FirstEnergy	FE	FE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Fortis	YFTS	FTS CN	Dariusz Lozny, CFA
	Fortis Inc	FTS	FTS US	Dariusz Lozny, CFA
	Generac Holdings Inc.	GNRC	GNRC US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Hawaiian Electric Industries	HE	HE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	MGE Energy	MGEE	MGEE US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	New Jersey Resources Corp	NJR	NJR US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
				,
	Southern Company	SO	SO US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Spire	SR	SRUS	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Stem, Inc.	STEM	STEM US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	SunPower Corp.	SPWR	SPWR US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	Tellurian Inc	TELL	TELL US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	UGI Corp.	UGI	UGLUS	Julien Dumoulin-Smith
	•	UTL		•
	Unitil Corporation	UIL	UTL US	Julien Dumoulin-Smith



# **Q**method <sup>su</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

EV / EBITDA Enterprise Value Basic EBIT + Depreciation + Amortization

\*\*Monethod S<sup>MI</sup> 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.

IQprofile M, IQmethod M are service marks of Bank of America Corporation. IQdatabase is a registered service mark of Bank of America Corporation.

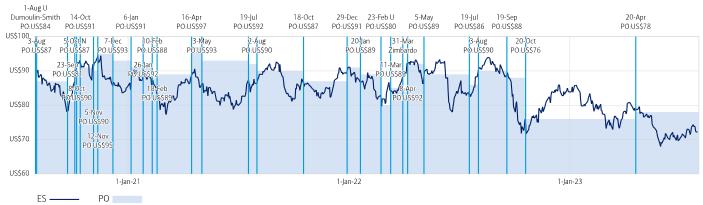
Other LT Liabilities



# **Disclosures**

# **Important Disclosures**

#### **Eversource Energy (ES) 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 30 Jun 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships <sup>R1</sup>	Count	Percent
Buy	80	51.61%	Buy	52	65.00%
Hold	40	25.81%	Hold	29	72.50%
Sell	35	22.58%	Sell	23	65.71%

#### Equity Investment Rating Distribution: Global Group (as of 30 Jun 2023)

Coverage Universe	Count	Percent	Inv. Banking Relationships <sup>R1</sup>	Count	Percent
Buy	1877	53.28%	Buy	1040	55.41%
Hold	815	23.13%	Hold	464	56.93%
Sell	831	23.59%	Sell	385	46.33%

RI Issuers that were investment banking dients 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	
Buy	≥ 10%	≤ 70%	

Neutral  $\geq 10\%$   $\leq 70\%$  Number of the second of the secon

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.

BofAS or one of its affiliates acts as a market maker for the equity securities recommended in the report. Eversource Energy.

BofAS or an affiliate was a manager of a public offering of securities of this issuer within the last 12 months: Eversource Energy.

The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, an investment banking client of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates: Eversource Energy.

BofAS or an affiliate has received compensation from the issuer for non-investment banking services or products within the past 12 months: Eversource Energy.

The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, a non-securities business client of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates: Eversource Energy.

BofAS or an affiliate has received compensation for investment banking services from this issuer within the past 12 months: Eversource Energy.

BofAS or an affiliate expects to receive or intends to seek compensation for investment banking services from this issuer or an affiliate of the issuer within the next three months: Eversource Energy.

BofAS or one of its affiliates is willing to sell to, or buy from, clients the common equity of the issuer on a principal basis: Eversource Energy.



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.

The issuer is or was, within the last 12 months, a securities business client (non-investment banking) of BofAS and/or one or more of its affiliates: Eversource Energy.

BofA Global Research personnel (including the analyst(s) responsible for this report) receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of Bank of America Corporation, including profits derived from investment banking. The analyst(s) responsible for this report may also receive compensation based upon, among other factors, the overall profitability of the Bank's sales and trading businesses relating to the class of securities or financial instruments for which such analyst is responsible.

# **Other Important Disclosures**

From time to time research analysts conduct site visits of covered issuers. BofA Global Research policies prohibit research analysts from accepting payment or reimbursement for travel expenses from the issuer for such visits.

Prices are indicative and for information purposes only. Except as otherwise stated in the report, for any recommendation in relation to an equity security, the price referenced is the publicly traded price of the security as of close of business on the day prior to the date of the report or, if the report is published during intraday trading, the price referenced is indicative of the traded price as of the date and time of the report and in relation to a debt security (including equity preferred and CDS), prices are indicative as of the date and time of the report and are from various sources including BofA Securities trading desks.

The date and time of completion of the production of any recommendation in this report shall be the date and time of dissemination of this report as recorded in the report timestamp.

Recipients who are not institutional investors or market professionals should seek the advice of their independent financial advisor before considering information in this report in connection with any investment decision, or for a necessary explanation of its contents.

Officers of BofAS or one or more of its affiliates (other than research analysts) may have a financial interest in securities of the issuer(s) or in related investments. Refer to BofA Global Research policies relating to conflicts of interest.

BofA Securities' includes BofA Securities, Inc. ('BofAS') and its affiliates. Investors should contact their BofA Securities representative or Merrill Global Wealth Management financial advisor if they have questions concerning this report or concerning the appropriateness of any investment idea described herein for such investor. 'BofA Securities' is a global brand for BofA Global Research.

#### Information relating to Non-US affiliates of BofA Securities and Distribution of Affiliate Research Reports:

BofAS and/or Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner & Smith Incorporated ("MLPF&S") may in the future distribute, information of the following non-US affiliates in the US (short name: legal name, regulator): Merrill Lynch (South Africa): Merrill Lynch South Africa (Pty) Ltd., regulated by The Financial Service Board; MLI (UK): Merrill Lynch International, regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority (FCA) and the Prudential Regulation Authority (PRA); BofASE (France): BofA Securities Europe SA is authorized by the Autorité de Contrôle Prudential et de Résolution (ACPR) and regulated by the ACPR and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers (AMF). BofA Securities Europe SA ("BofASE") with registered address at 51, rue La Boétie, 75008 Paris is registered under no. 842 602 690 RCS Paris. In accordance with the provisions of French Code Monétaire et Financier (Monetary and Financial Code), BofASE is an établissement de crédit et d'investissement (credit and investment institution) that is authorised and supervised by the European Central Bank and the Autorité de Contrôle Prudentiel et de Résolution (ACPR) and regulated by the ACPR and the Autorité des Marchés Financiers. BofASE's share capital can be found at <a href="https://www.bofaml.com/BofASEdisclaimer">www.bofaml.com/BofASEdisclaimer</a>; BofA Europe (Milan): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Milan Branch, regulated by the Bank of Italy, the European Central Bank (ECB) and the Central Bank of Ireland (CBI); BofA Europe (Frankfurt): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Frankfurt Branch regulated by BaFin, the ECB and the CBI; BofA Europe (Madrid): Bank of America Europe Designated Activity Company, Sucursal en España, regulated by the Bank of Spain, the ECB and the CBI; Merrill Lynch (Australia): Merrill Lynch (Forgalized (Australia): Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong): Merrill (H (Asia Pacific) Limited, regulated by the Hong Kong Securities and Futures Commission (HKSFC); Merrill Lynch (Singapore): Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd, regulated by the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS); Merrill Lynch (Canada): Merrill Lynch (Mexico): Merrill Lynch (Mexico): Merrill Lynch (Mexico) SA de CV, Casa de Bolsa, regulated by the Comisión Nacional Bancaria y de Valores; Merrill Lynch (Argentina): Merrill Lynch Argentina SA, regulated by Comisión Nacional de Valores; BofAS Japan: BofA Securities Japan Co., Ltd., regulated by the Financial Services Agency; Merrill Lynch (Seoul): Merrill Lynch International, LLC Seoul Branch, regulated by the Financial Supervisory Service; Merrill Lynch (Taiwan): Merrill Lynch Securities (Taiwan) Ltd., regulated by the Securities and Futures Bureau; BofAS India: BofA Securities India Limited, regulated by the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI); Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch (DIFC): Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch (Israel): Merrill Lynch (DIFC): Merrill Lynch (Israel): Me by the Dubai Financial Services Authority (DFSA); Merrill Lynch (Brazil): Merrill Lynch S.A. Corretora de Títulos e Valores Mobiliários, regulated by Comissão de Valores Mobiliários; Merrill Lynch KSA Company: Merrill Lynch Kingdom of Saudi Arabia Company, regulated by the Capital Market Authority.

This information: has been approved for publication and is distributed in the United Kingdom (UK) to professional clients and eligible counterparties (as each is defined in the rules of the FCA and the PRA) by MLI (UK), which is authorized by the PRA and regulated by the FCA and the PRA - details about the extent of our regulation by the FCA and PRA are available from us on request; has been approved for publication and is distributed in the European Economic Area (EEA) by BofASE (France), which is authorized by the ACPR and regulated by the ACPR and the AMF; has been considered and distributed in Japan by BofAS Japan, a registered securities dealer under the Financial Instruments and Exchange Act in Japan, or its permitted affiliates; is issued and distributed in Hong Kong by Merrill Lynch (Hong Kong) which is regulated by HKSFC; is issued and distributed in Taiwan by Merrill Lynch (Taiwan); is issued and distributed in India; and is issued and distributed in Singapore to institutional investors and/or accredited investors (each as defined under the Financial Advisers Regulations) by Merrill Lynch (Singapore) (Company Registration No 198602883D). Merrill Lynch (Singapore) is regulated by MAS. Merrill Lynch Equities (Australia) Limited (ABN 65 006 276 795), AFS License 235132 (MLEA) distributes this information in Australia only to 'Wholesale' clients as defined by s.761G of the Corporations Act 2001. With the exception of Bank of America N.A., Australia Branch, neither MLEA nor any of its affiliates involved in preparing this information is an Authorised Deposit-Taking Institution under the Banking Act 1959 nor regulated by the Australian Prudential Regulation Authority. No approval is required for publication or distribution of this information in Brazil and its local distribution is by Merrill Lynch (Brazil) in accordance with applicable regulations. Merrill Lynch (DIFC) is authorized and regulated by the DFSA. Information prepared and issued by Merrill Lynch (DIFC) is done so in accordance with the requirem

This information has been prepared and issued by BofAS and/or one or more of its non-US affiliates. The author(s) of this information may not be licensed to carry on regulated activities in your jurisdiction and, if not licensed, do not hold themselves out as being able to do so. BofAS and/or MLPF&S is the distributor of this information in the US and accepts full responsibility for information distributed to BofAS and/or MLPF&S clients in the US by its non-US affiliates. Any US person receiving this information and wishing to effect any transaction in any security discussed herein should do so through BofAS and/or MLPF&S and not such foreign affiliates. Hong Kong recipients of this information should contact Merrill Lynch (Asia Pacific) Limited in respect of any matters relating to dealing in securities or provision of specific advice on securities or any other matters arising from, or in connection with, this information. Singapore recipients of this information should contact Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd in respect of any matters arising from, or in connection with, this information. For clients that are not accredited investors, expert investors or institutional investors Merrill Lynch (Singapore) Pte Ltd accepts full responsibility for the contents of this information distributed to such clients in Singapore.

#### General Investment Related Disclosures:

Taiwan Readers: Neither the information nor any opinion expressed herein constitutes an offer or a solicitation of an offer to transact in any securities or other financial instrument. No part of this report may be used or reproduced or quoted in any manner whatsoever in Taiwan by the press or any other person without the express written consent of BofA Securities. This document provides general information only, and has been prepared for, and is intended for general distribution to, BofA Securities clients. Neither the information nor any opinion expressed constitutes an offer or an invitation to make an offer, to buy or sell any securities or other financial instrument or any derivative related to such securities or instruments (e.g., options, futures, warrants, and contracts for differences). This document is not intended to provide personal investment advice and it does not take into account the specific investment objectives, financial situation and the particular needs of, and is not directed to, any specific person(s). This document and its content do not constitute, and should not be considered to constitute, investment advice for purposes of ERISA, the US tax code, the Investment Advisers Act or otherwise. Investors should seek financial advice regarding the appropriateness of investing in financial instruments and implementing investment strategies discussed or recommended in this document and should understand that statements regarding future prospects may not be realized. Any decision to purchase or subscribe for securities in any offering must be based solely on existing public information on such security or the information in the prospectus or other offering document issued in connection with such offering, and not on this document.

Securities and other financial instruments referred to herein, or recommended, offered or sold by BofA Securities, are not insured by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation and are not



deposits or other obligations of any insured depository institution (including, Bank of America, N.A.). Investments in general and, derivatives, in particular, involve numerous risks, including, among others, market risk, counterparty default risk and liquidity risk. No security, financial instrument or derivative is suitable for all investors. Digital assets are extremely speculative, volatile and are largely unregulated. In some cases, securities and other financial instruments may be difficult to value or sell and reliable information about the value or risks related to the security or financial instrument may be difficult to obtain. Investors should note that income from such securities and other financial instruments, if any, may fluctuate and that price or value of such securities and instruments may rise or fall and, in some cases, investors may lose their entire principal investment. Past performance is not necessarily a guide to future performance. Levels and basis for taxation may change.

This report may contain a short-term trading idea or recommendation, which highlights a specific near-term catalyst or event impacting the issuer or the market that is anticipated to have a short-term price impact on the equity securities of the issuer. Short-term trading ideas and recommendations are different from and do not affect a stock's fundamental equity rating, which reflects both a longer term total return expectation and attractiveness for investment relative to other stocks within its Coverage Cluster. Short-term trading ideas and recommendations may be more or less positive than a stock's fundamental equity rating.

BofA Securities is aware that the implementation of the ideas expressed in this report may depend upon an investor's ability to "short" securities or other financial instruments and that such action may be limited by regulations prohibiting or restricting "shortselling" in many jurisdictions. Investors are urged to seek advice regarding the applicability of such regulations prior to executing any short idea contained in this report.

Foreign currency rates of exchange may adversely affect the value, price or income of any security or financial instrument mentioned herein. Investors in such securities and instruments, including ADRs, effectively assume currency risk.

BofAS or one of its affiliates is a regular issuer of traded financial instruments linked to securities that may have been recommended in this report. BofAS or one of its affiliates may, at any time, hold a trading position (long or short) in the securities and financial instruments discussed in this report.

BofA Securities, through business units other than BofA Global Research, may have issued and may in the future issue trading ideas or recommendations that are inconsistent with, and reach different conclusions from, the information presented herein. Such ideas or recommendations may reflect different time frames, assumptions, views and analytical methods of the persons who prepared them, and BofA Securities is under no obligation to ensure that such other trading ideas or recommendations are brought to the attention of any recipient of this information. In the event that the recipient received this information pursuant to a contract between the recipient and BofAS for the provision of research services for a separate fee, and in connection therewith BofAS may be deemed to be acting as an investment adviser, such status relates, if at all, solely to the person with whom BofAS has contracted directly and does not extend beyond the delivery of this report (unless otherwise agreed specifically in writing by BofAS). If such recipient uses the services of BofAS in connection with the sale or purchase of a security referred to herein, BofAS may act as principal for its own account or as agent for another person. BofAS is and continues to act solely as a broker-dealer in connection with the execution of any transactions, including transactions in any securities referred to herein.

#### BofA ESGMeter Methodology:

ESGMeter is a proprietary metric based on quantitative analysis and fundamental analyst inputs that reflects our assessment of a company's Environmental, Social and Governance-related attributes. The ESGMeter is intended to indicate a company's likelihood of experiencing stronger financial stability (higher return on equity and lower earnings and price volatility) over the next three years relative to peer group. There are three ESGMeter levels - Low, Medium, and High - which indicate whether a company has attributes most likely to translate into superior financial stability (in the case of a High level) or weaker financial stability (in the case of a Low level) over the next three years relative to its peer group. A Medium level suggests that a company exhibits ESG characteristics that are likely associated with financial stability results in line with its peer group over the next three years. Full details of our methodology, financial stability definition and disclaimers are available at <a href="BofA ESGMeter methodology">BofA ESGMeter methodology</a>. ESGMeter is not indicative of a company's future stock price performance and is not an investment recommendation or rating. ESGMeter is independent of the BofA Global Research fundamental equity analyst's investment rating, volatility risk rating, income rating or price objective for that company.

#### Copyright and General Information:

Copyright 2023 Bank of America Corporation. All rights reserved. iQdatabase® is a registered service mark of Bank of America Corporation. This information is prepared for the use of BofA Securities clients and may not be redistributed, retransmitted or disclosed, in whole or in part, or in any form or manner, without the express written consent of BofA Securities. BofA Global Research information is distributed simultaneously to internal and client websites and other portals by BofA Securities and is not publicly-available material. Any unauthorized use or disclosure is prohibited. Receipt and review of this information constitutes your agreement not to redistribute, retransmit, or disclose to others the contents, opinions, conclusion, or information contained herein (including any investment recommendations, estimates or price targets) without first obtaining express permission from an authorized officer of BofA Securities. Materials prepared by BofA Global Research personnel are based on public information. Facts and views presented in this material have not been reviewed by, and may not reflect information known to, professionals in other business areas of BofA Securities, including investment banking personnel. BofA Securities has established information barriers between BofA Global Research and certain business groups. As a result, BofA Securities does not disclose certain client relationships with, or compensation received from, such issuers. To the extent this material discusses any legal proceeding or issues, it has not been prepared as nor is it intended to express any legal conclusion, opinion or advice. Investors should consult their own legal advisers as to issues of law relating to the subject matter of this material. BofA Global Research personnel's knowledge of legal proceedings in which any BofA Securities entity and/or its directors, officers and employees may be plaintiffs, defendants, co-defendants or co-plaintiffs with or involving issuers mentioned in this material is based on public inform

This information has been prepared independently of any issuer of securities mentioned herein and not in connection with any proposed offering of securities or as agent of any issuer of any securities. None of BofAS any of its affiliates or their research analysts has any authority whatsoever to make any representation or warranty on behalf of the issuer(s). BofA Global Research policy prohibits research personnel from disclosing a recommendation, investment rating, or investment thesis for review by an issuer prior to the publication of a research report containing such rating, recommendation or investment thesis.

Any information relating to the tax status of financial instruments discussed herein is not intended to provide tax advice or to be used by anyone to provide tax advice. Investors are urged to seek tax advice based on their particular circumstances from an independent tax professional.

The information herein (other than disclosure information relating to BofA Securities and its affiliates) was obtained from various sources and we do not guarantee its accuracy. This information may contain links to third-party websites. BofA Securities is not responsible for the content of any third-party website or any linked content contained in a third-party website. Content contained on such third-party websites is not part of this information and is not incorporated by reference. The inclusion of a link does not imply any endorsement by or any affiliation with BofA Securities. Access to any third-party website is at your own risk, and you should always review the terms and privacy policies at third-party websites before submitting any personal information to them. BofA Securities is not responsible for such terms and privacy policies and expressly disclaims any liability for them.

All opinions, projections and estimates constitute the judgment of the author as of the date of publication and are subject to change without notice. Prices also are subject to change without notice. BofA Securities is under no obligation to update this information and BofA Securities ability to publish information on the subject issuer(s) in the future is subject to applicable quiet periods. You should therefore assume that BofA Securities will not update any fact, circumstance or opinion contained herein.

Subject to the quiet period applicable under laws of the various jurisdictions in which we distribute research reports and other legal and BofA Securities policy-related restrictions on the publication of research reports, fundamental equity reports are produced on a regular basis as necessary to keep the investment recommendation current.

Certain outstanding reports or investment opinions relating to securities, financial instruments and/or issuers may no longer be current. Always refer to the most recent research report relating to an issuer prior to making an investment decision.

In some cases, an issuer may be classified as Restricted or may be Under Review or Extended Review. In each case, investors should consider any investment opinion relating to such issuer (or its security and/or financial instruments) to be suspended or withdrawn and should not rely on the analyses and investment opinion(s) pertaining to such issuer (or its securities and/or financial instruments) nor should the analyses or opinion(s) be considered a solicitation of any kind. Sales persons and financial advisors affiliated with BofAS or any of its affiliates may not solicit purchases of securities or financial instruments that are Restricted or Under Review and may only solicit securities under Extended Review in accordance with firm policies.

Neither BofA Securities nor any officer or employee of BofA Securities accepts any liability whatsoever for any direct, indirect or consequential damages or losses arising from any use of this information.

