



# Alliant Energy Corporation (LNT)

Updated November 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 by Felix Martinez

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$49	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	12.4%	<b>Market Cap:</b>	\$12.5 B
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$58	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	6.0%	<b>Ex-Dividend Date:</b>	10/30/23
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	85%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	3.3%	<b>Dividend Payment Date:</b>	11/15/23
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	3.7%	<b>5 Year Price Target</b>	\$78	<b>Years Of Dividend Growth:</b>	20
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	B	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	B	<b>Rating:</b>	Buy

## Overview & Current Events

Alliant Energy Corporation is a public utility holding company incorporated in Madison, Wisconsin, in 1981. In 2022, Alliant Energy generated \$3.4 billion in operating revenues. The company serves approximately 970,000 electric and 420,000 natural gas customers. Alliant has about 3,600 employees. The largest cities in Iowa and Wisconsin are Cedar Rapids and Beloit, respectively, based on electric sales. The company consists of three subsidiaries. The first is the largest, Interstate Power and Light Company (IPL), which accounted for 51.2% of Alliant's 2022 earnings. IPL is a public utility that generates and distributes electricity and distributes and transports natural gas in Iowa. The second subsidiary is Wisconsin Power and Light Company (WPL), which provides similar services to IPL in southern and central Wisconsin. WPL contributed 44.6 of total 2022 earnings. The last is Corporate Services, which account for a tiny percentage of the company's total earnings.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, Alliant Energy reported third-quarter results for Fiscal Year (FY)2023. The company reported robust financial performance for Q3 2023, revealing a GAAP earnings per share (EPS) of \$1.02, up from \$0.90 in Q3 2022. The company also outlined its financial outlook, projecting an EPS range of \$2.99 to \$3.13 for 2024, accompanied by a common stock dividend target of \$1.92. Additionally, Alliant Energy anticipates capital expenditures totaling \$9 billion for the years 2024 to 2027.

John Larsen, Alliant Energy Board Chair and CEO, emphasized the company's consistent performance and long-term growth trajectory, citing the narrowed 2023 earnings guidance and the introduction of 2024 guidance. The breakdown of Q3 2023 GAAP EPS revealed positive contributions from Utilities and Corporate Services, driven by increased revenue requirements and AFUDC from Wisconsin Power and Light Company's capital investments. Conversely, Non-utility and Parent operations experienced a slight decrease, primarily due to higher interest expenses.

Looking ahead, Alliant Energy's 2024 earnings guidance factors in key considerations such as the ability of IPL and WPL to achieve authorized rates of return, normal temperatures, regulatory outcomes, economic stability, successful execution of capital plans, cost controls, and a consolidated effective tax rate of (8%). The company's commitment to a long-term earnings growth range of 5% to 7% underscores its strategic focus on sustained performance and growth.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
<b>EPS</b>	\$1.63	\$1.74	\$1.74	\$1.87	\$1.93	\$2.17	\$2.31	\$2.43	\$2.63	\$2.80	<b>\$2.90</b>	<b>\$3.88</b>
<b>DPS</b>	\$0.94	\$1.02	\$1.10	\$1.18	\$1.26	\$1.34	\$1.42	\$1.52	\$1.61	\$1.71	<b>\$1.81</b>	<b>\$2.42</b>
<b>Shares<sup>1</sup></b>	221.0	221.0	225.0	227.0	229.0	233.0	239.0	249.0	250.7	251.2	<b>250.7</b>	<b>250.7</b>

LNT's earnings have been steadily growing at a rate of 6.2% annually for the past ten years. As a utility company, LNT is restricted on how it can increase its rate of returns. The net margin has been gradually growing as well. In 2010, the net margin was 8.4%. Now net margin is at a rate of 16.3%. This is a byproduct of the tax rate decreasing from a high of 32% in 2010 to 10.8% last year. However, the share count has increased at a compound growth rate of 1.5% for the past five years. This dilutes the EPS slightly.

<sup>1</sup> Shares count in millions.

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We expect earnings to continue to grow at a modest rate of 6%, giving us an estimated EPS of \$3.88 for 2028. The company has also been very consistent with its dividend policies. LNT has been growing dividends for the past 20 years. In the last ten years, dividend growth has averaged 6.9% annually. We are conservative and predicting a dividend growth rate of 6% for the next five years. The company increased its dividend by 5.8% on January 26, 2023.

## Valuation Analysis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Now	2028
Avg. P/E	15.9	19.1	18	20.3	22.1	19.5	23.7	21.2	23.4	19.7	17.0	20.0
Avg. Yld.	3.6%	3.1%	3.5%	3.1%	3.0%	3.2%	2.6%	3.0%	2.6%	3.1%	3.7%	3.1%

The company has been valued somewhat at a premium since 2016. For the past ten years, LNT has had an average PE of 20.3x compared to the current PE of 17.0x. We think a fair valued PE is 20x, lower than its five-year average. The current dividend yield is higher than the company's 5-year average of 2.9%. We think LNT is undervalued at the current price.

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

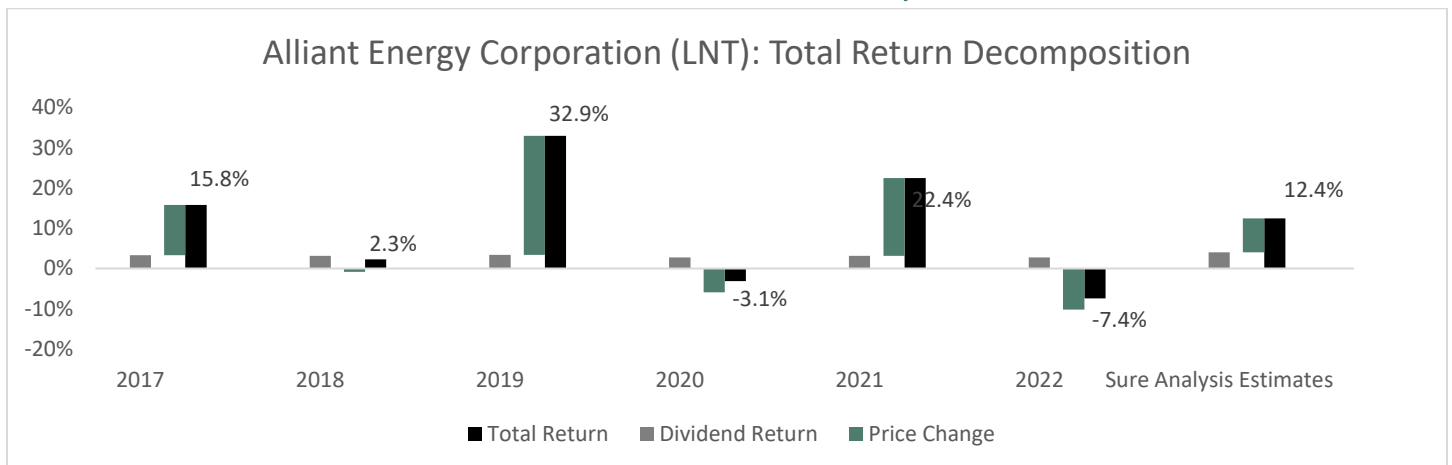
Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
Payout	57.7%	58.6%	63.2%	63.1%	65.3%	61.8%	61.5%	62.6%	61.2%	61.1%	62%	62%

The company's competitive advantage is that a utility company is very monopolizing as there is only one utility company in any given area. Thus, utility stocks are often held by investors for their defensive nature. People will always need to power their homes and businesses. However, LNT shows that earnings can decrease during a recession. For example, during the Great Recession from 2008 to 2009, its earnings-per-share fell from a high of \$1.35 in 2007 to \$0.98 in 2009. Earnings did bounce back big by 40% in 2010, to \$1.38. Even though earnings fell significantly in this period, the dividend was not cut. It was raised from \$0.70 in 2008 to \$0.75 in 2009. This shows that LNT is committed to paying growing dividends. The debt-to-Equity ratio (D/E) is 1.4 for the year compared to 1.1 in FY2021. Even though the D/E ratio increased, the company still holds a credit rating of A- with S&P and has a healthy interest coverage ratio of 2.8.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Alliant Energy is a safe business. The company continues to produce a very reliable and growing dividend. The dividend has been increasing for the past 20 years. At the current price, the company is undervalued with a target price of \$58. Thus, we recommend a buy at the current price. We see 12.4% expected annual total returns for an excellent, dependable business in the next five years.

## Total Return Breakdown by Year



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## Income Statement Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Revenue</b>	\$6,080	\$6,565	\$6,617	\$6,098	\$6,921	\$8,138	\$8,175	\$3,416	\$3,669	\$4,205
<b>Gross Profit</b>	\$704	\$764	\$896	\$851	\$883	\$1,020	\$997	\$1,463	\$1,556	\$1709
<b>Gross Margin</b>	11.6%	11.6%	13.5%	14.0%	12.8%	12.5%	12.2%	42.8%	42.4%	40.6%
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	\$411	\$442	\$414	\$407	\$462	\$507	\$567	\$615	\$657	\$671
<b>Operating Profit</b>	\$534	\$544	\$577	\$624	\$671	\$694	\$778	\$740	\$795	\$928
<b>Operating Margin</b>	16.3%	16.2%	17.7%	18.8%	19.8%	19.6%	21.3%	21.7%	21.7%	22.1%
<b>Net Profit</b>	\$376	\$393	\$388	\$382	\$468	\$522	\$567	\$624	\$674	\$686
<b>Net Margin</b>	11.5%	11.7%	11.9%	11.5%	13.8%	14.8%	15.6%	18.3%	18.4%	16.3%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	\$731	\$892	\$871	\$393	\$522	\$528	\$660	\$501	\$582	\$486
<b>Income Tax</b>	\$54	\$44	\$70	\$59	\$67	\$48	\$69	\$-57	\$-74	\$22

## Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Total Assets</b>	11,112	12,064	12,495	13,374	14,188	15,426	16,701	17,710	18,553	20,163
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	10	57	6	8	28	21	16	54	39	20
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	82	88	94	112	91	81	92	101	93	114
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	7,629	8,423	8,571	9,312	9,806	10,640	11,296	11,822	12,563	13,887
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	365	428	402	445	477	543	422	377	436	756
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	3,616	3,909	3,995	4,564	5,282	5,944	6,527	7,166	7,883	8,718
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>	3,281	3,439	3,724	3,862	4,182	4,586	5,205	5,688	5,990	6,276
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	1.10	1.14	1.07	1.18	1.26	1.30	1.25	1.26	1.32	1.39

## Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Return on Assets</b>	3.4%	3.4%	3.2%	3.0%	3.4%	3.5%	3.5%	3.6%	3.7%	3.5%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	11.7%	11.7%	10.8%	10.1%	11.6%	11.9%	11.6%	11.5%	11.5%	11.2%
<b>ROIC</b>	5.5%	5.4%	5.0%	4.6%	5.1%	5.1%	5.0%	5.0%	5.0%	4.8%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	221.6	221.7	225.4	227.1	229.7	233.6	239.0	249.0	250.7	251.2
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	\$14.79	\$15.11	\$14.43	\$14.62	\$14.72	\$15.13	\$15.26	\$13.74	14.64	16.74
<b>FCF/Share</b>	\$3.30	\$4.02	\$3.87	\$1.73	\$2.27	\$2.26	\$2.76	\$2.01	2.32	1.93

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

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