

## TC Energy Corporation (TRP)

**\$55.82** (As of 02/26/20)

Price Target (6-12 Months): **\$59.00**

Long Term: 6-12 Months

**Zacks Recommendation:**

**Neutral**

(Since: 02/25/20)

Prior Recommendation: Outperform

Short Term: 1-3 Months

**Zacks Rank:** (1-5)

**3-Hold**

Zacks Style Scores:

VGM:C

Value: C

Growth: B

Momentum: D

### Summary

TC Energy is a predominantly natural gas pipeline operator with operations spanning Canada, the United States and Mexico. A quality stock with industry leading wide moat assets, TC Energy has a secured portfolio of C\$30 billion in growth projects. This should support the company's stated dividend growth commitment of 8-10% annually out to 2021. Underpinned by long-term contracts, TC Energy's low-risk, recession-proof business model offers investors rock-solid revenue and cash flow stability. However, continued timing and cost overrun issues over large construction projects, especially the Keystone XL, are major overhangs. Moreover, further share price appreciation will likely be tied to the progress on the debt reduction front, which sits at a massive C\$34.2 billion. Hence, investors are advised to wait for a better entry point.

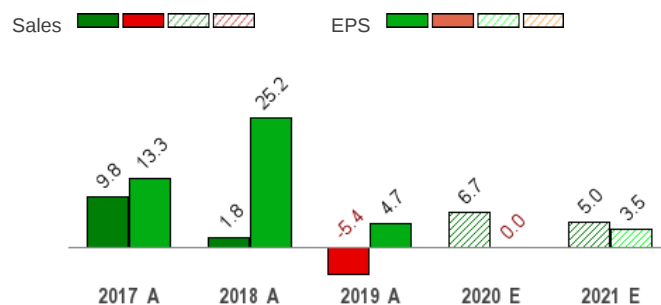
### Price, Consensus & Surprise



### Data Overview

|                            |                                            |
|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------|
| 52 Week High-Low           | \$57.92 - \$44.16                          |
| 20 Day Average Volume (sh) | 1,414,095                                  |
| Market Cap                 | \$52.4 B                                   |
| YTD Price Change           | 4.7%                                       |
| Beta                       | 0.73                                       |
| Dividend / Div Yld         | \$2.45 / 4.1%                              |
| Industry                   | <a href="#">Alternative Energy - Other</a> |
| Zacks Industry Rank        | Top 33% (85 out of 254)                    |

### Sales and EPS Growth Rates (Y/Y %)



|                           |            |
|---------------------------|------------|
| Last EPS Surprise         | 0.0%       |
| Last Sales Surprise       | NA         |
| EPS F1 Est- 4 week change | -0.3%      |
| Expected Report Date      | 05/01/2020 |
| Earnings ESP              | 0.0%       |
| P/E TTM                   | 17.9       |
| P/E F1                    | 17.9       |
| PEG F1                    | 3.6        |
| P/S TTM                   | 5.2        |

### Sales Estimates (millions of \$)

|      | Q1      | Q2      | Q3      | Q4      | Annual*  |
|------|---------|---------|---------|---------|----------|
| 2021 |         |         |         |         | 11,198 E |
| 2020 |         |         |         |         | 10,662 E |
| 2019 | 2,623 A | 2,521 A | 2,373 A | 2,472 A | 9,989 A  |

### EPS Estimates

|      | Q1       | Q2       | Q3       | Q4       | Annual*  |
|------|----------|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| 2021 | \$0.89 E |          | \$0.78 E |          | \$3.23 E |
| 2020 | \$0.82 E | \$0.75 E | \$0.77 E | \$0.84 E | \$3.12 E |
| 2019 | \$0.80 A | \$0.75 A | \$0.79 A | \$0.78 A | \$3.12 A |

\*Quarterly figures may not add up to annual.

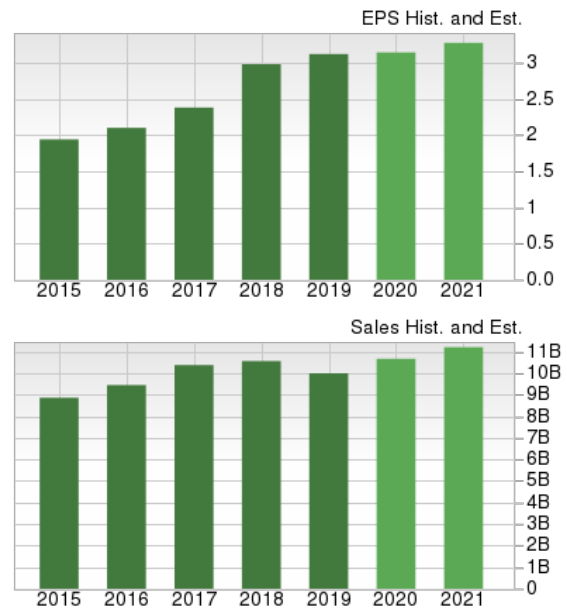
The data in the charts and tables, including the Zacks Consensus EPS and Sales estimates, is as of 02/26/2020. The reports text is as of 02/27/2020.

## Overview

Calgary, Alberta-based TC Energy Corporation is a premier energy infrastructure provider in North America. Established in 1951, the company is primarily focused on natural gas transmission through its 57,500-mile network of pipelines located in Canada, the United States, and Mexico. TC Energy is also involved in other businesses, including power generation, natural gas storage, and crude oil pipelines.

The company operates in five segments:

- Canadian Natural Gas Pipelines:** It comprises TC Energy's investments in approximately 25,121 miles of regulated natural gas pipelines. Canadian Natural Gas Pipelines segment contributed 17% of the company's 2019 earnings.
- U.S. Natural Gas Pipelines:** It includes TC Energy's interests in roughly 30,931 miles of regulated natural gas pipelines, 535 billion cubic feet of regulated natural gas storage assets, midstream as well as other properties. The unit also comprises TC Energy's 25.7% ownership in TC PipeLines L.P., a publicly-traded master limited partnership that owns, operates, develops and acquires pipelines and other midstream assets. U.S. Natural Gas Pipelines segment contributed 41.7% of the company's 2019 earnings.
- Mexico Natural Gas Pipelines:** It comprises of TC Energy's investments in about 1,044 miles of regulated natural gas pipelines. Mexico Natural Gas Pipelines segment contributed 7.44% of the company's 2019 earnings.
- Liquids Pipelines:** It includes TC Energy's interests in approximately 3,030 miles of oil pipeline systems that transports crude supplies from Alberta and U.S. to U.S. refining markets in Illinois, Oklahoma and Texas. Liquids Pipelines segment contributed 28% of the company's 2019 earnings.
- Power and Storage:** It mainly focuses on TC Energy's investments in 11 electricity generation facilities (creating a combined capacity of approximately 7,000 megawatts) and 118 billion cubic feet of non-regulated natural gas storage assets. Energy segment contributed 7% of the company's 2019 earnings.



---

## Reasons To Buy:

- ▲ One of the largest pipeline operators in the North American energy space, TC Energy's primary focus is on its massive network of natural gas transmission assets that cater to around 25% of the continental consumption. The company's wide array of natural gas midstream properties positions it for a solid long-term future as demand for the commodity soars, spurred by its cost effectiveness, the secular shift to the cleaner burning fuel for power generation and abundant supply in North America.
- ▲ In 2016, TC Energy acquired U.S. midstream operator Columbia Pipeline Group Inc. for \$13 billion. Apart from scale advantages and increasing network reach, the Columbia Pipeline buy helped the company to significantly improve its backlog of near-term commercial projects. Currently, TC Energy's portfolio includes around C\$30 billion of accretive growth projects to be placed into service through 2023. Of this, around C\$10 billion worth projects are expecting completion by year-end.
- ▲ The strong inventory of near-to-medium-term growth projects should support continued gains in TC Energy's earnings and cash flow. Further, with around 95% of the company's cash flow coming from secure, regulated assets backed by long-term contracts, TC Energy is exposed to minimal commodity price exposure and volume risks. In other words, the core business of TC Energy provides for highly stable and predictable cash flows.
- ▲ TC Energy has a long and consistent dividend paying record. The energy infrastructure operator, which announced a 8% hike in its quarterly payout for the first-quarter 2020, has increased dividends in each of the last 19 years. Considering the company's low-risk operational profile and predictable cash flows, it's stated dividend growth commitment of 8-10% annually out to 2021 should be safe and achievable.

TC Energy's dividend appears to be highly secure, largely due to the stable cash flow that the company's long-term contracts provide it.

---

## Reasons To Sell:

- ▼ The cloud of uncertainty continues to hover over TC Energy's largest project - Keystone XL Pipeline. After facing delays for near about a decade, the \$8-billion pipeline – set to transport Canadian oil to refineries and distribution centers in the United States – finally received regulatory approval from Nebraska commissioners late last year, albeit on an alternative route to the one proposed by the company. However, the project was again hit by fresh controversy recently, as rerouting of the pipeline subjected it to a new legal investigation.
- ▼ One of the key worries is TC Energy's high debt load. As of Dec 31, 2019, TC Energy had long-term debt of C\$34.2 billion, which represents a debt-to-capitalization ratio of 51.41%. The leverage restricts the financial flexibility of the firm and limits growth.
- ▼ This leading North American energy infrastructure company is advancing secured growth projects worth C\$30-billion, which are likely to come online by 2023. Moreover, it already invested nearly C\$9 billion in the entire program, with approximately C\$2.5-billion funded projects of the same, expected to be completed by this year-end. The massive capital expenditure spending has raised financing concerns among investors and is likely to be an overhang on the company's stock over the next few years.
- ▼ Apart from the flagship Keystone XL, TransCanada stock is subject to high degree of uncertainty related to some of the company's other troubled projects. The \$1.2 billion El Encino-Topolobampo pipeline in Mexico, which was recently placed into service, faced substantial delays and cost overrun to the tune of \$200 million. Further, regulatory hurdles forced TransCanada to hike its budget for the Mountaineer XPress and WB XPress projects by another \$500 million. The escalating costs, which the company is unlikely to recoup, is expected to take a toll on TransCanada's balance sheet.

TC Energy's high debt-burden of more than C\$35 billion is concerning.

## Last Earnings Report

### TC Energy Q4 Earnings Beat Estimates, Revenues Down Y/Y

TC Energy Corporation's fourth-quarter 2019 earnings of 78 cents per share came in line with the Zacks Consensus Estimate as well as the year-ago figure. This performance is primarily attributable to a solid progress in the company's projects at U.S. Natural Gas Pipelines, Mexico Natural Gas Pipelines plus the Power and Storage segments. Contributions from growth projects worth C\$8.7 billion that came online in 2019 also aided the earnings.

However, the company's comparable EBITDA of C\$2.3 billion in the quarter was down from C\$2.5 billion reported in the same period last year owing to lower contribution from the Canadian Natural Gas Pipelines segment.

TC Energy's revenues of C\$3.26 billion dropped 16.42% year over year.

#### Segmental Information

**Canadian Natural Gas Pipelines** recorded comparable EBITDA of C\$618 million, reflecting a 24.4% fall from the year-ago quarter. This downside was attributable to a weak contribution from Canadian Natural Gas Pipelines due to the Canadian Mainline's decreased net income and lower incentive earnings in 2019.

**U.S. Natural Gas Pipelines'** comparable EBITDA amounted to C\$855 million, up 5.3% from the prior-year level. This upside can be attributed to better contributions from Columbia Gas and Columbia Gulf growth projects.

**Mexico Natural Gas Pipelines'** comparable EBITDA of C\$165 million improved from the year-earlier quarter of C\$152 million. Contribution from a strong U.S. dollar was offset by changes in the timing of revenue recognition.

**Liquids Pipelines** unit generated comparable EBITDA of C\$472 million in the fourth quarter, declining from the year-ago level of C\$538 million. Tumbling volumes in the Keystone Pipeline System caused this downtrend. Moreover, earnings drop from liquids marketing activities due to lower margins was a prime reason.

**Power and Storage** posted comparable EBITDA of C\$210 million, up 25.7% year over year on the back of earnings improvement from Bruce Power owing to a hike in realized sales price and higher output.

#### Capital Expenditure and Balance Sheet

As of Dec 31, 2019, TC Energy's capital investments totaled C\$2.06 billion. On the same date, the company had cash and cash equivalents worth C\$1.3 billion and long-term debt of C\$34.2 billion. Its debt-to-capitalization ratio was 51.41%.

#### Key Updates

This leading North American energy infrastructure player is advancing two new expansion projects worth C\$1.3 billion, which are likely to be active by 2023. Of the total, the company invested C\$0.9 billion in 2023 NGTL Intra-Basin System Expansion program, which is set to carry natural gas from the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin to end markets on the NOVA gas network that are located in Alberta. The remaining C\$300-million Alberta XPress project will be utilized for extending the ANR Pipeline (ANR) to help Canadian oil reach the U.S. Gulf Coast.

TC Energy's board of directors announced an 8% dividend hike in its first-quarter 2020 to 81 Canadian cents per share (or C\$3.24 cents annually). This marks the company's 20th consecutive dividend payout raise. The move is indicative of its commitment to create value for its shareholders and also underlines its confidence in business growth. The dividend will be paid out on Apr 30 to its shareholders of record as of Mar 31, 2020.

Quarter Ending **12/2019**

|                  |                     |
|------------------|---------------------|
| Report Date      | <b>Feb 13, 2020</b> |
| Sales Surprise   | <b>NA</b>           |
| EPS Surprise     | <b>0.00%</b>        |
| Quarterly EPS    | <b>0.78</b>         |
| Annual EPS (TTM) | <b>3.12</b>         |

## Recent News

### TC Energy Invests \$1.3B for Project Expansion, Hikes Dividend By 8%

On **Feb 13**, TC Energy announced about advancing two new expansion projects worth C\$1.3 billion, which are likely to be active by 2023. Of the total, the company invested C\$0.9 billion in 2023 NGTL Intra-Basin System Expansion program, which is set to carry natural gas from the Western Canadian Sedimentary Basin to end markets on the NOVA gas network that are located in Alberta. The remaining C\$300-million Alberta XPress project will be utilized for extending the ANR Pipeline (ANR) to help Canadian oil reach the U.S. Gulf Coast.

This leading North American energy infrastructure player's board of directors announced an 8% dividend hike in its first-quarter 2020 to 81 Canadian cents per share (or C\$3.24 cents annually). This marks the company's 20th consecutive dividend payout raise. The move is indicative of its commitment to create value for its shareholders and also underlines its confidence in business growth. The dividend will be paid out on Apr 30 to its shareholders of record as of Mar 31, 2020.

## Valuation

TC Energy shares are up 24.8% over the trailing 12-month period. Over the past year, the Zacks sub-industry and sector are down 10.1% and 25.5%, respectively.

The S&P 500 index is up 11.4% in the past year.

The stock is currently trading at 13.98X trailing 12-month EV/EBITDA, which compares to 13.42X for the Zacks sub-industry, 4.67X for the Zacks sector and 12X for the S&P 500 index.

Over the past five years, the stock has traded as high as 20.19X and as low as 12.21X, with a 5-year median of 14.93X. Our Neutral recommendation indicates that the stock will in-line with the market. Our \$59 price target reflects 18.67X F12M earnings.

The table below shows summary valuation data for TRP

| Valuation Multiples - TRP |               |       |              |        |         |
|---------------------------|---------------|-------|--------------|--------|---------|
|                           |               | Stock | Sub-Industry | Sector | S&P 500 |
| EV/EBITDA TTM             | Current       | 13.98 | 13.42        | 4.67   | 12      |
|                           | 5-Year High   | 20.19 | 25.85        | 10.26  | 12.87   |
|                           | 5-Year Low    | 12.21 | 10.24        | 4.59   | 8.48    |
|                           | 5-Year Median | 14.93 | 13.32        | 6.52   | 10.77   |
| P/E F12M                  | Current       | 17.65 | 15.87        | 12.18  | 17.88   |
|                           | 5-Year High   | 25.63 | 34.66        | 32.4   | 19.34   |
|                           | 5-Year Low    | 12.18 | 15.87        | 11.27  | 15.18   |
|                           | 5-Year Median | 17.62 | 22.22        | 18.56  | 17.47   |
| P/S F12M                  | Current       | 4.88  | 1.86         | 0.74   | 3.29    |
|                           | 5-Year High   | 5.1   | 3.55         | 1.45   | 3.43    |
|                           | 5-Year Low    | 2.39  | 1.47         | 0.67   | 2.54    |
|                           | 5-Year Median | 4.18  | 1.94         | 0.99   | 3       |

As of 02/26/2020

## Industry Analysis Zacks Industry Rank: Top 33% (85 out of 254)



## Top Peers

|                                        |            |
|----------------------------------------|------------|
| Equitrans Midstream Corporation (ETRN) | Outperform |
| Antero Midstrm (AM)                    | Neutral    |
| Enbridge Inc (ENB)                     | Neutral    |
| EnLink Midstream, LLC (ENLC)           | Neutral    |
| Kinder Morgan, Inc. (KMI)              | Neutral    |
| ONEOK, Inc. (OKE)                      | Neutral    |
| Targa Resources, Inc. (TRGP)           | Neutral    |
| Williams Companies, Inc. (The) (WMB)   | Neutral    |

| Industry Comparison Industry: Alternative Energy - Other |             |            |           | Industry Peers |             |             |
|----------------------------------------------------------|-------------|------------|-----------|----------------|-------------|-------------|
|                                                          | TRP Neutral | X Industry | S&P 500   | KMI Neutral    | OKE Neutral | WMB Neutral |
| <b>VGM Score</b>                                         | <b>C</b>    | -          | -         | <b>D</b>       | <b>D</b>    | <b>B</b>    |
| Market Cap                                               | 52.38 B     | 485.32 M   | 22.59 B   | 46.48 B        | 30.29 B     | 23.30 B     |
| # of Analysts                                            | 4           | 2          | 13        | 8              | 9           | 7           |
| Dividend Yield                                           | 4.14%       | 0.00%      | 1.92%     | 4.87%          | 5.10%       | 7.91%       |
| <b>Value Score</b>                                       | <b>C</b>    | -          | -         | <b>D</b>       | <b>C</b>    | <b>D</b>    |
| Cash/Price                                               | 0.02        | 0.11       | 0.04      | 0.02           | 0.02        | 0.01        |
| EV/EBITDA                                                | 11.52       | 3.40       | 13.29     | 10.36          | 17.43       | 10.74       |
| PEG Ratio                                                | 3.47        | 3.16       | 1.93      | 4.27           | 1.77        | 3.78        |
| Price/Book (P/B)                                         | 2.45        | 1.60       | 3.03      | 1.36           | 4.86        | 1.43        |
| Price/Cash Flow (P/CF)                                   | 10.92       | 9.94       | 12.33     | 9.98           | 17.25       | 7.84        |
| P/E (F1)                                                 | 17.40       | 17.89      | 17.79     | 21.35          | 19.60       | 18.92       |
| Price/Sales (P/S)                                        | 5.24        | 1.44       | 2.47      | 3.52           | 2.98        | 2.84        |
| Earnings Yield                                           | 5.59%       | 4.25%      | 5.60%     | 4.68%          | 5.10%       | 5.31%       |
| Debt/Equity                                              | 1.51        | 0.60       | 0.70      | 0.94           | 2.01        | 1.23        |
| Cash Flow (\$/share)                                     | 5.11        | 1.05       | 7.02      | 2.06           | 4.25        | 2.45        |
| <b>Growth Score</b>                                      | <b>B</b>    | -          | -         | <b>C</b>       | <b>C</b>    | <b>A</b>    |
| Hist. EPS Growth (3-5 yrs)                               | 11.82%      | 13.63%     | 10.85%    | 1.21%          | 16.83%      | 12.69%      |
| Proj. EPS Growth (F1/F0)                                 | 0.00%       | 27.37%     | 6.79%     | 1.18%          | 21.79%      | 2.60%       |
| Curr. Cash Flow Growth                                   | 3.72%       | 8.65%      | 6.53%     | 3.20%          | 11.06%      | 16.28%      |
| Hist. Cash Flow Growth (3-5 yrs)                         | 11.18%      | 12.67%     | 8.38%     | 6.59%          | 15.84%      | 10.41%      |
| Current Ratio                                            | 0.59        | 1.27       | 1.22      | 0.63           | 0.73        | 0.40        |
| Debt/Capital                                             | 56.97%      | 37.32%     | 42.37%    | 48.98%         | 66.76%      | 55.18%      |
| Net Margin                                               | 30.61%      | -3.24%     | 11.57%    | 16.58%         | 12.58%      | 10.53%      |
| Return on Equity                                         | 13.97%      | -3.45%     | 16.80%    | 6.29%          | 20.27%      | 7.29%       |
| Sales/Assets                                             | 0.13        | 0.34       | 0.54      | 0.17           | 0.50        | 0.18        |
| Proj. Sales Growth (F1/F0)                               | 6.73%       | 5.96%      | 4.06%     | 2.68%          | 8.40%       | 5.83%       |
| <b>Momentum Score</b>                                    | <b>D</b>    | -          | -         | <b>D</b>       | <b>F</b>    | <b>B</b>    |
| Daily Price Chg                                          | -0.04%      | -0.11%     | -0.98%    | -2.52%         | -0.43%      | -0.16%      |
| 1 Week Price Chg                                         | 1.90%       | 0.51%      | -0.94%    | 0.64%          | 0.10%       | -0.09%      |
| 4 Week Price Chg                                         | 0.85%       | -4.40%     | -6.27%    | -3.16%         | -2.20%      | -9.17%      |
| 12 Week Price Chg                                        | 10.93%      | -0.95%     | -3.33%    | 6.32%          | 3.47%       | -13.15%     |
| 52 Week Price Chg                                        | 24.63%      | -30.09%    | 6.81%     | 6.43%          | 12.49%      | -29.05%     |
| 20 Day Average Volume                                    | 1,414,095   | 39,985     | 2,109,774 | 12,951,493     | 2,091,740   | 11,099,086  |
| (F1) EPS Est 1 week change                               | -0.72%      | 0.00%      | 0.00%     | 0.00%          | -1.32%      | 0.42%       |
| (F1) EPS Est 4 week change                               | -0.32%      | 0.00%      | -0.08%    | -2.90%         | -1.26%      | 0.42%       |
| (F1) EPS Est 12 week change                              | 0.73%       | 0.00%      | -0.22%    | -3.07%         | -0.30%      | -4.82%      |
| (Q1) EPS Est Mthly Chg                                   | -0.60%      | 0.00%      | -0.61%    | -0.61%         | -2.70%      | -2.48%      |

## Zacks Style Scores

The Zacks Style Score is as a complementary indicator to the Zacks rating system, giving investors a way to focus on the highest rated stocks that best fit their own stock picking preferences.

Academic research has proven that stocks with the best Value, Growth and Momentum characteristics outperform the market. The Zacks Style Scores rate stocks on each of these individual styles and assigns a rating of A, B, C, D and F. We also produce the VGM Score (V for Value, G for Growth and M for Momentum), which combines the weighted average of the individual Style Scores into one score. This is perfectly suited for those who want their stocks to have the best scores across the board.

|                |   |
|----------------|---|
| Value Score    | C |
| Growth Score   | B |
| Momentum Score | D |
| VGM Score      | C |

As an investor, you want to buy stocks with the highest probability of success. That means buying stocks with a Zacks Recommendation of Outperform, which also has a Style Score of an A or a B.

## Disclosures

**This report contains independent commentary to be used for informational purposes only. The analysts contributing to this report do not hold any shares of this stock. The analysts contributing to this report do not serve on the board of the company that issued this stock. The EPS and revenue forecasts are the Zacks Consensus estimates, unless indicated otherwise on the reports first page.** Additionally, the analysts contributing to this report certify that the views expressed herein accurately reflect the analysts personal views as to the subject securities and issuers. ZIR certifies that no part of the analysts compensation was, is, or will be, directly or indirectly, related to the specific recommendation or views expressed by the analyst in the report.

Additional information on the securities mentioned in this report is available upon request. This report is based on data obtained from sources we believe to be reliable, but is not guaranteed as to accuracy and does not purport to be complete. Any opinions expressed herein are subject to change.

ZIR is not an investment advisor and the report should not be construed as advice designed to meet the particular investment needs of any investor. Prior to making any investment decision, you are advised to consult with your broker, investment advisor, or other appropriate tax or financial professional to determine the suitability of any investment. This report and others like it are published regularly and not in response to episodic market activity or events affecting the securities industry.

This report is not to be construed as an offer or the solicitation of an offer to buy or sell the securities herein mentioned. ZIR or its officers, employees or customers may have a position long or short in the securities mentioned and buy or sell the securities from time to time. ZIR is not a broker-dealer. ZIR may enter into arms-length agreements with broker-dealers to provide this research to their clients. Zacks and its staff are not involved in investment banking activities for the stock issuer covered in this report.

ZIR uses the following rating system for the securities it covers. **Outperform-** ZIR expects that the subject company will outperform the broader U.S. equities markets over the next six to twelve months. **Neutral-** ZIR expects that the company will perform in line with the broader U.S. equities markets over the next six to twelve months. **Underperform-** ZIR expects the company will underperform the broader U.S. equities markets over the next six to twelve months.

No part of this report can be reprinted, republished or transmitted electronically without the prior written authorization of ZIR.