

# NextEra Energy Inc. (NEE)

Updated October 25<sup>th</sup>, 2020 by Kay Ng

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$76	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	-1.1%	<b>Market Cap:</b>	\$148.4B
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$45	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	7.0%	<b>Ex-Dividend Date:</b>	11/25/20
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	169%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	-10.0%	<b>Dividend Payment Date:</b>	12/15/20
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	1.8%	<b>5 Year Price Target</b>	\$63	<b>Years Of Dividend Growth:</b>	25
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	B	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	D	<b>Last Dividend Increase:</b>	12.0%

## 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. NEE generates roughly two-thirds of adjusted earnings from its electric utilities, whereas the remainder comes from NEER.

NextEra Energy reported its third-quarter financial results on 10/21/20. For the quarter, the company reported revenues of \$4.8 billion, a decline of 14% compared to Q3 2019. NEE's Q3 adjusted earnings climbed almost 13% to \$1,311 million. On a per-share basis, adjusted earnings rose 11% to \$2.66. NextEra Energy's business remains relatively resilient to COVID-19 impacts. NEE experienced adjusted earnings growth across all its business segments. FPL experienced 10% adjusted EPS growth primarily from investments. The NEER adjusted EPS growth of 23% was the strongest of the three segments. NEE intends to acquire GridLiance, which owns 3 FERC-regulated transmission utilities spanning six states, for \$660 million. This transaction is subject to regulatory approvals and is expected to close in 2021 and be immediately accretive to earnings.

NextEra Energy expects its adjusted EPS to have a compound annual growth rate of 6% to 8% through 2023. The stable utility estimates it'd be able to increase the dividend by about 10% through at least 2022. The utility increased its quarterly dividend by 12% to \$1.40 per share in Q1. The stock had a 4:1 stock split in October. Accordingly, we updated its outstanding share count and our 2020 EPS estimate to \$2.24 for a 7% growth rate in the table below. For our EPS estimate through 2025, we use a growth rate of 7%. We assume a dividend growth rate of 10% through 2022 and 7% thereafter through 2025.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025
<b>EPS</b>	\$4.74	\$4.82	\$4.56	\$4.83	\$5.60	\$6.06	\$5.78	\$6.70	\$7.70	\$8.37	<b>\$2.24</b>	<b>\$3.14</b>
<b>DPS</b>	\$2.00	\$2.20	\$2.40	\$2.64	\$2.90	\$3.08	\$3.48	\$3.93	\$4.44	\$5.00	<b>\$1.40</b>	<b>\$2.08</b>
<b>Shares<sup>1</sup></b>	421	416	424	435	443	461	468	471	477	491	<b>1,968</b>	<b>2,172</b>

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 2010 and 2019, NextEra Energy grew its earnings-per-share by 6.5% a year on average. The company's future growth will be generated through organic investments and acquisitions. For example, there was NEE's acquisition of Gulf Power in January 2019, and it's in the process of acquiring GridLiance to expand its rate-regulated/long-term contracted business. 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 2022, excluding the impact of the

1. Shares in millions.

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acquisitions that NextEra Energy is pursuing. So, we use the midpoint of the guidance range, 7%, for the long-term growth rate. The company has also increased its backlog for its NEER segment. NEER added 1,450 MW of renewable energy projects in Q3 2020, resulting in a backlog that totals roughly 15,000 MW. Its renewable projects should drive the segment's profits going forward.

## Valuation Analysis

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	Now	2025
Avg. P/E	10.8	11.5	14.4	16.6	17.3	16.9	20.7	23.3	22.6	25.7	33.8	20.0
Avg. Yld.	3.9%	4.0%	3.6%	3.3%	3.0%	3.0%	2.9%	2.8%	2.6%	2.3%	1.8%	3.3%

NextEra Energy's valuation has risen persistently over the last ten years. The P/E more than doubled between 2010 and 2019. Due to recent share price increases, shares are now trading at the highest valuation in its history. Although the growing renewable portfolio warrants a premium valuation compared to history, we believe that multiple normalization will still be a huge headwind going forward.

## Safety, Quality, Competitive Advantage, & Recession Resiliency

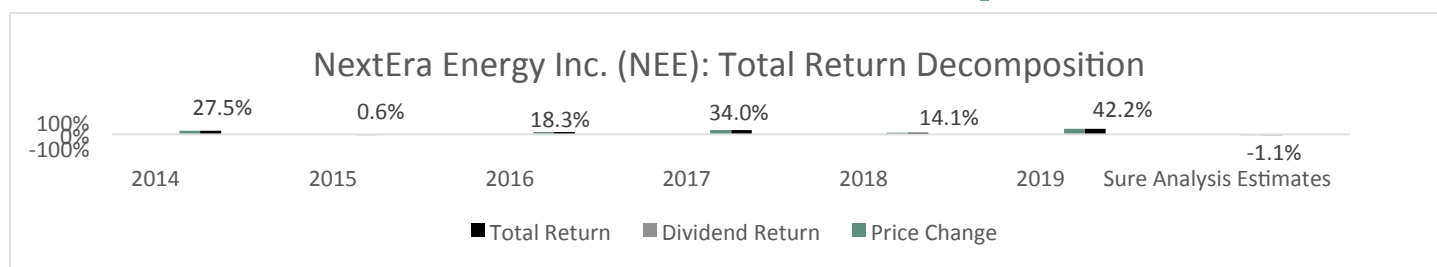
Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2025
Payout	42%	46%	53%	55%	52%	51%	60%	59%	58%	60%	63%	66%

NextEra Energy has established a compelling dividend growth track record over the last decade. This was possible due to 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 of about 10% through at least 2022, whereas EPS will not grow as quickly. The payout ratio is not low, but we believe the dividend is still relatively safe due to NEE's stable 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 have low cyclicalities, which is why economic downturns will do little harm (if at all) to NextEra Energy's bottom line. However, the high valuation will be detrimental to future returns for current shareholders.

## 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 renewable portfolio. Unfortunately, its shares are substantially overvalued, which will pressure total returns to a large degree. We estimate a rate of return of -1.1% from a 1.8% dividend yield, 7% EPS growth, and -10.0% 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	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Revenue	15,643	15,317	15,341	14,256	15,136	17,021	17,486	16,138	17,173	16,727
Gross Profit	8,238	6,198	6,083	5,980	6,984	8,270	8,890	8,617	9,644	9,665
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.	2,004	2,073	1,849	1,777	2,521	2,896	3,203	3,428	2,638	4,147
Operating Profit	2,594	3,246	3,312	3,276	3,541	4,357	4,662	4,154	4,577	4,243
Operating Margin	16.6%	21.2%	21.6%	23.0%	23.4%	25.6%	26.7%	25.7%	26.7%	25.4%
Net Profit	1,615	1,957	1,923	1,911	1,908	2,465	2,752	2,906	5,380	6,638
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	1,525	887	47	(878)	1,898	2,071	2,217	2,129	1,013	583
Income Tax	327	532	529	692	777	1,176	1,228	1,379	(660)	1,576

## Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Total Assets	48,458	52,994	57,188	64,439	69,306	74,605	82,479	89,993	97,963	103,702
Cash	238	302	377	329	438	577	571	1,292	1,714	638
Accts Rec.	1,431	1,509	1,372	1,487	1,777	1,805	1,784	1,784	2,220	2,302
Inventories	877	857	1,074	1,073	1,153	1,292	1,259	1,289	1,273	1,223
Goodwill									2,051	1,599
Tot. Liab.	35,491	38,533	42,245	48,371	51,266	54,437	59,367	64,662	68,432	66,289
Accts Pay.	992	1,124	1,191	1,281	1,200	1,354	2,529	3,447	3,235	2,386
LT Debt	18,889	20,822	22,967	27,359	28,426	28,701	29,687	30,840	35,025	37,712
Sh. Equity	12,967	14,461	14,943	16,068	18,040	19,916	22,574	24,341	28,236	34,144
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	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
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.	421	416	424	435	443	461	468	471	477	491
Revenue/Share	38.42	37.09	36.61	34.01	35.45	38.68	38.52	34.65	36.35	35.07
FCF/Share	3.75	2.15	0.11	(2.09)	4.45	4.71	4.88	4.57	2.14	1.22

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

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