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PNM Resources and UNS Energy: San Juan Plant Generating Some Closure

RATINGS

Summary

»

Public Service Comp	any of New Mexico
Issuer Rating	Baa3
Outlook	Positive

Tucson Electric Power Company

Issuer Rating	Baa2
Outlook	Stable

KEY INDICATORS

Public Service Company of New Mexico				
	FY	FY	LTMQ1	
	2011	2012	2013	
Interest	5.0x	4.6x	4.4x	
Coverage				
CFO pre-wc /	21.5%	21.2%	19.5%	
Debt				
(CFO pre-wc –	18.7%	19.0%	17.4%	
Div'd) / Debt				
Debt / Book	48.3%	45.4%	46.1%	
Capitalization				

Source: Moody's Financial Metrics

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- Public Service Company of New Mexico (PNM: Baa3, positive) and <u>Tucson Electric</u> <u>Power Company</u> (TEP: Baa2, stable) are well positioned to recover any costs and investments associated with retiring Units 2 and 3 of the San Juan Generating Station (SJGS) and to replace the lost capacity associated with the revised State Implementation Plan (SIP) ruling. We think the total cost related to the SJGS environmental compliance, which includes replacing the retired capacity, could reach close to \$600 million.
- The current proposed SIP related to the SJGS environmental compliance agreed upon by the State of New Mexico, the US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and PNM, although less costly than the original plan, is credit neutral to PNM and TEP, as we believe the utilities will be able to recover their incurred costs related to the plan in a timely manner.
- An ability to recover and earn a return on these investments in a timely manner is important for both utilities to maintain their financial metrics at current levels as the regulatory environments in New Mexico and Arizona have been exhibiting increased supportiveness.
- That said, if recovery is less timely, leading to liquidity issues or an increased risk of stranded investment, their credit profiles may suffer. Moreover, should additional liquidity or time constraints arise from material changes to the proposed SIP, there could be an impact on safety and reliability as well as operating performance, which would be credit negative. As operator and largest owner, PNM is more exposed because PNM has the most generation capacity at risk.
- » In 1999, the EPA implemented the Regional Haze Rule in an effort to improve visibility impairment (regional haze) in national parks and wilderness areas. As a result, coal power plants, such as the San Juan Generating Station, were targeted as contributing to impairment of visibility. As such, utilities have to comply with the new laws and work with states and federal agencies to devise plans to reduce visibility impacts.

San Juan Generating Station is an important source of power

The San Juan Generating Station (SJGS) is a coal-fired power plant near Farmington, NM. PNM is the operator of the plant and owns approximately 46% of the aggregate power capacity from the plant. However, an additional eight electric utilities, co-operatives, municipalities and power agencies also have an ownership stake in the plant (see Figure 1). SJGS is an important source of power generation for PNM as well as the other eight owners. In operation since 1973, SJGS contains 4 boilers (Units 1 - 4) and generates about 1,700 MW of low cost electricity serving New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and California. The plant burns thermal coal from the BHP Billiton San Juan underground mine.

san Ju	an Generating Station Current Ownership		
Unit	Owner	Ownership %	Capacity Share (MW)
1	PNM Resources	50.0%	170
	Tucson Electric Power	50.0%	170
	Unit 1 Total	100.0%	340
2	PNM Resources	50.0%	170
	Tucson Electric Power	50.0%	170
	Unit 2 Total	100.0%	340
3	PNM Resources	50.0%	248
	Southern California Public Power Authority	41.7%	207
	Tri-State Generation and Transmission Association	8.3%	41
	Unit 3 Total	100.0%	496
4	PNM Resources	38.5%	195
	M-S-R Public Power Agency, CA	28.8%	146
	City of Anaheim, CA	10.0%	51
	City of Farmington, NM	8.5%	43
	Los Alamos County, NM	7.2%	37
	Utah Associated Municipal Power Systems	7.0%	35
	Unit 4 Total	100.0%	507
	Total Units 1 - 4		1,683

Source: Company Filings

Environmental compliance is a long and winding legal road

In 1999, the EPA implemented the Regional Haze Rule, under the Clean Air Act, in an effort to improve visibility impairment or regional haze in 156 federal areas including national parks and wilderness areas. As a result, coal power plants, such as SJGS, were identified as contributing to impairment of visibility. As such, utilities have to comply with the new laws and work with states and federal agencies to devise implementation plans to limit air pollutant emissions known to cause visibility degradation.

Implementation plans developed by states must include enforceable measures and strategies for reducing visibility-impairing pollution and identify facilities that will require the installation of best available retrofit technology (BART) controls.

In 2005, the EPA issued a second rulemaking and published guidelines for states to determine BART requirements for facilities built between 1962 and 1977 that have the potential to emit more than 250 tons per year of visibility impairing pollution. If it was determined that these emissions could reasonably be anticipated to cause or contribute to visibility impairment in any of the 156 protected federal areas, then BART must be installed by 2018. SJGS fell under these requirements.

Furthermore, as part of a lawsuit settlement in 2005, PNM agreed to several major environmental improvements at SJGS which were implemented over a four year period completed in 2009 for a total cost of approximately \$320 million. PNM has been recovering these costs and earning a return on the investments through its current rates. The plant upgrades reduced emissions of four main air pollutants including nitrogen oxide, sulfur dioxide, particulate matter and mercury. As a result, the mercury removal rate at the plant is about 99.9%.

In June 2011, the state of New Mexico submitted its implementation plan to install selective noncatalytic reduction technology (SNCR) at SJGS to reduce nitrogen oxide emissions. However, in August 2011, the EPA filed its Federal Implementation Plan (FIP), which required the installation of selective catalytic reduction technology (SCR) on all four units at SJGS by September 21, 2016.

After several months of litigation and numerous discussions amongst PNM, the New Mexico Environmental Department (NMED), the EPA and other parties, a revised draft SIP emerged.

Revised State Implementation Plan Provides a Collaborative Approach to Compliance

On February 15, 2013, PNM, NMED and the EPA outlined terms of a new non-binding agreement on a revised plan that would allow SJGS to meet the BART standards and comply with federal visibility rules. In general, we view the revised settlement as credit positive, as it removes a potentially large uncertainty and is evidence of a more collaborative settlement framework in NM.

The agreement would result in the retirement of the San Juan Units 2 and 3 by the end of 2017 and the installation of SNCRs technology on Units 1 and 4 by the later of January 31, 2016 or 15 months after EPA approval of the New Mexico revised SIP, which is expected by the end of 2014. In addition, PNM would also build a natural gas-fired peaking generating plant at the San Juan site to partially replace the capacity lost from the retired coal units.

Additionally, due to the expected retirement of Units 2 and 3, a re-balancing in the ownership of the remaining Units 1 and 4 could result if agreed upon by the existing owners, which would include PNM obtaining additional ownership and generating capacity in Unit 4. PNM has stated that they are interested in adding 78MW of existing capacity from Unit 4 to its ownership, which would increase PNM's ownership of Unit 4 to 53.8%. PNM's combined ownership of the remaining Units 1 and 4 would increase to an aggregate of 52%.

Revised SIP reduces compliance cost by more than \$700 million

Under the revised plan, the estimated costs to install SNCR technology and the additional equipment to comply with air quality standards on San Juan's Units 1 and 4 is approximately \$120 million, which is considerably less costly than the approximately \$900 million estimated total cost associated with the EPA's original FIP issued in August 2011. Thus, the local, collaborative settlement reduces the total expected cost of a Federally mandated FIP by more than \$700 million.

As a result of the expected re-balancing in ownership of the remaining Units 1 and 4, PNM's share of the estimated costs would be approximately \$63 million based on its projected combined ownership of 52%. TEP's estimated allocated cost to install the SNCR technology associated with TEP's 50% ownership of Unit 1 is approximately \$25 million.

The revised plan is a departure from the more expensive previously issued FIP by the EPA in August 2011, which required the installation of SCR technology on all four units of the San Juan station by September 2016. See figure 2 for the differences in estimated total capital expenditures under each proposed plan.

FIGURE 2 CapEx Requirement	Under Proposed Plans				
	FIP	Revised SIP			
\$ in millions	SCR Installation	SNCR Installation	Add'l Capacity	Total	
PNM	\$379 - \$419 ¹	\$63	\$281	\$344	
ТЕР	\$180 - \$200	\$25	\$200 ²	\$225	

1 - PNM 46% share of estimated cost range of \$824 - \$910 million

2 - Moody's estimate

Source: Company Filings

Need For Replacement Capacity

The revised SIP calls for the retirement of Units 2 and 3, which accounts for a combined 836 MW of generating capacity that needs to be replaced. As 50% owner of Units 2 and 3, PNM needs to replace 418 MW, while TEP needs to replace the 170MW associated with its 50% ownership of Unit 2. Southern California Public Power Authority (Aa3, stable) needs to replace the 207 MW of generating capacity related to its 41.7% ownership of Unit 3, while <u>Tri-State Generation and</u> <u>Transmission Association</u> (Baa1, stable) will need to find a substitute source for the 41 MW of power associated with its 8.2% ownership stake of Unit 3.

PNM indicated it intends to replace 340 MW of its total 418 MW generating capacity being retired through the acquisition and/or construction of gas-fired capacity as well as the potential for nuclear capacity from PNM's ownership of the Palo Verde Nuclear Generating Station (PVNGS). With respect to the remaining 78 MW of capacity needed to be replenished, PNM expects to obtain the additional megawatts from another partial owner of San Juan's Unit 4 through an anticipated agreed upon re-allocation of ownership. The majority of the replacement power (150-200 MW) will come from a natural gas-fired peaking generation plant located at the San Juan station as well as a 40 MW gas-fired peaking plant. PNM estimates the cost of building and acquiring the gas generated power would approximate \$281 million. PNM is also looking at the possibility of adding its 10.2% ownership share of the Palo Verde Unit 3 nuclear generating capacity (134 MW) into rate base to supplement the loss of the retired coal capacity. The ability to bring PVNGS into rate base would be a

credit positive as it enhances their ability to recover costs and earn a return on the nuclear plant particularly considering the current low wholesale power prices.

Although PNM's current fuel mix capacity is reasonably diversified (see Figure 3), the utility's generation of electricity in 2012 was more heavily weighted towards its coal fired generation considering 56% of its 10,947 GWh was sourced from coal (see figure 5.). We believe the additional gas-fired capacity provides PNM a larger opportunity to further diversify its fuel generation mix as well as reduce its carbon footprint. Assuming the additional natural gas-fired generation replacement power is installed, PNM's generation capacity would be further diversified (see Figure 4). However, increased proportion of natural gas capacity would increase the utility's exposure to natural gas commodity prices.

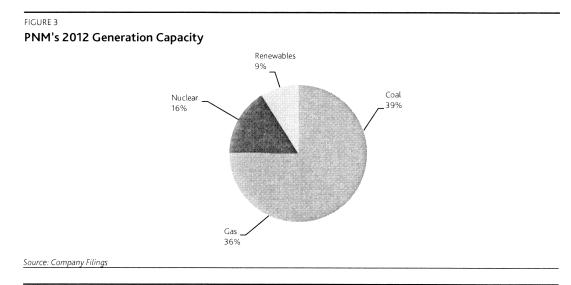
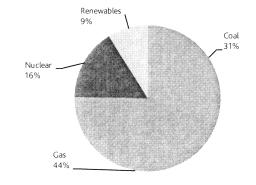
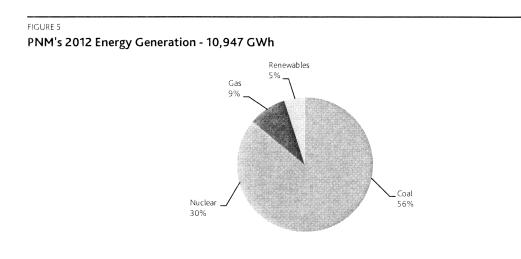


FIGURE 4

PNM's Estimated Generation Capacity

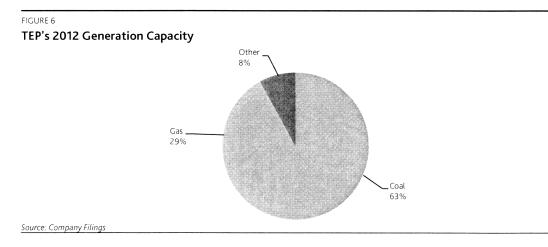


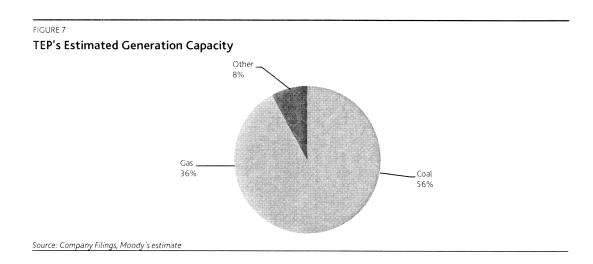
Source: Company Filings, Moody's estimate



Source: Company Filings

UNS Energy Corporation (UNS: Baa3, stable), parent of TEP, continues to evaluate its opportunities to replace the 170 MW of generation associated with TEP's 50% ownership share of Unit 2, which will be retired as part of the revised SIP. UNS Energy issued a request for proposal to better understand the price points around acquiring or building gas-fired generation plants and will compare those costs with long-term potential power purchase agreements. For 2012, TEP's generation capacity was 63% coal-fired and 29% gas-fired with the remaining 8% a combination of sources including solar power (see Figure 6). Assuming the 170 MW of coal capacity that is being retired through the Unit 2 shut-down is replaced by gas-fired generation, we view a reduction of TEP's high reliance on coal, despite it being a low cost fuel would increase the utility's fuel diversification and be viewed as a credit positive (see Figure 7).





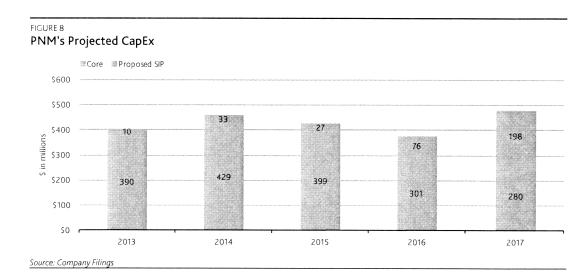
Capital Expenditure Plans and Cost Recovery

We think PNM and TEP are well positioned to recover the costs of environmental compliance associated with the revised SIP through regulated rates. However, in the event that recovery is less timely, leading to a stress on liquidity or an increased risk of stranded investment, credit profiles may suffer, absent some form of mitigating action.

Although the revised plan calls for a reduced level of invested capital compared to the original August 2011 plan, PNM's capital expenditure budget (see Figure 8) would increase by approximately \$344 million through 2017. In addition, reduced spending levels associated with the revised SIP will likely coincide with a lower potential rate impact on rate payers.

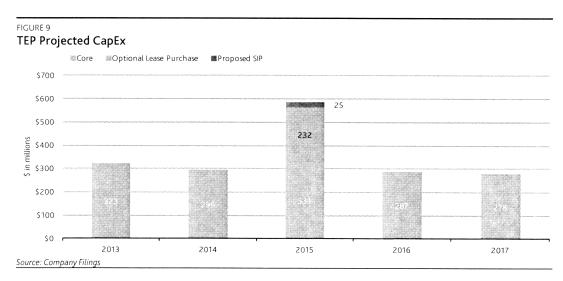
We expect PNM to make filings with the New Mexico Public Regulation Commission (NMPRC) in December 2013 for recovery of investment related to the abandonment of Units 2 and 3 as well as investments associated with the identified replacement resources and other remaining costs related to the BART compliance. Although the filings are intended to identify the methods of cost recovery and return on investment, we do not expect the NMPRC to decide the actual rate impact on customers until PNM's next general rate case which we anticipate in the 2015 to 2016 timeframe.

At March 31, 2013, PNM's net book value of Units 2 and 3 was approximately \$290 million. PNM's ability to recover and earn a return on these stranded investments as well as the costs incurred to retire the two units, in a timely manner, is important in maintaining its financial metrics at current levels.



The impact on TEP is less significant compared to that of PNM based on TEP's estimated cost of \$25 million. Not included in TEP's five-year capital expenditure forecast (see Figure 9) is the estimated cost to replace the 170 MW of generation TEP is losing upon the closure of Unit 2. As previously mentioned, UNS Energy is contemplating several alternatives to identify the replacement power needed. If TEP elected to build a gas-fired generation plant to replace the total 170 MW of generating capacity, we estimate the cost to be about \$200 million.

As of March 31, 2013, the book value of Unit 2 was approximately \$115 million and we expect TEP would request approval from the Arizona Corporation Commission (ACC) to recover from its rate payers all costs associated with the retirement of this unit including stranded costs as well as any additional costs associated with replacing the lost power generation. Furthermore, TEP's recently approved June 2013 rate case includes a rider for environmental compliance spending, which would allow TEP to recover a portion of its environmental spend up to a certain limit. Moody's views environmental riders as credit supportive since they reduce regulatory lag in recovering mandated capital expenditures.



Time to Completion

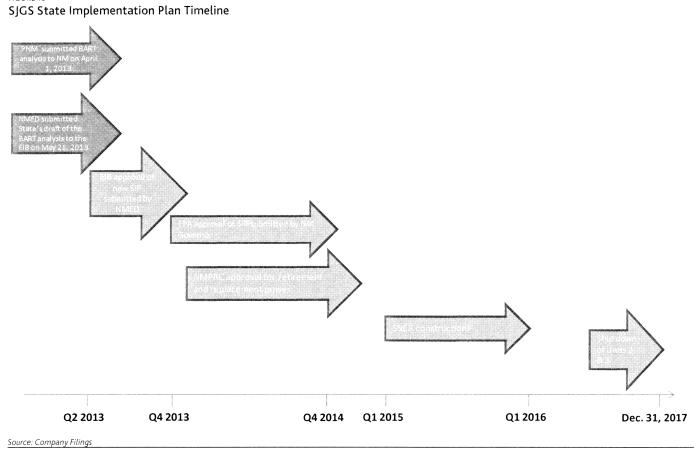
On April 1, 2013, PNM filed a BART analysis with the state of New Mexico, and the NMED submitted a draft revised implementation plan to the New Mexico Environmental Improvement Board (NMEIB) for approval, which is projected to be in Q4 2013. If the NMEIB approves the plan, the NM Governor, on behalf of the State of New Mexico, will submit the revised implementation plan to the EPA, which will likely take about a year to review. While the EPA is reviewing the implementation plan, PNM would apply for regulatory approval from the NMPRC to retire Units 2 and 3 and obtain certificates of convenience and necessity (CCNs) for a portion of the proposed replacement resources that are needed. The timing of the regulatory filing will likely be in late 2013 to early 2014, which will take about a year to resolve. As such, the installation of the SNCRs on Units 1 and 4 is not expected to begin until Q1 2015 with the final retirement of Units 2 and 3 on December 31, 2017. See Figure 10 for a depiction of the SJGS revised SIP timeline.

Upon signing of the non-binding agreement in February 2013, the EPA stated that if the timeline does not proceed as planned due to factors not controlled by PNM and the NMED, then the EPA will work with PNM and the state to identify a reasonable alternative plan and time schedule to comply with appropriate standards.

One of the hurdles that needs to be cleared involves the pending litigation residing at the US 10th Circuit Court of Appeals, where PNM's request to delay the installation of SCRs as recommended under the EPA's August 2011 FIP was denied. The 10th Circuit referred the litigation to the 10th Circuit Mediation Office, which is asking all parties to continue to discuss the matter and informally resolve issues around the pending appeals. It is expected that if the revised SIP is approved and continues towards implementation that the 10th Circuit remediation would likely be resolved.

Any changes to the proposed SIP that could cause additional liquidity or time constraints on the utilities potentially impacting safety and reliability or otherwise impacting operating performance would be credit negative.

FIGURE 10



Appendix A: Key Financials and Ratios

Public Service Company of New Mexico LT Issuer Rating: Baa3 Outlook: Positive					
(in \$ millions)	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	LTN 10 2013
Revenue	968	1,017	1,057	1,092	1,100
EBITDA	232	316	350	387	38
Net Property Plant & Equipment	2,808	3,002	3,146	3,158	3,164
Total Assets	3,937	4,131	4,341	4,360	4,35
Total Debt	1,527	1,702	1,689	1,594	1,662
Total Equity	1,156	1,135	1,224	1,263	1,279
Cash From Operations	156	237	305	381	26
Capital Expenditures	265	237	267	208	18
Dividends	300	29	48	35	3
CFO pre-W/C + Interest / Interest	4.2x	4.5x	5.0x	4.6x	4.4
CFO pre-W/C / Debt	19.7%	17.9%	21.5%	21.2%	19.5%
CFO pre-W/C - Dividends / Debt	0.0%	16.2%	18.7%	19.0%	17.4%
Debt / Capitalization	48.7%	50.5%	48.3%	45.4%	46.1%
Debt / Capitalization Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable	48.7%	50.5%	48.3%	45.4%	46.1%
Tucson Electric Power	48.7% FY 2009	50.5% FY 2010	48.3% FY 2011	45.4% FY 2012	1. The
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable (in \$ millions)	FΥ	FY	FΥ	ĘΥ	LT1 1Q 201
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable (in \$ millions) Revenue	FY 2009	FY 2010	FY 2011	FY 2012	LTF 1Q 201 1,18
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable (in \$ millions) Revenue EBITDA	FY 2009 1,099	FY 2010 1,125	FY 2011 1,156	FY 2012 1,162	LTN 1Q 2011 1,18 35
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable (in \$ millions) Revenue EBITDA Net Property Plant & Equipment	FY 2009 1,099 388	FY 2010 1,125 393	FY 2011 1,156 374	FY 2012 1,162 351	LTF 1Q 201 1,18 355 2,78
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable (in \$ millions) Revenue EBITDA Net Property Plant & Equipment Total Assets	FY 2009 1,099 388 2,267	FY 2010 1,125 393 2,416	FY 2011 1,156 374 2,664	FY 2012 1,162 351 2,764	LTF 1Q 201 1,18 355 2,78 3,40
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable (in \$ millions) Revenue EBITDA Net Property Plant & Equipment Total Assets Total Debt	FY 2009 1,099 388 2,267 2,825	FY 2010 1,125 393 2,416 3,014	FY 2011 1,156 374 2,664 3,262	FY 2012 1,162 351 2,764 3,466	LTR 1Q 201 1,18 35 2,78 3,40 1,52
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable (in \$ millions) Revenue EBITDA Net Property Plant & Equipment Total Assets Total Debt Total Equity	FY 2009 1,099 388 2,267 2,825 1,431	FY 2010 1,125 393 2,416 3,014 1,488	EY 2011 1,156 374 2,664 3,262 1,572	FY 2012 1,162 351 2,764 3,466 1,581	2,78 3,40 1,524 86
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable (in \$ millions) Revenue EBITDA Net Property Plant & Equipment Total Assets Total Debt Total Equity Cash From Operations	FY 2009 1,099 388 2,267 2,825 1,431 643	FY 2010 1,125 393 2,416 3,014 1,488 710	FY 2011 1,156 374 2,664 3,262 1,572 825	FY 2012 1,162 351 2,764 3,466 1,581 861	LTN 1Q 201 1,18 35 2,78 3,40 1,52 86 306
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable (in \$ millions) Revenue EBITDA Net Property Plant & Equipment Total Assets Total Debt Total Equity Cash From Operations Capital Expenditures	FY 2009 1,099 388 2,267 2,825 1,431 643 283	FY 2010 1,125 393 2,416 3,014 1,488 710 316	FY 2011 1,156 374 2,664 3,262 1,572 825 279	FY 2012 1,162 351 2,764 3,466 1,581 861 268	1,18 1,18 35 2,78 3,40 1,52 863 306 248
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable (in \$ millions) Revenue EBITDA Net Property Plant & Equipment Total Assets Total Debt Total Equity Cash From Operations Capital Expenditures Dividends	FY 2009 1,099 388 2,267 2,825 1,431 643 283 283 233	EY 2010 1,125 393 2,416 3,014 1,488 710 316 278	FY 2011 1,156 374 2,664 3,262 1,572 825 279 352	FY 2012 1,162 351 2,764 3,466 1,581 861 268 253	46.19 LTN 1Q 2012 1,18 355 2,78 3,405 1,524 862 306 248 306 248 306 248 306 248 306 248 306
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable (in \$ millions) Revenue EBITDA Net Property Plant & Equipment Total Assets Total Debt Total Equity Cash From Operations Capital Expenditures Dividends CFO pre-W/C + Interest / Interest	FY 2009 1,099 388 2,267 2,825 1,431 643 283 283 233 60	FY 2010 1,125 393 2,416 3,014 1,488 710 316 278 60	FY 2011 1,156 374 2,664 3,262 1,572 825 279 352 0	FY 2012 1,162 351 2,764 3,466 1,581 861 268 253 30	1,18 1,18 35 2,78 3,40 1,52 86 306 248 30
Tucson Electric Power LT Issuer Rating: Baa2 Outlook: Stable	FY 2009 1,099 388 2,267 2,825 1,431 643 283 283 233 60 4.7x	FY 2010 1,125 393 2,416 3,014 1,488 710 316 278 60 4.2x	EY 2011 1,156 374 2,664 3,262 1,572 825 279 352 0 4.0x	FY 2012 1,162 351 2,764 3,466 1,581 861 268 253 30 4.4x	LTF 1Q 201 1,18 355 2,78 3,40 1,524 865 300 244 30 300 244 30

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Industry Outlook:

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Credit Opinions:

- » PNM Resources, Inc., June 2013
- » UNS Energy Corporation, June 2013
- » <u>Tucson Electric Power Company, June 2013</u>

Rating Methodology:

» Regulated Electric and Gas Utilities, August 2009 (118481)

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Report Number: 156477

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