



TC Energy Corporation (TRP)

Updated November 29th, 2019 by Aristofanis Papadatos

Key Metrics

Current Price:	\$51	5 Year CAGR Estimate:	8.2%	Volatility Percentile:	19.1%
Fair Value Price:	\$51	5 Year Growth Estimate:	4.0%	Momentum Percentile:	82.5%
% Fair Value:	100%	5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:	0.1%	Growth Percentile:	27.6%
Dividend Yield:	4.5%	5 Year Price Target	\$62	Valuation Percentile:	70.5%
Dividend Risk Score:	D	Retirement Suitability Score:	D	Total Return Percentile:	63.9%

Overview & Current Events

On May 3rd, 2019, TransCanada Corporation changed its name to TC Energy Corporation. TC Energy Corporation operates Canada's largest natural gas pipeline system. The company owns more than 57,000 miles of natural gas pipelines and more than 3,000 miles of liquids pipelines. TC Energy Corporation operates through three segments: Natural Gas Pipelines, Oil Pipelines, and Energy. The Natural Gas Pipelines segment generated 59% of consolidated revenue in the most recent fiscal year. TC Energy Corporation is headquartered in Calgary, Alberta, Canada, and its common shares are cross-listed on both the Toronto Stock Exchange and the New York Stock Exchange, where they trade with a market capitalization of US\$48 billion. In this report, all figures are reported in U.S. dollars and the company's NYSE-listed shares have been used for the purpose of valuation analysis.

In early November, TC Energy Corporation reported (11/1/19) financial results for the third quarter of fiscal 2019. Despite the lower contributions that resulted from the \$3.4 billion of asset sales, the company grew its comparable earnings-per-share 4% thanks to the strong performance of its legacy assets and the contribution from \$8.2 billion of growth projects that have been placed into service this year. Thanks to the strong demand for its assets, the company continued to enjoy almost historically high utilization rates.

Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2024
EPS	\$2.01	\$1.77	\$2.12	\$1.84	\$2.28	\$2.12	-\$1.26	\$0.12	\$2.38	\$2.97	\$3.20	\$3.89
DPS	\$1.45	\$1.60	\$1.65	\$1.76	\$1.73	\$1.66	\$1.50	\$1.68	\$1.99	\$2.12	\$2.31	\$2.95
Shares¹	684.4	696.2	704.0	705.0	707.0	709.0	702.6	863.8	881.4	918.0	938.0	1,100.0

TC Energy's growth strategy has been to raise capital (in the form of either debt or equity) to fund growth projects. Over the last decade, until 2017, this strategy failed to generate meaningful growth for the company *on a per-share basis*, as the additional net income generated by these projects was offset by the increased share count.

However, we believe that the next several years will show an improvement for TC Energy Corporation as the company benefits from a continued rebound in energy markets and a strong pipeline of growth projects. TC Energy has more than \$20 billion of growth projects underway. These projects are supported by regulated or long-term contracted business models. Management expects earnings and cash flows to continue to grow in the upcoming years. We expect 4% annualized growth over the next five years. Management reiterated its guidance for 8%-10% annual dividend growth over the next two years, though the high leverage is a concern.

Valuation Analysis

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	Now	2024
Avg. P/E	14.1	20.1	19.4	23.9	20.2	22.5	---	---	24.2	14.3	15.9	16.0
Avg. Yld.	5.1%	4.5%	4.0%	4.0%	3.8%	3.5%	3.8%	4.0%	4.1%	5.0%	4.5%	4.7%

¹ In millions.

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Excluding 2015 and 2016, when the company's earnings were depressed, TC Energy Corporation has traded at an average price-to-earnings ratio of 19.8 over the last decade. The stock is currently trading at a price-to-earnings ratio of 15.9, which is almost equal to our assumed fair price-to-earnings ratio of 16.0. If the stock trades at our fair value estimate in five years from now, it will enjoy a mild 0.1% annualized gain thanks to the expansion of its valuation level.

Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

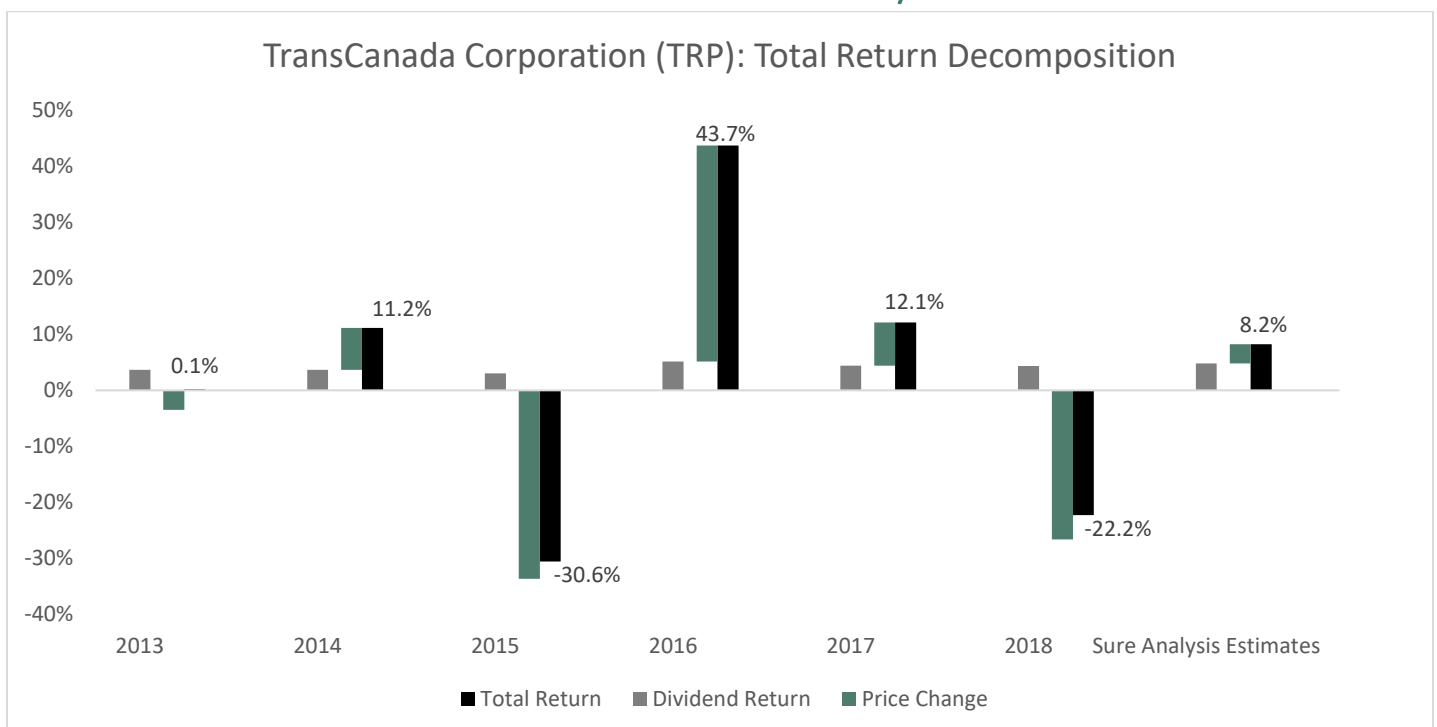
Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2024
Payout	72.1%	90.4%	77.8%	95.7%	75.9%	78.3%	---	---	83.6%	71.4%	72.2%	75.7%

TC Energy has been investing heavily in growth projects in the last decade and will continue to do so in the years ahead. Consequently, it has posted negative free cash flows in 8 out of the last 10 years and has a leveraged balance sheet, with interest coverage of only 2.9 and net debt that is about 20 *times its earnings*. The company is exposed to unforeseen headwinds, such as a downturn in the energy market or a recession. In addition, as it often issues new shares, it dilutes its shareholders at a high rate whenever its stock declines. On the other hand, despite its high payout ratio, the stock is not likely to cut its dividend anytime soon thanks to the strong momentum in its business and the increasing contribution of new projects to its cash flows.

Final Thoughts & Recommendation

TC Energy Corporation could offer an 8.2% average annual return over the next five years thanks to its 4.5% dividend yield and 4.0% annual earnings-per-share growth. For yield-hungry investors looking for exposure to the energy sector, we believe the company is a hold. However, due to its high leverage, its negative free cash flows and its tendency to dilute shareholders, investors should take caution. Furthermore, the 42% rally of the stock this year has reduced its attractiveness while there are other opportunities within the energy sector, such as Exxon Mobil and Total, which have good return prospects at current prices and a much less risky profile.

Total Return Breakdown by Year



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Income Statement Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Revenue	7202	6643	7928	8009	8543	9226	8895	9475	10377	10556
Gross Profit	4374	2371	3198	3007	3225	3410	3172	3455	3940	4823
Gross Margin	60.7%	35.7%	40.3%	37.5%	37.8%	37.0%	35.7%	36.5%	38.0%	45.7%
D&A Exp.	1212	1125	1343	1375	1442	1459	1383	1464	1586	1813
Operating Profit	2430	1875	2783	2573	2793	3105	2998	3352	3892	4790
Operating Margin	33.7%	28.2%	35.1%	32.1%	32.7%	33.7%	33.7%	35.4%	37.5%	45.4%
Net Profit	1215	1239	1599	1354	1734	1667	-898	176	2436	2857
Net Margin	16.9%	18.7%	20.2%	16.9%	20.3%	18.1%	-10.1%	1.9%	23.5%	27.1%
Free Cash Flow	-2137	-1454	1186	973	-1047	-101	-35	-176	-1774	-2592
Income Tax	341	375	582	466	593	753	27	266	-69	333

Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Total Assets	41607	46582	46369	48648	50619	50415	46406	65307	68470	72627
Cash & Equivalents	946	764	641	554	871	421	613	754	866	327
Acc. Receivable	917	1271	1072	1057	1054	1131	999	1539	2006	1861
Inventories	485	425	243	225	236	252	233	273	301	316
Goodwill & Int.	4134	5595	3881	3854	3775	3709	3626	10353	10405	10409
Total Liabilities	25537	28700	28484	30216	31708	32624	33324	46036	47086	49872
Accounts Payable	2083	2243	682	928	813	1399	1085	1812	2264	2367
Long-Term Debt	19315	21862	21097	22297	24202	24451	25282	33269	34601	36887
Total Equity	14444	15501	15251	15769	15695	14485	10045	15039	16747	18618
D/E Ratio	1.29	1.31	1.28	1.31	1.39	1.49	2.13	1.85	1.74	1.71

Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018
Return on Assets	3.3%	2.8%	3.4%	2.9%	3.5%	3.3%	-1.9%	0.3%	3.6%	4.0%
Return on Equity	9.8%	8.3%	10.4%	8.7%	11.0%	11.0%	-7.3%	1.4%	15.3%	16.2%
ROIC	3.8%	3.3%	4.1%	3.4%	4.1%	3.9%	-2.2%	0.4%	4.5%	4.9%
Shares Out.	684.36	696.20	704.00	705.00	707.00	709.00	702.61	863.76	881.38	918.0
Revenue/Share	11.03	9.60	11.28	11.34	12.07	12.99	12.55	12.47	11.87	11.69
FCF/Share	-3.27	-2.10	1.69	1.38	-1.48	-0.14	-0.05	-0.23	-2.03	-2.87

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

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