

# OGE Energy Corp. (OGE)

Updated February 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 by Aristofanis Papadatos

#### **Kev Metrics**

| Current Price:       | \$36 | 5 Year CAGR Estimate:               | 9.7% | Market Cap:               | \$7.2 B   |
|----------------------|------|-------------------------------------|------|---------------------------|-----------|
| Fair Value Price:    | \$37 | 5 Year Growth Estimate:             | 5.0% | Ex-Dividend Date:         | 4/8/2022  |
| % Fair Value:        | 97%  | 5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate: | 0.6% | Dividend Payment Date:    | 4/29/2022 |
| Dividend Yield:      | 4.6% | 5 Year Price Target                 | \$47 | Years Of Dividend Growth: | 15        |
| Dividend Risk Score: | С    | Retirement Suitability Score:       | В    | Last Dividend Increase:   | 1.9%      |

### **Overview & Current Events**

OGE Energy (OGE) was founded in 1995, in Oklahoma. It is the parent company of Oklahoma Gas and Electric Company (OG&E), a regulated electric utility that serves more than 860,000 customers in Oklahoma and western Arkansas. OGE Energy has a market cap of \$7.2 billion and generates 80%-85% of its annual utility earnings in the second and third quarter.

OGE Energy also owned 25.5% of Enable Midstream Partners (ENBL), a Master Limited Partnership (MLP) that owns and operates pipeline networks and storage tanks of natural gas and crude oil. On December 7<sup>th</sup>, 2021, Enable Midstream Partners was acquired by Energy Transfer (ET) in an all-stock deal. As a result, OGE Energy now owns approximately 3.0% of Energy Transfer. The latter is an MLP which owns and operates one of the largest midstream portfolios in the U.S., with immense pipeline networks and storage tanks of natural gas, crude oil and natural gas liquids (NGLs).

In late February, OGE Energy reported (2/24/22) financial results for the fourth quarter of fiscal 2021. In the full year, adjusted earnings-per-share grew 13%, from \$2.08 to \$2.36, thanks to both segments. OG&E benefited from strong load growth and rate hikes while the natural gas business benefited from higher prices of natural gas and natural gas liquids. Management provided guidance for earnings-per-share of \$1.87-\$1.97 for the utility business in 2022, implying 7% growth at the mid-point. Once again, it did not provide guidance for the earnings-per-share of the midstream investments due to the high sensitivity of this division to the prices of natural gas and NGLs.

### Growth on a Per-Share Basis

| Year                | 2012   | 2013   | 2014   | 2015   | 2016   | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   | 2021   | 2022   | 2027   |
|---------------------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| EPS                 | \$1.79 | \$1.94 | \$1.98 | \$1.36 | \$1.69 | \$3.10 | \$2.12 | \$2.16 | \$2.08 | \$2.36 | \$2.20 | \$2.81 |
| DPS                 | \$0.79 | \$0.84 | \$0.93 | \$1.03 | \$1.13 | \$1.24 | \$1.36 | \$1.48 | \$1.57 | \$1.62 | \$1.64 | \$2.16 |
| Shares <sup>1</sup> | 198.1  | 199.4  | 199.9  | 199.6  | 199.9  | 200.0  | 200.5  | 200.7  | 200.1  | 200.5  | 200.5  | 201.0  |

As shown in the above table, OGE Energy has exhibited a lackluster performance record. The company has grown its earnings-per-share at a modest 3.1% average annual rate over the last decade. The record earnings in 2017 resulted from a non-recurring tax benefit and hence this is not representative of the current profit capability of OGE Energy.

With that said, the outlook of the company seems brighter than the last decade. OGE Energy has invested \$3.3 billion in growth projects in the last five years. In addition, the strong economy in Oklahoma and Arkansas are likely to drive material organic growth for OGE Energy in the upcoming years. Thanks to the recent completion of some growth projects and the focus of management in growing the utility business, the company could grow its earnings-per-share at a 5.0% average annual rate over the next five years. This is in line with management's long-term guidance of 5%-7% annual growth of earnings-per-share in the utility segment. Management also recently reaffirmed that it will keep growing the dividend while keeping a healthy balance sheet and a flat share count.

|           | valuation Analysis |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |      |  |  |
|-----------|--------------------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|------|--|--|
| Year      | 2012               | 2013 | 2014 | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 | Now  | 2027 |  |  |
| Avg. P/E  | 15.2               | 17.7 | 18.3 | 22.0 | 17.7 | 11.4 | 16.5 | 19.7 | 16.2 | 14.3 | 16.4 | 16.9 |  |  |
| Avg. Yld. | 2.9%               | 2.5% | 2.6% | 3.4% | 3.8% | 3.5% | 3.9% | 3.5% | 4.7% | 4.8% | 4.6% | 4.6% |  |  |

## Valuation Analysis

<sup>1</sup> 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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Investors should be especially careful with the valuation of slow-growth stocks, such as utilities. If they overpay for such stocks, they may need years to breakeven. Fortunately, this does not appear to be the case for OGE Energy right now. OGE Energy is currently trading at a price-to-earnings ratio of 16.4, which is lower than its 10-year average of 16.9. We expect the stock to trade close to its average valuation level in five years. If this occurs, the stock will enjoy a 0.6% annualized expansion of its price-to-earnings ratio.

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

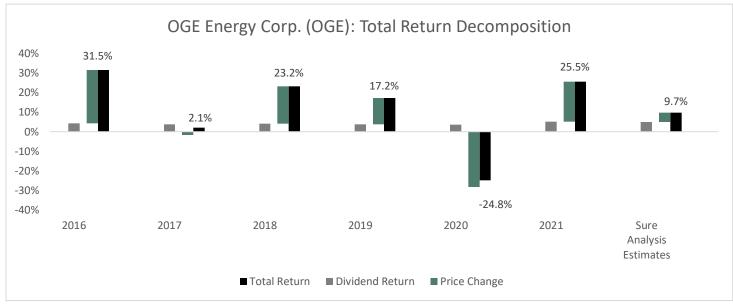
| Year   | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  | 2021  | 2022  | 2027  |
|--------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Payout | 44.1% | 43.3% | 47.0% | 75.7% | 66.9% | 40.0% | 64.2% | 68.5% | 75.5% | 68.6% | 74.5% | 77.1% |

OGE Energy does its best to maintain its electricity rates as low as possible. Its rates are currently more than -30% below the national average and thus they result in high customer satisfaction rates, which enable the company to grow its customer base. This is a major competitive advantage. The other competitive advantage of OGE Energy is the immense investment required from potential new entrants to build the infrastructure of the regulated business. This poses high barriers to entry and thus protects OGE Energy from potential new competitors.

On the other hand, OGE Energy is less resilient to downturns than most utilities due to its investment in the natural gas midstream business. Unlike most utility stocks, which have retrieved most of their COVID-driven losses, OGE Energy is still trading -23% below its pre-COVID level. However, OGE Energy has stated that it will divest its midstream business at an opportune moment in order to become a pure utility. Moreover, it is now offering a nearly 10-year high dividend yield of 4.6%. Thanks to its healthy payout ratio of 75% and its strong balance sheet, which has a BBB+ credit rating, OGE Energy can continue raising its dividend in the upcoming years. The stock is thus suitable for income-oriented investors.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

OGE Energy passes under the radar of most investors due to its lackluster performance record. However, we expect the company to improve its performance in the upcoming years while its valuation is attractive, particularly given the full valuation of the broad market. We also view the future divestment of its midstream business as a potential catalyst for the stock price. Overall, OGE Energy could offer a 9.7% average annual return over the next five years thanks to its 4.6% dividend, 5.0% earnings growth and a 0.6% annualized expansion of its valuation level. It maintains its buy rating.



## Total Return Breakdown by Year

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#### **Income Statement Metrics**

| Year                    | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017  | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| Revenue                 | 3,671 | 2,868 | 2,453 | 2,197 | 2,259 | 2,261 | 2,270 | 2,232 | 2,122 |
| Gross Profit            | 1,151 | 950   | 907   | 880   | 941   | 905   | 903   | 953   | 1,015 |
| Gross Margin            | 31.4% | 33.1% | 37.0% | 40.1% | 41.7% | 40.0% | 39.8% | 42.7% | 47.8% |
| D&A Exp.                | 375   | 299   | 281   | 308   | 323   | 284   | 322   | 355   | 391   |
| <b>Operating Profit</b> | 669   | 554   | 537   | 481   | 531   | 532   | 490   | 504   | 522   |
| <b>Operating Margin</b> | 18.2% | 19.3% | 21.9% | 21.9% | 23.5% | 23.5% | 21.6% | 22.6% | 24.6% |
| Net Profit              | 355   | 388   | 396   | 271   | 338   | 619   | 426   | 434   | (174) |
| Net Margin              | 9.7%  | 13.5% | 16.1% | 12.3% | 15.0% | 27.4% | 18.7% | 19.4% | -8.2% |
| Free Cash Flow          | (105) | (367) | 152   | 319   | (15)  | (40)  | 378   | 46    | 62    |
| Income Tax              | 135   | 130   | 173   | 97    | 148   | (49)  | 72    | 30    | (127) |

### **Balance Sheet Metrics**

| Year               | 2012  | 2013  | 2014  | 2015  | 2016  | 2017   | 2018   | 2019   | 2020   |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|--------|--------|--------|
| Total Assets       | 9,922 | 9,135 | 9,528 | 9,581 | 9,940 | 10,413 | 10,749 | 11,024 | 10,719 |
| Cash & Equivalents | 2     | 7     | 6     | 75    | 0     | 14     | 94     |        | 1      |
| Acc. Receivable    | 295   | 192   | 194   | 175   | 176   | 191    | 175    | 154    | 158    |
| Inventories        | 174   | 155   | 137   | 194   | 162   | 165    | 184    | 137    | 153    |
| Goodwill & Int.    | 167   |       |       |       |       |        |        |        |        |
| Total Liabilities  | 6,850 | 6,098 | 6,283 | 6,255 | 6,496 | 6,562  | 6,744  | 6,885  | 7,087  |
| Accounts Payable   | 397   | 251   | 179   | 263   | 205   | 230    | 239    | 195    | 252    |
| Long-Term Debt     | 3,280 | 2,840 | 2,853 | 2,739 | 2,867 | 3,168  | 3,147  | 3,307  | 3,589  |
| Total Equity       | 2,767 | 3,037 | 3,244 | 3,326 | 3,444 | 3,851  | 4,005  | 4,140  | 3,632  |
| D/E Ratio          | 1.19  | 0.94  | 0.88  | 0.82  | 0.83  | 0.82   | 0.79   | 0.80   | 0.99   |

## **Profitability & Per Share Metrics**

| Year                    | 2012   | 2013   | 2014  | 2015  | 2016   | 2017   | 2018  | 2019  | 2020  |
|-------------------------|--------|--------|-------|-------|--------|--------|-------|-------|-------|
| <b>Return on Assets</b> | 3.8%   | 4.1%   | 4.2%  | 2.8%  | 3.5%   | 6.1%   | 4.0%  | 4.0%  | -1.6% |
| <b>Return on Equity</b> | 13.3%  | 13.4%  | 12.6% | 8.3%  | 10.0%  | 17.0%  | 10.8% | 10.6% | -4.5% |
| ROIC                    | 5.8%   | 6.3%   | 6.6%  | 4.5%  | 5.5%   | 9.3%   | 6.0%  | 5.9%  | -2.4% |
| Shares Out.             | 198.1  | 199.4  | 199.9 | 199.6 | 199.9  | 200.0  | 200.5 | 200.7 | 200.1 |
| Revenue/Share           | 18.53  | 14.38  | 12.27 | 11.01 | 11.30  | 11.31  | 11.32 | 11.12 | 10.61 |
| FCF/Share               | (0.53) | (1.84) | 0.76  | 1.60  | (0.08) | (0.20) | 1.88  | 0.23  | 0.31  |

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

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