



NextEra Energy Inc. (NEE)

Updated November 11th, 2019 by Kay Ng

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$222	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	1.7%	Volatility Percentile:	1.5%
Fair Value Price:	\$150	5 Year Growth Estimate:	7.0%	Momentum Percentile:	84.1%
% Fair Value:	148%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	-7.6%	Growth Percentile:	71.5%
Dividend Yield:	2.3%	5 Year Price Target	\$210	Valuation Percentile:	9.0%
Dividend Risk Score:	C	Retirement Suitability Score:	D	Total Return Percentile:	11.7%

Overview & Current Events

NextEra Energy (NEE) is an electric utility with three operating segments, Florida Power & Light (“FPL”), NextEra Energy Resources (“NEER”), and Gulf Power. FPL and Gulf Power are rate-regulated electric utilities that serve about 5.5 million customer accounts in Florida, while NEER is the largest generator of wind and solar energy in the world. NEE was founded in 1925 and trades with a market capitalization of \$109 billion.

NextEra Energy reported its second-quarter earnings results on October 22. The company reported revenues of nearly \$5.6 billion for the quarter, which represents a revenue growth rate of 26% compared to the prior year’s period. The acquisition of Gulf Power in January 2019 helped with growth. FPL has also been a major growth driver for NextEra Energy’s top line, primarily due to new investments into FPL’s asset base. Regulatory Capital Employed, which reflects the investments that NextEra Energy made into FPL’s assets, have risen by 8% year over year.

NEE’s Q3 adjusted earnings increased 12% to \$1.2 billion against the comparable quarter in 2018. On a per-share basis, adjusted earnings climbed 10.1% to \$2.39. Roughly two-thirds of adjusted earnings were generated by NEE’s electric utilities, whereas the remainder was earned by NEER. NextEra Energy expects to generate adjusted earnings-per-share (“EPS”) of \$8.32 this year, which is what we used for this year’s estimate.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2024
EPS	\$3.97	\$4.74	\$4.82	\$4.56	\$4.83	\$5.60	\$6.06	\$5.78	\$6.70	\$7.70	\$8.32	\$11.67
DPS	\$1.89	\$2.00	\$2.20	\$2.40	\$2.64	\$2.90	\$3.08	\$3.48	\$3.93	\$4.44	\$5.00	\$7.41
Shares¹	414	421	416	424	435	443	461	468	471	477	486	563

NextEra Energy’s EPS rose relatively consistently during the last decade, although there were some years where profits declined sequentially, as they did between 2015 and 2016. NextEra Energy’s earnings did not take a significant hit during the last financial crisis, as earnings-per-share dropped by just 2% between 2008 and 2009. Between 2009 and 2018 NextEra Energy has grown its earnings-per-share by 7.6% a year on average.

The company’s future growth will be generated both through organic investments as well as through acquisitions. For example, there was NEE’s acquisition of Gulf Power in January 2019, and it has also taken over ownership interests in two natural gas power plants, Stanton and Oleander, from Southern Energy during December 2018. An additional acquisition, the Florida City Gas transaction, was closed in July 2018. Once fully integrated, these acquisitions are expected to add between \$0.15 and \$0.20 (combined) in earnings-per-share in 2020 and 2021, respectively. NEE’s ongoing investments into its asset base at FPL continue to drive the profits of this segment, which is the base for a solid organic growth rate. NEE forecasts that its EPS will rise by 6%-8% a year through 2021, excluding the impact of the acquisitions that NextEra Energy is pursuing. So, we use the midpoint of the guidance range, 7%, for the longer-term growth rate. The company has also increased its backlog for its NEER segment. NEER added more than 1,375 MW of renewable energy projects to its backlog in Q3 2019. The backlog now totals over 12,300 MW, the largest it’s been in 20 years, and should drive the segment’s profits going forward.

1. Shares in millions.

Disclosure: This analyst has no position in the security discussed in this research report, and no plans to initiate one in the next 72 hours.



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Valuation Analysis

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Now	2024
Avg. P/E	13.4	10.8	11.5	14.4	16.6	17.3	16.9	20.7	23.3	22.6	26.7	18.0
Avg. Yld.	3.5%	3.9%	4.0%	3.6%	3.3%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%	2.3%	3.5%

NextEra Energy's valuation has risen relatively consistently over the last ten years. The price-to-earnings ratio more than doubled between 2010 and 2018. Due to recent share price increases, shares are now trading at one of the highest valuations in its history. We believe that multiple normalization will be a 7%+ annual headwind going forward.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2024
Payout	48%	42%	46%	53%	55%	52%	51%	60%	59%	58%	60%	64%

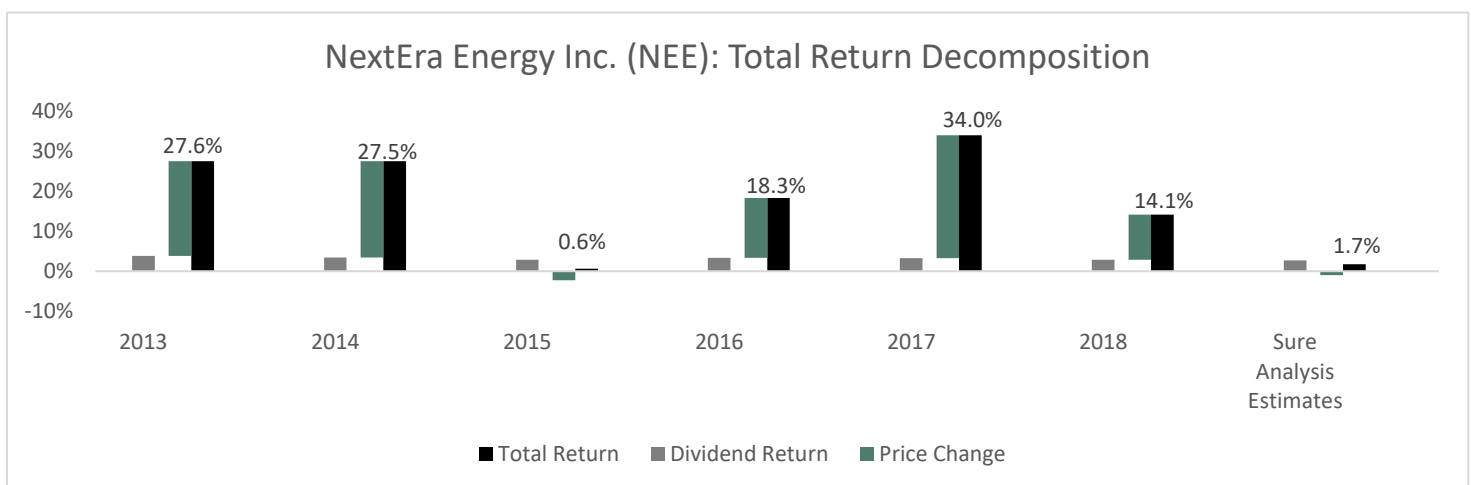
NextEra Energy has established a compelling dividend growth track record over the last decade. This was possible due to a combination of earnings growth and a rising payout ratio. NEE plans to raise the dividend payout ratio further over the coming years, as the company targets a dividend growth rate in the double digits through at least 2020, whereas EPS will not grow as quickly. The payout ratio is not low, but we believe the dividend is still relatively safe due to the very low cyclicality of NEE's profits.

Due to the regulations that are levied upon utilities, there are little competitive risks. As one of the biggest utilities in the United States, NEE also benefits from massive scale, which serves as a competitive advantage. Its focus on higher-growth renewable energy projects will allow NextEra Energy to continue to grow faster than its peers. Utilities are not active in a cyclical industry, which is why economic downturns do not really harm NextEra Energy.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

NextEra Energy looks more attractive than many of its peers in terms of its earnings growth track record, its earnings growth outlook, its dividend growth projections, and the strength of its renewables portfolio. Unfortunately, its shares are substantially overvalued, which will pressure total returns to a large degree. We estimate a rate of return of 1.7% from a 2.3% dividend yield, 7% EPS growth, and -7.6% from P/E contraction. The very high valuation is why Sure Dividend rates NEE as a sell at the current price.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Revenue	15643	15317	15341	14256	15136	17021	17486	16138	17173	16727
Gross Profit	8238	6198	6083	5980	6984	8270	8890	8617	9644	9665
Gross Margin	52.7%	40.5%	39.7%	41.9%	46.1%	48.6%	50.8%	53.4%	56.2%	57.8%
D&A Exp.	2004	2073	1849	1777	2521	2896	3203	3428	2638	4147
Operating Profit	2594	3283	3351	3343	3604	4394	4732	4240	4669	4339
Op. Margin	16.6%	21.4%	21.8%	23.4%	23.8%	25.8%	27.1%	26.3%	27.2%	25.9%
Net Profit	1615	1957	1923	1911	1908	2465	2752	2906	5380	6638
Net Margin	10.3%	12.8%	12.5%	13.4%	12.6%	14.5%	15.7%	18.0%	31.3%	39.7%
Free Cash Flow	1525	887	47	-878	1898	2071	2217	2129	1013	583
Income Tax	327	532	529	692	777	1176	1228	1379	-660	1576

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Assets	48458	52994	57188	64439	69306	74605	82479	89993	97963	103702
Cash & Equivalents	238	302	377	329	438	577	571	1292	1714	638
Acc. Receivable	1431	1509	1372	1487	1777	1805	1784	1784	2220	2302
Inventories	877	857	1074	1073	1153	1292	1259	1289	1273	1223
Total Liabilities	35491	38533	42245	48371	51266	54437	59367	64662	68432	66289
Accounts Payable	992	1124	1191	1281	1200	1354	2529	3447	3235	2386
Long-Term Debt	18889	20822	22967	27359	28426	28701	29687	30840	35025	37712
Total Equity	12967	14461	14943	16068	18040	19916	22574	24341	28236	34144
D/E Ratio	1.46	1.44	1.54	1.70	1.58	1.44	1.32	1.27	1.24	1.10

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Return on Assets	3.5%	3.9%	3.5%	3.1%	2.9%	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%	5.7%	6.6%
Return on Equity	13.1%	14.3%	13.1%	12.3%	11.2%	13.0%	13.0%	12.4%	20.5%	21.3%
ROIC	5.3%	5.8%	5.3%	4.7%	4.2%	5.2%	5.4%	5.3%	8.9%	9.5%
Shares Out.	414	421	416	424	435	443	461	468	471	477
Revenue/Share	38.42	37.09	36.61	34.01	35.45	38.68	38.52	34.65	36.35	35.07
Return on Assets	3.5%	3.9%	3.5%	3.1%	2.9%	3.4%	3.5%	3.4%	5.7%	6.6%

Note: All figures in millions of U.S. Dollars unless per share or indicated otherwise.

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