

# MOODY'S

## INVESTORS SERVICE

### OUTLOOK

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### Regulated Utilities - US

## 2017 Outlook - Timely Cost-Recovery Drives Stable Outlook

Our outlook for the US regulated utilities industry is stable. This outlook reflects our expectations for the fundamental business conditions in the industry over the next 12 to 18 months.

#### A credit-supportive regulatory environment is the main driver of our stable outlook.

Our stable outlook for the US regulated utility industry is based on our expectation that utilities will continue to recover costs in a timely manner and maintain stable cash flows.

- » **CFO-to-debt ratios will hold steady in 2017.** Utilities are contending with flat to lower power demand and lower allowed returns on equity. However, we expect that the continued use of cost-recovery mechanisms, the ongoing management of operating costs and extension of bonus depreciation will support cash flow, such that the industry-wide average ratio of CFO to debt will remain at about 22% next year, in line with the 10-year average.
- » **States to watch in 2017.** Most utilities operate in credit-supportive state regulatory jurisdictions. In some states – Ohio, Arizona and California, for example - regulatory support could change either positively or negatively in 2017.
- » **Wind and solar power represent longer-term competitive threats to utilities that operate under the traditional ratemaking structure.** Most utilities are working with regulators to refine their rate designs now, in order to stay ahead of any potential industry transformations triggered by a widespread adoption of distributed generation.
- » **As industry consolidation continues, utilities are increasingly using holding company leverage to finance deals, a credit negative.** Utilities are more comfortable using leverage at the holding-company level to make acquisitions and other investments, even though it results in a weaker financial profile.
- » **What could change our outlook.** We could consider shifting our outlook to positive if the sector's average ratio of CFO to debt rose toward 25% on a sustainable basis, which could happen if utilities de-lever significantly, which we do not expect. A more contentious regulatory environment resulting in a material deterioration in cash flow, such that the ratio fell toward 18%, could cause us to take a negative view.

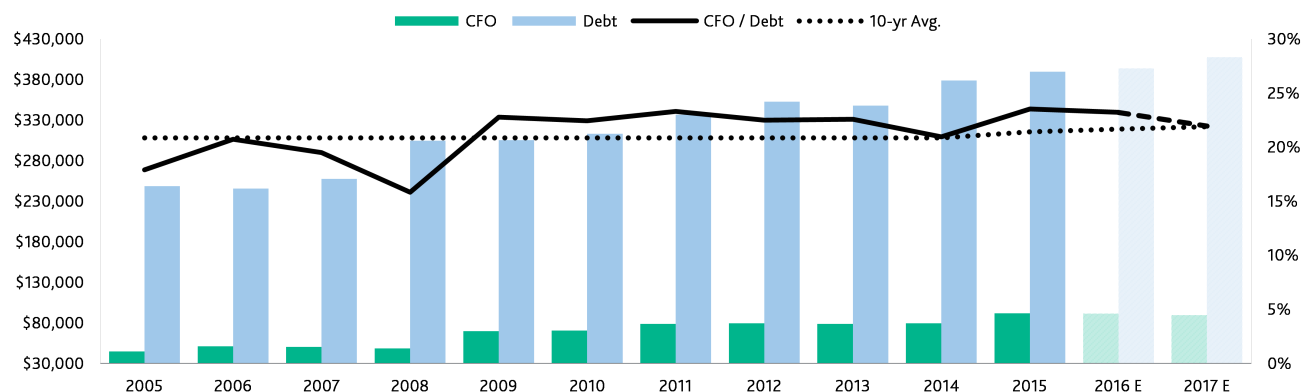
### Timely cost-recovery will continue to drive stable cash flows

We expect that regulatory support will continue to allow utilities to recover costs in a timely manner and maintain stable cash flows, such that the ratio of CFO to debt will remain about 22% on average for the peer group of 140 rated utilities listed in Appendix A.

Utilities continue to contend with stagnant electricity demand and lower allowed returns on equity. However, we believe that timely cost-recovery mechanisms combined with cost management and the tax savings associated with the extension of bonus depreciation will be offsetting factors.

Exhibit 1

**We expect that the industry ratio of CFO to debt will hold steady with the 10-year average**  
(\$ in millions)



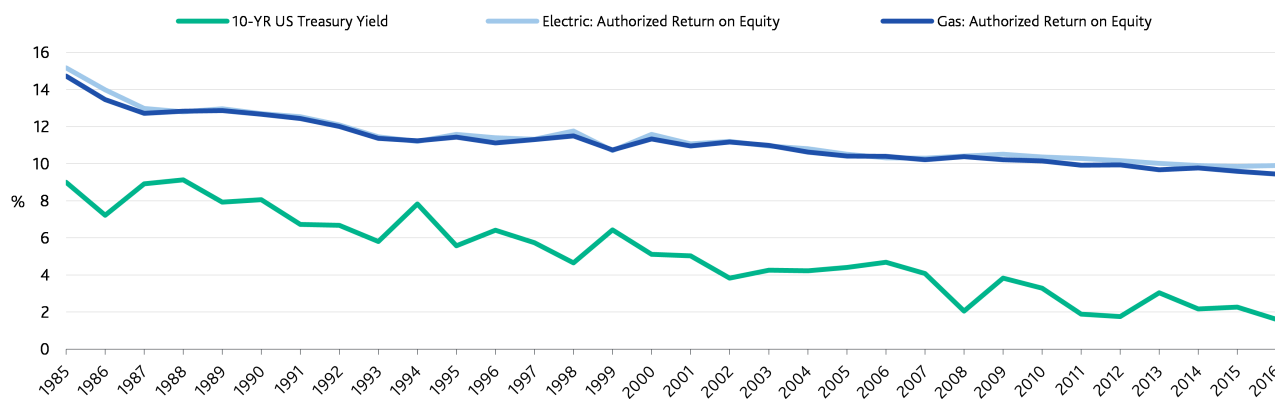
Source: Moody's Investors Service

Since outlooks represent our forward-looking view on business conditions that factor into our ratings, a negative (positive) outlook suggests that negative (positive) rating actions are more likely on average. However, the industry outlook does not represent a sum of upgrades, downgrades or ratings under review, or an average of the rating outlooks of issuers in the industry, but rather our assessment of the main direction of business fundamentals within the overall industry.

This publication does not announce a credit rating action. For any credit ratings referenced in this publication, please see the ratings tab on the issuer/entity page on [www.moodys.com](http://www.moodys.com) for the most updated credit rating action information and rating history.

Exhibit 2

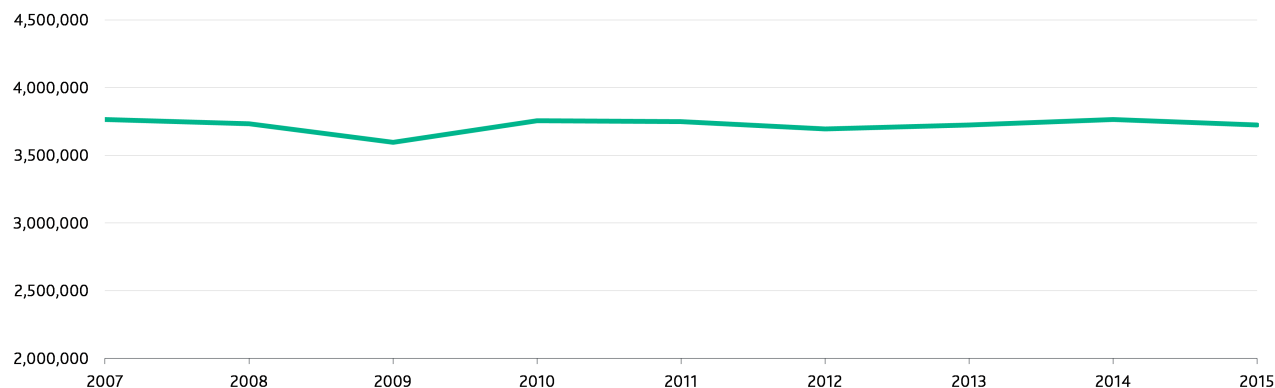
Allowed returns on equity have trended lower for decades, along with the 10-Year US Treasury Yield



Sources: S&P Global Market Intelligence, FactSet Research Systems Inc.

Exhibit 3

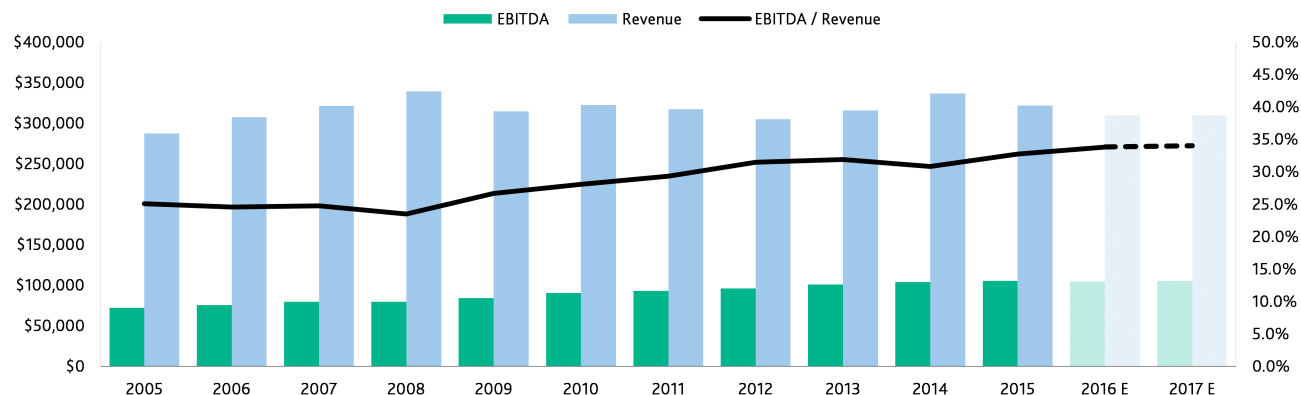
Annual US electricity retail sales have been flat since the financial downturn  
(Million Kilowatthours)



Source: US Energy Information Administration

Exhibit 4

EBITDA margins have steadily improved  
(\$ in millions)



Source: Moody's Investors Service

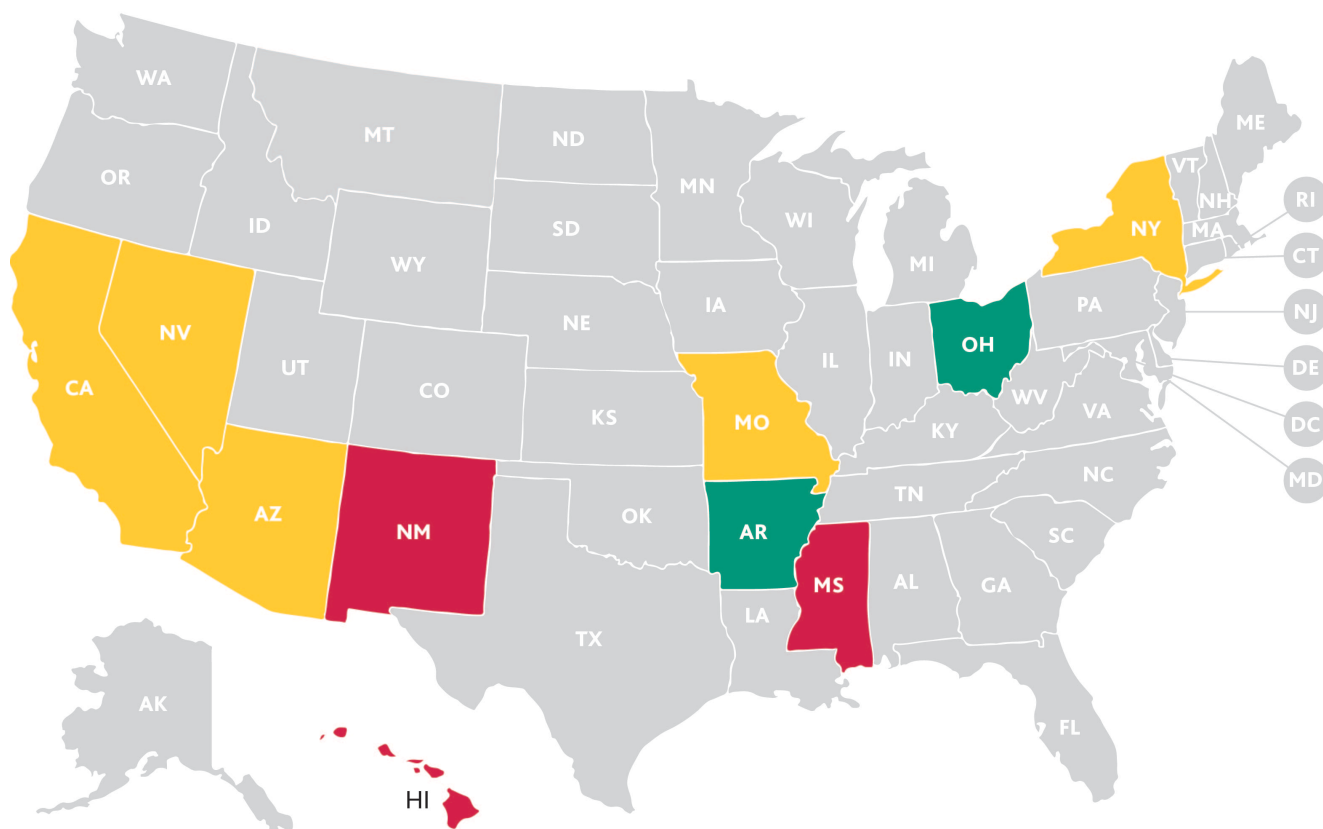
## States to Watch in 2017

Broadly speaking state regulatory jurisdictions are credit-supportive. However, in certain states, regulatory support might change in 2017.

Exhibit 5

### States to Watch in 2017

- Potential Credit-Positive Regulatory Developments
- Potential Credit-Negative Regulatory Developments
- Uncertain Regulatory Developments



Source: Moody's Investors Service

### Potential Credit-Positive Regulatory Developments

**Arkansas:** In March 2015, the state regulatory commission passed a law that allows utilities to recover costs through formulaic rate plans. Formulaic rate plans provide more transparent and prescriptive frameworks for the timely recovery of capital investments than traditional rate cases.

So far, Entergy Arkansas Inc. (Baa1 stable) has been the only utility to use this framework. We expect other state utilities to implement formulaic rate plans (e.g., Oklahoma Gas & Electric, A1 stable), as Arkansas progresses toward implementing and refining the utility rate framework. Southwestern Electric Power Company (Baa2 stable) has filed to use a formulaic rate plan and is awaiting the regulatory commission's order to do so.

**Ohio:** The Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) has recently taken actions and is considering additional measures that support the credit quality of state utility companies. In March 2016, for example, the commission approved settlement agreements for FirstEnergy Corp. (FE, Baa3 negative) and American Electric Power (AEP, Baa1 stable) that included power purchase agreements with

their generation affiliates intended to compensate those businesses and assure base load generating capability for their respective rate payers.

We viewed the commission's approval as a strong signal of support for the credit quality of FE. However, as a result of an April 2016 ruling by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), the utilities abandoned the proposed power purchase agreements and sought an alternative. In October 2016, the PUCO modified the Electric Security Program (ESP) of FE's Ohio utilities by authorizing FE's Ohio utilities to collect \$204 million (gross) per year through a Distribution Modernization Rider (DMR) for a three-year period, with the possibility of a two-year extension subject to PUCO approval. While the rider is in use, FE is required to maintain its headquarters in Akron, Ohio, and make sufficient progress in grid modernization initiatives including the deployment of smart grid technology. It is noteworthy that the DMR was primarily aimed to "provide FirstEnergy with an infusion of capital so that it will be financially healthy enough to make future investments in grid modernization." The DMR is intended to maintain FE's investment-grade financial metrics. In their testimony, the PUCO staff stated their belief that the long-term financial health of FE would have benefits for Ohio regulated utilities. PUCO's actions in financially supporting the parent FE rather than just its utility subsidiaries are noteworthy and a strong indication of their commitment to credit quality. DPL has applied to the commission for a rider similar to the one approved for FE. AEP is evaluating its alternatives.

### Potential Credit-Negative Regulatory Developments

**Hawaii.** Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO, Baa2 stable) is under heavy pressure from its regulators and stakeholders to reduce customer rates, which are above the national average, and this is resulting in depressed cash flows and poor returns on equity. HECO also bears considerable risk as it attempts to reduce its costs by switching to renewables from traditionally expensive fuel oil, which currently dominates its fuel mix.

**Mississippi.** Mississippi Power Company (Baa3 negative) faces significant regulatory risk associated with the 582 megawatt Kemper integrated gasification combined cycle plant, which has experienced substantial delays and cost increases since the project started in 2010. Two new Mississippi utility commissioners took office in January 2016, creating some regulatory uncertainty at a time when the company will be pursuing important, rate-recovery proceedings on the plant, once it achieves commercial operation. The continued support of the Mississippi Public Service Commission in the implementation of such rate relief will be important to the credit quality of Mississippi Power and to the stabilization of its negative rating outlook.

**New Mexico.** In late September, the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission issued its final order on the general rate case filed by the Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM, Baa2 stable). Although the commission approved a rate increase of \$61 million, or slightly more than half the \$121.5 million the utility requested, the rate case took longer than a year to resolve and was contentious. In addition, PNM is appealing to the New Mexico Supreme Court for consideration of certain items that were not approved by the regulators. The state Supreme Court process could take another year or more to resolve the outstanding issues. PNM will also file a new rate case in December, which will be decided by the end of 2017.

### Uncertain Regulatory Developments

**Arizona.** The two largest investor-owned utilities in the state - Tucson Electric Power Company (A3 stable) and Arizona Public Service Company (A2 stable) - are currently in the middle of rate case proceedings. We expect that the 2017 outcomes will be, on the whole, credit-supportive.

Separately, the Arizona Corporation Commission is expected to address potential changes to the state's rooftop solar net metering tariff and utility rate design next year. During 2016, regulators held hearings to assess the cost of service and value of solar while understanding its benefits. The information gathered from these hearings will be used to modify the state's utility rate design as it relates to distributed generation.

**California.** The state's utilities receive a high level of attention and scrutiny from both the media and public, which could cause issues to become contentious and litigious. Proceedings involving nuclear power plant shutdowns have the potential for downside risk. Ongoing policy developments regarding distributed energy and other clean technologies could represent opportunities but also unexpected challenges for the utility business model.

**Missouri.** A recent report issued by the staff of the Missouri Public Service Commission argues that Spire Inc. (Baa2 stable) inappropriately pushed the Alabama Gas Company's (A2 stable) acquisition-related expenses on to its Missouri gas customers. This followed a report earlier this year in which the Missouri Office of the Public Counsel argued that Spire's Missouri utilities were earning above their allowed return on equity. Spire has refuted these arguments and has said it will file a general rate case in Missouri by March 17, 2017. Given the publicity around these claims, Spire could face a more contentious rate case next year.

**Nevada.** Nevada has been a center of debate on net metering, distributed generation, and utility rate reform. The Public Utilities Commission of Nevada's (PUCN) February 2016 decision to impose higher costs on existing net metering customers sparked political backlash. In September 2016, the PUCN restored the former rates to existing net metering customers and the state governor has reconstituted the three-member PUCN by appointing two new commissioners. As a result, the heightened political contentiousness and sensitivity to utility rates have made the regulatory environment more challenging for Nevada's utilities.

Sierra Pacific Power Company (Baa1 stable) filed for no increase in its revenue requirement in its current general rate case, and recently announced a settlement to reduce rates slightly. Nevada Power Company (Baa1 stable) has had several major customers, including some of the largest casinos, applying to buy power from an alternative supplier. Although NV Energy (Baa2 stable) will receive exit fees and will continue to be able to charge these customers for investments made on their behalf, the risk of losing customer load will put pressure on NV Energy to compete more to keep existing customers while also keeping costs low and tempering future rate increases.

**New York.** New York continues to make progress in its Reforming the Energy Vision (REV) initiative, which aims to transform the state's energy distribution system and customer use of energy over the next decade. Although we see no material credit impact at this time, REV-related items are increasingly making their way into utility rate case filings; the most recent example being the joint rate plan proposal filed by Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc. (A2 stable), which incorporates roughly \$175 million of capital allotted for REV purposes over the next three years.

Additionally, the New York Public Service Commission has approved a 12-year subsidy for nuclear plants through a mechanism called zero emission credits. While the subsidy primarily benefits unregulated generation companies such as Exelon Generation Company, LLC (Baa2 stable), we view the subsidy as a form of regulatory intervention that will result in higher customer bills.

### Wind and solar power are long-term competitive threats

Solar and wind power and other forms of distributed generation are a long-term competitive threat to utilities operating under the typical traditional ratemaking structure. But the regulatory response so far, coupled with potential changes to rate design, are credit supportive of the industry.

Across the US, most utilities are working with regulators to refine their suite of recovery mechanisms to stay ahead of the potential industry transformation that a widespread adoption of solar power would bring. A few states are going further in pursuing a brand new utility business model, such as New York through its Reforming the Energy Vision program that embraces solar and wind power. But most states are tackling rate design and policy issues first.

Right now, utilities are working with regulators to reform net energy metering to reduce the cost-shift from customers who have rooftop solar to those who do not. There are several rate design reforms that lessen the impact from net metering, including revenue decoupling, which reduces the volume risk to revenues, and higher fixed charges or rooftop solar surcharges, like in Arizona and California, which improves the recovery of the fixed costs to operate utility assets. In some states, like Hawaii, net metering has no longer been available to new solar customers since October 12, 2015.

Exhibit 6

**States that have taken recent regulatory action**

State	Net Metering Policy	Recent Regulatory Actions
Arizona	Net excess electricity sent back into the electric utility grid is credited to solar customers at retail rates. Arizona Public Service Company's (A2 stable) solar customers are charged a surcharge of \$0.70 per kW solar system (a \$4.90 monthly charge for a 7 kW system).	In August 2016, the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) deferred UNS Electric's, (A3 stable) proposal to reduce its net metering credits for excess electricity sold back to the utility grid from \$0.11/kWh to \$0.0584/kWh. The ACC is expected to address net metering and utility rate design in 2017.
California	Net excess electricity sent back into the electric utility grid is credited to solar customers at retail rates but has a non-bypassable energy charges and a minimum bill requirement.	In early 2016, the California Public Utility Commission upheld the state's existing net metering arrangement that reimburses DG-customers at the full retail rate for excess electricity. The new arrangement allows a utility to impose a one-time hookup fee on solar customers ranging between \$75 and \$150 and solar customers must move to time-of-use rates. Solar customers will also have to pay a non-bypassable charge of about 2-3 cents/kWh for energy consumed from the grid. Customers also have to pay a minimum bill of \$10 per month even if their net energy. CPUC will revisit the net energy metering tariff structure in 2019.
Hawaii	Until October 2015, net metering was offered to customers in which net excess electricity sent back into the electric utility grid is credited to solar customers at retail rates. Net metering is still available to pre-existing net metered customers as of October 12, 2015.	In October 2015, the Hawaii Public Utility Commission voted to end net metering in the state and allows three alternative options: a grid supply option, a self-supply option, and a time of use tariff. To help cover fixed costs, all residential solar customers that remain connected to the grid will pay a minimum monthly bill of \$25. The grid supply option compensates excess power sold to the grid at 15-28 cents/kWh, which is ~50% of retail rates.
Nevada	The state's investor-owned utilities are required to offer net metering programs to their customers who generate electricity from solar, wind, geothermal, biomass and some types of hydropower. The program pays customers for the electricity their systems produce. If less than 100kW, the utility must provide a meter capable of measuring electricity flowing in and out of the customer's system. If more than 100kW, the utility may require the customer to install a meter capable of measuring bidirectional flow, at the customer's expense.	In December 2015, Nevada Public Utilities Commission (NPUC) unanimously voted to approve of a new rate structure that would effectively reimburse DG-customers at the wholesale rate (rather than the retail rate) for excess electricity and also impose a monthly grid hookup charge. In addition, the NPUC authorized large full requirement customers including the states casinos to become distribution services-only customers, but required them to pay substantial exit fees and ongoing non-bypassable charges. The exit fees are intended to mitigate any cost shift to rate payers associated with a customer exit.  In September 2016, the NPUC approved a plan to restore retail net-energy metering rates on existing solar customers of NV Energy Inc. (Baa2 stable), a subsidiary of Berkshire Hathaway Energy Company (A3 stable).
New York	Publicly-owned utilities are not obligated to offer net metering, but Net metering is available to customers of the state's major investor-owned utilities, subject to technology, system size and aggregate capacity limitations. Net excess electricity sent back into the electric utility grid is credited to solar customers at retail rates.	The value of distributed generation is being studied as part of grid modernization efforts in the Reforming the Energy Vision proceeding in New York. Among other things, the proceedings are reviewing the costs and benefits associated with net metering for utility customers. The results of these studies is expected to influence future net metering policies and tariffs.

Source: Moody's Investors Service

Although we think that solar power, wind power and other forms of distributed generation have the potential to disrupt the traditional utility business model over the long term, mass grid defection is highly unlikely in the foreseeable future partly because the cost of batteries used for energy storage is still too high. Alternative power systems have relatively higher costs and lower supply reliability than grid-supplied power.

The long-term implications of battery storage for utilities will depend on technological improvement. Regulatory support will also be important for battery adoption among utilities. Support can take many forms including energy-storage mandates or subsidies, like



those promoted in California, New York and Hawaii. Federal regulations that permit batteries to provide grid ancillary services in the New York and PJM wholesale markets are another form of support.

Although the risk of substantial grid disconnection over the long term could be disruptive and potentially lead to certain utility assets being stranded, the electric grid is critical to the US economy and society as a whole. Consequently, over the longer term, we believe that utilities will continue to receive credit support from regulators.

### **Utilities are using holding company leverage to finance deals, a credit negative**

Although not a primary driver of our industry outlook, several US utilities are increasingly using holding company leverage to finance M&A and other investments outside their core businesses, a credit negative. An increase in parent leverage could have negative implications for the entire family, including for utility operating companies.

The most pervasive driver of rating differentials has been structural subordination of debt at the holding company. The operating company services its debt with cash flow from its operations, whereas the holding company depends on upstream dividends from residual cash flows from subsidiaries to service its debt obligations, which can be less certain. We have observed that the primary drivers of rating differentials greater than one notch have been the degree of leverage at the parent, or investments in unregulated businesses with higher operating risk than regulated utilities.

Several recent acquisitions that have closed or are still pending include the use of significant leverage at the parent as part of the acquisition financing. As a result, we have taken negative rating actions on the parent's rating or our outlook for the rating related to several recently announced deals. In some instances, we have also taken a negative rating action on the target utility that was acquired.

In January, we downgraded Duke Energy Corp.'s (Duke) senior unsecured rating to Baa1 from A3 and changed the rating outlook to negative. Duke's rating downgrade was prompted by weak consolidated financial metrics, a high level of debt at the Duke holding company, and the pending acquisition of Piedmont Natural Gas Company, Inc. (A2 stable), which is expected to weaken these credit factors.

In July, we downgraded the senior unsecured ratings of TECO Energy Inc. and its financing subsidiary, TECO Finance Inc., to Baa2 from Baa1, and Tampa Electric Company to A3 from A2, after Emera Inc. (Baa3 stable) closed its acquisition of the company. The downgrades were primarily driven by the significant amount of incremental debt issued across the Emera holding companies to finance the acquisition as well as the lack of any meaningful ring-fence type provisions designed to protect TECO Energy or its principal utility subsidiary, Tampa Electric Company.

Other utility holding companies are raising debt at the parent to fund investments in unregulated businesses. In October, we downgraded DTE Energy Company's (DTE) senior unsecured rating to Baa1 from A3, which was prompted by DTE's increased exposure to gas midstream assets which, by their nature, have more volatile earnings and cash flow streams than DTE's primary electric and gas utility pipeline and gas storage assets. The downgrade considered DTE's acquisition financing plan that will initially result in approximately \$1.3 billion of additional parent company debt. As a result, the percentage of parent company debt within DTE's capital structure will increase to over 30% versus around 22% as of year-end 2015. DTE's outlook is stable.



Exhibit 7

**Recent Utility M&A Transactions**

Announced	Completion		Company	Initial Rating Action	Final Rating Action	Rating Action Rationale
Feb-15	Dec-15	Acquirer	Iberdrola USA <sup>[1]</sup> (Baa1 stable)	No immediate ratings impact	Baa1 rating and stable outlook affirmed	Strength of regulated utilities as well as the largely contracted nature of its unregulated business
		Target	UIL Holdings Corp. (Baa2 stable)	Baa2 rating and stable outlook affirmed		Unleveraged transaction allows the new parent company to gain scale and diversification without the eroding effects of incremental debt
Jul-15	Feb-16	Acquirer	Black Hills Corp. (Baa1 negative)	Baa1 rating affirmed and outlook changed to negative	Baa1 rating and negative outlook affirmed	Weaker pro forma consolidated credit metrics
		Target	SourceGas Holdings <sup>[2]</sup> (ratings withdrawn)	Baa2 rating and stable outlook affirmed	Upgraded to Baa1 from Baa2 and outlook stable	No longer sole subsidiary servicing the debt at the parent level; benefits from larger utility family
Aug-15	Jul-16	Acquirer	The Southern Co. (Baa2 stable)	Baa1 rating affirmed and outlook changed to negative	Downgraded to Baa2 from Baa1 and outlook stable	Significant increase in holding company debt at a time when it has already been increasing; lower consolidated financial metrics
		Target	AGL Resources <sup>[3]</sup> (Baa1 stable)	Baa1 rating and stable outlook affirmed		Acquisition by Southern does not impact the fundamentals of its credit profile
Sep-15	Jul-16	Acquirer	Emera, Inc. (Baa3 stable)	Not rated	Assigned Baa3 rating and outlook stable	Reflects the company's diverse and largely regulated operations, offset by high consolidated leverage
		Target	TECO Energy, Inc. (Baa2 stable)	No immediate ratings impact	Downgraded to Baa2 from Baa1 and outlook stable	Significant incremental debt issued across Emera parent holding companies; lack of meaningful ring-fence provisions designed to insulate TECO and TEC
Oct-15	Oct-16	Acquirer	Duke Energy Corp. (Baa1 negative)	On review for downgrade	Downgraded from A3 to Baa1 and outlook negative	Weak consolidated financial metrics; a high level of debt at the Duke holding company
		Target	Piedmont Natural Gas Co. (A2 stable)	A2 rating and stable outlook affirmed		We expect that Piedmont's credit profile will be maintained after the transaction is consummated
Feb-16	Sep-16	Acquirer	Dominion Resources, Inc. (Baa2 stable)	Baa2 rating and stable outlook affirmed		Dominion's size and capital structure can withstand the added debt within the balanced financing plan
		Target	Questar Corp. <sup>[4]</sup> (P-2 stable)	On review for downgrade	Downgraded to P-2 from P-1 and outlook stable	Increased business risk profile
Feb-16	Q4 2016	Acquirer	Fortis Inc. (Baa3 stable)	Not rated	Assigned Baa3 rating and outlook stable	Reflects the low business risk from its portfolio of regulated utilities, offset by high consolidated leverage and notching for structural subordination
		Target	ITC Holdings Corp. (Baa2 stable)	No immediate ratings impact		We expect that the capital structure will largely be left as is at transaction close
Feb-16	Q1 2017	Acquirer	Algonquin Power & Utilities Corp.	Not rated		
		Target	Empire District Electric Company (Baa1 stable)	No immediate ratings impact		We expect that Empire's capital structure level will remain consistent with current levels
May-16	2H 2017	Acquirer	Great Plains Energy Inc. (Baa2 on review)	On review for downgrade		Highly leveraged transaction; management's higher tolerance for financial risk
		Target	Westar Energy, Inc. (Baa1 stable)	Baa1 rating and stable outlook affirmed		Reflects the maintenance of solid cash flow to debt metrics around 20%, despite a robust capital plan
Jul-16	2Q 2017	Acquirer	NextEra Energy, Inc. (Baa1 stable)	Baa1 rating and stable outlook affirmed		Diversification of its regulated business; balanced mix of financings and asset sale proceeds
		Target	Oncor Electric Delivery Co. (A3 senior secured on review)	Rating upgraded to A3 from Baa1 and on review for upgrade		Acquisition removes constraints pressuring Oncor's strong, stand-alone credit profile

[1] Iberdrola USA and UIL Holdings combined under the name Avangrid Inc. at transaction close.

[2] Rating was at SourceGas LLC; rating was withdrawn once Black Hills Corp. assumed all of SourceGas' debt.

[3] Renamed to Southern Company Gas; rating is at finance subsidiary, Southern Company Gas Capital, previously AGL Capital Corp.

[4] Renamed to Questar Dominion; downgraded the short-term commercial paper rating to P-2 from P-1. Rating will be withdrawn when the commercial paper outstanding is redeemed.

Source: Moody's Investors Service

### What could change our outlook

We could consider changing our outlook to positive if regulatory support increased through the broader use of rate designs that decouple revenue from power demand. We might also move to a positive outlook if the ratio of CFO to debt were to increase toward 25% on a sustainable basis, which could happen if returns on equity rise, power demand increases materially, or if utilities deleverage their balance sheets significantly.

Conversely, a more contentious regulatory environment or other pressures that weigh on cash flow, such that the ratio of CFO to debt fell to 18% on a sustained basis, could cause us to take a negative view. We do not think either scenario is likely to play out over the next 12 months.

Appendix A <sup>[1]</sup>

Vertically Integrated Companies	Issuer or Snr. Unsec. Rating	Outlook	CFO/Debt (3-Yr Avg as of FY 2015)
Alabama Power Company	A1	Stable	27.2%
ALLETE, Inc.	A3	Stable	19.8%
Appalachian Power Company	Baa1	Stable	18.8%
Arizona Public Service Company	A2	Stable	31.2%
Avista Corp.	Baa1	Stable	17.7%
Black Hills Power, Inc.	A3	Stable	23.6%
Cleco Power LLC	A3	Stable	24.4%
Consumers Energy Company	(P)A3	Positive	26.7%
Dayton Power & Light Company	Baa3	Negative	31.1%
DTE Electric Company	A2	Stable	22.3%
Duke Energy Carolinas, LLC	A1	Stable	27.6%
Duke Energy Florida, LLC	A3	Stable	23.5%
Duke Energy Indiana, LLC	A2	Stable	23.2%
Duke Energy Kentucky, Inc.	Baa1	Stable	20.0%
Duke Energy Ohio, Inc.	Baa1	Stable	26.8%
Duke Energy Progress, LLC	A2	Stable	22.5%
El Paso Electric Company	Baa1	Stable	19.3%
Empire District Electric Company	Baa1	Stable	19.5%
Entergy Arkansas, Inc.	Baa1	Stable	15.2%
Entergy Louisiana, LLC	Baa1	Stable	26.5%
Entergy Mississippi, Inc.	Baa2	Positive	24.4%
Entergy New Orleans, Inc.	Ba1	Stable	27.1%
Entergy Texas, Inc.	Baa3	Stable	17.5%
Florida Power & Light Company	A1	Stable	36.8%
Georgia Power Company	A3	Stable	24.7%
Gulf Power Company	A2	Stable	24.0%
Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.	Baa2	Stable	20.2%
Idaho Power Company	A3	Stable	16.4%
Indiana Michigan Power Company	Baa1	Stable	22.3%
Indianapolis Power & Light Co.	Baa1	Stable	22.0%
Interstate Power and Light Co.	Baa1	Stable	18.1%
Kansas City Power & Light Co.	Baa1	Stable	15.7%
KCP&L Greater Missouri Operations	Baa2	Stable	22.0%
Kentucky Power Company	Baa2	Stable	18.8%
Kentucky Utilities Company	A3	Stable	24.0%
Louisville Gas & Electric Company	A3	Stable	26.7%
Madison Gas and Electric Company	A1	Stable	33.1%
MidAmerican Energy Company	A1	Stable	22.8%
Mississippi Power Company	Baa3	Negative	16.3%
Monongahela Power Company	Baa2	Stable	14.7%
Nevada Power Company	Baa1	Stable	20.5%
Northern Indiana Public Service Co	Baa1	Stable	29.2%
Northern States Power Company (Minnesota)	A2	Stable	24.7%
Northern States Power Company (Wisconsin)	(P)A2	Stable	24.2%
NorthWestern Corporation	A3	Negative	13.8%
Ohio Power Company	Baa1	Positive	26.3%
Oklahoma Gas & Electric Company	A1	Stable	24.2%
Otter Tail Power Company	A3	Stable	20.9%
Pacific Gas & Electric Company	A3	Positive	19.7%
PacifiCorp	A3	Stable	22.5%
Portland General Electric Company	A3	Stable	21.3%
Public Service Company of Colorado	A3	Stable	27.2%
Public Service Company of New Hampshire	A3	Stable	21.6%
Public Service Company of New Mexico	Baa2	Stable	20.5%
Public Service Company of Oklahoma	A3	Stable	20.9%
Puget Sound Energy, Inc.	Baa1	Stable	19.9%
Sierra Pacific Power Company	Baa1	Stable	22.2%
South Carolina Electric & Gas Co.	Baa2	Stable	17.5%

MOODY'S INVESTORS SERVICE

INFRASTRUCTURE AND PROJECT FINANCE

Vertically Integrated Companies	Issuer or Snr. Unsec. Rating	Outlook	CFO/Debt (3-Yr Avg as of FY 2015)
Southern California Edison Co.	A2	Stable	28.7%
Southern Indiana Gas & Electric	A2	Stable	30.9%
Southwestern Electric Power Co.	Baa2	Stable	19.1%
Southwestern Public Service Co.	Baa1	Stable	20.5%
Tampa Electric Company	A3	Stable	28.7%
Tucson Electric Power Company	A3	Stable	21.2%
Union Electric Company	Baa1	Stable	26.0%
UNS Electric, Inc.	A3	Stable	24.4%
Virginia Electric and Power Co.	A2	Stable	21.4%
Westar Energy, Inc.	Baa1	Stable	19.1%
Wisconsin Electric Power Company	A1	Negative	14.6%
Wisconsin Power and Light Co.	A2	Stable	24.9%
Wisconsin Public Service Co.	A1	Negative	22.1%

Transmission & Distribution Companies	Issuer or Snr. Unsec. Rating	Outlook	CFO/Debt (3-Yr Avg as of FY 2015)
AEP Texas Central Company	Baa1	Stable	15.2%
AEP Texas North Company	Baa1	Stable	19.2%
Ameren Illinois Company	A3	Stable	26.0%
Atlantic City Electric Company	Baa2	Stable	19.8%
Baltimore Gas and Electric Company	A3	Stable	28.0%
CenterPoint Energy Houston Electric	A3	Stable	16.4%
Central Hudson Gas & Electric Corp.	A2	Stable	20.2%
Cleveland Electric Illuminating Co.	Baa3	Stable	7.8%
Commonwealth Edison Company	Baa1	Positive	20.2%
Connecticut Light and Power Co.	Baa1	Stable	14.4%
Consolidated Edison Company of New York, Inc.	A2	Stable	22.0%
Delmarva Power & Light Company	Baa1	Stable	18.0%
Duquesne Light Company	A3	Stable	23.0%
Jersey Central Power & Light Co.	Baa2	Stable	12.6%
Massachusetts Electric Company	A3	Stable	7.9%
Metropolitan Edison Company	Baa1	Stable	17.7%
Narragansett Electric Company	A3	Stable	18.1%
New York State Electric and Gas	A3	Stable	19.8%
Niagara Mohawk Power Corporation	A2	Stable	21.3%
NSTAR Electric Company	A2	Stable	27.8%
Ohio Edison Company	Baa1	Stable	19.4%
Oncor Electric Delivery Company LLC	A3	Rating(s) Under Review	19.0%
Orange and Rockland Utilities, Inc.	A3	Stable	20.0%
PECO Energy Company	A2	Stable	27.5%
Pennsylvania Electric Company	Baa2	Stable	11.6%
Pennsylvania Power Company	Baa1	Stable	15.9%
Potomac Edison Company	Baa2	Stable	18.2%
Potomac Electric Power Company	Baa1	Stable	15.6%
PPL Electric Utilities Corporation	A3	Stable	22.4%
Public Service Electric and Gas Co.	A2	Stable	27.0%
Rochester Gas & Electric Corporation	Baa1	Positive	24.4%
San Diego Gas & Electric Company	A1	Stable	23.1%
Superior Water, Light and Power	A3	Stable	23.2%
Texas-New Mexico Power Company	A3	Stable	27.1%
Toledo Edison Company	Baa3	Stable	5.2%
United Illuminating Company	Baa1	Stable	22.3%
West Penn Power Company	Baa1	Stable	19.5%

Local Distribution Companies	Issuer or Snr. Unsec. Rating	Outlook	CFO/Debt (3-Yr Avg as of FY 2015)
Alabama Gas Corporation	A2	Stable	34.0%
Atmos Energy Corporation	A2	Stable	25.9%
Berkshire Gas Company	Baa1	Positive	30.3%
Boston Gas Company	A3	Stable	27.7%
Brooklyn Union Gas Company	A2	Stable	15.4%
CenterPoint Energy Resources	Baa2	Stable	25.7%
Colonial Gas Company	A3	Stable	36.7%
Connecticut Natural Gas Corp.	A3	Stable	34.5%
DTE Gas Company	Aa3	Stable	18.0%
Indiana Gas Company, Inc.	A2	Stable	32.0%
KeySpan Gas East Corporation	A2	Stable	21.6%
Laclede Gas Company	(P)A3	Stable	16.4%
New Jersey Natural Gas Co.	(P)Aa2	Stable	23.5%
North Shore Gas Company	A2	Stable	25.8%
Northern Illinois Gas Company	A2	Stable	29.9%
Northwest Natural Gas Co.	(P)A3	Stable	17.9%
Peoples Gas Light and Coke Company	A2	Stable	18.8%
Piedmont Natural Gas Co.	A2	Stable	19.9%
PNG Companies LLC	Baa2	Stable	19.2%
Public Service Company of North Carolina, Inc.	A3	Negative	28.9%
Questar Gas Company	A2	Stable	21.2%
SEMCO Energy, Inc.	Baa1	Stable	21.8%
South Jersey Gas Company	A2	Stable	19.9%
Southern California Gas Co.	A1	Stable	28.9%
Southern Company Gas <sup>[1]</sup>	Baa1	Stable	19.3%
Southern Connecticut Gas Co.	Baa1	Positive	23.6%
Southwest Gas Corporation	A3	Stable	23.2%
UGI Utilities, Inc.	A2	Stable	28.6%
UNS Gas, Inc.	A3	Stable	20.5%
Washington Gas Light Company	A1	Stable	33.1%
Wisconsin Gas LLC	A1	Negative	20.2%
Yankee Gas Services Company	Baa1	Stable	18.4%

[1] Ratings are as of date published.

[2] Rating is at finance subsidiary, Southern Company Gas Capital, previously AGL Capital Corp.

Source: Moody's Investors Service

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- » [2016 Outlook: Credit-Supportive Regulatory Environment Drives Stable Outlook, November 2015](#)

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