



**EDISON ELECTRIC
INSTITUTE**

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Rate Case Summary

**Q2 2013
FINANCIAL UPDATE**

QUARTERLY REPORT
OF THE U.S. SHAREHOLDER-OWNED
ELECTRIC UTILITY INDUSTRY

About EEI

The Edison Electric Institute (EEI) is the association that represents all U.S. investor-owned electric companies. Our members provide electricity for 220 million Americans, operate in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, and directly employ more than 500,000 workers. With more than \$85 billion in annual capital expenditures, the electric power industry is responsible for millions of additional jobs. Reliable, affordable, and sustainable electricity powers the economy and enhances the lives of all Americans. EEI has 70 international electric companies as Affiliate Members, and 250 industry suppliers and related organizations as Associate Members. Organized in 1933, EEI provides public policy leadership, strategic business intelligence, and essential conferences and forums.

About EEI's Quarterly Financial Updates

EEI's quarterly financial updates present industry trend analyses and financial data covering 56 U.S. shareholder-owned electric utility companies. These 56 companies include 50 electric utility holding companies whose stocks are traded on major U.S. stock exchanges and six electric utilities who are subsidiaries of non-utility or foreign companies. Financial updates are published for the following topics:

Dividends	Rate Case Summary
Stock Performance	SEC Financial Statements (Holding Companies)
Credit Ratings	FERC Financial Statements (Regulated Utilities)
Construction	Fuel

For EEI Member Companies

The EEI Finance and Accounting Division is developing current year and historical data sets that cover a wide range of industry financial and operating metrics. We look forward to serving as a resource for member companies who wish to produce customized industry financial data and trend analyses for use in:

- Investor relations studies and presentations
- Internal company presentations
- Performance benchmarking
- Peer group analyses
- Annual and quarterly reports to shareholders

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We Welcome Your Feedback

EEI is interested in ensuring that our financial publications and industry data sets best address the needs of member companies and the financial community. We welcome your comments, suggestions and inquiries.

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Future EEI Finance Meetings

48th EEI Financial Conference
November 10-13, 2013
Orlando World Center Marriott
Orlando, FL

For more information about EEI Finance Meetings, please contact Debra Henry, (202) 508-5496, dhenry@eei.org

The 56 U.S. Shareholder-Owned Electric Utilities

The companies listed below all serve a regulated distribution territory. Other utilities, such as transmission provider ITC Holdings, are not shown below because they do not serve a regulated distribution territory. However, their financial information is included in relevant EEI data sets, such as transmission-related construction spending.

ALLETE, Inc. (ALE)	Entergy Corporation (ETR)	PG&E Corporation (PCG)
Alliant Energy Corporation (LNT)	Exelon Corporation (EXC)	Pinnacle West Capital Corporation (PNW)
Ameren Corporation (AEE)	FirstEnergy Corp. (FE)	PNM Resources, Inc. (PNM)
American Electric Power Company, Inc. (AEP)	Great Plains Energy Incorporated (GXP)	Portland General Electric Company (POR)
Avista Corporation (AVA)	Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc. (HE)	PPL Corporation (PPL)
Black Hills Corporation (BKH)	<i>Iberdrola USA</i>	Public Service Enterprise Group Inc. (PEG)
CenterPoint Energy, Inc. (CNP)	IDACORP, Inc. (IDA)	<i>Puget Energy, Inc.</i>
Cleco Corporation (CNL)	Integrus Energy Group, Inc. (TEG)	SCANA Corporation (SCG)
CMS Energy Corporation (CMS)	<i>IPALCO Enterprises, Inc.</i>	Sempra Energy (SRE)
Consolidated Edison, Inc. (ED)	MDU Resources Group, Inc. (MDU)	Southern Company (SO)
Dominion Resources, Inc. (D)	MGE Energy, Inc. (MGEE)	TECO Energy, Inc. (TE)
<i>DPL, Inc. (DPL)</i>	<i>MidAmerican Energy Holdings Company</i>	UIL Holdings Corporation (UIL)
DTE Energy Company (DTE)	NextEra Energy, Inc. (NEE)	Unitil Corporation (UTL)
Duke Energy Corporation (DUK)	NiSource Inc. (NI)	UNS Energy Corporation (UNS)
Edison International (EIX)	Northeast Utilities (NU)	Vectren Corporation (VVC)
El Paso Electric Company (EE)	NorthWestern Corporation (NWE)	Westar Energy, Inc. (WR)
Empire District Electric Company (EDE)	NV Energy, Inc. (NVE)	Wisconsin Energy Corporation (WEC)
<i>Energy Future Holdings Corp. (formerly TXU Corp.)</i>	OGE Energy Corp. (OGE)	Xcel Energy, Inc. (XEL)
	Otter Tail Corporation (OTTR)	
	Pepco Holdings, Inc. (POM)	

Companies Listed by Category

(as of 12/31/12)

Please refer to the *Quarterly Financial Updates* webpage for previous years' lists.

Given the diversity of utility holding company corporate strategies, no single company categorization approach will be useful for all EEI members and utility industry analysts. Nevertheless, we believe the following classification provides an informative framework for tracking financial trends and the capital markets' response to business strategies as companies depart from the traditional regulated utility model.

Regulated	80%+ of total assets are regulated
Mostly Regulated	50% to 80% of total assets are regulated
Diversified	Less than 50% of total assets are regulated

Categorization of the 50 publicly traded utility holding companies is based on year-end business segmentation data presented in 10Ks, supplemented by discussions with company IR departments. Categorization of the six non-publicly traded companies (*shown in italics*) is based on estimates derived from FERC Form 1 data and information provided by parent company IR departments.

The EEI Finance and Accounting Division continues to evaluate our approach to company categorization and business segmentation. In addition, we can produce customized categorization and peer group analyses in response to member company requests. We welcome comments, suggestions and feedback from EEI member companies and the financial community.

Regulated (37 of 56)

ALLETE, Inc.
Alliant Energy Corporation
Ameren Corporation
American Electric Power Company, Inc.
Avista Corporation
Black Hills Corporation
Cleco Corporation
CMS Energy Corporation
Consolidated Edison, Inc.
DPL, Inc.
DTE Energy Company
Duke Energy Corporation
Edison International
El Paso Electric Company
Empire District Electric Company
Energy Corporation
Great Plains Energy Incorporated
Iberdrola USA
IDACORP, Inc.
Integrus Energy Group
IPALCO Enterprises, Inc.

Northeast Utilities
NorthWestern Energy
NV Energy, Inc.
PG&E Corporation
Pinnacle West Capital Corporation
PNM Resources, Inc.
Portland General Electric Company
Puget Energy, Inc.
Southern Company
TECO Energy, Inc.
UIL Holdings Corporation
Unitil Corporation
UNS Energy Corporation
Westar Energy, Inc.
Wisconsin Energy Corporation
Xcel Energy, Inc.

Mostly Regulated (17 of 56)

CenterPoint Energy, Inc.
Dominion Resources, Inc.
Exelon Corporation
First Energy Corp.

Hawaiian Electric Industries, Inc.
MGE Energy, Inc.
MidAmerican Energy Holdings
NextEra Energy, Inc.
NiSource Inc.
OGE Energy Corp.
Otter Tail Corporation
Pepco Holdings, Inc.
PPL Corporation
Public Service Enterprise Group, Inc.
SCANA Corporation
Sempra Energy
Vectren Corporation

Diversified (2 of 56)

Energy Future Holdings
MDU Resources Group, Inc.

Note: Based on assets at 12/31/12

Rate Case Summary

HIGHLIGHTS

■ Shareholder-owned electric utilities filed 16 rate cases in Q2 2013, extending the industry's trend of elevated rate case activity.

■ The quarter's average awarded ROE, at 9.77%, is the lowest in several decades. Both Ameren and Commonwealth Edison submitted filings in Illinois as part of those companies' ongoing formula rate plan. The ROE requested in both filings was 8.72%, thus contributing to a record low average requested ROE in Q2 as well.

■ In the recent quarter, utilities' efforts to implement clauses and trackers have been a relatively strong driver of cases compared to other quarters, as were utilities' efforts to adjust for slow demand growth.

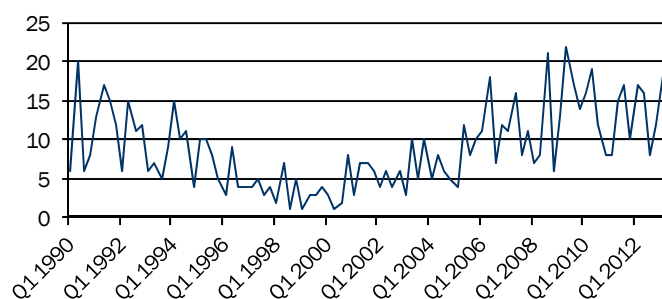
■ Eight of the ten cases decided in Q2 incorporated settlements or partial settlements. These are often silent on details, but in Q2 enough was revealed to allow for an examination of the issues, summarized herein.

COMMENTARY

Shareholder-owned electric utilities filed 16 rate cases in Q2 2013, continuing the trend since the turn of the century of rising rate case activity. The trend largely reflects a construction cycle driven by the need to replace aging infrastructure and reduce the environmental impact of power generation. Capital expenditures, operation and maintenance expenses, and efforts by utilities to implement adjustment clauses/trackers/riders are generally the main drivers of rate case filings, with capital expenditures usually the leading driver. In the recent quarter, utilities' efforts to implement clauses and trackers have been a relatively strong driver of cases compared to other quarters, as were utilities' efforts to adjust for slow demand growth.

I. Number of Rate Cases Filed (Quarterly)

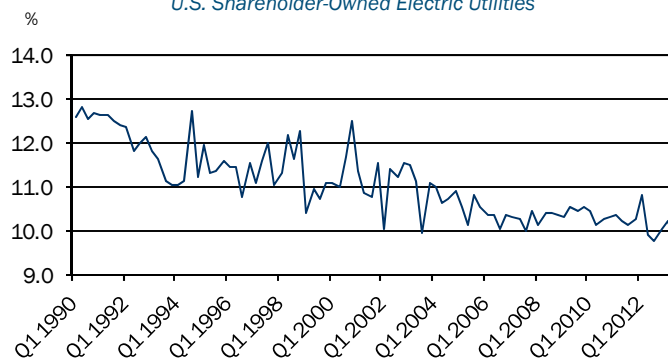
U.S. Shareholder-Owned Electric Utilities



Source: SNL Financial / Regulatory Research Assoc. and EEI Rate Department

II. Average Awarded ROE (Quarterly)

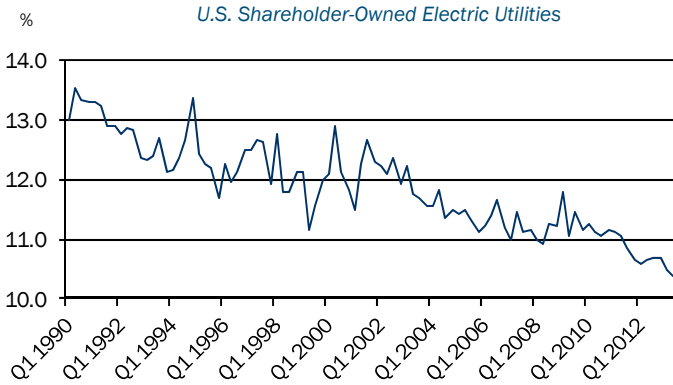
U.S. Shareholder-Owned Electric Utilities



Source: SNL Financial / Regulatory Research Assoc. and EEI Rate Department

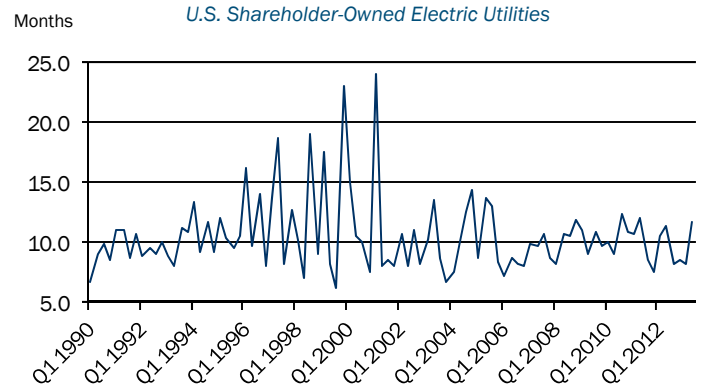
The average awarded return on equity (ROE) in Q2 was 9.77%, the lowest in the last several decades (a period of steadily declining awarded ROEs). Falling interest rates account for much of this trend. Attempts by state commissions to moderate rate increases during times of financial hardship for many customers have also contributed in recent years.

III. Average Requested ROE (Quarterly)



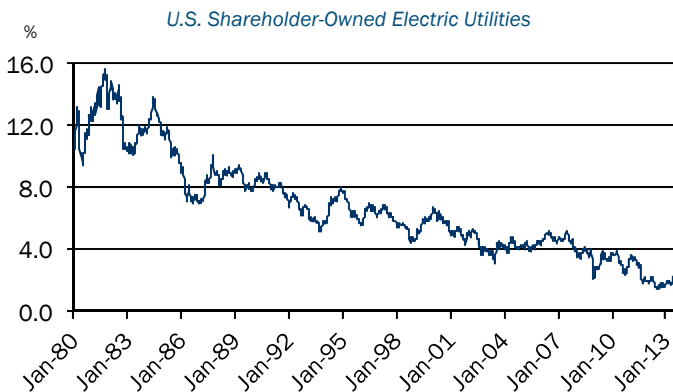
Source: SNL Financial / Regulatory Research Assoc. and EEI Rate Department

IV. Average Regulatory Lag (Quarterly)



Source: SNL Financial / Regulatory Research Assoc. and EEI Rate Department

V. 10-Year Treasury Yield (1/1980 – 6/2013)



Source: U.S. Federal Reserve

The average requested ROE, at 10.4% was similarly the lowest in decades, and for similar reasons.

Regulatory Lag

Average regulatory lag in Q2 was 11.8 months, the highest in two years and slightly above the roughly 10-month average in recent years. During industry restructuring in the late 1990s and early 2000s, the volatility of regulatory lag increased and the average rose to almost 13 months. Outside of this period, regulatory lag has been fairly consistent at about 10 months.

During times of rapidly rising spending, utilities attempt to recover costs by filing rate cases. However, rate case decisions are based primarily on historical costs, and preparing for and administering a case takes time. If costs continue to rise, rates may already be outdated by the time the commission decides the case and puts rates into effect. We define regulatory lag as the time between a rate case filing and decision because those events are specific and measurable. We consider this a rough proxy for the time between when a utility needs recovery and when new rates take effect.

Some analysts have argued that regulatory lag is actually longer when other delays are considered, such as the time

needed to prepare for a case. This suggests an average closer to twice what our definition measures, or close to two years. However it is measured, lag obstructs utilities' ability to earn their allowed return when costs are rising and can ultimately increase their borrowing costs. Electric utilities often fall short of achieving their allowed return due to regulatory lag. Therefore, the decline in allowed ROEs across the industry may over-compensate, in some cases, for declining interest rates.

Commissions can allow utilities to shorten regulatory lag through the use of innovative rate approaches such as interim rate increases, adjustment clauses and other recovery mechanisms, the use of projected costs in rate cases, and construction work-in-progress (CWIP). CWIP allows a utility to partly recover construction financing costs before a project comes online. These approaches have the added benefit of helping to smooth the introduction of rate increases rather than forcing rates to suddenly jump after a case is decided. Commissions and state legislatures can support utilities' financial health and help curb future rate increases due to increased borrowing costs by helping utilities reduce lag.

Filed Cases

Capital expenditures, as they are in almost every quarter, were the main driver of rate cases in Q2. Kentucky Utilities, in its case in Virginia, filed to recover for what it describes as its "most significant environmental compliance building program in its history." Northern States Power in Wisconsin filed for recovery for investment in generation (including nuclear plants), distribution and transmission. Kentucky Power filed to acquire part of a coal plant.

Utility efforts to implement adjustment clauses, trackers and riders strongly influenced filings in Q2 compared to other quarters. Concerns about slow demand growth also appeared in a significant number of cases. Tampa Electric filed in part to recover for revenue shortfalls associated with sluggish revenue growth in its service territory. Low cus-

VI. Rate Case Data: From Tables I-V

U.S. Shareholder-Owned Electric Utilities

Quarter	Number of Rate Cases Filed	Average Awarded ROE	Average Requested ROE	Average 10-Year Treasury Yield	Average Regulatory Lag
Q4 1988	1	NA	14.30	8.96	NA
Q1 1989	4	NA	15.26	9.21	NA
Q2 1989	4	NA	13.30	8.77	NA
Q3 1989	14	NA	13.65	8.11	NA
Q4 1989	13	NA	13.47	7.91	NA
Q1 1990	6	12.62	13.00	8.42	6.71
Q2 1990	20	12.85	13.51	8.68	9.07
Q3 1990	6	12.54	13.34	8.70	9.90
Q4 1990	8	12.68	13.31	8.40	8.61
Q1 1991	13	12.66	13.29	8.02	11.00
Q2 1991	17	12.67	13.23	8.13	11.00
Q3 1991	15	12.49	12.89	7.94	8.70
Q4 1991	12	12.42	12.90	7.35	10.70
Q1 1992	6	12.38	12.77	7.30	8.90
Q2 1992	15	11.83	12.86	7.38	9.61
Q3 1992	11	12.03	12.81	6.62	9.00
Q4 1992	12	12.14	12.36	6.74	10.10
Q1 1993	6	11.84	12.33	6.28	8.87
Q2 1993	7	11.64	12.39	5.99	8.10
Q3 1993	5	11.15	12.70	5.62	11.20
Q4 1993	9	11.04	12.12	5.61	10.90
Q1 1994	15	11.07	12.15	6.07	13.40
Q2 1994	10	11.13	12.37	7.08	9.28
Q3 1994	11	12.75	12.66	7.33	11.80
Q4 1994	4	11.24	13.36	7.84	9.26
Q1 1995	10	11.96	12.44	7.48	12.00
Q2 1995	10	11.32	12.26	6.62	10.40
Q3 1995	8	11.37	12.19	6.32	9.50
Q4 1995	5	11.58	11.69	5.89	10.60
Q1 1996	3	11.46	12.25	5.91	16.30
Q2 1996	9	11.46	11.96	6.72	9.80
Q3 1996	4	10.76	12.13	6.78	14.00
Q4 1996	4	11.56	12.48	6.34	8.12
Q1 1997	4	11.08	12.50	6.56	13.80
Q2 1997	5	11.62	12.66	6.70	18.70
Q3 1997	3	12.00	12.63	6.24	8.33
Q4 1997	4	11.06	11.93	5.91	12.70
Q1 1998	2	11.31	12.75	5.59	10.20
Q2 1998	7	12.20	11.78	5.60	7.00
Q3 1998	1	11.65	NA	5.20	19.00
Q4 1998	5	12.30	12.11	4.67	9.11
Q1 1999	1	10.40	NA	4.98	17.60
Q2 1999	3	10.94	11.17	5.54	8.33
Q3 1999	3	10.75	11.57	5.88	6.33
Q4 1999	4	11.10	12.00	6.14	23.00
Q1 2000	3	11.08	12.10	6.48	15.10
Q2 2000	1	11.00	12.90	6.18	10.50
Q3 2000	2	11.68	12.13	5.89	10.00
Q4 2000	8	12.50	11.81	5.57	7.50
Q1 2001	3	11.38	11.50	5.05	24.00
Q2 2001	7	10.88	12.24	5.27	8.00
Q3 2001	7	10.78	12.64	4.98	8.62
Q4 2001	6	11.57	12.29	4.77	8.00
Q1 2002	4	10.05	12.22	5.08	10.80
Q2 2002	6	11.41	12.08	5.10	8.16
Q3 2002	4	11.25	12.36	4.26	11.00
Q4 2002	6	11.57	11.92	4.01	8.25

VI. Rate Case Data: From Tables I-V (cont.)

U.S. Shareholder-Owned Electric Utilities

Quarter	Number of Rate Cases Filed	Average Awarded ROE	Average Requested ROE	Average 10-Year Treasury Yield	Average Regulatory Lag
Q1 2003	3	11.49	12.24	3.92	10.20
Q2 2003	10	11.16	11.76	3.62	13.60
Q3 2003	5	9.95	11.69	4.23	8.80
Q4 2003	10	11.09	11.57	4.29	6.83
Q1 2004	5	11.00	11.54	4.02	7.66
Q2 2004	8	10.64	11.81	4.60	10.00
Q3 2004	6	10.75	11.35	4.30	12.50
Q4 2004	5	10.91	11.48	4.17	14.40
Q1 2005	4	10.55	11.41	4.30	8.71
Q2 2005	12	10.13	11.49	4.16	13.70
Q3 2005	8	10.84	11.32	4.21	13.00
Q4 2005	10	10.57	11.14	4.49	8.44
Q1 2006	11	10.38	11.23	4.57	7.33
Q2 2006	18	10.39	11.38	5.07	8.83
Q3 2006	7	10.06	11.64	4.90	8.33
Q4 2006	12	10.38	11.19	4.63	8.11
Q1 2007	11	10.30	11.00	4.68	9.88
Q2 2007	16	10.27	11.44	4.85	9.82
Q3 2007	8	10.02	11.13	4.73	10.80
Q4 2007	11	10.44	11.16	4.26	8.75
Q1 2008	7	10.15	10.98	3.66	7.33
Q2 2008	8	10.41	10.93	3.89	10.80
Q3 2008	21	10.42	11.26	3.86	10.60
Q4 2008	6	10.38	11.21	3.25	11.90
Q1 2009	13	10.31	11.79	2.74	11.10
Q2 2009	22	10.55	11.01	3.31	9.13
Q3 2009	17	10.46	11.43	3.52	10.90
Q4 2009	14	10.54	11.15	3.46	9.69
Q1 2010	16	10.45	11.24	3.72	10.00
Q2 2010	19	10.12	11.12	3.49	9.00
Q3 2010	12	10.27	11.07	2.79	12.40
Q4 2010	8	10.30	11.17	2.86	10.90
Q1 2011	8	10.35	11.11	3.46	10.80
Q2 2011	15	10.24	11.06	3.21	12.00
Q3 2011	17	10.13	10.86	2.43	8.64
Q4 2011	10	10.29	10.66	2.05	7.60
Q1 2012	17	10.84	10.57	2.04	10.50
Q2 2012	16	9.92	10.66	1.82	11.40
Q3 2012	8	9.78	10.68	1.64	8.20
Q4 2012	12	10.05	10.69	1.71	8.65
Q1 2013	19	10.23	10.49	1.95	8.24
Q2 2013	16	9.77	10.40	2.00	11.80

NA = Not available

Source: SNL Financial / Regulatory Research Assoc. and EEI Rate Department

tomers growth in part prompted Baltimore Gas and Electric's filing.

Both Ameren and Commonwealth Edison submitted filings in Illinois as part of those companies' ongoing formula rate plan. The ROE requested in both filings was 8.72%, thus contributing to the record low average requested ROE in Q2. However, while the requested ROE is low for both companies, the certainty of earning that ROE and lack of lag that is part of the formula rate plan help to offset any deleterious effects of the low return.

Baltimore Gas and Electric's filing is, in part, an attempt to correct for the company's estimate that its earned overall return for the year ending 7/31/2013 will be only 5.68%. The company also hopes to implement an electric reliability investment initiative (and an associated tracker mechanism) to be based on guidelines established by the Maryland commission, based on its review of Maryland utilities' reliability performance and a Maryland Governor's Task Force's recommendations following a severe wind storm that affected the company's service territory. The company proposed

measures that could be completed between 2014 and 2018 at an estimated cost of \$136 million. The measures are expected to improve the company's reliability by about 10% compared to its average performance between 2010 and 2012.

Decided Cases

Eight of the ten cases decided in Q2 incorporated settlements or partial settlements. Settlements are often silent on details related to the case, but in Q2 enough details were revealed to allow for a fairly complete examination of the cases decided during the quarter.

Duke Energy Ohio

Duke's settlement granted the company recovery of an \$11 million vegetation management expense (the amount the company spent in the test year) and a \$4.4 million baseline expense for storms, but did not allow the company's requested storm deferral and tracking mechanism or any recovery of incremental expenses associated with 2012 storms. However, the company can request deferral of incremental storm costs after 2012. Also, the company noted that under pre-existing rates it would earn a return of 4.79% on rate base. The commission observed that such a rate of return is "insufficient to provide [the company] with reasonable compensation for the service it renders to customers."

San Diego Gas & Electric

San Diego Gas & Electric's order allowed attrition rate increases for 2013-2015 based on the Consumer Price Index – Urban, with some modification. This resulted in rate increases of 2.65% for 2013 and 2.75% for both 2014 and 2015. The commission also extended the company's "Z-factor" mechanism that allows utilities to request recovery, under certain circumstances, for significant unforeseen expenses between rate cases, subject to a \$5 million deductible. The order also allowed the company recovery of costs associated with the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station, subject to refund, pending a reasonableness review.

Consumers Energy in Michigan

Consumers Energy entered into a settlement that was approved without addressing advanced metering infrastructure issues, including whether the program should be suspended and whether the customer opt-out fee proposed by the company would be appropriate.

Duke Energy Progress in North Carolina

Duke Energy Progress entered into a settlement that was approved with a rider that allows the company to earn a return on coal inventory above that authorized in rates. The parties to the settlement did not agree, however, on Duke's proposal to implement an experimental rider to reduce rates to industrial customers. The commission similarly did not

approve the rider, finding no substantial evidence that the reduction in industrial customers and industrial activity was caused by industrial electric rates. The chairman dissented on this issue, saying that the company's "industrial rates have been measurably higher than those of neighboring electric utilities and even higher than its own industrial rates in South Carolina."

Maui Electric in Hawaii

Maui Electric (MECO) entered into a settlement in Q2 that would have awarded the company a 10% ROE. However, the commission reduced the ROE to 9% because the 10% ROE was outside the 9%-9.75% range proposed by the Division of Consumer Advocacy (one of the parties to the settlement). The commission said that half the reduction was due to "updated economic and financial market conditions" and that the other half of the adjustment reflected "apparent system inefficiencies which negatively impact MECO's customers." The commission said the company "appears to have failed to adequately and sufficiently plan for and implement the necessary modifications to its existing operations to accept a more appropriate level of wind energy generation made available to MECO, negatively impacting ratepayers through higher electricity rates." The commission also disallowed \$1.3 million associated with pension costs and other post-retirement-benefits. To derive the disallowance, the commission relied on a three-year average, rather than the test year estimate adopted in the settlement for these costs. The commission further disallowed some amounts associated with integrated resource planning and customer information system costs. The commission said this decision is intended to serve notice to MECO and other Hawaiian Electric utilities that they "appear to lack movement to a sustainable business model to address technological advancements and increasing customer expectations. The commission observes that some mainland electric utilities have begun to define, articulate and implement the vision for the 'electric utility of the future.' Without such a long-term, customer focused business strategy, it is difficult to ascertain whether [the Hawaiian Electric utilities'] increasing capital investments are strategic investments or simply a series of unrelated capital projects that effectively expand utility rate base and increase profits but appear to provide limited or little customer value."

Tucson Electric Power

In Q2, Tucson Electric Power entered into a settlement that approved the company's proposed lost fixed-cost recovery decoupling mechanism, which is targeted at fixed costs lost as a result of the commission's energy efficiency standard and distributed generation requirements. The adjustment is capped at 1% with any excess deferred. The settlement also approved an environmental compliance adjustor to help the company recover, between rate cases, any costs resulting

from environmental standards established by federal agencies. Recovery through the adjuster is limited to 0.25% of the company's total retail revenue per year. The settlement increased the monthly residential customer charge from \$7 to \$10, the commercial single-phase service customer charge from \$8 to \$15.50, the commercial three-phase service customer charge from \$14 to \$20.50, and the large-customer customer charge from \$371.88 to \$775. The commission said that the \$10 residential customer charge was a "small part of the overall average bill of over \$84" and well less than the \$56 average monthly fixed costs per residential customer. The commission disallowed the settlement's energy efficiency resource plan (EERP), which would have given the company a return of and on energy efficiency resource investments over five years through a demand-side management surcharge. [The company currently recovers energy efficiency (EE) program costs, including a performance incentive, through a demand side management (DSM) surcharge over one year.] The commission said "Adoption of the EERP . . . would represent a fundamental shift in the way we have addressed cost recovery of EE/DSM. While TEP's present EE/DSM recovery mechanism classifies EE/DSM costs as expenses, the proposed EERP would treat them as invested capital. . . . Although we are aware that EE/DSM programs can provide benefits to customers;

nonetheless, the record before us shows that these programs come with substantial costs. . . . We want to be clear that we support cost effective energy efficiency. However, we believe the time has come for us to engage in a full consideration of the issues related to EE/DSM programs and their cost recovery, including whether EE/DSM should be considered as a resource in integrated resource plans." The commission opened a new generic docket on the issue. One of the five commissioners voted no on the settlement and order without written dissent.

Puget Sound Energy in Washington

Puget Sound Energy filed an expedited rate case in response to the commission's interest in breaking "the current pattern of almost continuous rate cases." The filing was for delivery services only and excluded power costs and property taxes. A settlement allowed for the company to establish a rate plan consisting of a series of 3% annual increases intended to avoid the need to file a general rate case over a period of years, and a decoupling mechanism with a baseline revenue per customer for the rate plan period. The rate plan period extends at least until March 2016, the next time the company will be allowed to file a new rate case, or until March 2017, if the company decides not to file another case first.■