



# Southwest Gas<sup>™</sup>

## HOLDINGS

### Southwest Gas Announces Settlement with Carl Icahn

May 7, 2022

*Up to Four New Directors to Join Board: Andrew W. Evans, H. Russell Frisby, Jr., Henry P. Linginfelter and Andrew J. Teno*

*Expands Strategic Transactions Committee*

*Company Continuing Expeditious Strategic Alternatives Process to Maximize Stockholder Value*

LAS VEGAS, May 6, 2022 /PRNewswire/ -- Southwest Gas Holdings, Inc. (NYSE: SWX) ("Southwest Gas" or the "Company") today announced that it has entered into a settlement agreement (the "Agreement") with Carl Icahn ("Mr. Icahn") and his affiliated entities. Pursuant to the Agreement, at least three, and up to four, new directors will join the Southwest Gas Board of Directors (the "Board"). Following the 2022 Annual Meeting of Stockholders (the "Annual Meeting"), the Board will continue the previously announced review of a full range of strategic alternatives to maximize stockholder value including a sale of the Company, a separate sale of one or more of its business units and/or the spin-off of Centuri, which is expected to be tax-free to stockholders. Under the terms of the Agreement, the composition of the Board will be amended as follows:

- Mr. Icahn has the right to appoint at least three directors effective immediately following the Annual Meeting: Andrew W. Evans, H. Russell Frisby, Jr., and Henry P. Linginfelter.
- A fourth director (Andrew J. Teno, unless he is otherwise already appointed to the Board, in which case one of Mr. Evans, Mr. Frisby, Jr. or Mr. Linginfelter will be appointed instead) will join the Board in the event that the Company determines to not spin-off Centuri. The decision whether to spin-off Centuri will be made within 90 days after the date of the Agreement.
- Mr. Icahn may elect to have Mr. Teno replace one of the three new directors within 90 days after the date of the Agreement.
- Current Board members, Robert L. Boughner and Thomas A. Thomas, have resigned effective immediately following the Annual Meeting.
- Current Board member, José A. Cárdenas, will resign from the Board if and when a fourth new director joins the Board.
- Current Board member, E. Renae Conley, will be appointed as Chair of the Board following the Annual Meeting.

In a separate release issued today, the Company announced that the Southwest Gas Board has appointed Karen S. Haller, Executive Vice President, as President and Chief Executive Officer, effective immediately. Ms. Haller succeeds John P. Hester, President and Chief Executive Officer. Mr. Hester has also resigned from the Board, effective immediately. Ms. Haller will be appointed to the Board, immediately following the Annual Meeting.

Following the changes in the composition of the Board, the Board will comprise 11 directors, 10 of whom will be independent.

"Acting as an independent Board, we heard the valuable feedback from our stockholders and determined our best course of action was to eliminate the uncertainty of a proxy contest so as to concentrate our focus on the strategic process," said incoming Chair of the Board Ms. Conley. "We intend to work with the new directors to maximize value for all stockholders. We commit to continued valuable engagement with our investors as we execute on our strategic plan."

Under the terms of the Agreement, the Board's Strategic Transactions Committee (the "Committee") will be expanded following the Annual Meeting to comprise six members: three current directors and Committee members, Anne Mariucci, Carlos Ruisanchez and Jane Lewis-Raymond, and three new directors, Mr. Evans, Mr. Frisby, and Mr. Linginfelter. If Mr. Teno joins the Board, he may replace one of the new Committee members at Mr. Icahn's discretion. Ms. Mariucci will continue to serve as Chair of the Committee.

Under the terms of the Agreement, Mr. Icahn will withdraw his slate of director nominees with respect to the Annual Meeting and vote in favor of the Company's nominees. The Company will amend the terms of its stockholder rights plan to increase the triggering percentage from 10% to 24.9%. In addition, Mr. Icahn will amend his \$82.50 tender offer to acquire the outstanding shares of Southwest Gas to extend the expiration date to the date that is 10 business days following the date of the amendment, and will purchase shares validly tendered and not withdrawn as of that date, subject to a cap on his aggregate ownership of 24.9%. Mr. Icahn will not further extend or amend the tender offer.

The Agreement includes customary standstill and voting commitments that will extend until 30 days prior to the end of the advance notice period for the submission of director nominees in connection with the 2023 Annual Meeting of Stockholders. In the event there is a definitive agreement for the sale of the entire Company or its natural gas utility, Southwest Gas Corporation, prior to that date, the standstill will extend until 30 days prior to the end of the advance notice period for the submission of director nominees in connection with the 2024 Annual Meeting of Stockholders.

While the standstill is in effect, Mr. Icahn has agreed to vote all of his shares in favor of any Board-approved sale of the entire Company or its natural gas utility, Southwest Gas Corporation.

Pursuant to the Agreement, Mr. Icahn has withdrawn his litigation against the Company.

The Agreement will be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Moelis & Company LLC is serving as financial advisor to the Committee and also advised on the settlement agreement. Lazard is serving as financial advisor to Southwest Gas and Morrison & Foerster LLP and Cravath, Swaine & Moore LLP are serving as legal advisors.

## **New Director Biographies:**

### **About Andrew W. Evans**

Mr. Evans is a retired Chief Financial Officer of Southern Company, having served in the position from 2018 to 2021. He previously served as the CEO of AGL Resources, Inc., before which he held a variety of other positions at the company from 2003 to 2018. Prior to AGL, Mr. Evans spent 9 years with Mirant Corp, a global energy provider and commodity trading company. Mr. Evans began his career at the Federal Reserve Bank of Boston. Mr. Evans holds a bachelor's degree in economics from Emory University.

### **About H. Russell Frisby, Jr.**

Mr. Frisby served as a Partner at the Stinson LLP law firm from September 2009 until December 2021 where he led the Telecommunications Group and was co-leader of the firm's State Utilities Practice Group. Mr. Frisby previously served on the board of Pepco Holdings, Inc., an S&P 500 energy utility, from September 2012 until March 2016 (when it was acquired by Exelon Corporation), where he was a member of the Finance and Compensation/Human Resources Committees. Prior to its acquisition by Windstream, Mr. Frisby served on the board of PAETEC Holdings, a national Fortune 1000 competitive telecommunications company (CLEC), from February 2007 until November 2011, where he was a member of the Compensation Committee. He received the Energy Bar Association's 2019 State Regulatory Practitioner Award for his innovation and superior advocacy. Mr. Frisby is a graduate of Yale Law School and Swarthmore College.

### **About Henry P. Linginfelter**

Mr. Linginfelter is a recently retired executive with Southern Company Gas, a large gas utility with gas distribution and gas pipeline businesses. Mr. Linginfelter has diverse utilities experience, including regulatory engagement across multiple jurisdictions. He holds a bachelor's degree in Industrial Management from Georgia Tech University and an MBA from the J. Mack Robinson College of Business at Georgia State University.

### **About Andrew J. Teno**

Mr. Teno has been a portfolio manager at Icahn Capital, the entity through which Mr. Icahn manages investment funds, since October 2020. Mr. Teno previously worked at Fir Tree Partners, a New York based private investment firm that invests worldwide in public and private companies, real estate and sovereign debt, from 2011 to April 2020. Prior to that, he worked at Crestview Partners from 2009 to 2011 as an associate in their private equity business, and at Gleacher Partners, a boutique mergers and acquisitions firm, from 2007 to 2009. Mr. Teno has been a director of: FirstEnergy Corp., an electric utility, since March 2021; Herc Holdings Inc., an equipment rental company, since February 2021; and Cheniere Energy, Inc., a liquefied natural gas company, since February 2021. Mr. Teno previously served as a director of Eco-Stim Energy Solutions from March 2017 to December 2018. Mr. Teno received an undergraduate business degree from the Wharton School at the University of Pennsylvania in 2007.

### **About Southwest Gas Holdings, Inc.**

Southwest Gas Holdings, Inc., through its subsidiaries, engages in the business of purchasing, distributing and transporting natural gas, and providing comprehensive utility infrastructure services across North America. Southwest Gas Corporation, a wholly owned subsidiary, safely and reliably delivers natural gas to over two million customers in Arizona, California and Nevada. The Company's MountainWest subsidiary provides natural gas storage and interstate pipeline services within the Rocky Mountain region. Centuri Group, Inc., a wholly owned subsidiary, is a strategic infrastructure services company that partners with regulated utilities to build and maintain the energy network that powers millions of homes and businesses across the United States and Canada.

## **How to Find Further Information**

This communication does not constitute a solicitation of any vote or approval in connection with the Annual Meeting. In connection with the Annual Meeting, the Company has filed a definitive proxy statement with the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission ("SEC"), which the Company has furnished to its stockholders in connection with the Annual Meeting. The Company may furnish additional materials in connection with the Annual Meeting. **BEFORE MAKING ANY VOTING DECISION, WE URGE STOCKHOLDERS TO READ THE PROXY STATEMENT (INCLUDING ALL AMENDMENTS AND SUPPLEMENTS THERETO) AND WHITE PROXY CARD AND OTHER DOCUMENTS WHEN SUCH INFORMATION IS FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY AND IN THEIR ENTIRETY, BECAUSE THEY CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION ABOUT THE COMPANY AND THE ANNUAL MEETING.** The proposals for the Annual Meeting are being made solely through the definitive proxy statement. In addition, a copy of the definitive proxy statement may be obtained free of charge from [www.swgasholdings.com/proxymaterials](http://www.swgasholdings.com/proxymaterials). Security holders also may obtain, free of charge, copies of the proxy statement and any other documents filed by Company with the SEC in connection with the Annual Meeting at the SEC's website at <http://www.sec.gov>, and at the Company's website at [www.swgasholdings.com](http://www.swgasholdings.com).

**Important Information for Investors and Stockholders:** *This communication does not constitute an offer to buy or solicitation of an offer to sell any securities. In response to the tender offer for the shares of the Company commenced by IEP Utility Holdings LLC and Icahn Enterprises Holdings L.P., the Company has filed a solicitation/recommendation statement on Schedule 14D-9 with the SEC. INVESTORS AND STOCKHOLDERS OF SOUTHWEST GAS HOLDINGS ARE URGED TO READ THE SOLICITATION/RECOMMENDATION STATEMENT AND OTHER DOCUMENTS FILED WITH THE SEC CAREFULLY IN THEIR ENTIRETY BECAUSE THEY WILL CONTAIN IMPORTANT INFORMATION. Investors and stockholders may obtain a free copy of these documents free of charge at the SEC's website at [www.sec.gov](http://www.sec.gov), and at the Company's website at [www.swgasholdings.com](http://www.swgasholdings.com). In addition, copies of these materials may be requested from the Company's information agent, Innisfree M&A Incorporated, toll-free at (877) 825-8621.*

**Forward-Looking Statements:** *This press release contains forward-looking statements within the meaning of the U.S. Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, Section 27A of the Securities Act of 1933, as amended, and Section 21E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended. Such statements include, without limitation, statements regarding Southwest Gas Holdings, Inc. (the "Company") and the Company's expectations or intentions regarding the future. These forward-looking statements can often be identified by the use of words such as "will", "predict", "continue", "forecast", "expect", "believe", "anticipate", "outlook", "could", "target", "project", "intend", "plan", "seek", "estimate", "should", "may" and "assume", as well as variations of such words and similar expressions referring to the future, and include (without limitation) statements regarding expectations with*

respect to a separation of Centuri, the future performance of Centuri, Southwest Gas's dividend ratios and Southwest Gas's future performance. A number of important factors affecting the business and financial results of the Company could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated in the forward-looking statements. These factors include, but are not limited to, the timing and amount of rate relief, changes in rate design, customer growth rates, the effects of regulation/deregulation, tax reform and related regulatory decisions, the impacts of construction activity at Centuri, whether we will separate Centuri within the anticipated timeframe and the impact to our results of operations and financial position from the separation, the potential for, and the impact of, a credit rating downgrade, the costs to integrate MountainWest, future earnings trends, inflation, sufficiency of labor markets and similar resources, seasonal patterns, the cost and management attention of ongoing litigation that the Company is currently engaged in, the effects of the pending tender offer and proxy contest brought by Carl Icahn and his affiliates, and the impacts of stock market volatility. In addition, the Company can provide no assurance that its discussions about future operating margin, operating income, COLI earnings, interest expense, and capital expenditures of the natural gas distribution segment will occur. Likewise, the Company can provide no assurance that discussions regarding utility infrastructure services segment revenues, EBITDA as a percentage of revenue, and interest expense will transpire, nor assurance regarding acquisitions or their impacts, including management's plans or expectations related thereto, including with regard to Riggs Distler or MountainWest. Factors that could cause actual results to differ also include (without limitation) those discussed under the heading "Risk Factors" in the Company's most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K and in the Company's and Southwest Gas Corporation's current and periodic reports, including our Quarterly Reports on Form 10-Q, filed from time to time with the SEC. The statements in this press release are made as of the date of this press release, even if subsequently made available by the Company on its Web site or otherwise. The Company does not assume any obligation to update the forward-looking statements, whether written or oral, that may be made from time to time, whether as a result of new information, future developments, or otherwise.

**Participants in the Solicitation:** The directors and officers of the Company may be deemed to be participants in the solicitation of proxies in connection with the Annual Meeting. Information regarding the Company's directors and officers and their respective interests in the Company by security holdings or otherwise is available in its most recent Annual Report on Form 10-K filed with the SEC and the definitive Proxy Statement on Schedule 14A filed with the SEC in connection with the Annual Meeting. Additional information regarding the interests of such potential participants is included in other relevant materials filed with the SEC.

## Contacts

For investor information, contact: Boyd Nelson, (702) 876-7237, [boyd.nelson@swgas.com](mailto:boyd.nelson@swgas.com); or Innisfree M&A Incorporated, Scott Winter/Jennifer Shotwell/Jon Salzberger, (212) 750-5833.

For media information, contact: Sean Corbett, (702) 876-7219, [sean.corbett@swgas.com](mailto:sean.corbett@swgas.com); or Joele Frank, Wilkinson Brimmer Katcher, Dan Katcher / Tim Lynch, (212) 355-4449.

 View original content: <https://www.prnewswire.com/news-releases/southwest-gas-announces-settlement-with-carl-icahn-301542104.html>

SOURCE Southwest Gas Holdings, Inc.