MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
FOR THE YEAR ENDED DECEMBER 31, 2021

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

The abbreviations and terms set forth below are used throughout this report and have the meanings assigned to them below:

Subsidiaries and Affiliates	
Integrys	Integrys Holding, Inc.
WBS	WEC Business Services LLC
WEC Energy Group	WEC Energy Group, Inc.

Federal and State Regulatory Agencies	
EPA	United States Environmental Protection Agency
FERC	Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
MPUC	Minnesota Public Utilities Commission

Accounting Terms	
ASU	Accounting Standards Update
FASB	Financial Accounting Standards Board
GAAP	Generally Accepted Accounting Principles
OPEB	Other Postretirement Employee Benefits

Environmental Terms	
CO_2	Carbon Dioxide
GHG	Greenhouse Gas
WOTUS	Waters of the United States

Measurements	
Dth	Dekatherm

Other Terms and Abbreviations	
AIA	Affiliated Interest Agreement
COVID-19	Coronavirus Disease – 2019
GUIC	Gas Utility Infrastructure Costs
NGEP	Natural Gas Extension Project
Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan	WEC Energy Group Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan, Amended and Restated, Effective as of May 6, 2021
Supreme Court	United States Supreme Court
Tax Legislation	Tax Cuts and Jobs Act of 2017

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND NOTES

A. INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Board of Directors and Shareholder of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation:

Opinion

We have audited the financial statements of Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation (the "Company"), which comprise the balance sheets as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the related statements of income, changes in member's equity and cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2021, and the related notes to the financial statements (collectively referred to as the "financial statements").

In our opinion, the accompanying financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Company as of December 31, 2021 and 2020, and the results of its operations and its cash flows for each of the three years in the period ended December 31, 2021, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audits in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Company and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are available to be issued.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Company's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Company's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

/s/ DELOITTE & TOUCHE LLP

Milwaukee, Wisconsin
March 30, 2022

MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION

B. INCOME STATEMENTS

Year Ended December 31 *(in millions)*	2021	2020	2019
Operating revenues	**$ 367.1**	$ 255.9	$ 281.5
Operating expenses			
Cost of sales	**241.5**	131.7	152.4
Other operation and maintenance	**58.2**	54.8	64.1
Depreciation and amortization	**20.9**	18.0	14.6
Property and revenue taxes	**11.4**	11.4	11.4
Total operating expenses	**332.0**	215.9	242.5
Operating income	**35.1**	40.0	39.0
Other income, net	**0.3**	0.2	—
Interest expense	**6.2**	5.5	4.9
Other expense	**(5.9)**	(5.3)	(4.9)
Income before income taxes	**29.2**	34.7	34.1
Income tax expense	**7.8**	9.4	9.2
Net income	**$ 21.4**	$ 25.3	$ 24.9

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION

C. BALANCE SHEETS

At December 31 *(in millions, except share amounts)*	2021	2020
Assets		
Current assets		
Cash and cash equivalents	**$ 0.8**	$ 0.2
Accounts receivable and unbilled revenues, net of reserves of $4.1 and $3.5, respectively	**65.6**	45.7
Accounts receivable from related parties	**1.6**	6.4
Materials, supplies, and inventories:		
Natural gas in storage	**22.3**	9.1
Materials and supplies	**0.3**	0.2
Prepaid taxes	**0.1**	9.6
Other	**4.9**	4.3
Current assets	**95.6**	75.5
Long-term assets		
Property, plant, and equipment, net of accumulated depreciation and amortization of $186.2 and $174.8, respectively	**597.1**	556.1
Regulatory assets	**79.7**	26.7
Goodwill	**127.7**	127.7
Other	**19.0**	14.5
Long-term assets	**823.5**	725.0
Total assets	**$ 919.1**	$ 800.5
Liabilities and Equity		
Current liabilities		
Short-term debt to parent	**$ 51.5**	$ 38.2
Accounts payable	**40.6**	31.7
Accounts payable to related parties	**4.6**	5.9
Accrued taxes	**14.7**	13.5
Customer credit balances	**11.9**	12.0
Amounts refundable to customers	**3.0**	25.1
Other	**15.9**	11.0
Current liabilities	**142.2**	137.4
Long-term liabilities		
Long-term debt	**208.8**	169.0
Deferred income taxes	**134.7**	109.3
Regulatory liabilities	**96.9**	93.8
Other	**5.0**	5.0
Long-term liabilities	**445.4**	377.1
Commitments and contingencies (Note 14)		
Common shareholder's equity		
Common stock – without par value, 1,000 shares authorized; 100 shares issued and outstanding	**209.0**	184.9
Retained earnings	**122.5**	101.1
Common shareholder's equity	**331.5**	286.0
Total liabilities and equity	**$ 919.1**	$ 800.5

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION

D. STATEMENTS OF CASH FLOWS

Year Ended December 31 *(in millions)*	2021	2020	2019
Operating activities			
Net income	**$ 21.4**	$ 25.3	$ 24.9
Reconciliation to cash provided by operating activities			
Depreciation and amortization	**20.9**	18.0	14.6
Deferred income taxes, net	**24.3**	18.8	12.6
Change in –			
Accounts receivable and unbilled revenues, net	**(15.1)**	(1.9)	0.4
Materials, supplies, and inventories	**(13.3)**	(0.9)	4.8
Prepaid taxes	**9.5**	(7.7)	(1.7)
Other current assets	**(0.1)**	(0.1)	13.3
Accounts payable	**8.9**	(6.3)	(5.1)
Amounts refundable to customers	**(22.1)**	4.0	16.6
Other current liabilities	**6.5**	4.7	3.6
Deferral of extraordinary natural gas costs	**(65.0)**	—	—
Recovery of extraordinary natural gas costs	**5.3**	—	—
Other, net	**3.3**	(4.1)	1.6
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	**(15.5)**	49.8	85.6
Investing activities			
Capital expenditures	**(59.2)**	(71.6)	(81.4)
Other, net	**(1.7)**	—	—
Net cash used in investing activities	**(60.9)**	(71.6)	(81.4)
Financing activities			
Short-term debt to parent, net	**13.3**	12.8	(18.6)
Issuance of long-term debt	**40.0**	50.0	—
Equity contribution from parent	**24.0**	23.0	28.5
Payment of dividends to parent	**—**	(64.0)	(15.0)
Other, net	**(0.3)**	(0.4)	—
Net cash provided by (used in) financing activities	**77.0**	21.4	(5.1)
Net change in cash and cash equivalents	**0.6**	(0.4)	(0.9)
Cash and cash equivalents at beginning of year	**0.2**	0.6	1.5
Cash and cash equivalents at end of year	**$ 0.8**	$ 0.2	$ 0.6

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

MINNESOTA ENERGY RESOURCES CORPORATION

E. STATEMENTS OF EQUITY

(in millions)	Common Stock	Retained Earnings	Total Common Shareholder's Equity
Balance at December 31, 2018	$ 133.4	$ 129.9	$ 263.3
Net income	—	24.9	24.9
Equity contribution from parent	28.5	—	28.5
Payment of dividends to parent	—	(15.0)	(15.0)
Balance at December 31, 2019	$ 161.9	$ 139.8	$ 301.7
Net income	—	25.3	25.3
Equity contribution from parent	23.0	—	23.0
Payment of dividends to parent	—	(64.0)	(64.0)
Balance at December 31, 2020	$ 184.9	$ 101.1	$ 286.0
Net income	**—**	**21.4**	**21.4**
Equity contribution from parent	**24.0**	**—**	**24.0**
Stock-based compensation and other	**0.1**	**—**	**0.1**
Balance at December 31, 2021	**$ 209.0**	**$ 122.5**	**$ 331.5**

The accompanying Notes to Financial Statements are an integral part of these financial statements.

F. NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
December 31, 2021

NOTE 1—SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

(a) Nature of Operations—As used in these notes, the term “financial statements” includes the income statements, balance sheets, statements of cash flows, and statements of equity, unless otherwise noted. In this report, when we refer to "us," "we," "our," or "ours," we are referring to Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation.

We are primarily a natural gas utility company that distributes, sells, and transports natural gas to customers in Minnesota. We also have non-utility operations related to servicing appliances for customers. We are subject to the jurisdiction of, and regulation by, the MPUC, which has general supervisory and regulatory powers over public utilities in Minnesota. In addition, we are subject to the standards of conduct and affiliate rules of the FERC. We are a wholly owned subsidiary of Integrys, which is wholly owned by WEC Energy Group.

(b) Basis of Presentation—We prepare our financial statements in conformity with GAAP. We make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of assets and liabilities, the disclosure of contingent assets and liabilities at the date of the financial statements, and the reported amounts of revenues and expenses during the reporting period. Actual results may differ from these estimates.

(c) Cash and Cash Equivalents—Cash and cash equivalents include marketable debt securities with an original maturity of three months or less.

(d) Operating Revenues—The following discussion includes our significant accounting policies related to operating revenues. For additional required disclosures on disaggregation of operating revenues, see Note 3, Operating Revenues.

Revenues from Contracts with Customers

Natural Gas Utility Operating Revenues

We recognize natural gas utility operating revenues under requirements contracts with residential, commercial and industrial, and transportation customers served under our tariffs. Tariffs provide our customers with the standard terms and conditions, including rates, related to the services offered. Requirements contracts provide for the delivery of as much natural gas as the customer needs. These requirements contracts represent discrete deliveries of natural gas and constitute a single performance obligation satisfied over time. Our performance obligation is both created and satisfied with the transfer of control of natural gas upon delivery to the customer. For most of our customers, natural gas is delivered and consumed by the customer simultaneously. A performance obligation can be bundled to consist of both the sale and the delivery of the natural gas commodity. Our customers can purchase the commodity from a third party. In this case, the performance obligation only includes the delivery of the natural gas to the customer.

The transaction price of the performance obligations for our natural gas customers is valued using the rates, charges, terms, and conditions of service included in our tariffs, which have been approved by the MPUC. These rates often have a fixed component customer charge and a usage-based variable component charge. We recognize revenue for the fixed component customer charge monthly using a time-based output method. We recognize revenue for the usage-based variable component charge using an output method based on natural gas delivered each month.

Our tariffs include various rate mechanisms that allow us to recover or refund changes in prudently incurred costs from rate case-approved amounts. Our rates include a one-for-one recovery mechanism for natural gas commodity costs. Under normal circumstances, we defer any difference between actual natural gas costs incurred and costs recovered through rates as a current asset or liability. The deferred balance is returned to or recovered from customers at intervals throughout the year. However, as a result of the extreme weather in the Midwest in February 2021, the cost of gas purchased for our natural gas customers was temporarily driven significantly higher than our normal winter weather expectations. See Note 16, Regulatory Environment, for more information on the recovery of these high natural gas costs.

In addition, our rates include riders to recover costs incurred to replace or modify certain natural gas facilities. See Note 16, Regulatory Environment, for more information on the riders.

Consistent with the timing of when we recognize revenue, customer billings generally occur on a monthly basis, with payments typically due in full within 30 days.

Other Non-Utility Operating Revenues

Non-utility operating revenues are derived from servicing appliances for our customers. These contracts customarily have a duration of one year or less and consist of a single performance obligation satisfied over time. We use a time-based output method to recognize revenues monthly for the service fee.

Other Operating Revenues

Alternative Revenues

Alternative revenues are created from programs authorized by the MPUC that allow us to record additional revenues by adjusting rates in the future, usually as a surcharge applied to future billings, in response to past activities or completed events. Alternative revenue programs allow compensation for the effects of weather abnormalities, other external factors, or demand side management initiatives. Alternative revenue programs can also provide incentive awards if we achieve certain objectives and in other limited circumstances. We record alternative revenues when the regulator-specified conditions for recognition have been met. We reverse these alternative revenues as the customer is billed, at which time this revenue is presented as revenues from contracts with customers.

Below is a summary of our alternative revenue programs:

- Our rates include a decoupling mechanism, which allows us to recover or refund the differences between actual and authorized margins for certain customer classes. See Note 16, Regulatory Environment, for more information.
- Our rates include a conservation improvement program rider, which includes a financial incentive for meeting energy savings goals.

(e) Credit Losses—The following discussion includes our significant accounting policies related to credit losses. For additional required disclosures on credit losses, see Note 4, Credit Losses.

Effective January 1, 2020, we adopted FASB ASU 2016-13, Financial Instruments – Credit Losses (Topic 326): Measurement of Credit Losses on Financial Instruments, using the modified retrospective transition method. This ASU amends the impairment model to utilize an expected loss methodology in place of the incurred loss methodology for financial instruments, including trade receivables. The amendment requires entities to consider a broader range of information to estimate expected credit losses, which may result in earlier recognition of loss. The cumulative effect of adopting this standard was not significant to our financial statements.

Our exposure to credit losses is related to our accounts receivable and unbilled revenue balances, which are primarily generated from the sale of natural gas to residential, commercial and industrial, and transportation customers served under our regulated utility tariffs. Accounts receivable and unbilled revenue balances are also generated from non-utility revenues recognized from servicing appliances for customers.

We evaluate the collectability of our accounts receivable and unbilled revenue balances considering a combination of factors. For some of our larger customers and also in circumstances where we become aware of a specific customer's inability to meet its financial obligations to us, we record a specific allowance for credit losses against amounts due in order to reduce the net recognized receivable to the amount we reasonably believe will be collected. For all other customers, we use the accounts receivable aging method to calculate an allowance for credit losses. Using this method, we classify accounts receivable into different aging buckets and calculate a reserve percentage for each aging bucket based upon historical loss rates. The calculated reserve percentages are updated on at least an annual basis, in order to ensure recent macroeconomic, political, and regulatory trends are captured in the calculation, to the extent possible. Risks identified that we do not believe are reflected in the calculated reserve percentages, are assessed on a quarterly basis to determine whether further adjustments are required.

We monitor our ongoing credit exposure through active review of counterparty accounts receivable balances against contract terms and due dates. Our activities include timely account reconciliation, dispute resolution and payment confirmation. To the extent possible, we work with customers with past due balances to negotiate payment plans, but will disconnect customers for non-payment as allowed by the MPUC if necessary, and employ collection agencies and legal counsel to pursue recovery of defaulted receivables. For our larger customers, detailed credit review procedures may be performed in advance of any sales being made. We sometimes require letters of credit, parental guarantees, prepayments or other forms of credit assurance from our larger customers to mitigate credit risk. See Note 16, Regulatory Environment, for information on certain regulatory actions that were and/or are being taken for the purpose of ensuring that essential utility services are available to our customers during the COVID-19 pandemic.

(f) Materials, Supplies, and Inventories—We record substantially all materials, supplies, and natural gas in storage inventories using the weighted-average cost method of accounting.

(g) Regulatory Assets and Liabilities—The economic effects of regulation can result in regulated companies recording costs and revenues that are allowed in the rate-making process in a period different from the period they would have been recognized by a nonregulated company. When this occurs, regulatory assets and regulatory liabilities are recorded on the balance sheet. Regulatory assets represent deferred costs probable of recovery from customers that would have otherwise been charged to expense. Regulatory liabilities represent amounts that are expected to be refunded to customers in future rates or future costs already collected from customers in rates.

The recovery or refund of regulatory assets and liabilities is based on specific periods determined by the MPUC or occurs over the normal operating period of the related assets and liabilities. If a previously recorded regulatory asset is no longer probable of recovery, the regulatory asset is reduced to the amount considered probable of recovery, and the reduction is charged to expense in the current period. See Note 5, Regulatory Assets and Liabilities, for more information.

(h) Property, Plant, and Equipment—We record property, plant, and equipment at cost. Cost includes material, labor, overhead, and capitalized interest. Additions to and significant replacements of property are charged to property, plant, and equipment at cost; minor items are charged to other operation and maintenance expense. The cost of depreciable utility property less salvage value is charged to accumulated depreciation when property is retired.

We record straight-line depreciation expense over the estimated useful life of utility property using depreciation rates approved by the MPUC. Annual utility composite depreciation rates were 2.58%, 2.47%, and 2.33% in 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively.

We capitalize certain costs related to software developed or obtained for internal use and record these costs to amortization expense over the estimated useful life of the related software, which ranges from 5 to 15 years. If software is retired prior to being fully amortized, the difference is recorded as a loss on the income statement.

Third parties reimburse us for all or a portion of expenditures for certain capital projects. Such contributions in aid of construction costs are recorded as a reduction to property, plant, and equipment.

See Note 6, Property, Plant, and Equipment, for more information.

(i) Asset Impairment—Goodwill is subject to an annual impairment test. Interim impairment tests are performed when impairment indicators are present. During the third quarter of each year, we perform an annual goodwill impairment test. The carrying amount of our goodwill is considered not recoverable if the carrying amount of our net assets exceeds our fair value. An impairment loss is recorded for the excess of the carrying amount of the goodwill over its implied fair value. See Note 7, Goodwill, for more information.

We periodically assess the recoverability of certain long-lived assets when factors indicate the carrying value of such assets may be impaired or such assets are planned to be sold. Long-lived assets that would be subject to an impairment assessment generally include any assets within regulated operations that may not be fully recovered from our customers as a result of regulatory decisions that will be made in the future. An impairment loss is recognized when the carrying amount of an asset is not recoverable and exceeds the fair value of the asset. The carrying amount of an asset is not recoverable if it exceeds the sum of the undiscounted cash flows expected to result from the use and eventual disposition of the asset. An impairment loss is measured as the excess of the carrying amount of the asset in comparison to the fair value of the asset.

(j) Stock-Based Compensation—Our employees participate in the WEC Energy Group stock-based compensation plans. In accordance with the WEC Energy Group shareholder approved Omnibus Stock Incentive Plan, WEC Energy Group provides long-term incentives through its equity interests to its non-employee directors, officers, and other key employees. The plan provides for the granting of stock options, restricted stock, performance shares, and other stock-based awards. Awards may be paid in WEC Energy Group common stock, cash, or a combination thereof. In addition to those shares of WEC Energy Group common stock that were subject to awards outstanding as of May 6, 2021, 9.0 million shares of WEC Energy Group common stock are reserved for issuance under the plan. Officers and other key employees are also granted performance units under the WEC Energy Group Performance Unit Plan. All grants of performance units are settled in cash.

Stock-based compensation expense is allocated to us based on the outstanding awards held by our employees and our allocation of labor costs. For the years ended December 31, 2021, 2020, and 2019, we recorded stock-based compensation expense of $0.5 million, $1.1 million, and $1.4 million, respectively.

Stock-based compensation costs capitalized during 2021, 2020, and 2019 were not significant.

(k) Common Equity—We do not have any restrictions imposed on us that affect our ability to pay dividends to the sole holder of our common stock, Integrys. We are prohibited from loaning funds to WEC Energy Group, Integrys, or their other subsidiaries.

(l) Leases— We recognize a right of use asset and lease liability for operating and finance leases with a term of greater than one year. At December 31, 2021 and 2020, we had not recorded any right of use assets and lease liabilities on our balance sheets.

As of March 30, 2022, we have not entered into any material leases that have not yet commenced.

Significant Judgments and Other Information

We are currently party to several easement agreements that allow us access to land we do not own for the purpose of constructing and maintaining certain natural gas equipment. We have not classified our easements as leases because we view the entire parcel of land specified in our easement agreements to be the identified asset, not just that portion of the parcel that contains our easement. As such, we have concluded that we do not control the use of an identified asset related to our easement agreements, nor do we obtain substantially all of the economic benefits associated with these shared-use assets.

(m) Income Taxes—We follow the liability method in accounting for income taxes. Accounting guidance for income taxes requires the recording of deferred assets and liabilities to recognize the expected future tax consequences of events that have been reflected in our financial statements or tax returns and the adjustment of deferred tax balances to reflect tax rate changes. We are required to assess the likelihood that our deferred tax assets would expire before being realized. If we conclude that certain deferred tax assets are likely to expire before being realized, a valuation allowance would be established against those assets. GAAP requires that, if we conclude in a future period that it is more likely than not that some or all of the deferred tax assets would be realized before expiration, we reverse the related valuation allowance in that period. Any change to the allowance, as a result of a change in judgment about the realization of deferred tax assets, is reported in income tax expense.

We are included in WEC Energy Group's consolidated federal and state income tax returns. In accordance with our tax allocation agreement with WEC Energy Group, we are allocated income tax payments and refunds based upon the benefit for loss method, where attributes are realized when WEC Energy Group is able to realize them.

We recognize interest and penalties accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits in income tax expense in our income statements.

See Note 10, Income Taxes, for more information.

(n) Fair Value Measurements—Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date (exit price).

Fair value accounting rules provide a fair value hierarchy that prioritizes the inputs used to measure fair value. The hierarchy gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets or liabilities (Level 1 measurement) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (Level 3 measurement). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are defined as follows:

Level 1 – Quoted prices are available in active markets for identical assets or liabilities as of the reporting date. Active markets are those in which transactions for the asset or liability occur in sufficient frequency and volume to provide pricing information on an ongoing basis.

Level 2 – Pricing inputs are observable, either directly or indirectly, but are not quoted prices included within Level 1. Level 2 includes those financial instruments that are valued using external inputs within models or other valuation methods.

Level 3 – Pricing inputs include significant inputs that are generally less observable from objective sources. These inputs may be used with internally developed methods that result in management's best estimate of fair value. Level 3 instruments include those that may be more structured or otherwise tailored to customers' needs.

Assets and liabilities are classified in their entirety based on the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement. We use a mid-market pricing convention (the mid-point price between bid and ask prices) as a practical measure for valuing certain derivative assets and liabilities. We primarily use a market approach for recurring fair value measurements and attempt to use valuation techniques that maximize the use of observable inputs and minimize the use of unobservable inputs.

When possible, we base the valuations of our derivative assets and liabilities on quoted prices for identical assets and liabilities in active markets. These valuations are classified in Level 1. The valuations of certain contracts not classified as Level 1 may be based on quoted market prices received from counterparties and/or observable inputs for similar instruments. Transactions valued using these inputs are classified in Level 2. Certain derivatives are categorized in Level 3 due to the significance of unobservable or internally-developed inputs.

See Note 11, Fair Value Measurements, for more information.

(o) Derivative Instruments—We use derivatives as part of our risk management program to manage the risks associated with the price volatility of natural gas costs for the benefit of our customers. Our approach is non-speculative and designed to mitigate risk. Our regulated hedging programs are approved by the MPUC.

We record derivative instruments on our balance sheets as an asset or liability measured at fair value unless they qualify for the normal purchases and sales exception, and are so designated. We continually assess our contracts designated as normal and will discontinue the treatment of these contracts as normal if the required criteria are no longer met. Changes in the derivative's fair value are recognized currently in earnings unless specific hedge accounting criteria are met or we receive regulatory treatment for the derivative. For most of our natural gas-related physical and financial contracts that qualify as derivatives, the MPUC allows the effects of fair value accounting to be offset to regulatory assets and liabilities.

We classify derivative assets and liabilities as current or long-term on our balance sheets based on the maturities of the underlying contracts. Cash flows from derivative activities are presented in the same category as the item being hedged within operating activities on our statements of cash flows.

Derivative accounting rules provide the option to present certain asset and liability derivative positions net on the balance sheets and to net the related cash collateral against these net derivative positions. We elected not to net these items. On our balance sheets, cash collateral provided to others is reflected in other current assets, and cash collateral received is reflected in other current liabilities. See Note 12, Derivative Instruments, for more information.

(p) Employee Benefits—The costs of pension and OPEB plans are expensed over the periods during which employees render service. These costs are distributed among WEC Energy Group's subsidiaries based on current employment status and actuarial calculations, as applicable. The MPUC allows recovery in rates for the net periodic benefit cost calculated under GAAP. See Note 13, Employee Benefits, for more information.

(q) Customer Deposits and Credit Balances—When utility customers apply for new service, they may be required to provide a deposit for the service. Customer deposits are recorded within other current liabilities on our balance sheets.

Utility customers can elect to be on a budget plan. Under this type of plan, a monthly installment amount is calculated based on estimated annual usage. During the year, the monthly installment amount is reviewed by comparing it to actual usage. If necessary, an adjustment is made to the monthly amount. Annually, the budget plan is reconciled to actual annual usage. Payments in excess of actual customer usage are presented as customer credit balances on our balance sheets.

(r) Environmental Remediation Costs—We are subject to federal and state environmental laws and regulations that in the future may require us to pay for environmental remediation at sites where we have been, or may be, identified as a potentially responsible party. Loss contingencies may exist for the remediation of hazardous substances at various potential sites, including our manufactured gas plant site. See Note 14, Commitments and Contingencies, for more information.

We record environmental remediation liabilities when site assessments indicate remediation is probable and we can reasonably estimate the loss or a range of losses. The estimate includes both our share of the liability and any additional amounts that will not be paid by other potentially responsible parties or the government. When possible, we estimate costs using site-specific information but also consider historical experience for costs incurred at similar sites. Remediation efforts for a particular site generally extend over a period of several years. During this period, the laws governing the remediation process may change, as well as site conditions, potentially affecting the cost of remediation.

We have received approval to defer certain environmental remediation costs, as well as estimated future costs, through a regulatory asset. The recovery of deferred costs is subject to the MPUC's approval.

We review our estimated costs of remediation annually for our manufactured gas plant site. We adjust the liability and related regulatory asset, as appropriate, to reflect the new cost estimates. Any material changes in cost estimates are adjusted throughout the year.

(s) Customer Concentrations of Credit Risk—The geographic concentration of our customers did not contribute significantly to our overall exposure to credit risk. We periodically review customers' credit ratings, financial statements, and historical payment performance and require them to provide collateral or other security as needed. As a result, we did not have any significant concentrations of credit risk at December 31, 2021. In addition, there were no customers that accounted for more than 10% of our revenues for the year ended December 31, 2021.

(t) Subsequent Events—Subsequent events were evaluated for potential recognition or disclosure through March 30, 2022, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 2—RELATED PARTIES

We routinely enter into transactions with related parties, including WEC Energy Group and its other subsidiaries.

We provide and receive services, property, and other items of value to and from our ultimate parent, WEC Energy Group, and other subsidiaries of WEC Energy Group pursuant to an AIA that became effective in 2017. The AIA was approved by the appropriate regulators, including the MPUC. In accordance with the AIA, WBS provides several categories of services to us (including financial, human resource, and administrative services).

The following table shows activity associated with related party transactions for the years ended December 31:

(in millions)	2021	2020	2019
Transactions with WBS			
Charges to WBS for services and other items [1]	**$ 1.9**	$ 2.5	$ 4.2
Charges from WBS for services and other items [1]	**14.5** [3]	14.0	16.7
Transactions with Parent			
Interest expense on short-term debt [2]	**0.1**	0.1	0.4

[1] Includes amounts charged for services, pass through costs, asset and liability transfers, and other items in accordance with the approved AIA. As required by FERC regulations for centralized service companies, WBS renders services at cost. Services provided by any regulated subsidiary to another regulated subsidiary or WBS are priced at cost.

[2] See Note 8, Short-Term Debt To Parent, for additional information on our short-term borrowings from Integrys.

(3) Includes $1.6 million for the transfer of certain software assets to us.

NOTE 3—OPERATING REVENUES

For more information about our significant accounting policies related to operating revenues, see Note 1(d), Operating Revenues.

Disaggregation of Operating Revenues

The following tables present our operating revenues disaggregated by revenue source. We disaggregate revenues into categories that depict how the nature, amount, timing, and uncertainty of revenues and cash flows are affected by economic factors. Natural gas revenues are further disaggregated by customer class. Each customer class has different expectations of service, natural gas and demand requirements, and can be impacted differently by regulatory activities within Minnesota.

	Year Ended December 31		
(in millions)	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
Minnesota Energy Resources Corporation			
Natural gas utility revenues	**$ 343.5**	$ 233.8	$ 267.9
Other non-utility revenues [1]	**17.8**	17.1	16.6
Total revenues from contracts with customers	**361.3**	250.9	284.5
Other operating revenues	**5.8**	5.0	(3.0)
Total operating revenues	**$ 367.1**	$ 255.9	$ 281.5

(1) Other non-utility revenues consist primarily of appliance service revenues.

Revenues from Contracts with Customers

Natural Gas Utility Operating Revenues

The following table disaggregates natural gas utility operating revenues into customer class:

	Year Ended December 31		
(in millions)	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
Residential	**$ 154.9**	$ 144.2	$ 171.8
Commercial and industrial	**96.9**	85.5	113.3
Total retail revenues	**251.8**	229.7	285.1
Transportation	**11.5**	10.5	12.0
Other utility revenues [1]	**80.2**	(6.4)	(29.2)
Total natural gas utility operating revenues	**$ 343.5**	$ 233.8	$ 267.9

(1) Includes the revenues subject to our purchased gas recovery mechanism. The amounts for 2021 reflect the higher natural gas costs that were incurred as a result of the extreme winter weather conditions in February 2021. As these amounts are billed to customers, they are reflected in retail revenues with an offsetting decrease in other utility revenues. See Note 16, Regulatory Environment, for more information. In addition to costs related to the extreme weather event, we incurred higher natural gas costs throughout 2021, compared with 2020, as a result of an increase in the price of natural gas.

Other Operating Revenues

Other operating revenues consist primarily of the following:

	Year Ended December 31		
(in millions)	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
Alternative revenues [1]	**$ 5.6**	$ 4.2	$ (4.0)
Late payment charges	**0.2**	0.8	1.0
Total other operating revenues	**$ 5.8**	$ 5.0	$ (3.0)

(1) Negative amounts can result from alternative revenues being reversed to revenues from contracts with customers as the customer is billed for these alternative revenues. Negative amounts can also result from revenues to be refunded to customers subject to decoupling mechanisms and conservation improvement rider true-ups, as discussed in Note 1(d), Operating Revenues.

NOTE 4—CREDIT LOSSES

The table below shows our gross third-party receivable balances and related allowance for credit losses.

(in millions)	December 31, 2021	December 31, 2020
Accounts receivable and unbilled revenues	**$ 69.7**	$ 49.2
Allowance for credit losses	**4.1**	3.5
Accounts receivable and unbilled revenues, net	**$ 65.6**	$ 45.7
Total accounts receivable, net – past due greater than 90 days	**$ 1.4**	$ 1.7

A rollforward of the allowance for credit losses is included below:

	Year Ended December 31	
(in millions)	2021	2020
Balance at December 31	$ 3.5	$ 2.5
Provision for credit losses	**1.2**	2.0
Write-offs charged against the allowance	**(1.3)**	(1.8)
Recoveries of amounts previously written off	**0.7**	0.8
Balance at December 31	**$ 4.1**	$ 3.5

The increase in the allowance for credit losses at December 31, 2021, compared to December 31, 2020, was driven by an increase in gross accounts receivable balances associated with higher year-over-year natural gas prices. Higher past due accounts receivable balances related to the COVID-19 pandemic also contributed to the increase in our allowance for credit losses, although we did begin to see improvement in our past due accounts receivable balances during the second half of the year as we were allowed to resume disconnections for certain residential customers in August 2021. See Note 16, Regulatory Environment, for more information.

The increase in the allowance for credit losses at December 31, 2020, compared to December 31, 2019, was driven by higher past due accounts receivable balances, primarily related to our residential customers. This increase in accounts receivable balances in arrears was driven by economic disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, including higher unemployment rates. Also, as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic and related regulatory orders we received, we did not disconnect any of our residential customers during the year ended December 31, 2020.

NOTE 5—REGULATORY ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

The following regulatory assets were reflected on our balance sheets as of December 31:

(in millions)	2021	2020	See Note
Regulatory assets (1) (2)			
Extraordinary natural gas costs (3)	**$ 59.7**	$ —	16
Pension and OPEB costs (4)	**11.7**	16.0	13
Decoupling	**3.6**	—	1(d)
Environmental remediation costs (5)	**2.5**	3.8	14
Derivatives	**2.0**	2.5	1(o)
Energy efficiency program (6)	**1.1**	1.2	
Other, net	**0.2**	4.4	
Total regulatory assets	**$ 80.8**	$ 27.9	
Balance sheet presentation			
Other current assets	**$ 1.1**	$ 1.2	
Regulatory assets	**79.7**	26.7	
Total regulatory assets	**$ 80.8**	$ 27.9	

(1) Based on prior and current rate treatment, we believe it is probable that we will continue to recover from customers the regulatory assets in this table.

(2) As of December 31, 2021, we had $68.9 million of regulatory assets not earning a return. The regulatory assets not earning a return primarily relate to the extraordinary natural gas costs, decoupling, certain environmental remediation costs and our energy efficiency program. The other regulatory assets in the table either earn a return at our weighted average cost of capital or the cash has not yet been expended, in which case the regulatory assets are offset by liabilities.

(3) Represents the extraordinary natural gas costs we incurred during February 2021 that are being recovered over 27 months, beginning in September 2021. See Note 16, Regulatory Environment, for more information on our recovery efforts associated with these costs.

(4) Primarily represents the unrecognized future pension and OPEB costs related to our defined benefit pension and OPEB plans. We are authorized recovery of these regulatory assets over the average remaining service life of each plan.

(5) As of December 31, 2021, we had made cash expenditures of $2.1 million related to these environmental remediation costs. The remaining $0.4 million represents our estimated future cash expenditures.

(6) Represents amounts recoverable from customers related to a program designed to meet energy efficiency standards.

The following regulatory liabilities were reflected on our balance sheets as of December 31:

(in millions)	2021	2020	See Note
Regulatory liabilities			
Removal costs [1]	**$ 49.3**	$ 46.5	
Income tax related items	**35.8**	36.9	10
Property tax	**7.3**	5.0	16
Natural gas costs refundable through rate adjustments	**2.3**	24.1	1(d)
Derivatives	**1.3**	0.7	1(o)
Decoupling	**—**	2.0	1(d)
Other, net	**3.9**	3.7	
Total regulatory liabilities	**$ 99.9**	$ 118.9	
Balance sheet presentation			
Amounts refundable to customers	**$ 3.0**	$ 25.1	
Regulatory liabilities	**96.9**	93.8	
Total regulatory liabilities	**$ 99.9**	$ 118.9	

(1) Represents amounts collected from customers to cover the future cost of property, plant, and equipment removals that are not legally required.

NOTE 6—PROPERTY, PLANT, AND EQUIPMENT

Property, plant, and equipment consisted of the following utility assets at December 31:

(in millions)	2021	2020
Natural gas – distribution, storage, and transmission	**$ 689.8**	$ 638.2
Other utility property, plant, and equipment	**86.7**	77.9
Less: Accumulated depreciation	**186.2**	174.8
Net	**590.3**	541.3
Construction work in progress	**6.8**	14.8
Total property, plant, and equipment	**$ 597.1**	$ 556.1

NOTE 7—GOODWILL

Goodwill represents the excess of the cost of an acquisition over the fair value of the identifiable net assets acquired. We had no changes to the carrying amount of goodwill during the years ended December 31, 2021 and 2020.

(in millions)	Gross Carrying Amount	Accumulated Impairment Losses	Net Carrying Amount
Goodwill	**$ 144.3**	**$ (16.6)**	**$ 127.7**

We completed our annual goodwill impairment test as of July 1, 2021. No impairment resulted from this test.

NOTE 8—SHORT-TERM DEBT TO PARENT

The following table shows our short-term borrowings and their corresponding weighted-average interest rates as of December 31:

(in millions, except for percentages)	2021	2020
Short-term debt to parent:		
Amount outstanding at December 31	**$ 51.5**	$ 38.2
Weighted-average interest rate on amounts outstanding at December 31	**0.35%**	0.25%

Our average amount of short-term borrowings based on daily outstanding balances during 2021, was $56.4 million with a weighted-average interest rate during the period of 0.20%.

(in millions)	December 31, 2021
Revolving short-term notes payable to parent	**$ 100.0**
Less:	
Short-term debt to parent outstanding	**51.5**
Available capacity under existing agreement	**$ 48.5**

Our short-term borrowing capacity with Integrys is $100.0 million. Short-term borrowings bear interest computed at the average stated interest rate payable on commercial paper issued by WEC Energy Group. Short-term debt is callable by Integrys at any time.

NOTE 9—LONG-TERM DEBT

The following table is a summary of our long-term debt outstanding as of December 31:

(in millions)			2021	2020
Long-term debt	**Interest Rate**	**Year Due**		
Senior Notes (unsecured)	2.69%	2025	**50.0**	50.0
	3.11%	2027	**40.0**	40.0
	2.07%	2028	**40.0**	—
	3.41%	2032	**40.0**	40.0
	4.01%	2047	**40.0**	40.0
Total			**210.0**	170.0
Unamortized debt issuance costs			**(1.2)**	(1.0)
Total long-term debt			**$ 208.8**	$ 169.0

We amortize debt premiums, discounts, and debt issuance costs over the life of the debt using the straight-line method and we include the costs in interest expense.

In November 2021, we issued $40.0 million of 2.07% Senior Notes due December 1, 2028, and used the net proceeds to repay intercompany short-term debt to our parent, Integrys, and for other general corporate purposes.

Maturities of Long-Term Debt Outstanding

The following table shows the future maturities of our long-term debt outstanding as of December 31, 2021:

(in millions)	Payments
2022	$ —
2023	—
2024	—
2025	50.0
2026	—
Thereafter	160.0
Total	$ 210.0

Our long-term debt obligations contain covenants related to payment of principal and interest when due and various other obligations. Failure to comply with these covenants could result in an event of default, which could result in the acceleration of outstanding debt obligations. As of December 31, 2021, we were in compliance with our covenants related to our long-term debt obligations.

NOTE 10—INCOME TAXES

Income Tax Expense

The following table is a summary of income tax expense for each of the years ended December 31:

(in millions)	2021	2020	2019
Current tax benefit	**$ (16.5)**	$ (9.4)	$ (3.4)
Deferred income taxes, net	**24.3**	18.8	12.6
Total income tax expense	**$ 7.8**	$ 9.4	$ 9.2

Statutory Rate Reconciliation

The provision for income taxes for each of the years ended December 31 differs from the amount of income tax determined by applying the applicable United States statutory federal income tax rate to income before income taxes as a result of the following:

	2021		2020		2019	
(in millions)	Amount	Effective Tax Rate	Amount	Effective Tax Rate	Amount	Effective Tax Rate
Statutory federal income tax	**$ 6.1**	**21.0 %**	$ 7.3	21.0 %	$ 7.2	21.0 %
State income taxes net of federal tax benefit	**2.3**	**7.9 %**	2.8	7.9 %	2.7	7.9 %
Federal excess deferred tax amortization [(1)]	**(0.7)**	**(2.5)%**	(0.8)	(2.2)%	(0.8)	(2.2)%
Other, net	**0.1**	**0.3 %**	0.1	0.4 %	0.1	0.3 %
Total income tax expense	**$ 7.8**	**26.7 %**	$ 9.4	27.1 %	$ 9.2	27.0 %

(1) The Tax Legislation required us to remeasure our deferred income taxes and we began to amortize the resulting excess protected deferred income taxes beginning in 2018 in accordance with normalization requirements. The decrease in income tax expense related to the amortization of the deferred tax benefits is offset by a decrease in revenue as the benefits are returned to customers, resulting in no impact on net income.

Deferred Income Tax Assets and Liabilities

The components of deferred income taxes at December 31 were as follows:

(in millions)	2021	2020
Deferred tax assets		
Tax gross up – regulatory items	**$ 10.1**	$ 10.4
Other	**3.5**	4.1
Total deferred tax assets	**$ 13.6**	$ 14.5
Deferred tax liabilities		
Property-related	**$ 126.1**	$ 116.9
Regulatory deferrals	**16.9**	—
Employee benefits and compensation	**4.3**	5.6
Other	**1.0**	1.3
Total deferred tax liabilities	**148.3**	123.8
Deferred tax liability, net	**$ 134.7**	$ 109.3

Consistent with rate-making treatment, deferred taxes in the table above are offset for temporary differences that have related regulatory assets and liabilities.

At December 31, 2021 and 2020, we had no significant federal or state deferred tax assets related to tax benefit carryforwards.

Unrecognized Tax Benefits

We had no unrecognized tax benefits at December 31, 2021 and 2020.

We do not expect any unrecognized tax benefits to affect our effective tax rate in periods after December 31, 2021.

For the years ended December 31, 2021, 2020, and 2019, we recognized no interest expense or penalties related to unrecognized tax benefits in our income statements. At December 31, 2021 and 2020, we had no interest accrued and no penalties accrued related to unrecognized tax benefits on our balance sheets.

We do not anticipate any significant increases in the total amounts of unrecognized tax benefits within the next 12 months.

Our primary tax jurisdictions include federal and the state of Minnesota. With a few exceptions, we are no longer subject to federal income tax examinations by the United States Internal Revenue Service for years prior to 2018. At December 31, 2021, we were subject to examination by the Minnesota taxing authority for tax years 2017 through 2021.

NOTE 11—FAIR VALUE MEASUREMENTS

The following tables summarize our financial assets and liabilities that were accounted for at fair value on a recurring basis, categorized by level within the fair value hierarchy:

	December 31, 2021			
(in millions)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Natural gas contracts				
Derivative assets	**$ 0.2**	**$ 1.0**	**$ —**	**$ 1.2**
Derivative liabilities	**0.6**	**0.7**	**—**	**1.3**

	December 31, 2020			
(in millions)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Natural gas contracts				
Derivative assets	$ —	$ 0.7	$ —	$ 0.7
Derivative liabilities	0.5	1.2	—	1.7

The derivative assets and liabilities listed in the tables above include options, futures, and physical commodity contracts used to manage market risks related to changes in natural gas supply costs.

NOTE 12—DERIVATIVE INSTRUMENTS

None of our derivatives are designated as hedging instruments. Derivative assets and liabilities are included in the other current line items on our balance sheets. The following table shows our derivative assets and derivative liabilities.

	December 31, 2021		December 31, 2020	
(in millions)	Derivative Assets	Derivative Liabilities	Derivative Assets	Derivative Liabilities
Natural gas contracts - current	**$ 1.2**	**$ 1.3**	$ 0.7	$ 1.7

Realized gains (losses) on derivatives are primarily recorded in cost of sales on our income statements. Our estimated notional sales volumes and realized gains (losses) were as follows for the years ended:

	December 31, 2021		December 31, 2020		December 31, 2019	
(in millions)	Volumes	Gains	Volumes	Losses	Volumes	Losses
Natural gas contracts	**7.8 Dth**	**$ 1.3**	7.0 Dth	$ (1.5)	7.0 Dth	$ (0.3)

At December 31, 2021 and 2020, we had posted cash collateral of $1.1 million and $1.0 million, respectively. We had also received cash collateral of $2.9 million at December 31, 2021.

The following table shows derivative assets and derivative liabilities if derivative instruments by counterparty were presented net on our balance sheets:

	December 31, 2021		December 31, 2020	
(in millions)	Derivative Assets	Derivative Liabilities	Derivative Assets	Derivative Liabilities
Gross amount recognized on the balance sheet	**$ 1.2**	**$ 1.3**	$ 0.7	$ 1.7
Gross amount not offset on the balance sheet	**(0.5)**	**(0.9)** [1]	—	(0.5) [2]
Net amount	**$ 0.7**	**$ 0.4**	$ 0.7	$ 1.2

[1] Includes cash collateral posted of $0.4 million.

[2] Includes cash collateral posted of $0.5 million.

NOTE 13—EMPLOYEE BENEFITS

Pension and Other Postretirement Employee Benefits

We have our own noncontributory, qualified pension plan. We also have our own unfunded, non-qualified retirement plan. In addition, we maintain an unfunded, non-qualified Supplemental Employee Retirement Plan.

We offer OPEB plans to employees, which are sponsored by Wisconsin Public Service Corporation. We are responsible for our share of the plan assets and obligations for all of these plans. Our balance sheets reflect only the liabilities associated with our past and current employees and our share of the plan assets. WEC Energy Group also offers medical, dental, and life insurance benefits to our active employees and their dependents. We expense the allocated costs of these benefits as incurred.

The defined benefit pension plan is closed to all new hires. In addition, the service accruals for the defined benefit pension plan were frozen for non-union employees as of January 1, 2013. These employees receive an annual company contribution to their 401(k) savings plan, which is calculated based on age, wages, and full years of vesting service as of December 31 each year.

We use a year-end measurement date to measure the funded status of all of the pension and OPEB plans. Due to the regulated nature of our business, we have concluded that substantially all of the unrecognized costs resulting from the recognition of the funded status of our pension and OPEB plans qualify as a regulatory asset.

The following table shows information relating to our share of the plans' benefit obligations and fair value of assets. Amounts presented are as of December 31:

	Pension Benefits		OPEB Benefits	
(in millions)	**2021**	**2020**	**2021**	**2020**
Benefit obligation	**$ 42.6**	$ 45.7	**$ 4.9**	$ 4.9
Fair value of plan assets	**55.8**	54.4	**2.8**	3.0
Funded status	**$ 13.2**	$ 8.7	**$ (2.1)**	$ (1.9)

The amount of contributions and benefit payments for the years ended December 31 were as follows:

	Pension Benefits		OPEB Benefits	
(in millions)	**2021**	**2020**	**2021**	**2020**
Employer contributions	**$ —**	$ —	**$ 0.1**	$ 0.1
Participant contributions	**—**	—	**0.1**	0.2
Benefit payments	**(2.6)**	(2.1)	**(0.6)**	(0.5)

In 2021 we had actuarial gains related to our pension benefit obligations of $1.9 million and in 2020 we had actuarial losses of $4.2 million, both of which were primarily driven by changes in our discount rates. The discount rate for our pension benefits was 3.00%, 2.70%, and 3.40%, in 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively.

The actuarial losses related to our OPEB benefit obligations were not significant for 2021 or 2020.

The amounts recognized on our balance sheets at December 31 related to the funded status of the benefit plans were as follows:

	Pension Benefits		OPEB Benefits	
(in millions)	**2021**	**2020**	**2021**	**2020**
Other long-term assets	**$ 13.3**	$ 8.8	**$ —**	$ —
Other long-term liabilities	**0.1**	0.1	**2.1**	1.9
Total net assets (liabilities)	**$ 13.2**	$ 8.7	**$ (2.1)**	$ (1.9)

The accumulated benefit obligation for the qualified pension plans was $42.1 million and $45.1 million at December 31, 2021 and 2020, respectively.

The following table shows information for pension plans with an accumulated benefit obligation in excess of plan assets. There were no plan assets related to these pension plans. Amounts presented are as of December 31:

(in millions)	**2021**	**2020**
Accumulated benefit obligation	**$ 0.1**	$ 0.1

The following table shows information for pension plans with a projected benefit obligation in excess of plan assets. There were no plan assets related to these pension plans. Amounts presented are as of December 31:

(in millions)	**2021**	**2020**
Projected benefit obligation	**$ 0.1**	$ 0.1

The following table shows information for OPEB plans with an accumulated benefit obligation in excess of plan assets. Amounts presented are as of December 31:

(in millions)	**2021**	**2020**
Accumulated benefit obligation	**$ 4.9**	$ 4.9
Fair value of plan assets	**2.8**	3.0

The following table shows the amounts that had not yet been recognized in our net periodic benefit cost as of December 31:

	Pension Benefits		OPEB Benefits	
(in millions)	2021	2020	2021	2020
Net regulatory assets				
Net actuarial loss	**$ 9.4**	$ 13.4	**$ 1.6**	$ 1.8
Prior service credits	**—**	—	**(0.4)**	(0.5)
Total	**$ 9.4**	$ 13.4	**$ 1.2**	$ 1.3

The amount of net periodic benefit cost (credit) recognized (including amounts capitalized to our balance sheets) for the years ended December 31 was as follows:

	Pension Benefits			OPEB Benefits		
(in millions)	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
Net periodic benefit cost (credit)	**$ (0.6)**	$ (0.3)	$ (0.2)	**$ 0.3**	$ 0.3	$ 0.5

The weighted-average assumptions used to determine benefit obligations for the plans were as follows for the years ended December 31:

	Pension Benefits		OPEB Benefits	
	2021	2020	2021	2020
Discount rate	**3.00%**	2.70%	**2.80%**	2.39%
Rate of compensation increase	**4.00%**	4.00%	**N/A**	N/A
Assumed medical cost trend rate (Pre 65)	**N/A**	N/A	**5.70%**	5.85%
Ultimate trend rate (Pre 65)	**N/A**	N/A	**5.00%**	5.00%
Year ultimate trend rate is reached (Pre 65)	**N/A**	N/A	**2028**	2028
Assumed medical cost trend rate (Post 65)	**N/A**	N/A	**5.60%**	5.70%
Ultimate trend rate (Post 65)	**N/A**	N/A	**5.00%**	5.00%
Year ultimate trend rate is reached (Post 65)	**N/A**	N/A	**2028**	2028

The weighted-average assumptions used to determine net periodic benefit cost for the plans were as follows for the years ended December 31:

	Pension Benefits			OPEB Benefits		
	2021	2020	2019	2021	2020	2019
Discount rate	**2.70%**	3.40%	4.25%	**2.44%**	3.27%	4.15%
Expected return on assets	**7.00%**	7.00%	7.25%	**7.00%**	7.00%	7.25%
Rate of compensation increase	**4.00%**	4.00%	4.00%	**N/A**	N/A	N/A
Assumed medical cost trend rate (Pre 65)	**N/A**	N/A	N/A	**5.85%**	6.00%	6.25%
Ultimate trend rate (Pre 65)	**N/A**	N/A	N/A	**5.00%**	5.00%	5.00%
Year ultimate trend rate is reached (Pre 65)	**N/A**	N/A	N/A	**2028**	2028	2024
Assumed medical cost trend rate (Post 65)	**N/A**	N/A	N/A	**5.70%**	5.80%	5.90%
Ultimate trend rate (Post 65)	**N/A**	N/A	N/A	**5.00%**	5.00%	5.00%
Year ultimate trend rate is reached (Post 65)	**N/A**	N/A	N/A	**2028**	2028	2028

WEC Energy Group consults with its investment advisors on an annual basis to help forecast expected long-term returns on plan assets by reviewing historical returns as well as calculating expected total trust returns using the weighted-average of long-term market returns for each of the major target asset categories utilized in the fund. For 2022, the expected return on assets assumption for the pension and OPEB plans is 7.00%.

Plan Assets

Current pension trust assets and amounts which are expected to be contributed to the trusts in the future are expected to be adequate to meet pension payment obligations to current and future retirees.

The Investment Trust Policy Committee oversees investment matters related to all of our funded benefit plans. The Committee works with external actuaries and investment consultants on an on-going basis to establish and monitor investment strategies and

target asset allocations. Forecasted cash flows for plan liabilities are regularly updated based on annual valuation results. Target allocations are determined using projected benefit payment cash flows and risk analyses of appropriate investments. They are intended to reduce risk, provide long-term financial stability for the plans and maintain funded levels which meet long-term plan obligations while preserving sufficient liquidity for near-term benefit payments.

Our pension trust target asset allocations are 45% equity investments, 45% fixed income investments, and 10% private equity and real estate investments. The OPEB trust has target asset allocations of 45% equity investments and 55% fixed income investments. Equity securities include investments in large-cap, mid-cap, and small-cap companies. Fixed income securities include corporate bonds of companies from diversified industries, mortgage and other asset backed securities, commercial paper, and United States Treasuries.

Pension and OPEB plan investments are recorded at fair value. See Note 1(n), Fair Value Measurements, for more information regarding the fair value hierarchy and the classification of fair value measurements based on the types of inputs used.

The following tables provide the fair values of our investments by asset class:

	December 31, 2021							
	Pension Plan Assets				OPEB Plan Assets			
(in millions)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Asset class								
Equity securities:								
United States equity	**$ 8.0**	**$ —**	**$ —**	**$ 8.0**	**$ 0.4**	**$ —**	**$ —**	**$ 0.4**
International equity	**6.2**	**—**	**—**	**6.2**	**0.3**	**—**	**—**	**0.3**
Fixed income securities: [1]								
United States bonds	**—**	**10.7**	**—**	**10.7**	**0.1**	**0.5**	**—**	**0.6**
International bonds	**—**	**1.8**	**—**	**1.8**	**—**	**0.1**	**—**	**0.1**
	$ 14.2	**$ 12.5**	**$ —**	**$ 26.7**	**$ 0.8**	**$ 0.6**	**$ —**	**$ 1.4**
Investments measured at net asset value				**$ 29.1**				**$ 1.4**
Total	**$ 14.2**	**$ 12.5**	**$ —**	**$ 55.8**	**$ 0.8**	**$ 0.6**	**$ —**	**$ 2.8**

[1] This category represents investment grade bonds of United States and foreign issuers denominated in United States dollars from diverse industries.

	December 31, 2020							
	Pension Plan Assets				OPEB Plan Assets			
(in millions)	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Total
Asset class								
Equity securities:								
United States equity	$ 8.3	$ —	$ —	$ 8.3	$ 0.4	$ —	$ —	$ 0.4
International equity	6.5	—	—	6.5	0.4	—	—	0.4
Fixed income securities: [1]								
United States bonds	—	11.1	—	11.1	0.1	0.6	—	0.7
International bonds	—	1.8	—	1.8	—	0.1		0.1
	$ 14.8	$ 12.9	$ —	$ 27.7	$ 0.9	$ 0.7	$ —	$ 1.6
Investments measured at net asset value				$ 26.7				$ 1.4
Total	$ 14.8	$ 12.9	$ —	$ 54.4	$ 0.9	$ 0.7	$ —	$ 3.0

[1] This category represents investment grade bonds of United States and foreign issuers denominated in United States dollars from diverse industries.

Cash Flows

We expect to contribute $0.1 million to the OPEB plans in 2022, dependent upon various factors affecting us, including our liquidity position and possible tax law changes. We do not expect to make any contributions to the pension plans in 2022.

The following table shows the payments, reflecting expected future service, that we expect to make for pension and OPEB over the next 10 years:

(in millions)	Pension Benefits	OPEB Benefits
2022	$ 2.6	$ 0.4
2023	2.9	0.4
2024	2.7	0.4
2025	2.8	0.4
2026	2.6	0.4
2027-2031	13.0	2.2

Savings Plans

WEC Energy Group sponsors 401(k) savings plans that allow substantially all of our full-time employees to contribute a portion of their pre-tax and/or after-tax income in accordance with plan-specified guidelines. A percentage of employee contributions are matched by us through a contribution into the employee's savings plan account, up to certain limits. The 401(k) savings plan includes an Employee Stock Ownership Plan. Certain employees receive an employer retirement contribution, which amounts are contributed to an employee's savings plan account based on the employee's wages, age, and years of service. Total costs incurred under all of these plans were $1.9 million, $1.8 million, and $1.9 million in 2021, 2020, and 2019, respectively.

NOTE 14—COMMITMENTS AND CONTINGENCIES

We have significant commitments and contingencies arising from our operations, including those related to unconditional purchase obligations, environmental matters, and enforcement and litigation matters.

Unconditional Purchase Obligations

We have obligations to distribute and sell natural gas to our customers and expect to recover costs related to these obligations in future customer rates. In order to meet these obligations, we routinely enter into long-term purchase and sale commitments for various quantities and lengths of time.

The following table shows our minimum future commitments related to these purchase obligations as of December 31, 2021.

			Payments Due By Period					
(in millions)	Date Contracts Extend Through	Total Amounts Committed	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	Later Years
Natural gas supply and transportation	2043	$ 422.7	$ 51.3	$ 33.0	$ 32.2	$ 32.2	$ 24.3	$ 249.7

Environmental Matters

Consistent with other companies in the natural gas utility industry, we face significant ongoing environmental compliance and remediation obligations related to current and past operations. Specific environmental issues affecting us include, but are not limited to, current and future regulation of GHG emissions and remediation of impacted properties, including former manufactured gas plant sites.

We have continued to pursue a proactive strategy to manage our environmental compliance obligations, including:

- the protection of wetlands and waterways, biodiversity including threatened and endangered species, and cultural resources associated with utility construction projects;
- the remediation of former manufactured gas plant sites;
- the reduction of methane emissions across our natural gas distribution system by upgrading infrastructure; and
- the reporting of GHG emissions to comply with federal clean air rules.

Air Quality

Climate Change

WEC Energy Group continues to reduce methane emissions by improving its natural gas distribution system. WEC Energy Group set a target across its natural gas distribution operations to achieve net-zero methane emissions by 2030. WEC Energy Group plans to achieve its net-zero goal through an effort that includes both continuous operational improvements and equipment upgrades, as well as the use of renewable natural gas throughout its utility systems.

We are required to report our CO_2 equivalent emissions related to the natural gas that we distribute and sell under the EPA Greenhouse Gases Reporting Program. Based upon our preliminary analysis of the data, we estimate that we will report CO_2 equivalent emissions of approximately 2.2 million metric tonnes to the EPA for 2021.

Water Quality

Waters of the United States

In December 2021, the EPA and the United States Army Corps of Engineers together released a proposed rule to repeal the April 2020 Navigable Waters Protection Rule that defined WOTUS. The purpose of this proposed rule will be to restore regulations defining WOTUS that were in place prior to 2015 and to update certain provisions to be consistent with relevant Supreme Court decisions. The pre-2015 approach involves applying factors established through case law and agency precedents to determine whether a wetland or surface drainage feature is subject to federal jurisdiction. In January 2022, the Supreme Court granted certiorari in a case to evaluate the proper test for determining whether wetlands are WOTUS. At this point, our projects requiring federal permits are moving ahead, but we are monitoring to better understand potential future impacts.

Land Quality

Manufactured Gas Plant Remediation

We have identified a site at which a predecessor company owned or operated a manufactured gas plant or stored manufactured gas. We are responsible for the environmental remediation of this site. We are also working with the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency on our investigation, monitoring, and remediation.

The future costs for detailed site investigation, future remediation, and monitoring are dependent upon several variables including, among other things, the extent of remediation, changes in technology, and changes in regulation. Historically, the MPUC has allowed us to recover incurred costs, net of insurance recoveries and recoveries from potentially responsible parties, associated with the remediation of manufactured gas plant sites. Accordingly, we have established a regulatory asset for costs associated with this site.

We have established the following regulatory asset and reserve for our manufactured gas plant site as of December 31:

(in millions)	2021	2020
Regulatory asset	**$ 2.5**	$ 3.8
Reserve for future environmental remediation [(1)]	**0.4**	0.5

[(1)] The reserve for future remediation is included in other long-term liabilities on our balance sheets.

Enforcement and Litigation Matters

We are involved in legal and administrative proceedings before various courts and agencies with respect to matters arising in the ordinary course of business. Although we are unable to predict the outcome of these matters, management believes that appropriate reserves have been established and that final settlement of these actions will not have a material impact on our financial condition or results of operations.

NOTE 15—SUPPLEMENTAL CASH FLOW INFORMATION

	Year Ended December 31		
(in millions)	**2021**	**2020**	**2019**
Cash paid for interest	**$ 5.9**	$ 5.2	$ 4.8
Cash received for income taxes, net	**(28.8)**	(1.8)	(1.7)
Significant non-cash investing and financing transactions:			
Accounts payable related to construction costs	**0.8**	2.1	1.8

NOTE 16—REGULATORY ENVIRONMENT

Recovery of Natural Gas Costs

Due to the cold temperatures, wind, snow, and ice throughout the central part of the country during February 2021, the cost of gas purchased for our natural gas utility customers was temporarily driven significantly higher than our normal winter weather expectations. We have a regulatory mechanism in place for recovering all prudently incurred gas costs.

In February 2021, we incurred approximately $75 million of natural gas costs in excess of the benchmark set in our gas cost recovery mechanism. In July 2021, we, along with four other Minnesota utilities, filed a joint proposal with the MPUC to recover our respective excess natural gas costs. Under the proposal, we will recover $10 million of these costs through our annual natural gas true-up process over a period of 12 months, and the remaining $65 million over 27 months, both beginning in September 2021. In August 2021, the MPUC issued a written order approving this proposal; however, recovery of these costs and the issue of prudence has been referred to a contested-case proceeding. As a result of the proceeding, the MPUC could disallow recovery or order the refund of any costs determined to be imprudent. A decision regarding this review is expected in August 2022.

Coronavirus Disease – 2019

The global outbreak of COVID-19 was declared a pandemic by the World Health Organization and the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. COVID-19 has spread globally, including throughout the United States and, in turn, our service territory. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, Minnesota declared a peacetime emergency and issued a shelter-in-place order, which has since expired.

In May 2020, the MPUC issued a written order authorizing Minnesota utilities, including us, to track and defer COVID-19 related expenses and certain foregone revenues. The MPUC will review the recoverability and examine the prudency of any deferred amounts in future rate proceedings. As of December 31, 2021, our deferrals related to the COVID-19 pandemic were not significant.

In June 2020, the MPUC verbally ordered Minnesota utilities to temporarily suspend disconnections and waive reconnection fees, service deposits, late fees, interest, and penalties for all residential customers. In addition, utilities were required to immediately reconnect residential customers that were previously disconnected. In August 2020, the MPUC issued a written order affirming these temporary provisions. Prior to the June 2020 verbal order issued by the MPUC, we had voluntarily taken actions to ensure our customers continued to receive utility services during the pandemic. These actions included, but were not limited to, temporarily suspending disconnections and waiving late payment fees for residential and small commercial and industrial customers that entered into payment plans.

In March 2021, the MPUC issued an order requiring Minnesota utilities to file a transition plan to resume collections and disconnections upon the earlier of the Executive Secretary finding the transition plan was complete, or 90 days following the expiration of Minnesota's declared peacetime emergency. We filed our transition plan in April 2021, and it was subsequently deemed complete by the Executive Secretary. In accordance with the transition plan, we resumed disconnections on August 2, 2021. We will not disconnect residential customers with past due balances if the customer has a pending application or has been deemed eligible for a financial assistance program. In addition, we will continue to offer flexible deferred payment arrangements to residential customers. For customers who enter, or are complying with, a payment arrangement, we will not impose any service deposits, down payments, interest, late payment fees, or reconnections fees through April 30, 2022.

2018 Rate Order

In October 2017, we initiated a rate proceeding with the MPUC. In December 2018, the MPUC issued a final written order authorizing a retail natural gas rate increase of $3.1 million (1.26%). The rates reflect a 9.7% return on equity and a common equity

component average of 50.9%. The final rates were implemented on July 1, 2019. The final approved rate increase was lower than the interim rates collected from customers during 2018 and through June 30, 2019. Therefore, we refunded $8.2 million to our customers during the second half of 2019.

The final order addressed the various impacts of the Tax Legislation, including the remeasurement of deferred tax balances. All of the impacts from the Tax Legislation have been included in base rates. The order also approved the continued use of our decoupling mechanism for residential customers. Effective January 1, 2019, our small commercial and industrial customers are no longer included in our decoupling mechanism. In addition, our request for a property tax tracker was approved. Our property tax tracker recovers or refunds the difference between our actual property tax expense and the amounts included in rates retroactive to January 1, 2008.

Gas Utility Infrastructure Cost Rider

In April 2018, we filed an application with the MPUC to establish a rider to recover GUIC. Minnesota law allows recovery of GUIC incurred to replace or modify natural gas facilities (including costs incurred for surveys, assessments, and other work necessary to determine the need for replacement or modification) to the extent the work is required by state, federal, or other government agencies and exceeds the costs included in base rates.

The following table reflects the status of our GUIC riders and the corresponding revenue requirement we were either authorized to recover or for which we have requested approval to recover. Our GUIC riders are subject to an annual true-up, which will either be refunded to or recovered from customers.

GUIC Rider *(in millions)*	Date Request was Filed with MPUC	Date MPUC Approved Rider	Effective Date of Rider	Revenue Requirement Approved/ Requested [1]	
2022 GUIC Rider	April 2021	Approval pending [2]	N/A	$ 7.2	[3]
2021 GUIC Rider	April 2020	November 2021	December 2021	$ 6.5	
2020 GUIC Rider	April 2019	June 2020	August 2020	$ 4.9	
2019 GUIC Rider	April 2018	February 2019	May 2019	$ 3.6	

(1) Revenue requirement includes the recovery of operating and maintenance expense, the annual revenue requirement for capital investments related to GUIC, and any applicable true-ups.

(2) We expect to receive an order from the MPUC related to this rider petition later in 2022.

(3) The requested revenue requirement was revised in January 2022 to incorporate adjustments consistent with the MPUC's order on our 2021 GUIC rider.

Natural Gas Extension Project

In response to anticipated growth and customer demand, we are expanding our natural gas distribution system in and around the city of Rochester, Minnesota (Rochester Project). The estimated cost of this project is $44 million, excluding allowance for funds used during construction. In October 2015, we filed an application with the MPUC to recover a portion of the costs of the Rochester Project pursuant to Minnesota's NGEP statute through a rider. The rider allows recovery of one-third of the revenue deficiency in excess of the amounts included in base rates in a non-rate case year for eligible NGEPs. In a rate case year, any revenue deficiency for these projects would be collected entirely through base rates. In May 2017, the MPUC issued a final order approving recovery of the cost of the Rochester Project, up to the initial estimate of $44 million, as well as the future use of the rider. Construction of the Rochester Project began in 2017.

The following table reflects the status of our NGEP riders and the corresponding revenue requirement we were either authorized to recover or for which we have requested approval to recover. Our NGEP riders are subject to an annual true-up, which will either be refunded to or recovered from customers.

NGEP Rider *(in millions)*	Date Request was Filed with MPUC	Date MPUC Approved Rider	Effective Date of NGEP Rider	Revenue Requirement Approved/ Requested [1]	
2022 NGEP Rider	April 2021	Approval pending [2]	N/A	$ 1.8	[3]
2021 NGEP Rider	April 2020	July 2021	September 2021	$ 0.9	
2020 NGEP Rider	September 2019	September 2020	November 2020	$ 0.7	
2019 NGEP Rider	February 2018	June 2019	July 2019	$ 0.4	

(1) Revenue requirement is for one-third of the annual forecasted revenue deficiency and includes any applicable true-ups.

(2) We expect to receive an order from the MPUC related to this rider petition later in 2022.

(3) The requested revenue requirement was revised subsequent to the April 2021 filing to incorporate adjustments consistent with the MPUC's order on our 2021 NGEP rider.

Farm Tap Replacement Project

In May 2017, we filed with the MPUC for approval of a capital investment plan for the replacement of customer-owned fuel lines located between the interstate pipeline tap and the customers' premises, commonly known as farm taps, with utility-owned service lines to address significant safety concerns related to the existing customer-owned lines (Farm Tap Replacement Project).

In November 2017, the MPUC issued an order approving the Farm Tap Replacement Project, with certain conditions. In its order, the MPUC recognized the concern for continued safety and sustainability of privately-owned farm tap lines, but concluded that it was impossible at that time to finally determine whether our proposal to replace all non-conforming customer-owned fuel lines with utility-owned mains and service lines was the most prudent and reasonable approach relative to possible alternatives.

In response to the MPUC's November 2017 order, we filed a Phase II petition in December 2019, in which we proposed a modified alternative to address the risks posed by existing customer-owned farm tap lines while balancing the associated costs and customer service. The MPUC issued a written order in October 2021 approving Phase II of the Farm Tap Replacement Project. The order approved, among other items, the replacement of those farm taps located within one mile of our existing distribution system and the implementation of farm tap outreach and customer safety and education programs. Farm tap customers, in the meantime, can utilize us for ongoing maintenance of customer-owned lines at a cost of time and materials and for upgrades of service provided their current customer-owned fuel lines are determined to be safe.

For Phase II, we project capital costs of approximately $7.1 million for the extension of our distribution system to farm tap customers located within one mile of our existing distribution system. Including the proposed $0.2 million cost of the expanded safety communications and the planning and design phase costs of $2.3 million, we expect total Farm Tap Replacement Project costs to be approximately $9.6 million. We are authorized to defer our Phase II costs and pursue recovery of the costs through a future GUIC rider.

NOTE 17—NEW ACCOUNTING PRONOUNCEMENTS

Simplifying the Accounting for Income Taxes

In December 2019, the FASB issued ASU 2019-12, Simplifying the Accounting for Income Taxes. The new standard removes certain exceptions for performing intraperiod allocation and calculating income taxes in interim periods and also adds guidance to reduce complexity in certain areas, including recognizing deferred taxes for tax goodwill and allocating taxes to members of a consolidated group. The adoption of ASU 2019-12, effective January 1, 2021, did not have a significant impact on our financial statements and related disclosures.

Government Assistance

In November 2021, the FASB issued ASU No. 2021-10, Government Assistance (Topic 832). The amendments in this update increase the transparency surrounding government assistance by requiring disclosure of 1) the types of assistance received, 2) an entity's accounting for the assistance, and 3) the effect of the assistance on the entity's financial statements. The update is effective for annual periods beginning after December 15, 2021. We plan to adopt this pronouncement for our fiscal year ending on December 31, 2022, and we are currently evaluating the impact this guidance may have on our financial statements and related disclosures.