

Research Comment

September 16, 2005

Natural Gas Pipelines

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Questar Corp

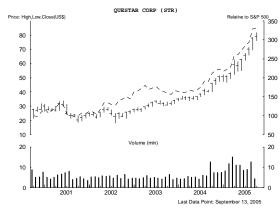
(STR-NYSE)

Stock Rating:	Outperform
Industry Rating:	Negative

Securities Info

Price (14-Sep)	\$78.79	Target Price	e	\$89 1
52-Wk High/Low	\$82/\$40	Dividend		\$0.90
Mkt Cap (mm)	\$6,863	Yield		1.1%
Shs O/S (mm, BASIC)	87.1	Float O/S (m	nm)	83.7
Options O/S (mm)	na	Avg Daily Vo	ol (000s)	469
Selected Bond Iss	Ind Prc	Rat'g Mdys/S&P	YTW	Spread
Questar Market 7.0 '0	103	Baa3 / BBB+	4.47%	62bp
Questar Market 7.5 '1	113	Baa3 / BBB+	4.83%	91bp
Bond data from Bloomberg				

Price Performance



Valuation/Financial Data

(FY-Dec.)	2003A	2004A	2005E	2006E
EPS Pro Forma	\$2.13	\$2.67	\$3.50	\$ 4.20↑
P/E			22.5x	18.8x
First Call Cons.			\$3.45	\$4.08
EPS GAAP	\$2.13	\$2.67	\$3.50	\$4.20
FCF	\$1.32	\$1.64	\$0.94	\$2.19 ↑
P/FCF			83.8x	36.0x
EBITDA (\$mm)	\$537	\$637	\$787	\$912
EV/EBITDA			10.0x	8.6x
Rev. (\$mm)	\$1,463	\$1,901	\$2,424	\$2,536
EV/Rev			3.2x	3.1x
Quarterly EPS	1Q	2Q	3Q	4Q
2004A	\$0.89	\$0.50	\$0.43	\$0.85
2005E	\$1.10A	\$0.70A	\$0.65	\$1.05
Balance Sheet Data	a (06/30/05)			
Net Debt (\$mm)	\$969	TotalDeb	t/EBITDA	1.2x
Total Debt (\$mm)	\$969	EBITDA/	IntExp	11.9x
Net Debt/Cap.	40.2%	Price/Boo	ok	4.5x

Raising Price Target to \$89 and Pinedale Field Trip Takeaways

Event

Last week, Questar sponsored an analyst field trip to the Pinedale Anticline, one of the most prolific natural gas producing fields in the US.

Impact

We believe Questar's Pinedale operations remain in an excellent position to drive STR's earnings growth for the next several years. The company reported gas shows in its recently completed Rock Springs deep well, and we believe this should ultimately contribute to growing producing volumes within the next year. Questar could achieve efficiencies on the cost side beginning in 2006 as well, through the combination of lower drilling times, the implementation of a central processing facility, and the switch to a less expensive slickwater-based frac solution for completing future wells.

Forecasts

We are raising our 2006 EPS estimates to \$4.20 from \$4.00, and our 2007 EPS estimate to \$4.60 from \$4.27, primarily from an increase in our long-term commodity price deck.

Valuation

Our new \$89 price target is based on our NAV analysis, which in turn is based on our higher long-term price deck, an assumed increase in probable and possible reserves in the Pinedale from the combination of 10-acre spacing and initial test results from its Rock Springs deep well, and slightly higher multiples for its midstream and natural gas utility businesses.

Recommendation

We are maintaining our **OUTPERFORM** rating.

Changes

Annual EPS 2006E \$4.00 to \$4.20 Annual FCF 2006E \$1.94 to \$2.19 Target \$78.00 to \$89.00

Summary

On September 8, Questar hosted an analyst field trip to its E&P operations in the Pinedale Anticline in Wyoming. After viewing the facilities and talking with management, we remain convinced that its operations in the Pinedale region are well positioned to drive Questar's earnings growth for the next several years. The company reported gas shows in its recently completed Rock Springs deep well, and we believe this should ultimately contribute to growing producing volumes within the next year. Questar could achieve efficiencies on the cost side beginning in earnest in 2006 as well, through the combination of lower drilling times, the implementation of a central processing facility, and the switch to a less expensive slickwater-based frac solution for completing future wells.

We are also increasing our EPS and cash flow targets for 2006 and 2007, and raising our overall price target to \$90 from \$78, largely from the increase in our commodity price forecast. Our higher price target also reflects an increase in probable and possible reserves from both the decision to move to 10-acre spacing in the Pinedale and the initial results from the Rock Springs deep well, and to slightly higher multiples applied to Questar's midstream and local distribution company businesses.

Key Takeaways from Pinedale Field Trip

No Change to 2005 Production Guidance

Management reiterated its 2005 production guidance of 112 to 114 Bcfe, as the company remains on track to complete 35 wells in the Pinedale Anticline before the end of the year. The guidance remains unchanged, even though the company is currently experiencing delays in completing its Hiawatha deep well #5 in the Vermillion basin because of coiled tubing that is lodged in the well. Questar estimates that it will resume its completion work on that well by the beginning of October.

Rock Springs Drilling Is Complete, But No Word On Production Capability Just Yet

Questar reached total depth of 19,520 feet on its Rock Springs deep well in the Pinedale Anticline in late August, and is now preparing to frac the well. Initial log analysis shows the presence of gas in the Rock Springs and Hilliard shale formations, enough to warrant further development of the well, but the company did warn that the reservoir quality of the well appears to be less favorable than the Lance Pool reserves that exist at depths of 13,000-14,200 feet. The company offered little in terms of the ultimate production capability of the well, since it is still in the processes of final well completion. The company plans to frac one layer of the well at a time before winter-drilling restrictions kick in on November 15, in hopes of generating enough

consistent production to operate the well during the upcoming winter. However, given that complete test results may not be available until the end of 2006, we are making no changes to our production forecast at this time.

Continued Focus on Lowering Operating Costs

Questar is hoping to reduce its average drilling time for directional wells from its current level of 44 days, given that it was able to complete an individual directional well earlier this year in just 30 days. In addition, we believe the company should benefit from the following two initiatives:

- Questar is on track to have a central on-site processing facility to remove water and condensate from the gas stream constructed by November 15. The key benefit Questar will receive from the facility, in our view, is that it will be able to recover natural gas vapor that had previously been lost in the atmosphere. We estimate this could lead to roughly \$3 million in additional annual revenue, which translates to approximately \$0.03 in annual EPS, given an assumed net realized price of \$5.00 per Mcf. The company is also on track to place its \$35 million water and condensate pipeline into service by November 15, which will eliminate the need to use tanker trucks. We believe the installation of this pipeline was the key reason why the Bureau of Land Management granted Questar limited year-round drilling on its federal acreage in the Pinedale.
- 2. We estimate the company could save an additional \$13-\$21 million in completion costs in 2006 (roughly \$0.10-\$0.16 per share), and possibly more than that in subsequent years, if it is able to successfully frac its new wells in the Pinedale with slickwater frac, versus the gel-based solution it currently uses. We further estimate that slickwater frac would save Questar approximately \$300,000-\$500,000 in materials costs per well. The company plans to frac several more wells this year using the slickwater solution, and if it is successful, it would be in a position to apply this technology to all wells thereafter.

Look For A Slight Increase in Future Drilling Risk

After talking to several members of management, we believe Questar will be willing to assume a moderately higher level of risk in its future drilling efforts, as it did in drilling the Rock Springs deep well in the Pinedale Anticline. However, we expect any such riskier wells would be limited to its existing acreage, and to geology that is similar to its existing producing plays, rather than from pure "wildcatting" efforts in unfamiliar fields. Overall, we believe the company remains very averse to risk, and is still influenced by the memory of a \$17 million dry hole the company took from a significantly riskier drilling effort in the mid-1980s.

Increasing Our Estimates

We are making no change to our 2005 estimates at this time, since we already adjusted our 2005 estimates for higher commodity prices following Questar's 2Q05 earnings conference call in late July. However, we are increasing our 2006 EPS estimate to \$4.20 versus our prior estimate of \$4.00 per share, and raising our free-cash-flow-per-share estimate to \$2.19 from \$1.94. We are also raising our 2007 EPS estimate to \$4.60 from \$4.27, and our free cash flow per share estimate to \$2.70 from \$2.29. Our higher estimates are primarily based on the higher commodity-price forecast (Exhibit 1) that was recently published by Ray Deacon, our E&P analyst, along with the annual \$0.03 effect on EPS we expect Questar to achieve from its new central-processing facility in the Pinedale that we described previously. Overall, we now expect Questar to realize net natural-gas prices of \$5.89 in 2006, and \$5.96 in 2007, versus our previous estimates of \$46.53, and a 2007 price of \$49.65, up from \$46.89.

	Hen	nry Hub Natu (\$/Mmbtu			West Texas Intermediate Crude Oil (\$/bbl)					
	New Price				New Price	Old Price	% Change			
2005	\$7.70	\$6.90	12%		\$57.00	\$51.00	12%			
2006	\$7.60	\$7.25	5%		\$55.00	\$50.00	10%			
2007*	\$6.90	N/A	N/A		\$50.00	N/A	N/A			
2008- 2010	\$6.40	\$6.25	2%		\$45.00	\$42.00	7%			

Exhibit 1: Revised Harris Nesbitt Commodity Price Forecast

Source: Harris Nesbitt estimates

*Our 2007 forecast was originally included in a combined 2007-2009 projection.

Valuation: Raising Our Price Target to \$89

We are also increasing our price target to \$89, up from our previous target of \$78, based on our revised net asset value analysis (Figure 2). Our new NAV analysis is based on the following four changes: 1) the increase in our long-term price deck, which we detail in Exhibit 1 above, 2) the 319 Bcfe increase in probable and possible net reserves Questar added when it announced it received approval for limited 10-acre spacing in the Pinedale on August 9 (we have risked those reserves at 50%), 3) an assumed increase of 853 Bcfe of possible reserves from the Rock

Springs deep well, given the early test results from the drill logs; we have risked these reserves at 30%, and finally 4) a slight increase in our applied EBITDA multiples for Questar's midstream- and regulated-natural-gas-utility businesses, in order to better reflect the higher multiples at which M&A transactions in these areas have traded thus far in 2005. We are now applying respective EBITDA multiples of 9.5x and 8.0x to our estimated 2005 EBITDA figures for Questar's midstream- and local-distribution company businesses, versus our previous multiples of 8.5x and 7.5x.

Exhibit 2: Net Asset Value Analysis

Harris Nesbitt Patrick C. Rau, CFA (212) 885-4070 Questar Corporation Asset Valuation Last Updated 9/12/05

(Amounts in millions, except per share values)

	Percent Developed	Quantity	\$ Per	Value	Total	Per Share
Company Liquids (MMBbls) Gas (Bcf) Questar Pipeline @ 11x 2005 EBITDA Other Midstream @ 9.5x 2005 EBITDA Questar Gas @ 8x 2005 EBITDA	78% 54%	27 1,271	\$19.23 1.91	\$523.1 2,431.2 1,129.7 609.9 1,052.8		\$6.01 27.91 12.97 7.00 12.09
Wexpro Proved Reserves 560 Bcfe Risked @ 0% Pinedale Probables & Possibles risked @ 50% Uinta Probables risked @ 50% Legacy Rocky Mountain Probables risked @ 50% Midcontinent Probables risked @ 50% Rock Springs (Pinedale Deep Well) Petroleum Resources risked @ 30% Total Company		560 484 330 864 28 256	\$1.60 \$0.90 \$0.85 \$0.90 \$0.60 \$0.90	\$896.0 \$435.6 \$280.1 \$777.5 \$17.0 \$230.3	\$8,383.2	10.29 5.00 3.22 8.93 0.20 2.64 \$96.25
Total Oil and Gas Total Oil and Gas Ex-Probables and Possibles and Wexpro SEC PV-10 (1)					\$5,590.8 2,954.2 1,760.5	\$64.19 33.92
Balance Sheet Data: Other PP&E (net) Working Capital Other Assets and Liabilities (net) Long-Term Debt and Preferred Stock					Jun 30, 2005 \$175.0 \$ 36.2 (15.8) (933.2) (\$737.8)	Per Share \$2.01 0.42 (0.18) (10.71) (\$8.47)
Shares Exercisable at 12/31/04 Average Weighted Exercise Price Assumed Conversion of Stock Options					3.34 \$23.39 \$78.1	\$0.90
Total Asset Valuation					\$7,723.5	\$88.67
Fully Diluted Shares Outstanding (2)						87.1
Asset Value - \$/Share Ex-Probables and Possibles Asset Value - \$/Share						\$88.70 \$58.43

NOTES:

(1) Based on \$40.60/Bbl and \$5.50/MMBtu year end prices.
(2) Weighted average (not adjusted) diluted shares outstanding at June 30, 2005.

Source: Company documents, Harris Nesbitt estimates

Risks To Our Price Target

Our new \$89 price target would be at risk if the Questar does not grow its overall production at the rate at which we are forecasting, if its recently completed Rock Springs deep well on the Pinedale Anticline proves to be significantly less prolific than we estimate, and if natural gas and crude oil prices drop precipitously.

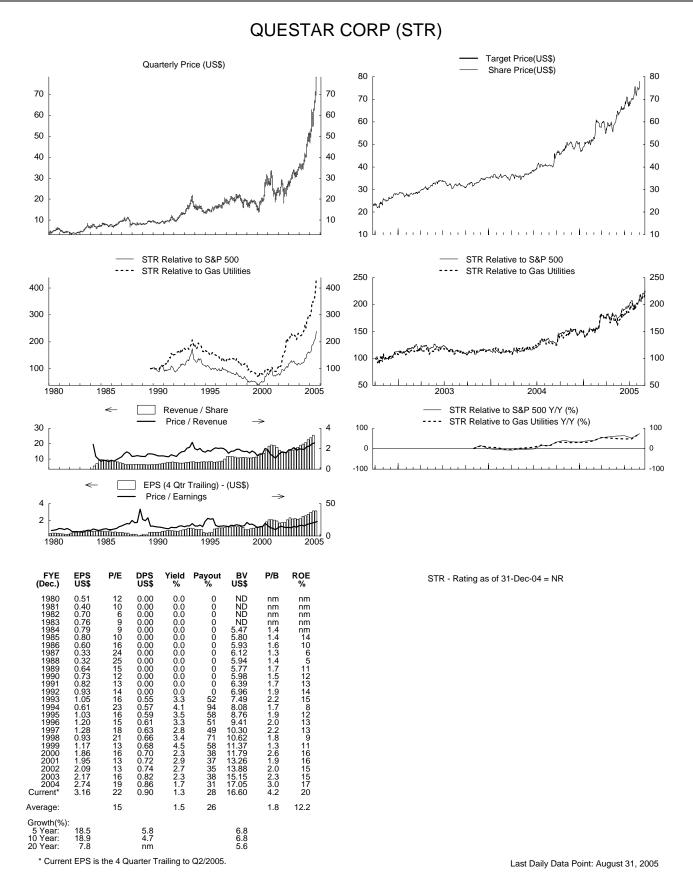
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30 9.4 7.7 7.7 7.7 7.7 32.8	10% 5% 5%	19% -2% 6% <b>7%</b>	5.69 49.18
20 8.6 7.6 31.1 31.1	-5% 0% 1%	19% 2% <b>5%</b>	5.68 \$ 50.14 \$
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Production by Region (Bcfe) Pinedale Uinta Legacy Rockies Midcontinent Total Production	uu change in Froouction Pinedale Unita Legacy Rockies Miccontinent TOTAL	YY Change in Production Inteads Unite Legacy Rockies Midcontinent TOTAL	Non-regulated sales price to the wellhead (including hedges) Average realized sales price nat gas (per Mcf) Average realized sales price oil & NGL (per bb)
Produce Pined Uinta Legac Midco Total	Dined Unita Legac Midco	YY Ch Pineda Legac Midco	Av Av

KEY ASSUMPTIONS

# Questar Consolidated Free Cash Flows 2002-2007E (\$ Millions)

		<u>2002</u>	<u>2003</u>	<u>2004</u>	<u>2005E</u>	<u>2006E</u>	<u>2007E</u>
Net Income from continuing ops		155,596	173,616	229,301	304,868	369,770	408,779
Depreciation, Depletion, & Amortization		194,369	201,809	225,879	250,400	269,629	282,885
Changes in Working Capital		48,734	(23,891)	(1,536)	17,225	14,034	(31,017)
Other		66,025	94,916	128,238	110,892	129,120	169,160
Cash Flow From Operations	\$	464,724	\$ 446,450	\$ 581,882	\$ 683,386	\$ 782,553	\$ 829,806
Capital Expenditures		(357,800)	(335,416)	(441,483)	(601,059)	(590,000)	(590,000)
"Free" Cash Flow From Operations	\$	106,924	\$ 111,034	\$ 140,399	\$ 82,327	\$ 192,553	\$ 239,806
Dividends Paid		(59,302)	(64,538)	(71,363)	(75,626)	(78,967)	(86,696)
Acquisitions, Net of Cash				-			
Dispositions/Other		280,645	10,975	6,121	32,072	1,838	2,271
Debt Increases (Payments), Net		(335,366)	(83,490)	(109,493)	(31,005)	-	(100,000)
Stock Issuance (Repurchase), Net		10,328	18,393	24,367	5,664	-	
Other, Net		7,110	(110)	(255)	-	-	-
Operating Cash Flow per share	s	5.64	\$ 5.30	\$ 6.79	\$ 7.84	\$ 8.89	\$ 9.33
"Free" Cash Flow per share	\$	1.30	\$ 1.32	\$ 1.64	\$ 0.94	\$ 2.19	\$ 2.70



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I, Patrick Rau, CFA, hereby certify that the views expressed in this report accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities or issuers. I also certify that I have not, am not, and will not receive, directly or indirectly, compensation in exchange for expressing the specific recommendations or views in this report.

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Buy	Hold	Sell	Unrated
37.9%	55.6%	6.5%	0.0%
8.1%	7.6%	0.0%	0.0%
	37.9%	37.9% 55.6%	37.9% 55.6% 6.5%

#### Harris Nesbitt Rating System

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**OUTPERFORM** - We believe the stock's total return, including dividends, will exceed the group average by over 15%. **NEUTRAL** - We believe the stock's total return will generally match the group average.

**UNDERPERFORM** - We believe the stock's total return will fall short of the group average by more than 15%.

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**Underperform** - We believe the stock may be well ahead of itself or we are sufficiently concerned about results that we cannot justify the current valuation. We believe the stock may underperform the market by as much as 20%.

Sell - We expect the stock to underperform the market by at least 20% and see no reason to own the stock.

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