

D E A R B O R N

P A R T N E R S

On December 7, 2017, WEC Energy Group (WEC) issued this press release:

“The board of directors of WEC Energy Group today announced that it is planning to raise the quarterly dividend on the company's common stock to 55.25 cents per share in the first quarter of 2018. This would represent an increase of 3.25 cents per share or 6.25 percent over the current quarterly rate.

The directors expect to declare the new dividend at their regularly scheduled meeting in January. The dividend – which would be equivalent to an annual rate of \$2.21 per share – is expected to be payable March 1, 2018, to stockholders of record on Feb. 14, 2018.

‘The board's action today is consistent with our objective to target a dividend payout ratio of 65 to 70 percent of earnings,’ said Gale Klappa, chairman of the board and chief executive officer. The projected dividend growth for 2018 is also in line with the company's longer term objective to grow earnings per share at a 5 to 7 percent average annual rate.”

This marks the 302nd consecutive quarter – dating back to 1942 – that the company will have paid a dividend to its stockholders. WEC Energy Group, formerly called Wisconsin Energy Corporation, with this dividend increase, will have increased its dividend to its shareholders for 15 consecutive years.

WEC Energy Group, based in Milwaukee, is one of the nation's premier energy companies, serving 4.4 million customers in Wisconsin, Illinois, Michigan, and Minnesota. The company's principal utilities are We Energies, Wisconsin Public Service, Peoples Gas, North Shore Gas, Michigan Gas Utilities, and Minnesota Energy Resources. The company's other major subsidiary, We Power, designs, builds and owns electric generating plants.

WEC Energy Group is in the Utilities sector of both our Dearborn Partners Core and our High & Rising Dividend separately managed account (SMA) portfolios. So far this year, 47 of the 49 companies in our Core Rising Dividend portfolio have announced 52 dividend increases averaging about 7.9% more than these particular companies paid a year earlier. Twenty-two of the 25 companies in our High & Rising Dividend portfolio have announced 25 dividend increases. The average of these dividend increases is about 5.9% more than these companies paid a year earlier.

Thank you for your interest in our Dearborn Partners Rising Dividend Strategy.

There is no assurance that any Rising Dividend portfolio company will increase its dividend, or not reduce its dividend, or not have a significant decrease in its stock price. All investing involves risk.