

# 2014 Third Quarter Earnings Conference Call November 6, 2014



## Safe Harbor Statement

Statements contained in this presentation that may include Company expectations or predictions of the future, including statements regarding future results at NPL Construction Co., constitute "forward-looking statements" within the meaning of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995. All such statements are intended to be subject to the safe harbor protection provided by the Reform Act. In this respect, the words "may," "will," "estimate," "project," "anticipate," "expect," "intend," "believe" and similar expressions are intended to identify forward-looking statements. All forward-looking statements included herein are made as of the date hereof. A number of important factors affecting the business and financial results of Southwest Gas, including subsidiaries, could cause actual results to differ materially from those stated in the forward-looking statements. For additional factors that could affect the validity of our forward-looking statements, you should read the section of our periodic reports filed from time to time with the Securities and Exchange Commission, entitled "Risk Factors" therein.



# 2014 Third Quarter Highlights

- > \$5 million margin from rate relief in California
- Paiute Pipeline rate case settlement in principle reached in September 2014
- > NPL record quarterly earnings contribution of \$13.4 million
- > NPL acquisition of Link-Line group of companies (completed October 2014)



# **Call Outline**

- I. Consolidated earnings September 30, 2014
- II. Natural gas segment Earnings
- III. NPL Construction Co. (NPL) Earnings
- IV. Natural gas segment Regulation
- V. Natural gas segment Customer growth
- VI. Natural gas segment Rate base growth
- VII. NPL Acquisition
- VIII. Dividend growth
- IX. 2014 outlook update
  - NPL
  - Natural gas segment



# **Summary Operating Results**

(In thousands, except per share amounts)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,			TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBE			PTEMBER 30,	
		2014		2013		2014		2013
Results of Consolidated Operations								
Gas operations income (loss)	\$	(11,452)	\$	(11,939)	\$	117,797	\$	121,327
Construction services income		13,422		9,075		21,886		29,083
Net income (loss)	\$	1,970	\$	(2,864)	\$	139,683	\$	150,410
Basic earnings (loss) per share	\$	0.04	\$	(0.06)	\$	3.01	\$	3.25
Diluted earnings (loss) per share	\$	0.04	\$	(0.06)	\$	2.98	\$	3.22
Ave. shares outstanding		46,513		46,337		46,451		46,265
Ave. shares outstanding (assuming dilution)		46,966		-		46,904		46,704



#### Summary Operating Results Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,				
		2014	2013		
Results of Natural Gas Operations					
Gas operating revenues	\$	226,027	\$	195,031	
Net cost of gas sold		72,987		47,746	
Operating margin		153,040		147,285	
Operations and maintenance expense		93,389		95,981	
Depreciation and amortization		50,533		48,427	
Taxes other than income taxes		11,835		11,153	
Operating income (loss)		(2,717)		(8,276)	
Other income (deductions)		442		2,663	
Net interest deductions		17,159		14,780	
Income (loss) before income taxes		(19,434)		(20,393)	
Income tax benefit		(7,982)		(8,454)	
Net loss - gas operations	\$	(11,452)	\$	(11,939)	



Three Months Ended September 30, 2014 Increase in Operating Margin Natural Gas Operations (In millions)

Customer growth	\$ 1
Rate relief (California)	5
Increase	\$ 6



#### Three Months Ended September 30, 2014 Operating Expenses and Net Financing Costs Natural Gas Operations

#### Operating expenses relatively flat

- > O&M expense decreased \$2.6 million or 3%
  - Decline in employee-related costs, including pension expense, partially offset by increases in general costs
- Depreciation & amortization increased \$2.1 million or 4%
  - Average gas plant in service increased \$306 million

Net interest deductions increased by \$2.4 million due primarily to October 2013 issuance of \$250 million of 4.875% senior notes



#### **Other Income and Deductions Natural Gas Operations** (In thousands)

#### THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,

	 2014	2013		
Change in COLI policies	\$ (300)	\$	2,500	
Pipe replacement costs	-		(42)	
Miscellaneous income	742		205	
Total other income	\$ 442	\$	2,663	



#### Summary Operating Results Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

	TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30			
	2014			2013
Results of Natural Gas Operations				
Gas operating revenues	\$	1,356,653	\$	1,267,025
Net cost of gas sold		480,608		409,361
Operating margin		876,045		857,664
Operations and maintenance expense		390,328		379,621
Depreciation and amortization		201,896		191,099
Taxes other than income taxes		45,786		44,684
Operating income		238,035		242,260
Other income (deductions)		8,989		8,022
Net interest deductions		68,656		61,224
Income before income taxes		178,368		189,058
Income tax expense		60,571		67,731
Net income - gas operations	\$	117,797	\$	121,327



#### Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2014 Increase in Operating Margin Natural Gas Operations (In millions)

Customer growth	\$ 8
Rate relief	9
Other	1
Increase	\$ 18



#### Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2014 Operating Expenses Natural Gas Operations

Operating expenses increased by \$22.6 million or 3.7%

- > O&M expense increased \$10.7 million or 3%
  - Higher general costs, legal accruals, and expenses
  - Partial offsets include declines in employee-related costs such as pension expense
- Depreciation and amortization expense increased \$10.8 million or 6%
  - Average gas plant in service increased \$275 million or 5%
- General taxes increased \$1.1 million, or 2%, due to:
  - Higher property taxes in Arizona and Nevada



## Other Income and Deductions Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

		2014		2013	
Change in COLI policies	\$	7,200	\$	9,200	
Pipe replacement costs		31		(828)	
Miscellaneous income and (expense)		1,758		(350)	
Total other income	\$	8,989	\$	8,022	



TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30

#### Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2014 Net Financing Costs Natural Gas Operations

\$7.4 million increase due primarily to:

- Interest costs associated with the issuance of debt in the fourth quarter 2013
  - Partially offset by:
    - Cost savings from 2013 debt refinancings and redemptions
    - Lower interest expense associated with deferred PGA balances payable



### Summary of Operating Results Construction Services (In thousands)

	THREE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 30,			TWELVE MONTHS ENDED SEPTEMBER 3			PTEMBER 30,	
	2014		2013		2014		2013	
Results of Construction Services								
Construction revenues	\$	206,448	\$	192,315	\$	675,728	\$	633,966
Operating expenses:								
Construction expenses		173,937		167,581		595,093		545,420
Depreciation and amortization		11,504		10,317		45,788		42,152
Operating income		21,007		14,417		34,847		46,394
Other income (deductions)		(2)		5		37		4
Net interest deductions		262		317		1,024		1,240
Income tax expense		7,364		5,223		12,217		16,695
Noncontrolling interest		(43)		(193)		(243)		(620)
Contribution to net income	\$	13,422	\$	9,075	\$	21,886	\$	29,083



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## Three Months Ended September 30, 2014 Construction Services

- Revenues and construction expenses increased \$14.1 million & \$6.4 million, respectively, primarily due to:
  - Incremental work with several customers
  - Substantial completion of the work under blanket contracts carried over from the first and second quarters
  - Increased bid work
  - G&A expenses (a component of construction expenses) includes
     \$1.2 million of costs related to business acquisition completed
     October 2014
- Depreciation expense increased \$1.2 million due to new equipment purchases



## Twelve Months Ended September 30, 2014 Construction Services

- Revenues increased \$41.8 million primarily due to increases in pipe replacement contracts, partially offset by adverse weather conditions during the 1<sup>st</sup> quarter 2014
  - Prior period included \$3 million of revenue associated with 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2012 change orders related to fixed-price contract
- Construction expenses increased \$49.7 million primarily due to costs associated with increased pipe replacement construction work
  - G&A expense increased \$6.8 million due to changes implemented to match NPL's increased size and business complexity and costs (\$1.4 million) related to the business acquisition completed October 2014
  - Approximately \$2.7 million associated with a legal settlement recorded 4<sup>th</sup> quarter 2013



## Regulation - California General Rate Case Natural Gas Operations

Application Filed December 20, 2012					
	Southwest Gas Corporation	Final Decision			
Revenue Increase	\$11.6 million	\$7.1 million			
ROE/Equity	10.70% / 57.00%	10.10% / 55.00%			
Depreciation Expense Reduction	\$3.1 million	\$3.1 million			
Annual Attrition Adjustment 2015- 2018	2.95%	2.75%			
Infrastructure Replacement Mechanism	Requested	Partial Approval			

- New rates effective June 2014
  - Provided \$5 million of additional margin in the 3<sup>rd</sup> quarter of 2014



## Regulation – Paiute Pipeline Company General Rate Case Natural Gas Operations

#### Filed a rate case with FERC on February 28, 2014

- Requested a \$9 million increase in operating revenues
- Settlement agreement in principle reached in September 2014
  - Settlement to be filed with FERC in November 2014
  - Provides for an operating revenue increase of \$2.4 million, plus a \$1.3 million depreciation reduction
  - Settlement rates effective September 2014, subject to refund
  - Rate design changes encourage longer-term contracts
  - Next general rate case no earlier than May 2016 and no later than May 2019



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#### Regulation - Arizona General Rate Case Natural Gas Operations

Rate case moratorium:

- > Next earliest general rate case application April 30, 2016
- > Next earliest test year November 30, 2015
- Required depreciation study
- ➢ New rates earliest effective May 1, 2017



### Beyond Rate Case Filings - Nevada Infrastructure Mechanisms Natural Gas Operations

- > 2013 Regulatory Asset Authorized \$15.6 million
- > 2014 Regulatory Asset Authorized \$18.9 million
- > 2014 Gas Infrastructure Recovery (GIR) Mechanism – Authorized \$14.4 million for 2015
- > In October 2014, filed a GIR rate application
  - Requests a surcharge to recover cumulative infrastructure replacement deferrals through August 2014
  - Surcharge requested to be effective January 2015



### Beyond Rate Case Filings Other Regulatory Matters Natural Gas Operations

- > Arizona COYL Program
- Proposed Arizona LNG facility
- Paiute Pipeline Company (FERC)
  - Expansion



#### Deferred Purchased Gas Cost Balances Natural Gas Operations (In millions)

	AS OF SEPTEMBER 30,				
	2014		2014 2		2013
Arizona	\$	44.3	\$	(11.6)	
Northern Nevada		6.7		0.2	
Southern Nevada		21.7		(5.3)	
California		5.6		2.5	
Total Receivable/(Payable)	\$	78.3	\$	(14.2)	



#### Customer Growth Breakdown Natural Gas Operations (In thousands)

	Twelve Months Ended September 30,				
	2012	2014			
Beginning period	1,836	1,858	1,883		
New meter sets	16	21	20		
Meter turn-on/(turn-offs)	6	4	9		
Ending period	1,858	1,883	1,912		

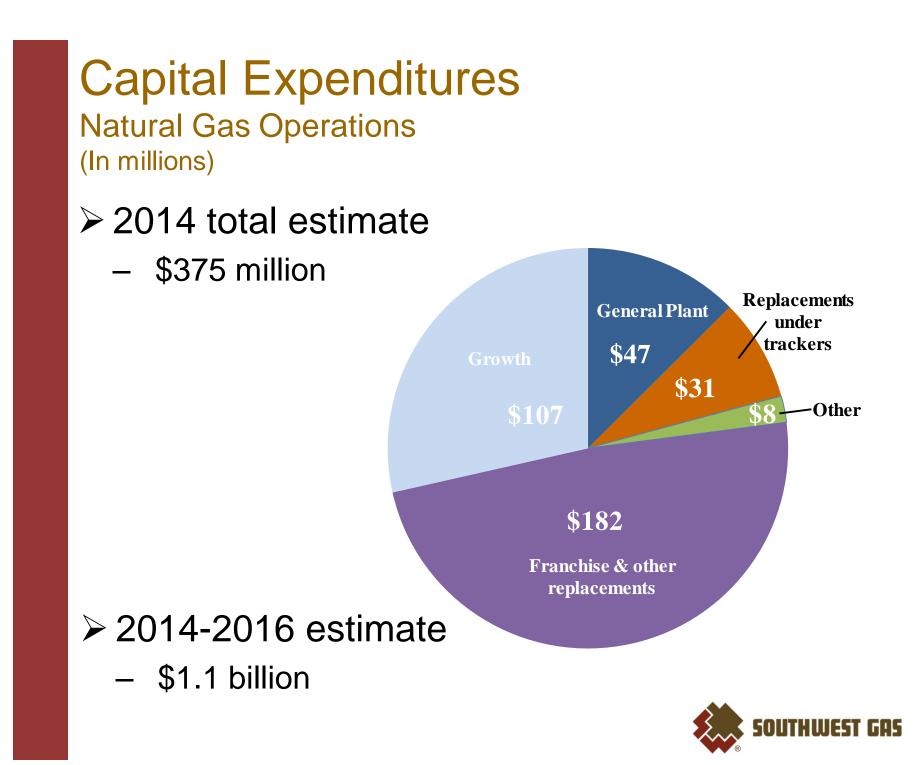
For 2014, Company is projecting net customer growth of about 1.5%



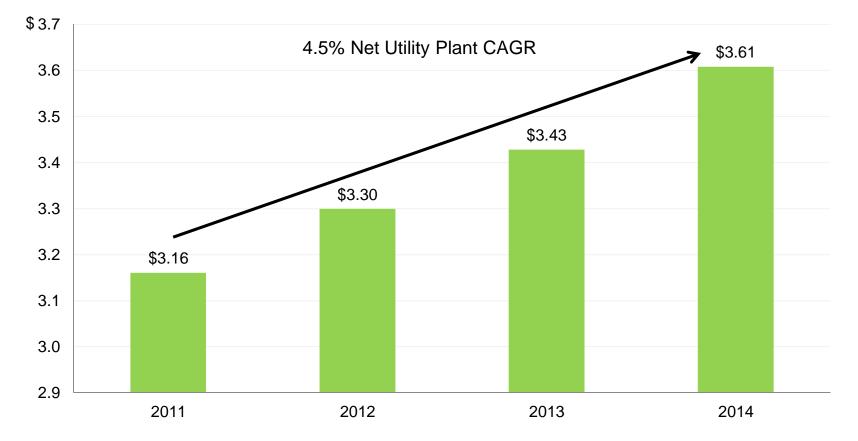
## Economic Overview Service Area Natural Gas Operations

	<u>Unemploy</u>	ment Rate	Employment Growth		
	September 2013	September 2014	September 2013	September 2014	
Southern California	9.8%	8.2%	0.8%	2.4%	
Southern Nevada	9.5%	7.1%	1.1%	2.7%	
Northern Nevada	7.4%	5.8%	-2.2%	0.0%	
Southern Arizona	7.2%	6.0%	0.6%	1.7%	
Central Arizona	7.1%	5.8%	2.2%	2.3%	





#### Net Utility Plant - Growth Natural Gas Operations (In billions)



For Periods Ended September 30,

CAGR = compound annual growth rate



## Acquisition of Link-Line Group of Companies Highlights Construction Services

- The purchase price for the acquisitions was \$171 million plus assumed debt of \$14 million and subject to a working capital adjustment
- Sellers retained an approximate 10% indirect equity ownership in the combined Canadian businesses
- The Canadian businesses were financed by NPL with a new \$300 million secured revolving credit and term loan facility
- Closed October 1, 2014



### About the Acquisition Companies Construction Services

#### > Link-Line Contractors

- Largest natural gas distribution contractor in Canada with approximately 700 employees
- Primarily operates in Ontario province
- Founded in 1994

#### » W.S. Nicholls Construction

- Provides fabrication and multi-trade operations for industrial projects
- Operations in Ontario province and western Canada
- Founded in 1996

#### » Brigadier Pipelines

- Performs midstream construction in the United States, primarily in Pennsylvania
- Founded in 2012









# Acquisition fit with NPL

Link-Line / W.S. Nicholls Market

- W.S. Nicholls Markets
- NPL / Brigadier Market



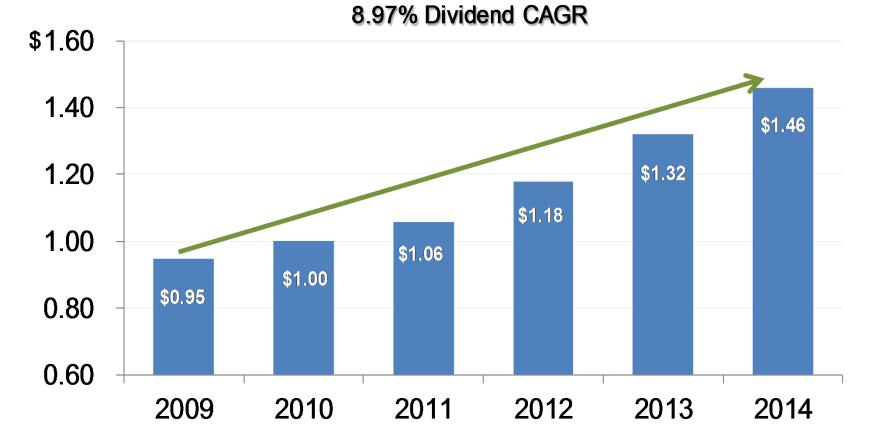
#### **Financial Highlights** Construction Services (Approximate U.S. Dollar Equivalent, in millions)

Combined Link-Line, W.S. Nicholls and Brigadier	2013		
Revenue	\$	250	
Operating income	\$	16	
EBITDA	\$	18	

> NPL's 2013 revenues were \$651 million and operating income was \$34 million



## **Dividend Growth**



CAGR = compound annual growth rate



### 2014 Outlook Update Construction Services



- Management expects that earnings for the full year 2014, net of acquisition-related costs, will modestly exceed 2013 results
- Link-Line 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter earnings expected to substantially offset acquisition costs
- The current low interest rate environment, and the regulatory environment (encouraging the natural gas industry to replace aging pipeline infrastructure) continue to positively influence revenues
- Charged to grow revenues by 5 to 8% on average over the long term



#### 2014 Outlook Update Natural Gas Operations

- > Operating margin for 2014 is expected to be favorably influenced by customer growth approximating 1.5%
- Infrastructure mechanisms (Nevada and Arizona) should contribute modestly to 2014 results
- Rate relief from the recent California rate case decision has been largely recognized
  - Incremental margin (above 2013 levels) for the 4<sup>th</sup> quarter will not be significant
- A proportionate share of Paiute's recent settlement rate increase anticipated during 4<sup>th</sup> quarter



# 2014 Outlook Update

#### **Natural Gas Operations**

> Operating cost increase of approximately 3%

- Net pension expense decrease of \$7 million
- Legal accrual expense of \$5 million

> Net financing costs increase of approximately \$6 million

- Primarily due to October 2013 issuance of \$250 million of 4.875% senior notes
- Partially offset by November 2014 redemption of \$65 million
   5.25% Series A fixed-rate IDRBs



# APPENDIX

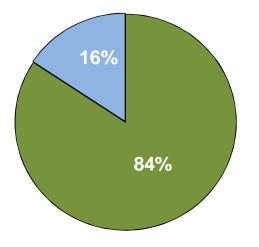


# **Two Business Segments**

Southwest Gas consists of two business segments

- ➤Natural gas operations
- Construction services (NPL)

TMTD 9/30/14 Net Income \$140MM



Natural gas operations \$118MM net income

Construction services
\$22MM net income



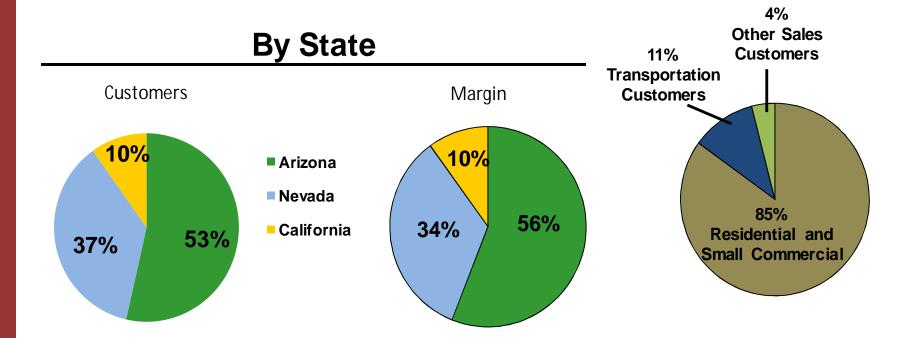
# Southwest Gas is a Regional Leader in Natural Gas Distribution

- Headquartered in Las
   Vegas
- Largest distributor of natural gas in Arizona and Nevada
- Distributes and transports natural gas in parts of California
- Service territory has
   1,912,000 customers at
   9/30/2014
- Over 99% of customers are residential and commercial



# Stable Customer Base Natural Gas Operations

#### TMTD September 30, 2014 Customer & Operating Margin Distribution

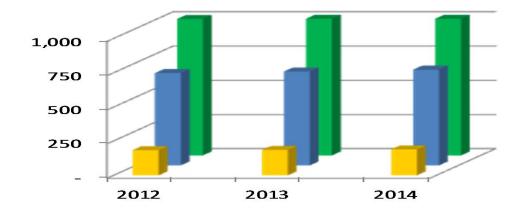


Consistent trends year over year



# Customers by State Natural Gas Operations

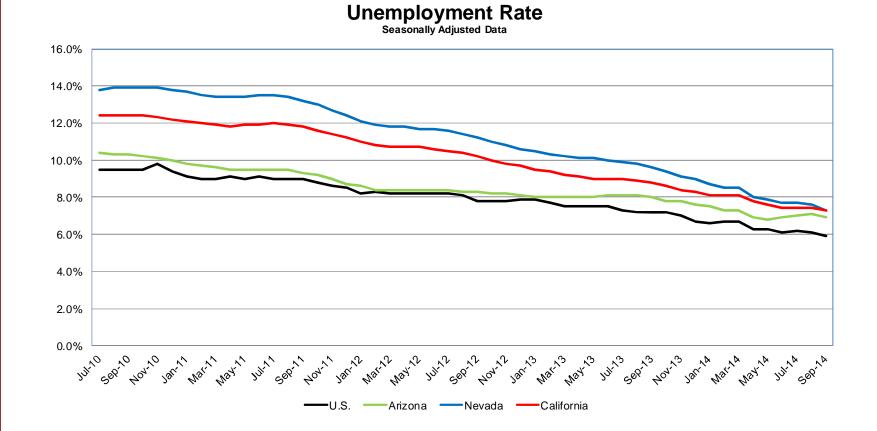
	AS O	AS OF SEPTEMBER 30,				
	2012	2013	2014			
Arizona	998	1,010	1,023			
Nevada	676	688	701			
California	184	185	188			
Total	1,858	1,883	1,912			



💻 California 🔳 Nevada 💻 Arizona



# Economic Overview Service Area Natural Gas Operations



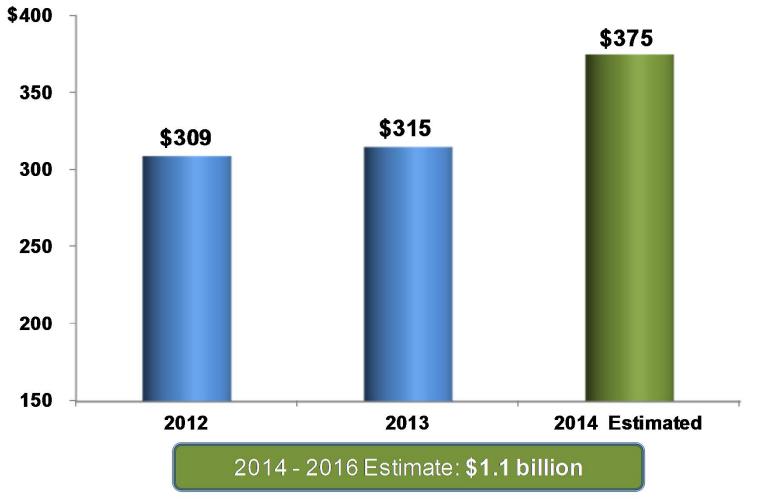


# Liquidity Natural Gas Operations

- \$300 million revolving credit facility maturing in March 2019
- \$150 million of the facility has been designated longterm debt and the remaining \$150 million as working capital
- \$50 million commercial paper program supported by the Company's current revolving credit facility
- September 30, 2014, \$50 million was outstanding on the long-term portion of the credit facility (all under the commercial paper program).
- Management believes the facility size is adequate



### Capital Expenditures Natural Gas Operations (In millions)





## Capital Structure (In millions)

Capitalization at September 30,	2010	2011	 2012	 2013	 2014
Common Equity	\$ 1,119	\$ 1,187	\$ 1,265	\$ 1,361	\$ 1,452
Long-Term Debt <sup>1</sup>	 1,075	1,158	 1,261	 1,291	 1,449
Total Permanent Capital	\$ 2,194	\$ 2,345	\$ 2,526	\$ 2,652	\$ 2,901
Capitalization ratios					
Common Equity	51.0%	50.6%	<b>50.1%</b>	51.3%	<b>50.1%</b>
Long-Term Debt <sup>1</sup>	 49.0%	49.4%	 49.9%	 48.7%	 49.9%
Total Permanent Capital	 100.0%	 100.0%	 100.0%	 100.0%	 100.0%

<sup>1</sup>Includes current maturities of long-term debt



# **Investment Grade Credit Ratings**

#### Moody's

- Senior Unsecured Debt:
- Outlook:

#### Standard & Poor's

- Senior Unsecured Debt:
- Outlook:

#### Fitch

- Senior Unsecured Debt:
- Outlook:

#### Rating

A3 (January 2014) Stable

BBB+ (October 2014) Stable

A (May 2013) Stable



# Authorized Rate Base and Rates of Return Natural Gas Operations

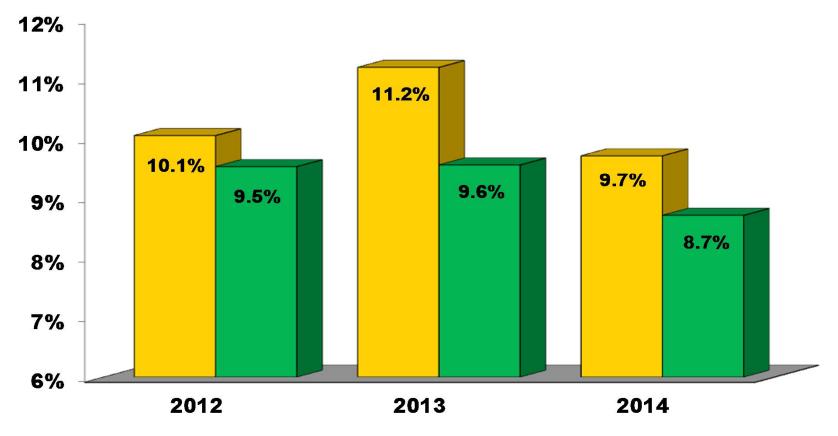
Rate Jurisdiction	Authorized Rate Base (In thousands)	Authorized Rate of Return	Authorized Return on Common Equity	Decoupled	Capital Structure - % Equity
Arizona	\$ 1,070,117	8.95 %	9.50 %	$\checkmark$	52.3 %
Southern Nevada	825,190	6.52 %	10.00 %	$\checkmark$	42.7 %
Northern Nevada	115,933	7.88 %	9.30 %	$\checkmark$	59.1 %
Southern California	159,277	6.83 %	10.10 %	$\checkmark$	47.0 %
Northern California	67,620	8.18 %	10.10 %	$\checkmark$	47.0 %
South Lake Tahoe	25,389	8.18 %	10.10 %	$\checkmark$	47.0 %
Paiute Pipeline Company (1)	84,717	9.47 %	12.00 %	$\checkmark$	47.0 %

(1) Estimated amounts based on 2010 rate case settlement.



# Return on Common Equity

Twelve months ended September 30,

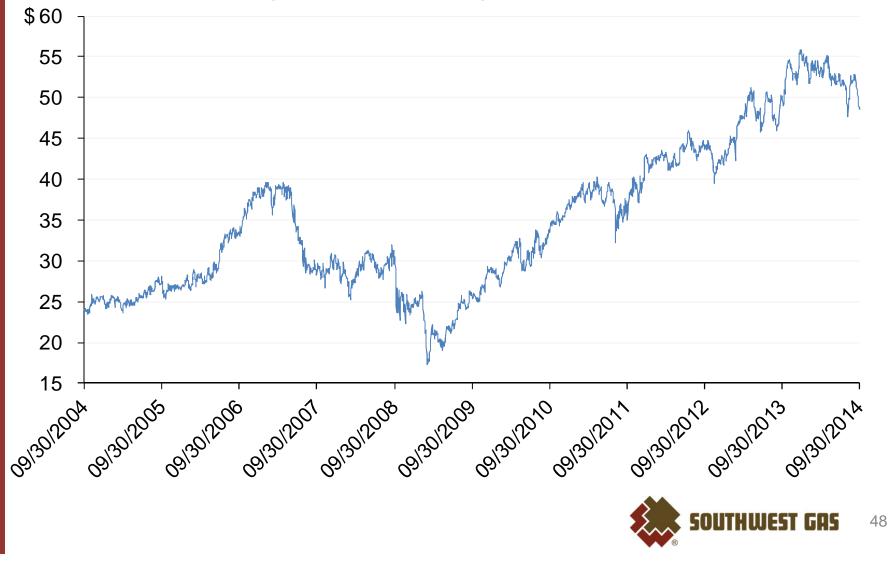


Return on Common Equity - Total Company
 Return on Common Equity - Gas Operations



# **Stock Performance**

NYSE: SWX Common Stock Closing Price September 30, 2004 – September 30, 2014



# **Comparative Total Returns**

#### **Total Returns for Periods Ended September 30, 2014**

	1-Year	3-Year	5-Year	10-Year
Southwest Gas	(0.26%)	13.31%	<b>16.94%</b>	10.55%
S&P 600 Small Gas Index	5.05%	8.89%	11.50%	9.94%
Dow Jones Utilities	18.67%	12.74%	12.46%	10.62%
S&P 500 Index	19.69%	22.94%	15.67%	8.10%

**Total Return = Price appreciation plus gross dividends reinvested** 

