NW Natural®

We grew up here.



Sidoti & Company Investor Presentation

August 2008

Forward-Looking Statements

This report contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. The Company's future operating results will be affected by various uncertainties and risk factors, many of which are beyond the Company's control, including governmental policy and regulatory action, the competitive environment and economic factors, as well as weather conditions. For a more complete description of these uncertainties and risk factors, see the Company's filings with the Securities and Exchange Commission on Forms 10-K and 10-Q.

NW Natural at a Glance

- Approximately 657,000 customers in OR & WA
  - 90% Oregon, 10% Washington
- A distribution and transmission system totaling 13,474 miles
- Customer growth twice the national average
- 16 billion cubic feet gas storage capacity in NW Oregon with growth potential
- Constructive regulatory environment
  - Washington general rate case underway
  - Filing for growth project made in California
- Strong balance sheet & cash flows
- Financial & operational discipline to control costs
- Shareholder-focused strategy
- Experienced management team
- JD Power Customer Satisfaction – #2 in U.S. and #1 in the West
- Non-utility growth projects underway – Palomar Pipeline and Gill Ranch Gas Storage Project



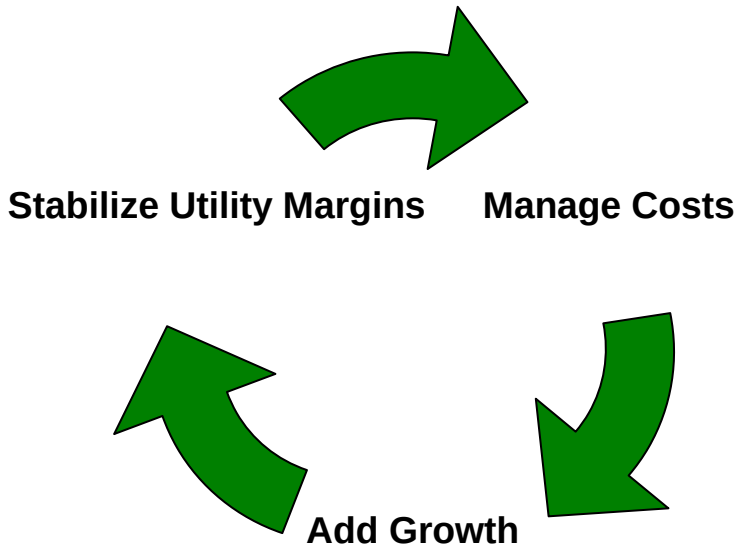
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2008 YTD Highlights

- Filed for a general rate case and carbon offset program in Washington
- YTD (six months through June 30 2008): net income of $46.5 million ($1.75 eps) vs. $50.7 million ($1.86 eps) due to record commodity cost sharing in 2007
- Q2 (through June 30, 2008): net income of $3.3 million (12 cents per share), compared to net income of $2.6 million (10 cents per share) in 2007
- Sold last non-core asset in the period
- Focus on managing costs & long-term growth projects
- 2008 earnings guidance established at $2.48-2.63 per share on Feb. 14, 2008 & reaffirmed on July 25, 2008 with Q2 earnings announcement
- Filed the necessary permits for 20 Bcf gas storage facility in California on July 29th as scheduled

NWN Corporate Strategy

- Stabilized margins through regulation
  - First to implement decoupling among gas LDCs
  - Filed for rate case in WA
- Managing cost structure
  - Continuing to make improvements to keep costs under control
- Adding longer-term growth opportunities that fit NWN's "DNA" of what we do best
  - Palomar Pipeline in Oregon
  - Gill Ranch Gas Storage Project in California



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Constructive Regulation

- Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) mechanism up for review in Oregon
  - Looking to better balance risk-reward with customers
  - Stipulated agreement filed, with decision expected for next heating season
- Oregon Conservation Tariff
  - A decoupling mechanism, breaking the link between profitability and customer consumption
    - Price elasticity and conservation adjustments
    - Renewed through 10/31/12
- Weather normalization (WARM) in Oregon renewed through 10/31/12
- No rate case in Oregon before September 2011, with exclusions for capital investments such as AMR Phase II, pipeline integrity management and extraordinary events
- Smart Energy program approved in Oregon – first for an LDC
- Filed Washington GRC (4.8% general rate increase) and filed for Smart Energy in Washington in March
- Filed required permits related to Gill Ranch on July 29, 2008 w/ CPUC

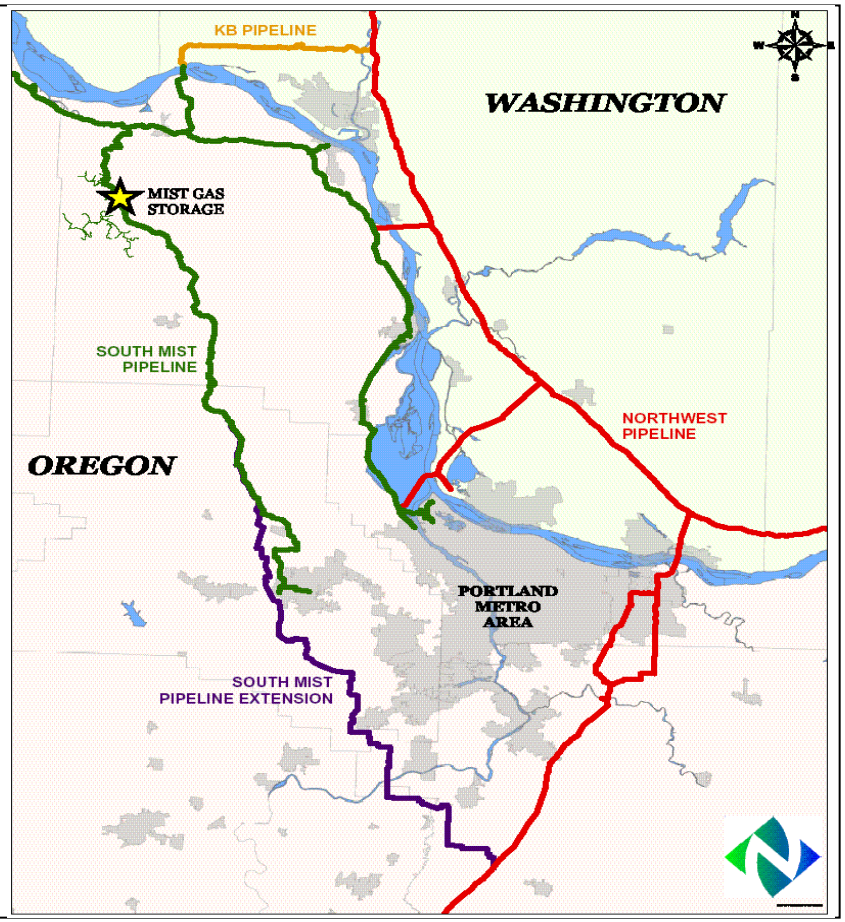
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Sustainable Growth

- New residential construction – continuing to capture majority of the market
  - Targeted marketing communications and programs with construction partners to maintain momentum
  - Rate of new construction growth has slowed, but remains above national average
- Conversion results show improvement due to enhanced sales efforts
- Cost control measures in place to achieve targeted results – efficiency improvements in place or making progress
- Opportunities for expansion in gas storage
- Continue targeting EPS growth of 5% or more

Natural Gas Storage

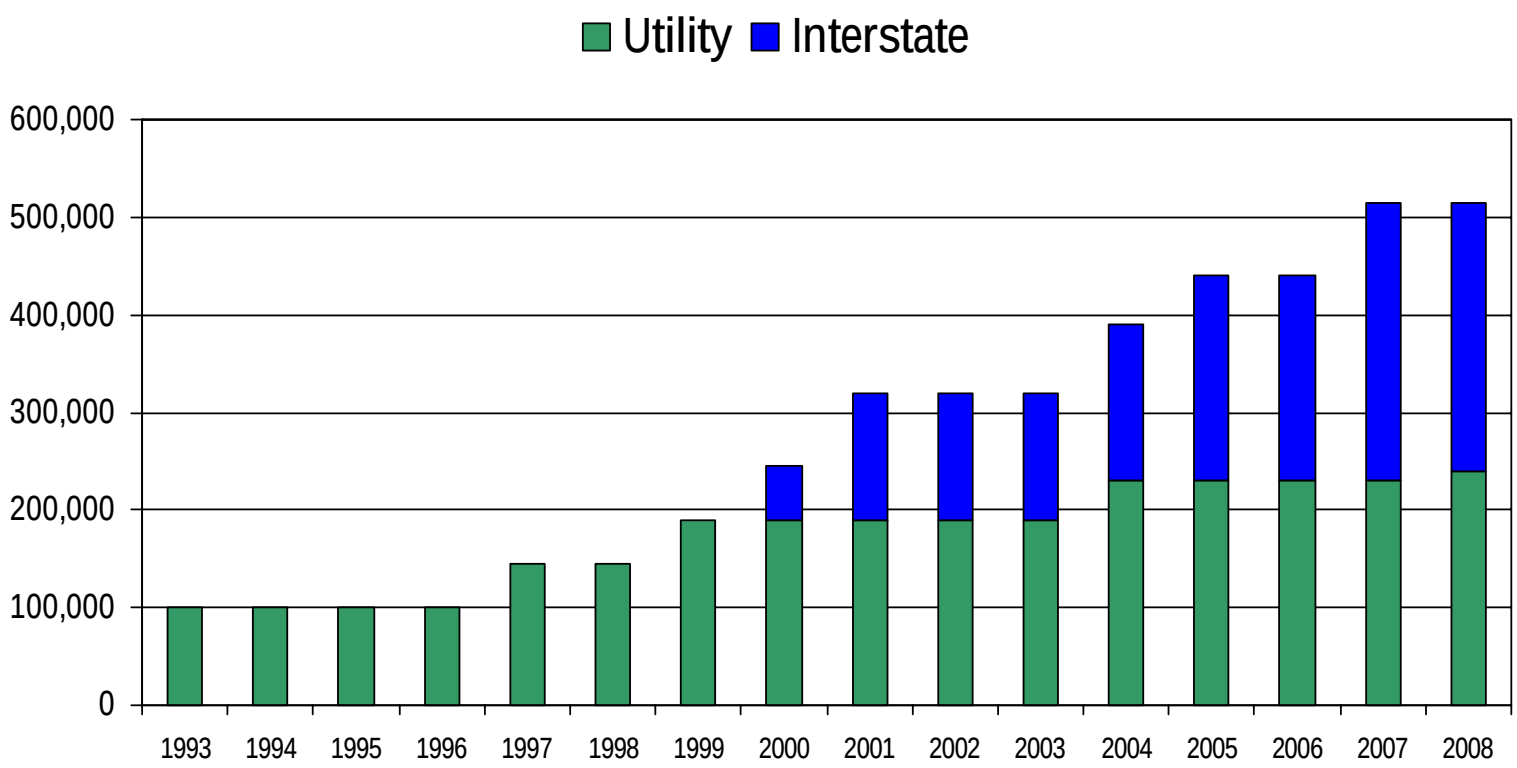
- Key utility resource at Mist (OR) – 16 Bcf
  - Least-cost seasonal peaking supply
  - Low incremental development costs
  - Investment rolled into rates as needed for core customers
- Separate business segment – Interstate storage services
- Additional storage capacity in advance of core customer needs can be developed for the interstate market
- Non-utility opportunities for interstate storage and optimization services
- Favorable optimization sharing mechanisms
  - Third party management of optimization
- High deliverability, multi-turn capability – several turns per year capability
- Gill Ranch gas storage project proposed in central California, near Fresno, with PG&E
- Well positioned for potential LNG terminal on Columbia River



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Historic Mist Integrated Development

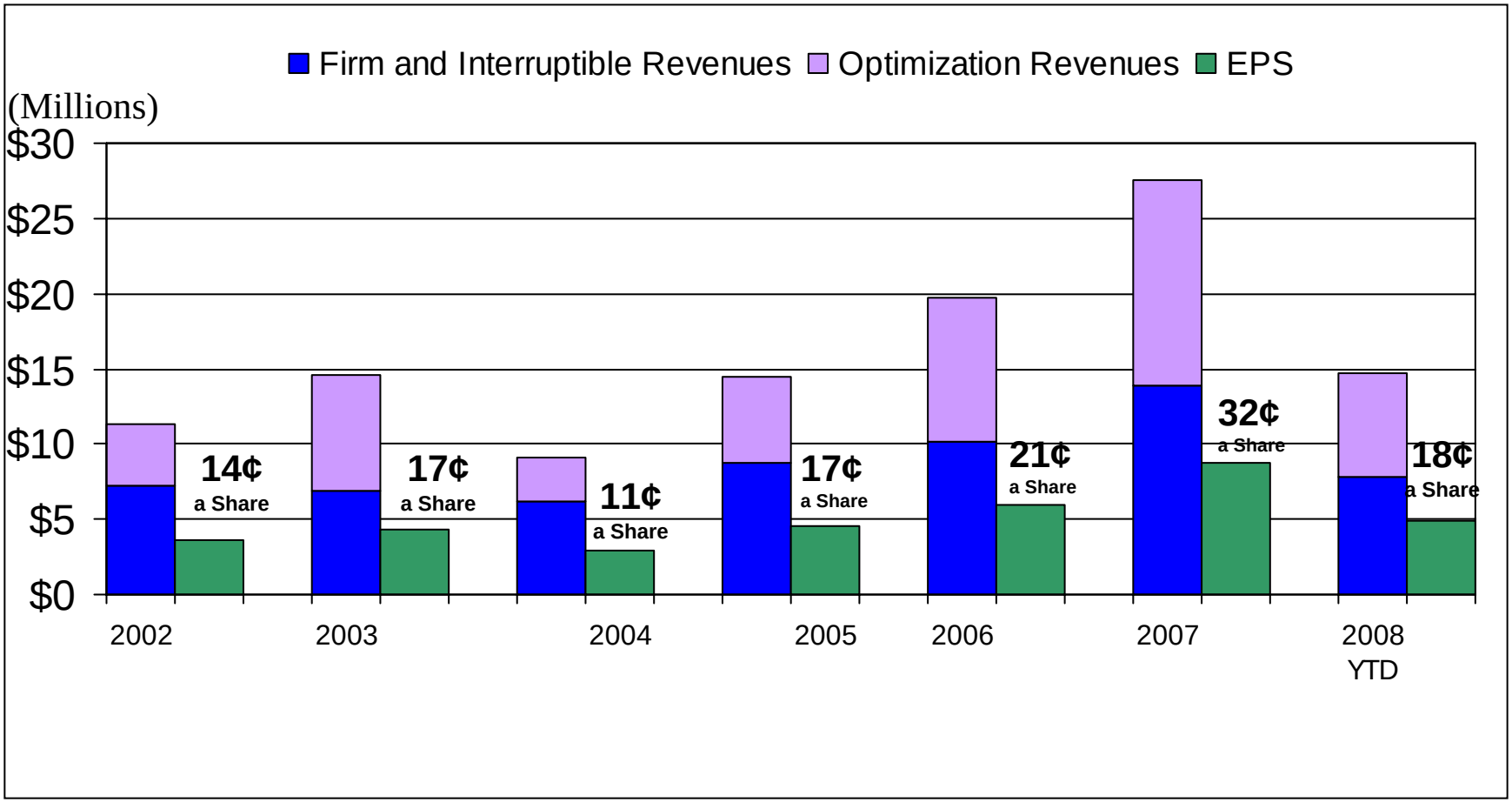
(Deliverability/Dtherms)



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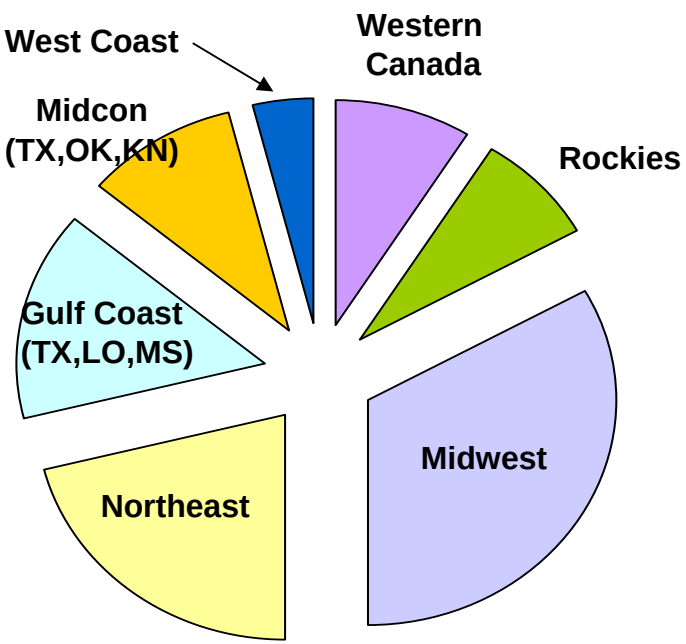
Gas Storage Revenues & EPS

(through June 30, 2008)

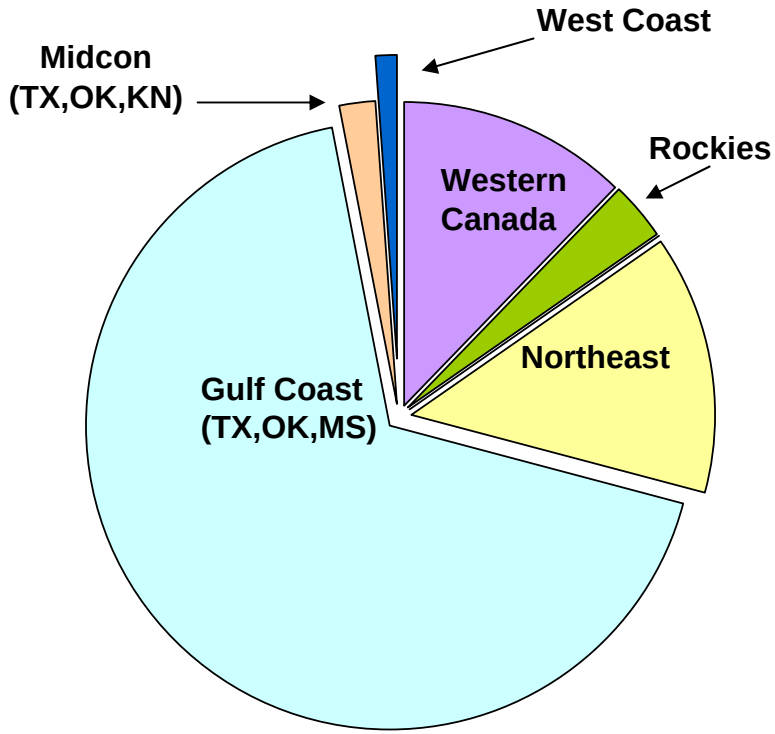


Need for Additional Storage in West

Existing Storage (4,395 Bcf)



Proposed Storage (403 Bcf)



Source: EIA

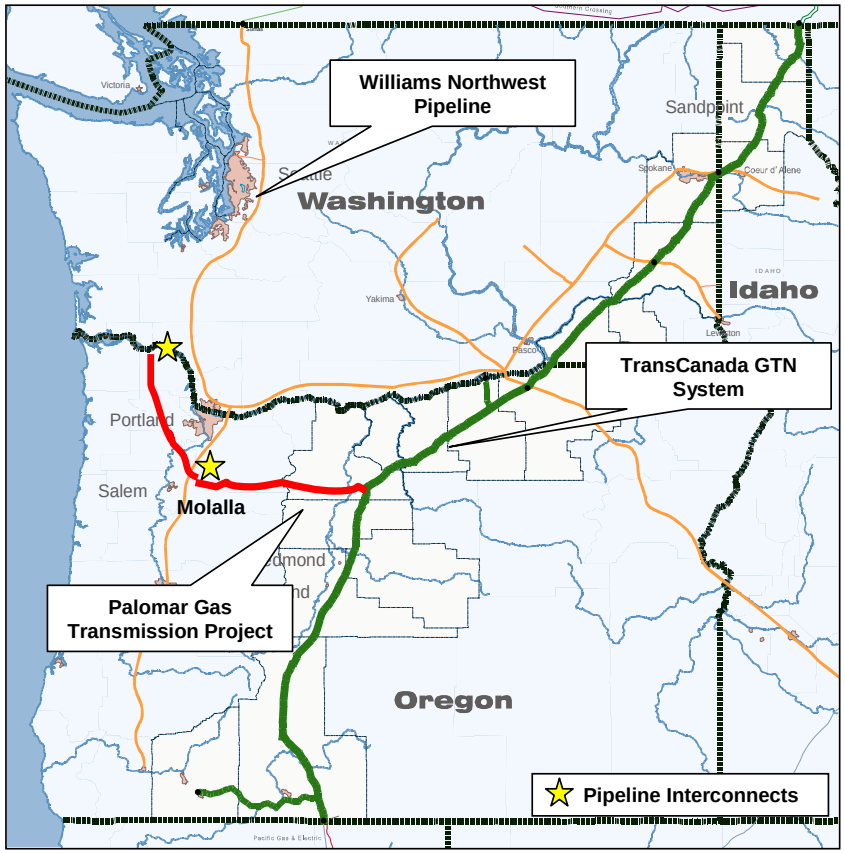
Gill Ranch Project Overview

- Market area storage at prime location on PG&E system
- Under CPUC jurisdiction
  - Filed permit requests in July
- Depleted gas reservoirs
- Phased development
  - 20 Bcf to start
- Planned 2010 in-service
- Successful “open season” results – now actively marketing
- 75/25 venture with PG&E
- ~$160m development costs (NWN portion)



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Palomar Pipeline Project Overview



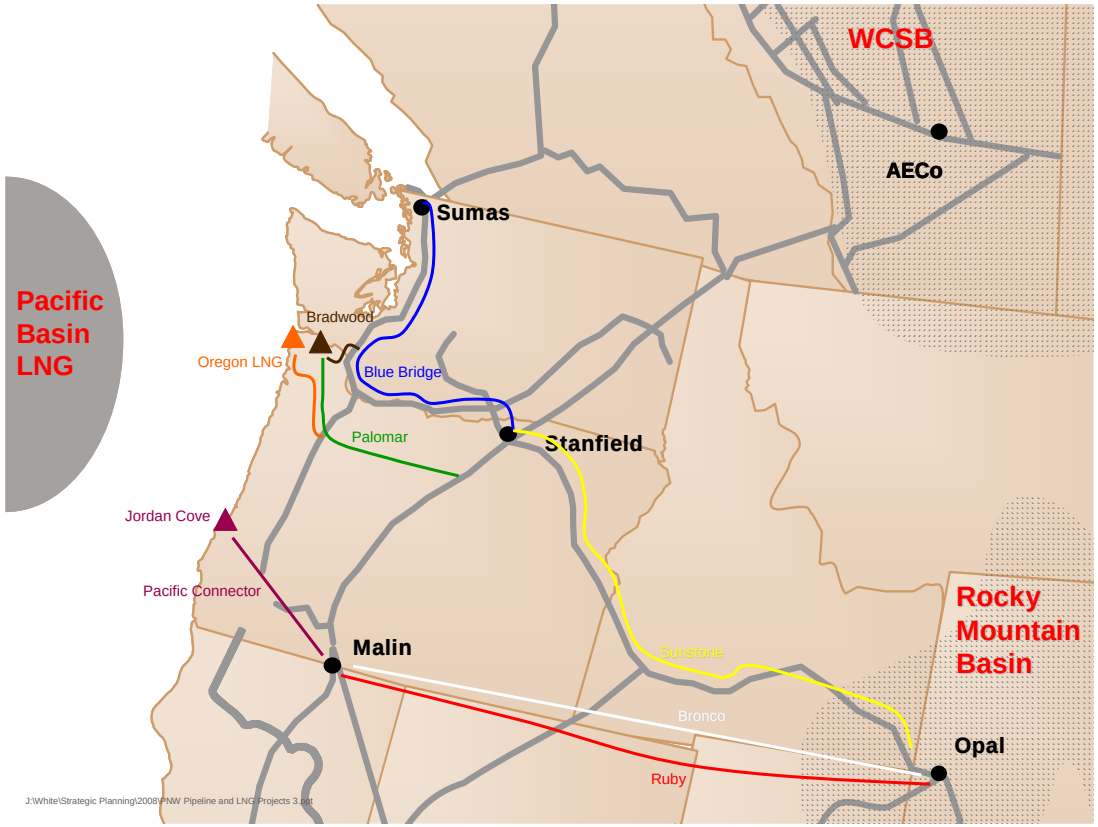
Project Review

- 50/50 JV with TransCanada
- Planned 2011 in-service date
- Late 2008 FERC application filing expected
- 36” pipe; 220 miles
- Up to 1.3 Bcf/d of capacity
- $600-700 million project cost
- East/West Zones

Project Purpose

- To provide a second pipeline delivery option for NW Natural
- To provide a second pipeline take-away option for prospective Columbia River LNG

Proposed Pipelines & LNG



Three hard truths –

1. Strained supply
2. Rising demand
3. Climate change

Proposed LNG projects –

1. Bradwood Landing
2. Oregon LNG
3. Jordan Cove

Proposed pipelines –

1. Palomar (NWN, TransCanada-GTN)
2. Pacific Connector (PG&E, Williams Pacific, Ft. Chicago LNG)
3. Ruby (El Paso)
4. Bronco (Spectra Energy)
5. Sunstone (Williams, TransCanada)
6. Blue Bridge (Williams, Puget Energy)

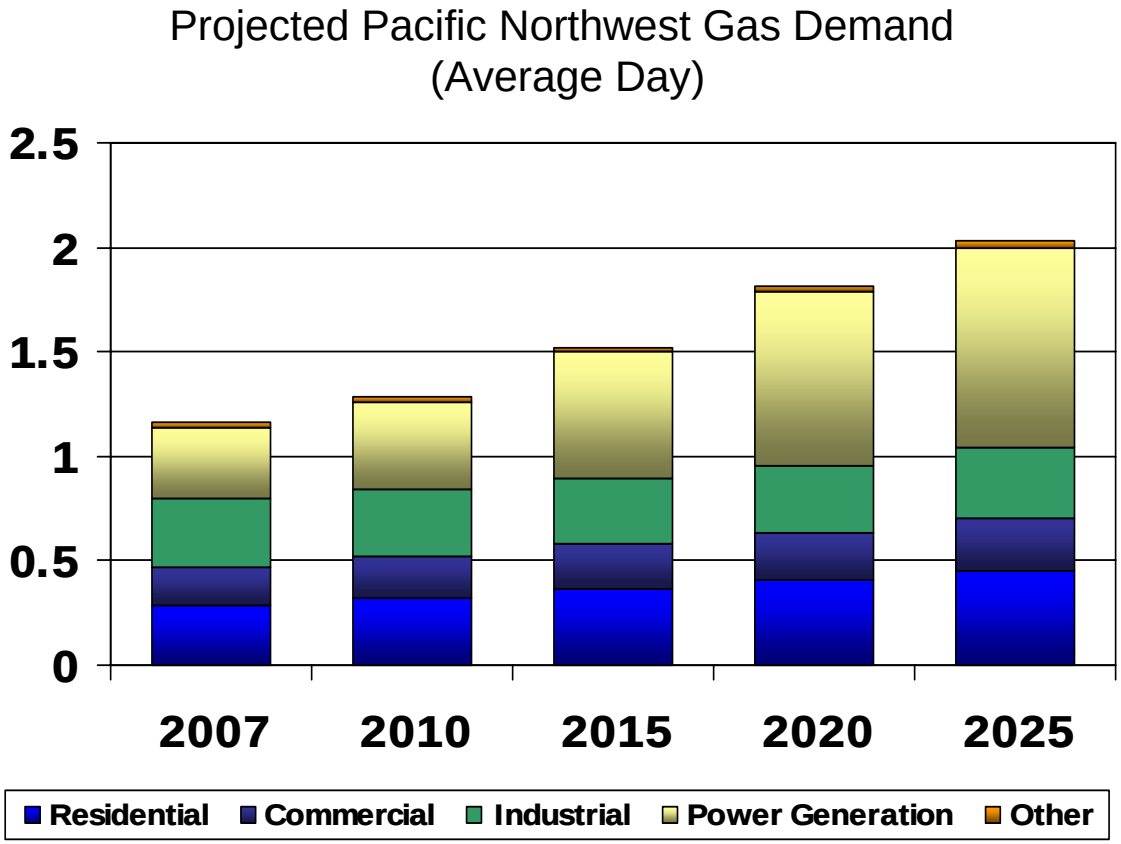
LNG Outlook

Bradwood Landing project continues to make headway

☑	Pre-filed with FERC	2Q 2005
☑	Completed technical design	2Q 2006
☑	Submitted Application to FERC (terminal & pipeline)	2Q 2006
☑	Submitted Joint Permit Application to Oregon Authorities	4Q 2006
☑	Issued biological assessment to FERC/NOAA	4Q 2006
☑	Submission of Coastal Zone Management Association	4Q 2006
☑	Release of Waterway Suitability Report (WSR) from USCG	1Q 2007
☑	Release of Biological Assessment from FERC	1Q 2007
☑	Planning Commission Decision	3Q 2007
☑	Issuance of Draft Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)	3Q 2007
☑	Local Planning Commission Recommendation	3Q 2007
☑	Local County Commission Board Decision (Land Use)	1Q 2008
☐	FERC Issuance of Final EIS	3Q 2008
☐	FERC Order authorizing Terminal/Pipeline	2/3Q 2008
☐	Receive all other necessary permits	2/3Q 2008
☐	Commencement of Construction possible	3Q 2008
☐	Possible Commercial Operation Date	1Q 2012

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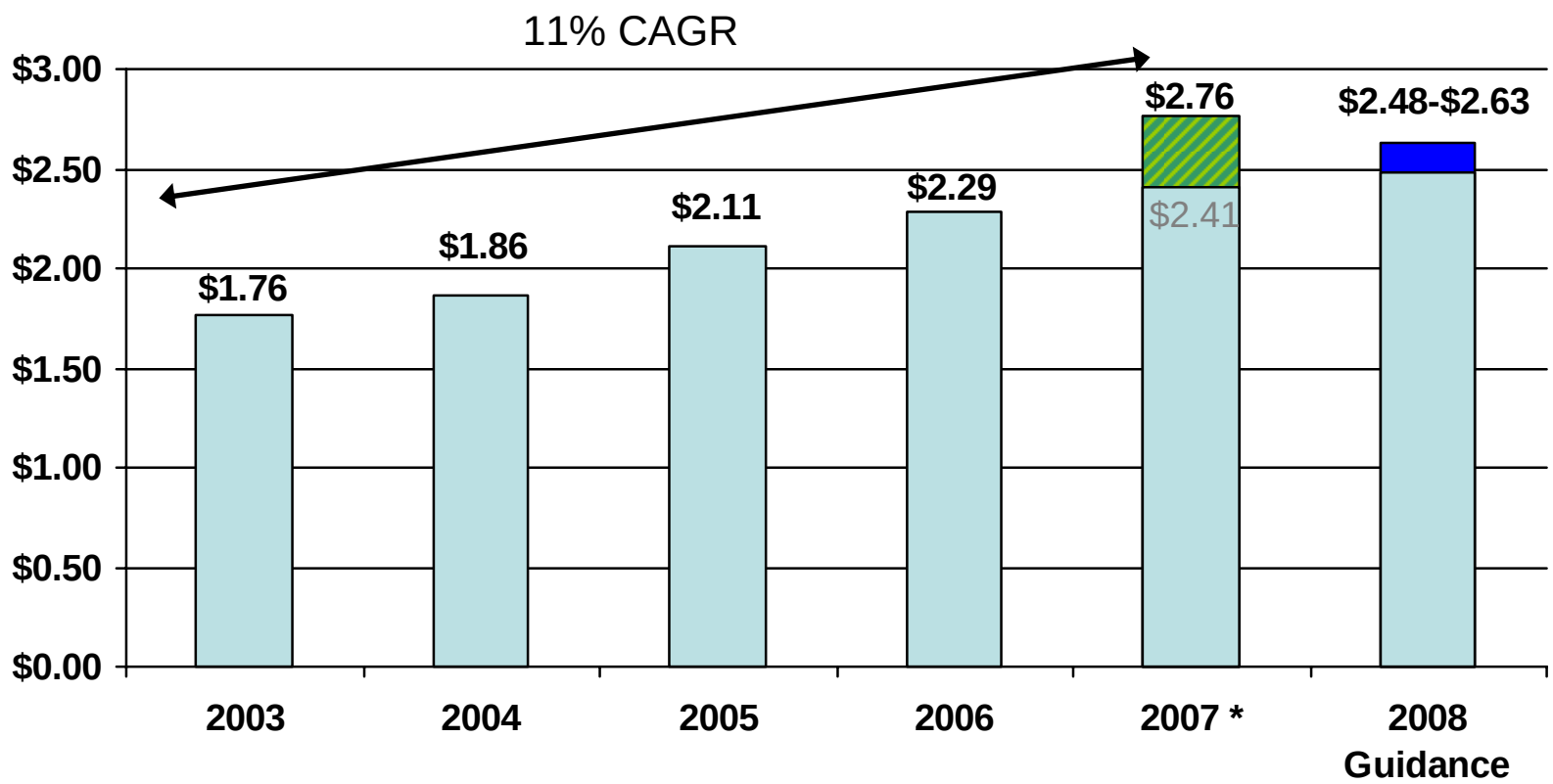
Need for Gas Infrastructure



Source: ICF International Report for State of Washington Energy Facility Site Evaluation Council, Nov. 2007

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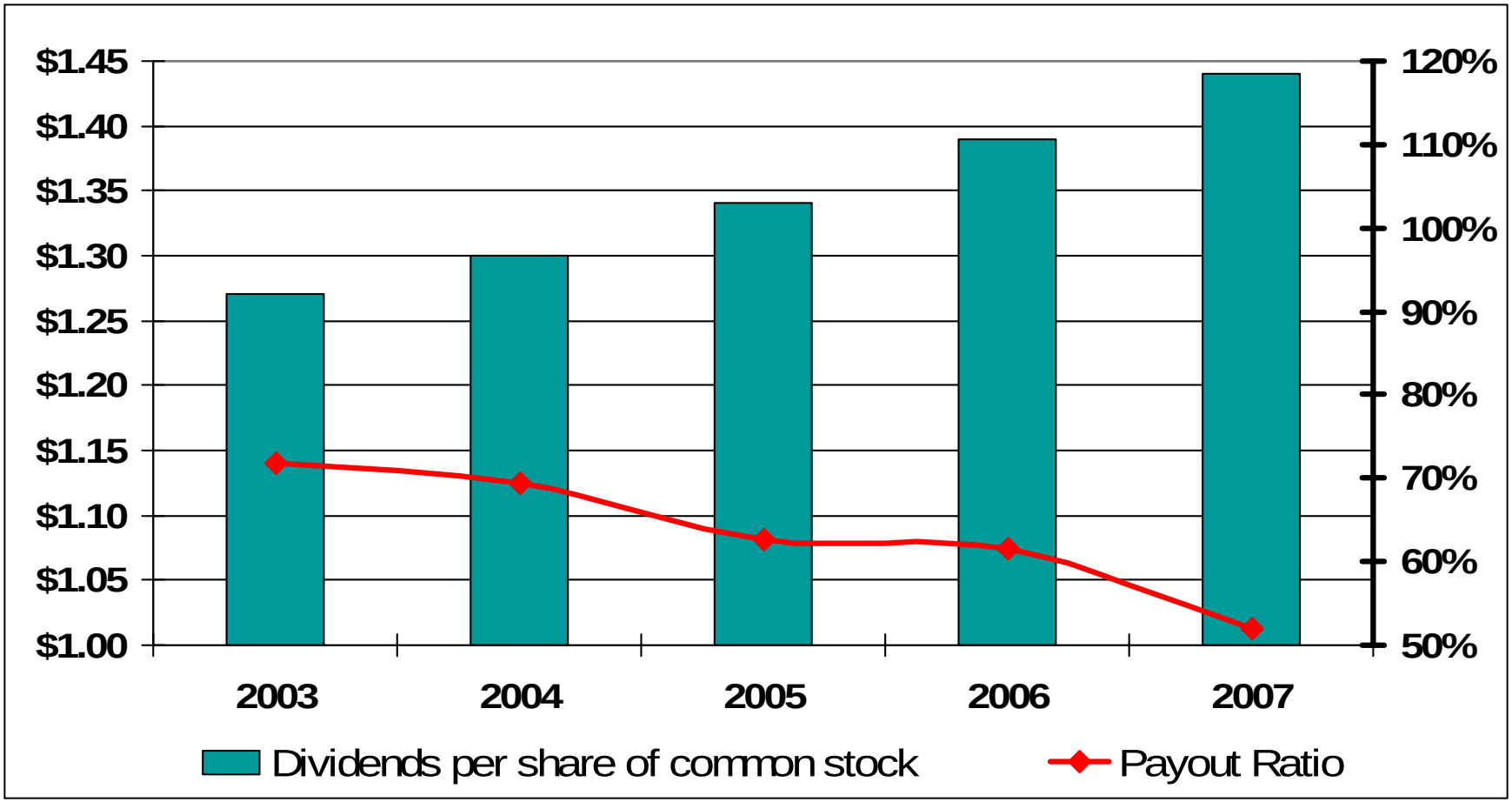
Earnings Per Share Growth



* $2.41 EPS excludes commodity cost sharing & other unusual items

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Dividend History



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Conclusion

- Exceptional 2007 results & YTD 2008 results in line with expectations despite commodity loss from sharing mechanism
- 2008 earnings guidance of $2.48-2.63 per share reaffirmed at Q2
- Sound regulatory relationships continuing – extension of margin stabilization mechanisms in Oregon through late 2012
- Purchased Gas Adjustment (PGA) mechanism up for review in OR
- Washington rate case filed in March – 10% of customer base
- Non-utility opportunities from Gill Ranch storage & Palomar Pipeline
- 52-year history of dividend increases and 60-70% payout target
- Strong credit ratings and low refinancing risk –
  - LT Debt: S&P (AA-) and Moody's (A2)
  - Commercial paper: S&P (A-1+) and Moody's (P1)

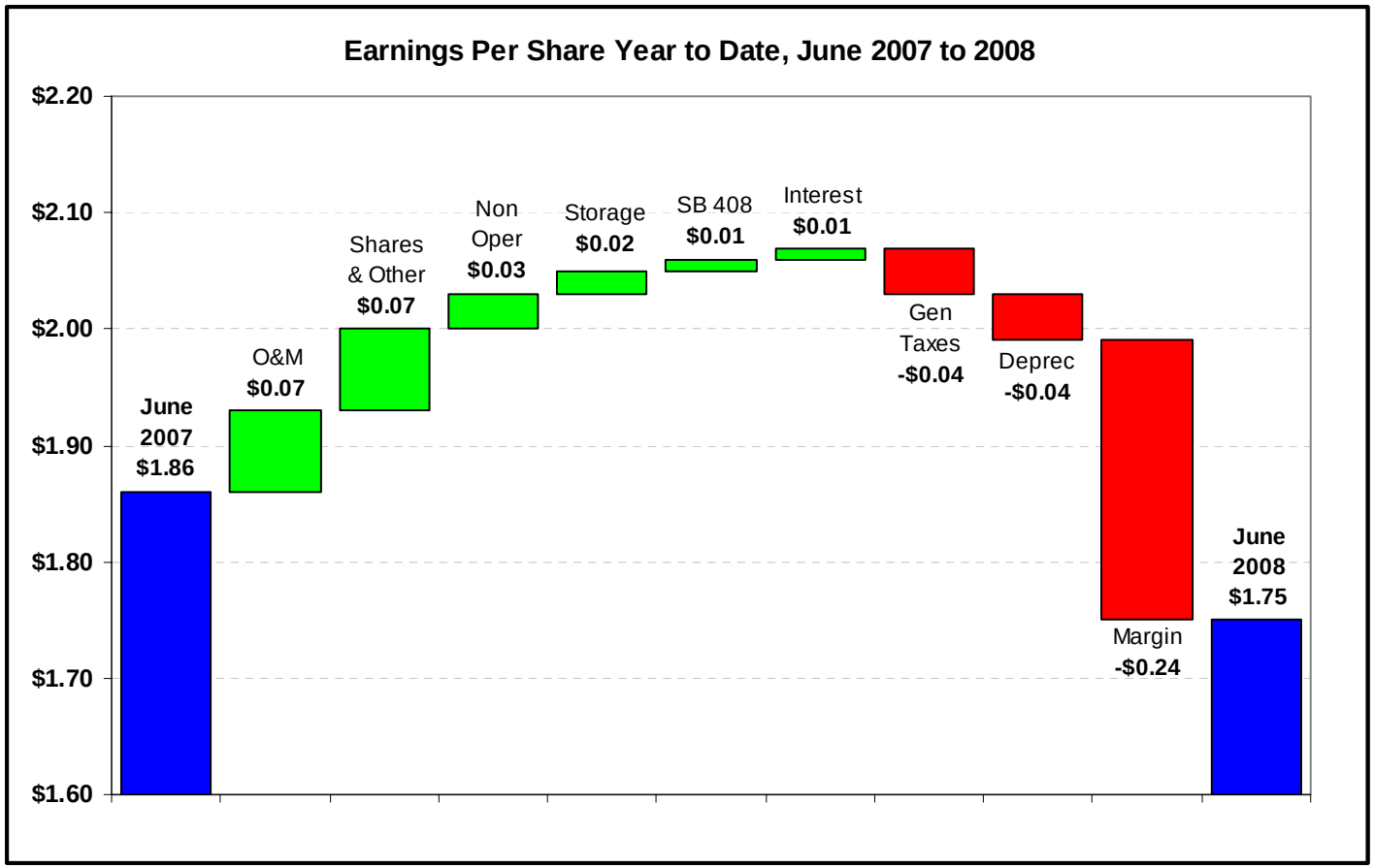
Addendum



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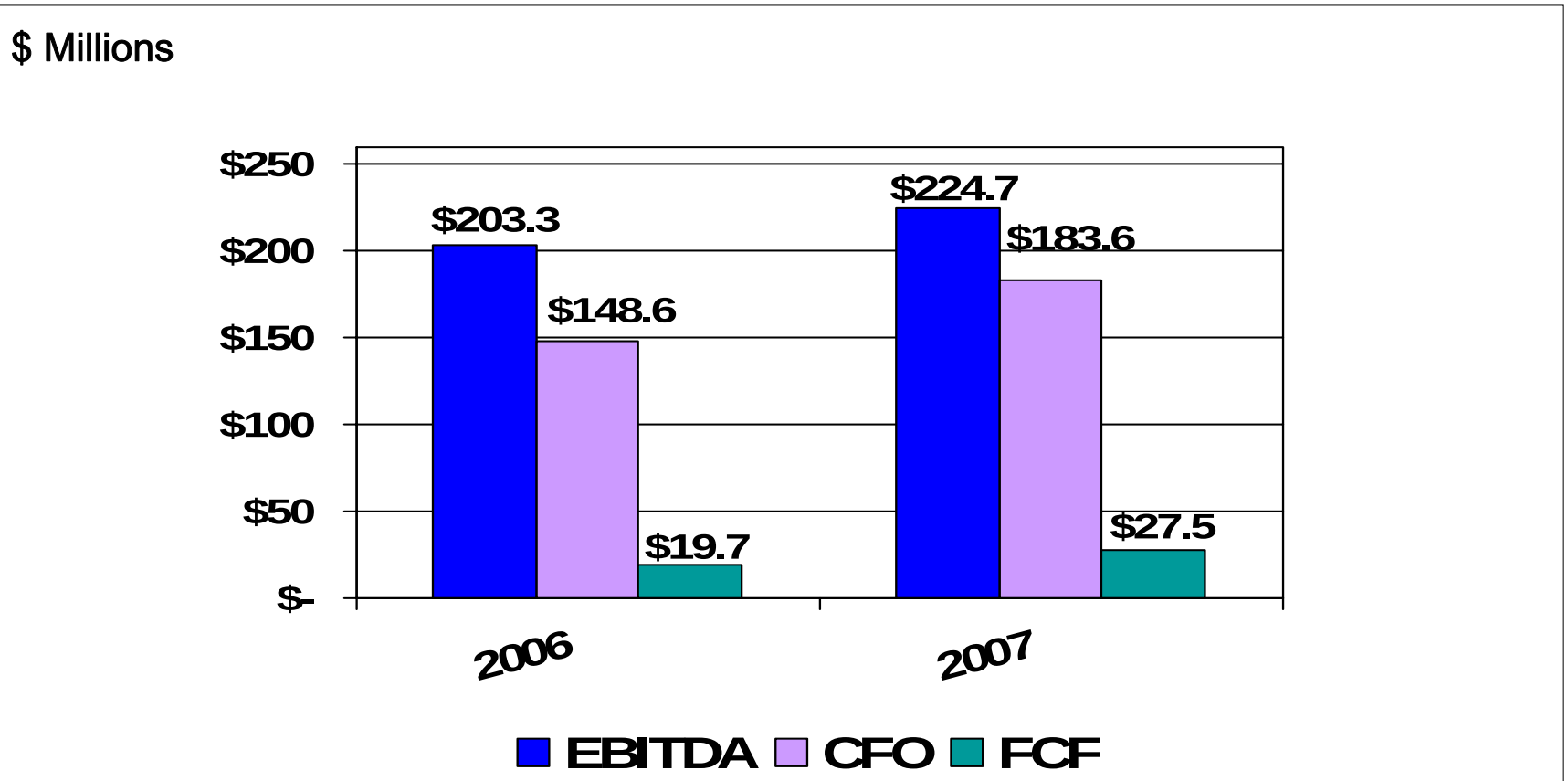
2008 YTD EPS Variance

(through June 30, 2008)



EBITDA & Cash Flow

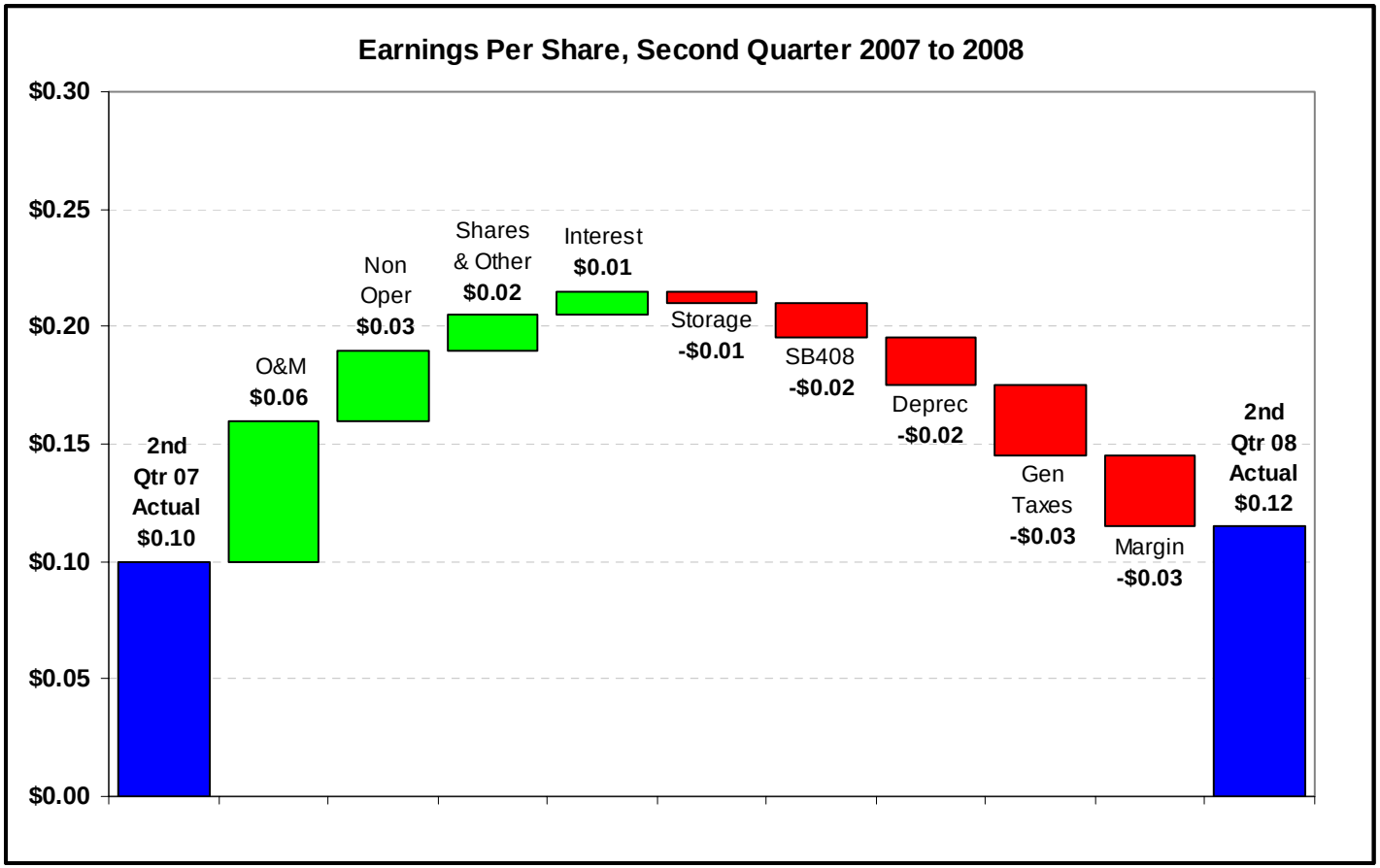
(12 months ended December 31st)



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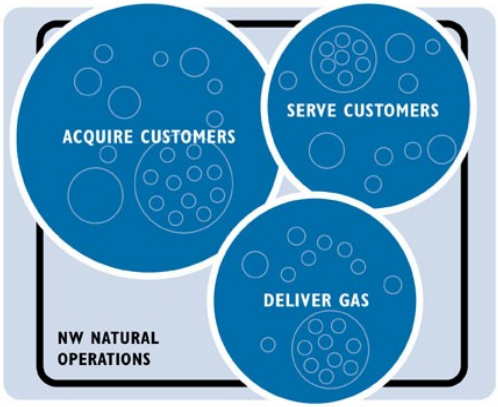
Q2 2008 EPS Variance

(through June 30, 2008)

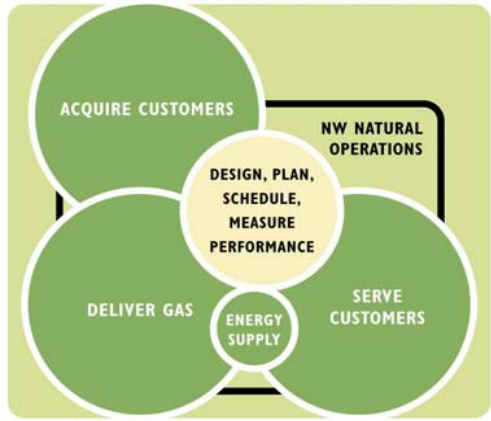


Operations Business Model Review

Old Model



New Model



What's new?

- Simple / process orientation
- Move from "a construction company" to a "gas delivery company"
- Centralized decision-making
- Less customization and more standardization

Portland's Urban Growth Boundary

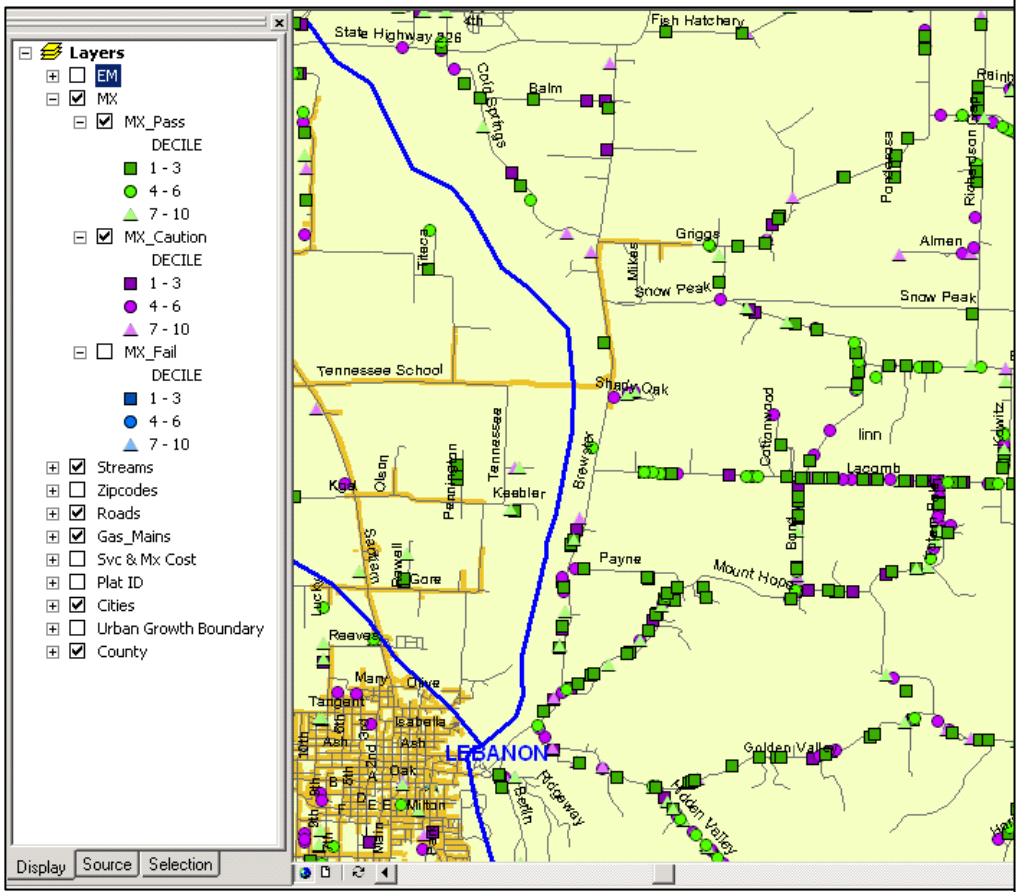
- Coordinated by a regional governmental body (Metro)
- Boundary has been moved three dozen times since late 1970s
- Encourages efficient land use and higher density within the boundary
- Expansion on eastern side of Portland now underway
- Last major expansion in 2002 (19,000 acres)



Conversion Opportunities

Estimated Market Potential	Single-Family	Multi-Family	Non-Residential	Total
On-main and Near-main prospects (0–150ft from main)	158,868	16,201	15,560	**190,629**
Near-main prospects (150-600ft from main)	50,038	5,152	3,176	**58,336**
Off-main prospects (>600ft from main)	155,518	12,057	33,737	**201,312**
TOTAL	**364,424**	**33,410**	**52,473**	**450,307**

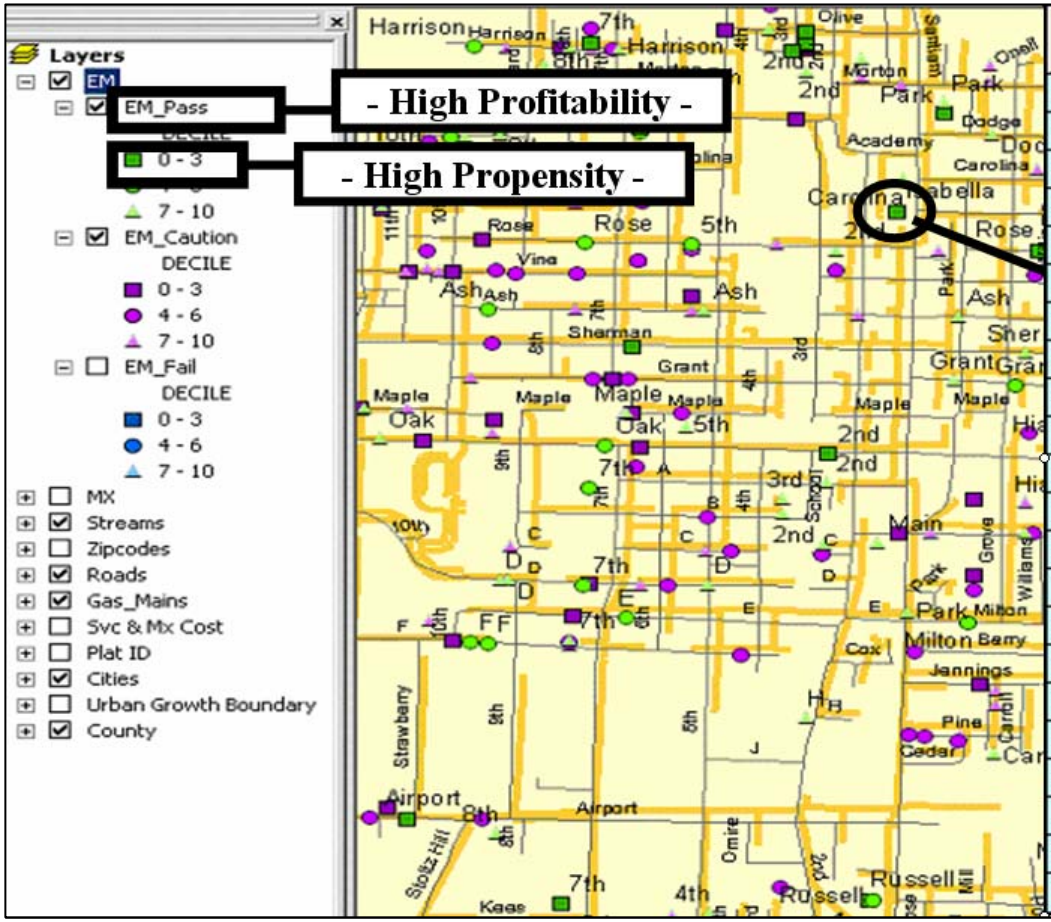
AROE – Main Mapping



- Using mix of technology, targeting and segmentation to help determine profitability and propensity to convert
- Implement targeted marketing and advertising, and manage sales channels with partners
- Use financial analysis tools to support investments
- Coordinate marketing with construction planning

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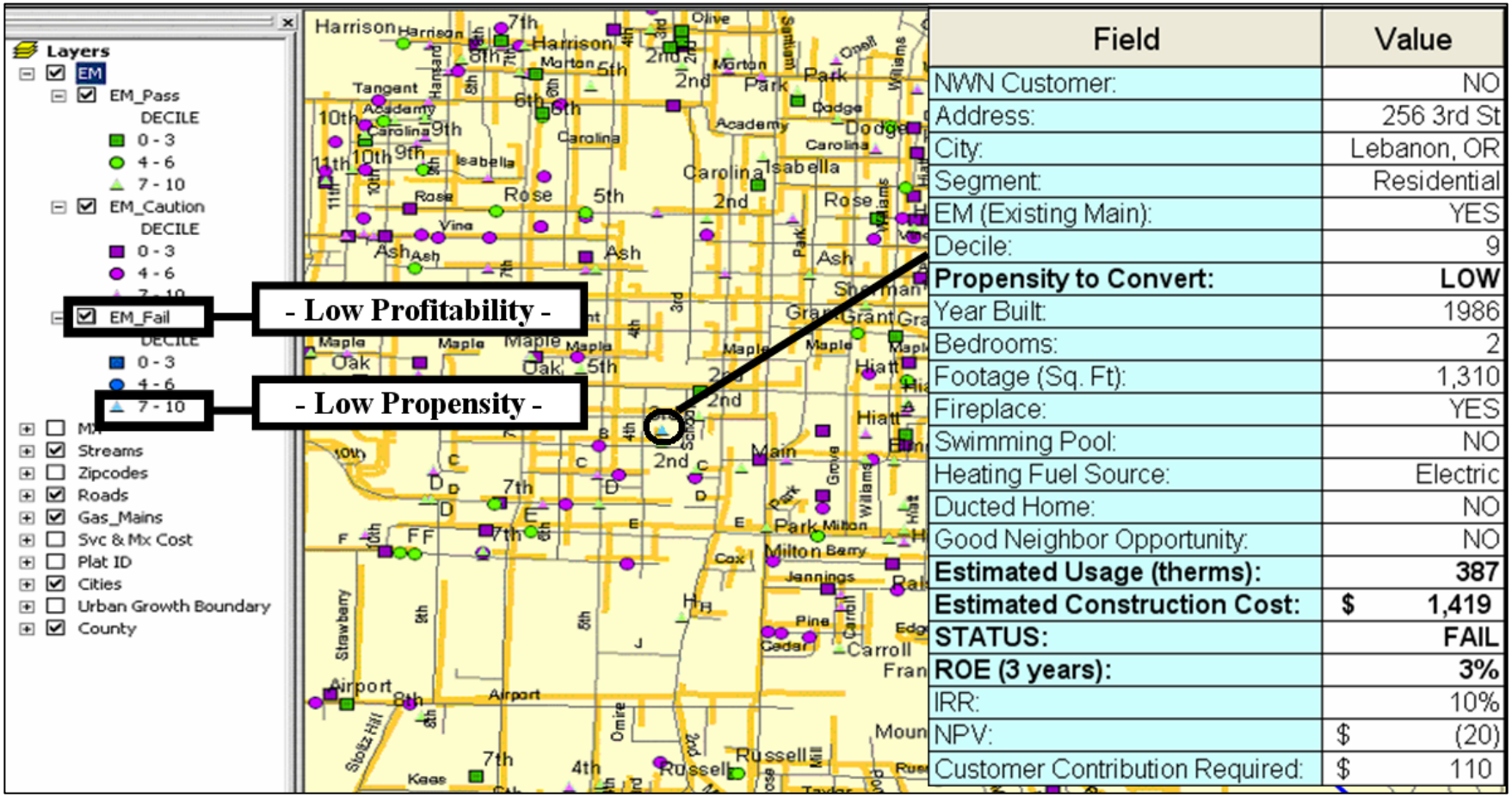
Example of a “Pass” Conversion



Field	Value
NWN Customer:	NO
Address:	101 Isabella Ct
City:	Lebanon, OR
Segment:	Residential
EM (Existing Main):	YES
Decile:	3
Propensity to Convert:	**HIGH**
Year Built:	1958
Bedrooms:	4
Footage (Sq. Ft):	2,396
Fireplace:	YES
Swimming Pool:	NO
Heating Fuel Source:	OIL
Ducted Home:	YES
Good Neighbor Opportunity:	YES
Estimated Usage (therms):	**888**
Estimated Construction Cost:	**$ 1,419**
STATUS:	**PASS**
ROE (3 years):	**14%**
IRR:	22%
NPV:	$ 802
Customer Contribution Required:	$ 0

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Example of a “Fail” Conversion



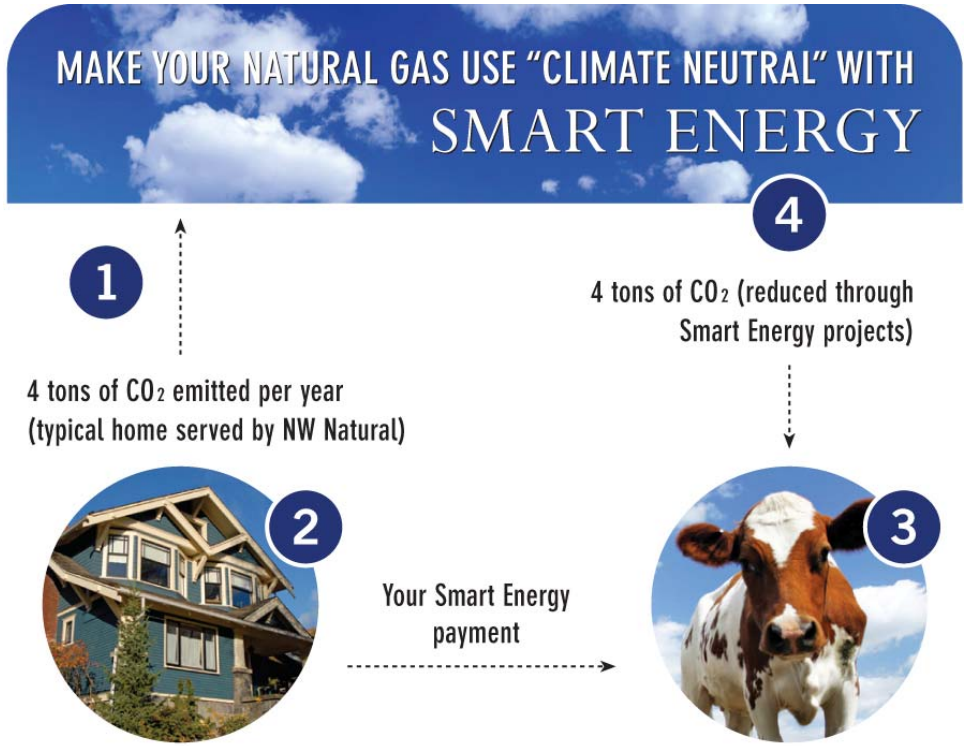
Field	Value
NWN Customer:	NO
Address:	256 3rd St
City:	Lebanon, OR
Segment:	Residential
EM (Existing Main):	YES
Decile:	9
Propensity to Convert:	**LOW**
Year Built:	1986
Bedrooms:	2
Footage (Sq. Ft):	1,310
Fireplace:	YES
Swimming Pool:	NO
Heating Fuel Source:	Electric
Ducted Home:	NO
Good Neighbor Opportunity:	NO
Estimated Usage (therms):	**387**
Estimated Construction Cost:	**$ 1,419**
STATUS:	**FAIL**
ROE (3 years):	**3%**
IRR:	10%
NPV:	$ (20)
Customer Contribution Required:	$ 110

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Overview Of Smart Energy Program

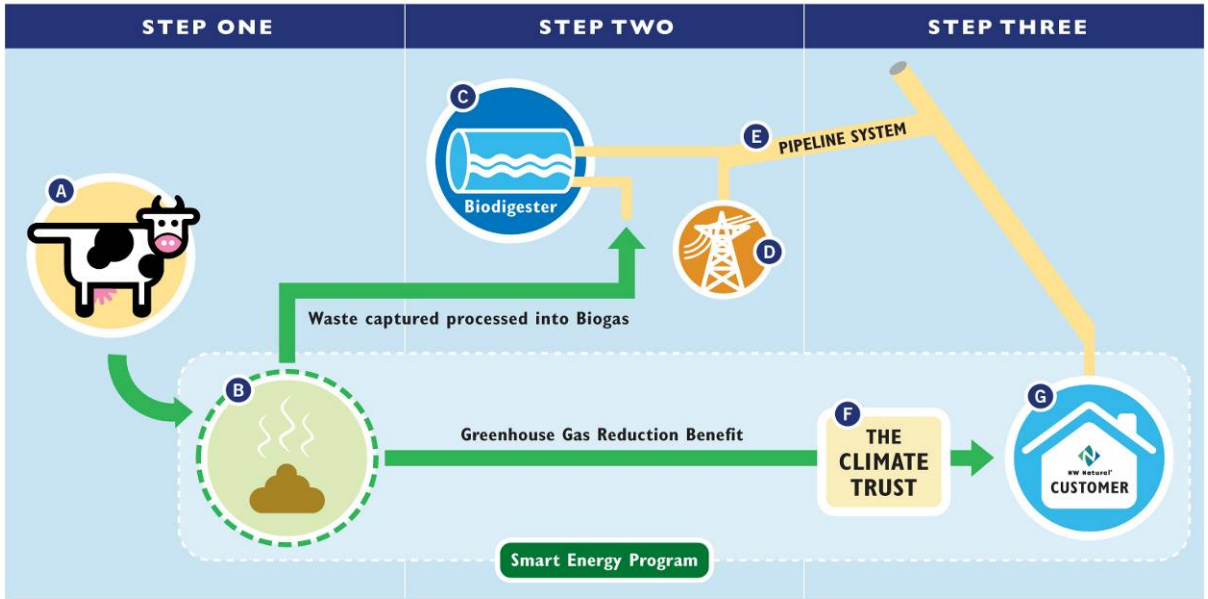
- Customers voluntarily offset the greenhouse gas emissions associated with their use of natural gas
- First standalone gas company to offer offset opportunity
- Helps bring biogas—renewable gas—to the region
- Residential participants purchase “average” option ($6/mo and based on average house) or “carbon neutral” option (based on a per-therm rate)
- Commercial participants contribute any amount ($10/mo. min)
- Funds Climate Trust offsets – specific projects include:
  - Biogas in Oregon
  - Biogas in Region
  - Energy Portfolio

How Does Smart Energy Work?



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Smart Energy and Biogas



A. The typical cow produces 120 pounds of waste each day. Methane emitted from cow waste into the atmosphere is 23 times more potent than CO2.

B. The first step to turning cow manure into biogas is to trap it, halting the release of greenhouse gas emissions and improving water quality.

C. The manure can then be put into a "biodigester" – the technology used to turn it into clean, renewable biogas.

D. Biogas can be used to generate electricity.

E. Or treated and eventually added to a pipeline system and used in homes and businesses.

F. Smart Energy funds will go through NW Natural to the Climate Trust, which will purchase carbon offsets from the biogas project.

G. Customers participating in Smart Energy will "own" those greenhouse gas reductions equal to the amount of emissions caused by their gas use.

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NW Natural and its predecessors have supplied gas service to customers since 1859. The Company's service area, which spans western Oregon and southwestern Washington, includes the Portland metropolitan area, which has a population of more than 2.7 million people.

Key Indicators:	2008 YTD	2007 Y/E	2006 Y/E
Total Customers	656,784	652,012	636,584
Total Common Equity	$624,449	$594,751	$599,545
Avg Shares of Common Stock Outstanding	26,421	26,821	27,540
Number of Registered Common Shareholders	7,715	7,863	8,958
Institutional Ownership	65%	62%	52%
Annual Dividends (ttm)	$1.48	$1.44	$1.40
Diluted Earnings per Share	$1.75	$2.76	$2.29
Book Value per Share	$23.62	$22.52	$21.97

Composition of Utility Revenue:	20008 YTD	2007	2006
Residential	56%	55%	54%
Commercial	30%	29%	29%
Industrial & Transportation	12%	14%	17%
Other	2%	2%	0%

Current Bond Ratings:	Moody's	S&P
Long-Term Debt	A2	AA-
Commercial Paper	P1	A-1+

Stock Exchange: NYSE

Ticker: NWN

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