



# Pinnacle West Capital Corp. (PNW)

Updated August 12<sup>th</sup>, 2023 by Felix Martinez

## Key Metrics

<b>Current Price:</b>	\$70	<b>5 Year CAGR Estimate:</b>	9.5%	<b>Market Cap:</b>	\$7.9 B
<b>Fair Value Price:</b>	\$73	<b>5 Year Growth Estimate:</b>	5.0%	<b>Ex-Dividend Date:</b>	10/31/23
<b>% Fair Value:</b>	97%	<b>5 Year Valuation Multiple Estimate:</b>	0.6%	<b>Dividend Payment Date:</b>	12/01/23
<b>Dividend Yield:</b>	5.0%	<b>5 Year Price Target</b>	\$93	<b>Years Of Dividend Growth:</b>	11
<b>Dividend Risk Score:</b>	C	<b>Retirement Suitability Score:</b>	B	<b>Rating:</b>	Hold

## Overview & Current Events

Pinnacle West Capital is a holding company based in Phoenix, Arizona. The company was initially known as Arizona Public Service Company, then later reorganized as a holding company, AZP Group Inc., in February 1985. In 1987, it changed its name to what is now known as Pinnacle West Capital, which trades under the ticker symbol PNW. Its principal subsidiary, Arizona Public Service (APS), provides electricity service to more than 1.3 million Arizona homes and businesses. The company has the generating capacity to produce 6,300 megawatts, and it employs more than 6,000 in Arizona and New Mexico. PNW has been paying a dividend for 27 years and growing the dividend consecutively for the past eleven years. Pinnacle West Capital has a market capitalization of \$7.9 billion.

On November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2023, Pinnacle West Capital reported third-quarter results for Fiscal Year (FY)2023. The company reported a robust financial performance in the third quarter of 2023, with consolidated net income attributable to common shareholders reaching \$398.2 million, or \$3.50 per diluted share—a significant improvement from the previous year. The surge in revenues, driven by record-setting summer weather, notably increased by \$57.4 million (after-tax), or \$0.38 per share, compared to the same period in 2022. Factors contributing to the positive results included higher energy usage due to extreme temperatures, revenue from Arizona Public Service's Lost Fixed Cost Recovery (LFCR) mechanism, and a surcharge from the 2019 Rate Case appeal.

The summer of 2023 witnessed unprecedented heat, with the National Weather Service reporting an average high temperature of 108.9 degrees in the third quarter—an increase of 4.6% over 2022. This extreme weather led to heightened energy consumption for cooling, setting multiple temperature records in the Phoenix metropolitan area. Pinnacle West Chairman and CEO Jeff Guldner credited the company's preparedness and diverse power plant portfolio for maintaining reliable service during peak demand. Despite the financial challenges faced by customers, Pinnacle West increased crisis bill assistance and collaborated with non-profits to support vulnerable populations.

Looking ahead, Pinnacle West anticipates its consolidated earnings for 2023 to fall within the range of \$4.10 to \$4.30 per diluted share on a weather-normalized basis, as outlined in the third-quarter 2023 earnings.

## Growth on a Per-Share Basis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
<b>EPS</b>	\$3.66	\$3.58	\$3.92	\$3.95	\$4.35	\$4.54	\$4.77	\$4.87	\$5.47	\$4.26	<b>\$4.24</b>	<b>\$5.41</b>
<b>DPS</b>	\$2.20	\$2.30	\$2.41	\$2.53	\$2.66	\$2.82	\$3.18	\$3.18	\$3.24	\$3.42	<b>\$3.48</b>	<b>\$3.84</b>
<b>Shares<sup>1</sup></b>	111.0	111.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	113.0	113.0	113.0	113.0	113.0	<b>113.0</b>	<b>113.0</b>

We expect continued growth for PNW to be primarily driven by more people coming to Arizona. We predict that Pinnacle West Capital will continue to grow earnings at a 5% rate for the next five years. This would give us \$5.41 per share in earnings for 2028. Our expected 5% growth rate is slightly higher than the 10-year average growth rate of 1.7%. PNW's net margin has been improving over the past decade, growing from a low of 10.5% in 2011 to 15.4% last year. This could continue to be a growth driver as well.

<sup>1</sup> Share count is in millions.

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The company has increased its dividend each year for the past eleven years. The dividend growth rate has been 5.0% for the past ten years and 4.3% for the past five years. We expect PNW to grow its dividend at a 2% yearly rate, which would be lower than its expected earnings growth. Still, the company has a reasonable payout ratio to cover its dividend.

## Valuation Analysis

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	Now	2028
Avg. P/E	14.5	19.1	16.5	19.8	19.6	18.8	18.9	16.4	12.9	17.8	16.6	17.1
Avg. Yld.	4.2%	3.4%	3.7%	3.2%	3.1%	3.3%	3.3%	4.0%	4.7%	4.5%	5.0%	4.2%

In the preceding decade, PNW has exhibited an average price-to-earnings (P/E) ratio of 17.4x, which we deem an equitable valuation for a utility firm of PNW's caliber. Presently, PNW is trading at a P/E ratio of 16.6x, a valuation that appears reasonable for investors seeking enduring value in high-yield utility enterprises. An analysis of the dividend yield further reveals that the current yield surpasses the company's decade-long average. Over the course of the last ten years, PNW has sustained an average dividend yield of 3.7%.

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

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2028
Payout	60%	64.2%	61.5%	64.1%	61.1%	62.1%	66.7%	65.3%	59.2%	80.3%	82%	71%

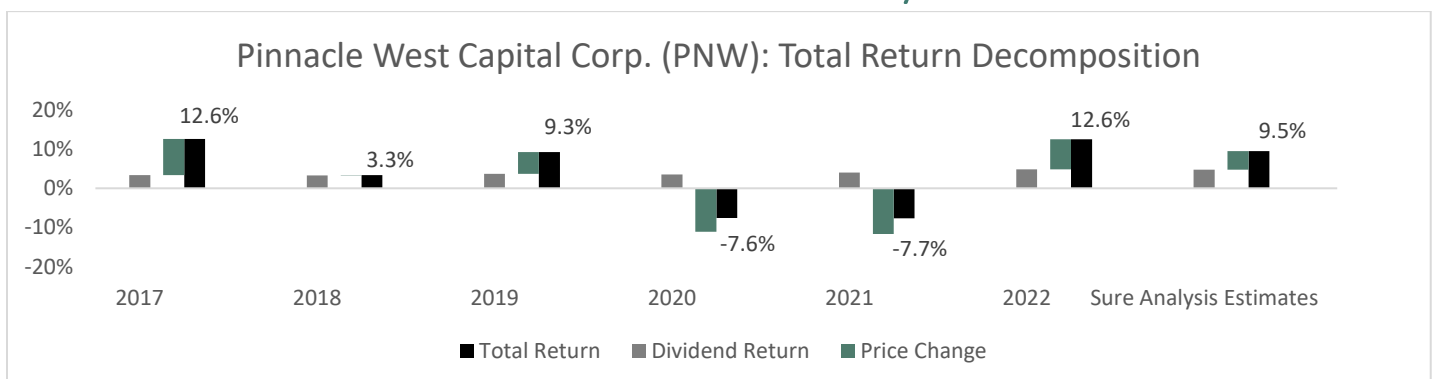
Pinnacle West Capital's advantage is its utility, which tends to be monopoly-like. Investors often hold utility stocks for their defensive nature. People will always need to power their homes and businesses. However, PNW shows that earnings can decrease during a recession. For example, during the Great Recession from 2008 to 2009, PNW's earning per share fell from \$2.96 in 2007 to \$2.12 in 2008. Earnings did bounce back in 2009 and further in 2010 to \$3.08. During the COVID-19 pandemic, PNW has so far fared even better.

Even though earnings fell significantly during the Great Recession, the dividend was not cut. This shows that PNW is committed to paying its dividends. The Debt-to-Equity ratio (D/E) is 1.6 for the year, which is fair. The company currently has an S&P credit rating of A-, which is investment-grade quality. Also, PNW has an interest coverage ratio of 3.1. Thus, the company has a very healthy balance sheet.

## Final Thoughts & Recommendation

Pinnacle West Capital Corp is a high-quality utility company at a reasonable price. The company continues to produce a very reliable and growing dividend. At the current price, PNW is over our fair value estimate. We forecast total shareholder returns of 9.5% per year for the next five years. Thus, this stock earns a hold rating because of the expected total return.

## 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>	3,455	3,492	3,495	3,499	3,565	3,691	3,471	3,587	3,804	4324
<b>Gross Profit</b>	1,434	1,404	1,526	1,491	1,635	1,578	1,487	1,635	1,697	1708
<b>Gross Margin</b>	41.5%	40.2%	43.7%	42.6%	45.9%	42.8%	42.8%	45.6%	44.6%	39.5%
<b>D&amp;A Exp.</b>	492	496	572	565	611	651	664	686	719	818
<b>Operating Profit</b>	846	811	855	836	910	774	672	788	805	732
<b>Operating Margin</b>	24.5%	23.2%	24.4%	23.9%	25.5%	21.0%	19.4%	22.0%	21.2%	16.9%
<b>Net Profit</b>	406	398	437	442	488	511	538	551	619	484
<b>Net Margin</b>	11.8%	11.4%	12.5%	12.6%	13.7%	13.8%	15.5%	15.3%	16.3%	11.2%
<b>Free Cash Flow</b>	137	189	18	(252)	(291)	99	(235)	(360)	-613	-466
<b>Income Tax</b>	231	221	238	236	258	134	(16)	78	110	75

## Balance Sheet Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Total Assets</b>	13,509	14,289	15,028	16,004	17,019	17,664	18,479	20,020	22,003	22723
<b>Cash &amp; Equivalents</b>	10	8	39	9	14	6	10	60	10	5
<b>Accounts Receivable</b>	300	298	275	250	305	268	266	314	392	453
<b>Inventories</b>	260	256	280	283	289	294	346	334	367	451
<b>Goodwill &amp; Int. Ass.</b>	158	120	124	90	257	263	291	283	274	259
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	9,168	9,770	10,309	11,068	11,883	12,315	12,926	14,268	15,982	16564
<b>Accounts Payable</b>	285	295	297	265	256	277	346	319	393	430
<b>Long-Term Debt</b>	3,490	3,538	3,820	4,324	4,967	5,215	5,747	6,483	7,356	8133
<b>Shareholder's Equity</b>	4,194	4,367	4,584	4,804	5,007	5,223	5,431	5,634	5,906	6049
<b>LTD/E Ratio</b>	0.83	0.81	0.83	0.90	0.99	1.00	1.06	1.15	1.25	1.34

## Profitability & Per Share Metrics

Year	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
<b>Return on Assets</b>	3.0%	2.9%	3.0%	2.8%	3.0%	2.9%	3.0%	2.9%	2.9%	2.2%
<b>Return on Equity</b>	9.9%	9.3%	9.8%	9.4%	10.0%	10.0%	10.1%	10.0%	10.7%	8.1%
<b>ROIC</b>	5.3%	5.0%	5.3%	5.0%	5.0%	4.9%	4.9%	4.7%	4.8%	3.5%
<b>Shares Out.</b>	111.0	111.0	112.0	112.0	112.0	113.0	113.0	113.0	113.0	113.4
<b>Revenue/Share</b>	31.18	31.41	31.33	31.23	31.73	32.80	30.78	31.76	33.61	38.1
<b>FCF/Share</b>	1.24	1.70	0.16	(2.25)	(2.59)	0.88	(2.08)	(3.19)	-5.42	-4.1

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

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