All right. Good morning, everyone. My name is Jonathan Gould, and I'm the Director of Investor Relations here at Enbridge. It's my pleasure to welcome everyone here in New York and for those of you listening online to our 2018 Enbridge Day's Investor Conference.

A lot of great updates for you today. Before we get right into it, maybe a couple of quick housekeeping notes. So as is customary at Enbridge, we'll begin our meeting with a brief safety moment. So in the event of a fire, you're going to hear an alarm sound on the system. If necessary to evacuate, there will be an announcement to proceed to the emergency exit. We've got 2 on this floor. One in the corner up front here, and the other one the far end of the hallway. So front and end of the room, you're going that way, back into the room, in an orderly manner down to the street level. And then we'll regroup at a muster point, say, corner of 55th and 5th.

In terms of the agenda, or what we have coming down the pipe for today, as we like to say, you'll hear from several members of our executive team. The format will be presentation followed by Q&A. We'll have a microphone that will be circulating for Q&A. So for the benefit of those who are listening online, if you could please use that and introduce yourself prior to asking the question. Lots to get through, and we're going to try to stick to schedule. In any event, we'll look to wrap up the session by 12:30. Once we're done, lunch will be available for those who would like to stay, and please do. Our executive team will be there and available to chat. And of course, the Investor Relations team will be accessible following the event and anytime afterwards for any follow-ups you might have.

And finally, as you can almost read on the slide here, the legal team would like us to remind you that our comments today may refer to forward-looking information or non-GAAP measures.

So with that taken care of, I'll, without further ado, hand it over to our President and CEO, Al Monaco.
Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Thanks, Jon. And by the way, there are members -- other members of the management team here today. So please, at the break or during lunch, please take time to chat with them.

All right. Good morning. We're very glad to be here today to share our story. It's been a very busy and productive year at our company. Operationally, we're firing on all cylinders, as they say. Our pipes are running full, and we're generating record results. We've delivered on the priorities that we laid out last year and then some. We sold assets. We'll exit the year with strong balance sheet, and we're simplifying our structure. We like our position today, and we're focused on extending the track record.

Today, I'm going to focus on 3 things: the opportunities that drive our core businesses, our growing free cash flow position and our approach to capital allocation going forward, and then how the opportunities and free cash translate to our financial outlook in -- through 2020 and then beyond.

So let me first cover the highlights of this morning's news release, in case you missed that. Our 2018 outlook is the same. We expect to come in at the upper end of our guidance range in that $4.15 to $4.45 DCF per share. We're establishing 2019 guidance today at $4.30 to $4.60 a share, so the midpoint is $4.45. We're confirming the 3-year guidance, that is the 2018 to '20 period, at 10% DCF per share CAGR, which translates to $5 DCF per share in 2020. As you saw, we increased our dividend by 10% to $2.95 per share. That is now fully a cash dividend. We sanctioned newly secured projects totaling $1.8 billion. We'll talk about those more later. We're positioning the Liquids Mainline for continued success with a long-term contracting proposal that will give customers toll and market certainty.

Guy will take you through that and our latest efforts on throughput optimization actions. Post-2020, we expect to achieve annual DCF per share growth of between 5% to 7%. And importantly, that level of growth would be funded entirely within our expected free cash flow that is net of dividends and maintenance capital spending. So today is about the future, but it's important to recap for a moment our significant transformation over very short period of time.

Just 2 years ago, back in '16, we were world-class but we'd have to say Canadian-focused business on Liquids Pipelines. We had long since concluded though that we needed to materially expand our natural gas footprint. We did that essentially in one fell swoop by acquiring Spectra. It's even clear today that accelerating our gas strategy and expanding that U.S. footprint was the right thing to do at the right time. You could say we've emerged as the bellwether pipeline and utility company in North America with $12.5 billion in EBITDA and $15 billion in 2020. We move about 25% of crude oil and 22% of natural gas in North America, and utility gas distribution volumes are about 2 Bcf a day, and we supply about 1/3 of all U.S. oil imports. We're not dependent on supply basins, but rather driven by the strongest demand pull markets and customers. You'll hear that term a lot today, demand pull.

Our business risk is low. Now there's a lot of license taken in our sector these days in using this low-risk moniker, but here's what it means to us and why we think we're unique. 98% of our EBITDA is driven by regulated constructs or long-term contracts. The sale of the G&P business earlier this year means we no longer have significant exposure to commodity prices or drilling risk. We tightly manage market price exposure, like interest rates and FX, and we have BBB (high) credit metrics. All of this gives us steady and predictable cash flow, which is the way we like it. As you can see, during the 2 most recent challenging times in the energy space, this is the chart on the right now, we've delivered strong, steady growth. We don't believe there's a lower risk business in our sector.

Now at last year's Enbridge Day, we laid out our post-Spectra priorities. And since then, think you'd have to say we've attacked those priorities hard. We've delivered cash flow and dividend growth through strong operations and bringing $7-plus-billion of projects into service. We received Minnesota Line 3 approval and progressed construction in Canada. We sold $7.8 billion of noncore assets, more than double the target at excellent valuations. We accelerated deleveraging to 4.7x debt-to-EBITDA in Q3, that's ahead of schedule and well below our year-end target, which was originally 5x. With the added flexibility, we turned off the DRIP, and I have to tell you that was a great outcome for us. When we moved very quickly to streamline in 3 areas. We're on track to achieve the $540 million synergy target from the Spectra acquisition. We struck deals to buy in our sponsored vehicles, ENF is complete. SEP will be complete next week. And the EEP/EEQ votes will take place on December 17. And we moved swiftly to merge our 2 Ontario utilities right after we received regulatory approval. And we've made great headway we believe so far, as you saw on the release, to backfill secured growth beyond
2020.

Finally, we held last year's guidance at 10% cash flow and dividend growth through 2020 despite the dilutive effects of asset sales and the Sponsored Vehicle buy-ins. So the big picture takeaway from these checkmarks that you see here is our shareholders get the strong financial outlook and dividend growth that we talked about last year, but with even a lower risk profile, a stronger balance sheet and a simpler structure.

So here's where we sit today. The business and operations are running extremely well. Our Liquids Pipelines are full. We're optimizing capacity there, in fact, we had record throughput in November of 2.8 million barrels a day. Great job by the team. Our Mainline customers on that system are in very strong financial position. Many are integrated and pure-play refiners. We're also seeing great demand on the Gas Transmission system. In fact, the November 1 renewal rates averaged 98%, another great outcome. Gas pipeline customers are also very strong, primarily very large utilities.

Some investors ask us about the longevity of our energy infrastructure in a lower carbon world. Let me spend a minute on this. So I think it's a great question. However, as you'll see here, there's no disagreement that global demand for oil and gas is going to continue to increase. That's because population growth, greater urbanization and improved living standards are a virtual certainty.

Let me just give you a couple of numbers. Population is going to grow from 7.6 billion to 9.8 billion by 2050. On urbanization, we're moving from 55% to 68% of populations based in urban areas by the same time frame. In terms of the improved living standards, we'll see an increase from 3 billion to 5 billion people in the economic middle class. That means more businesses, vehicles, air-conditioning, appliances, e-devices. All of that drives more energy requirements. So the fact is we're going to need all sources of energy to meet global demand.

You probably saw the IEA put out its world energy outlook and under what they call the new policy scenario. While renewables grow, global oil demand will still grow by 10% by 2040, and LNG demand will double by 2030. And gas, of course, is the key ultimately to lowering overall emissions globally.

The North American story is a little bit different. Demand is flattening out while production is growing rapidly. This is a big opportunity. Abundant low-cost resources give us, on this continent, a competitive advantage in energy to capture an increased share of the global market for energy.

Energy infrastructure then is not just sustainable in our view, it's going to have to grow. You can see that in the current price dislocations across the globe and particularly here in North America, and what that tells us is we're going to need a lot more infrastructure.

And finally, let's not forget about something that matters to all of us. Around the world, low-cost affordable energy lifts people from poverty, makes lives better and generates economic value. You're seeing that economic engine working here in the United States.

The fact is what we do every day is critical to economic growth and prosperity. Enbridge as a company is thriving today, and we will in the future because the assets that we operate are needed and our footprint is positioned to capitalize on the fundamentals that you're seeing on this chart.

Now let me just outline our corporate and business unit priorities. So the key priorities really haven't changed: delivering cash flow and dividend growth, maintaining a pure pipeline utility model, a strong investment-grade balance sheet, streamlining the business, and extending growth beyond 2020.

Going forward, though, we're increasing our emphasis on 3 areas: enhancing returns in our core business to maximize their value; expanding and extending the footprint, particularly to energy export infrastructure; and then rigorous capital allocation within a growing base of available free cash flow. We'll show you this in a few moments. So those are the priorities. Now let me summarize how they play out in each of our businesses at a high level, and then our leaders will carry on after that.
Our gas network connects gas supply to North America’s largest, most robust demand pull centers. Examples: Chicago, New York, Boston, Vancouver, Toronto, Seattle. Excluding new growth, we believe this business can grow at 1% to 2% through system modernization and rate adjustments that reflect the current capital base and costs since we haven't filed for rates in many years. As for other growth, we couldn't be more pleased with the opportunity set that this network here provides. And we're literally seeing expansion in all the areas of our system. We're now completing about $8 billion of secured growth through the system, and Bill will show how our system sits on top of where the biggest areas of growth are in gas demand going forward.

You’ll see that our Texas Eastern system serves growing industrial and power generation load and the U.S. Northeast market, which is desperate for new gas supply. You just have to look at the spikes in gas prices and electricity prices in the New England area to see that. And ultimately, this will mean more pipe. Texas Eastern also feeds the U.S. Gulf Coast petchem market, LNG and Mexican demand. So significant export-driven growth on the system. And again, Bill will lay out how we’re playing in that space.

In the Southeast, we're well positioned for continued gas-fired generation load. In Western Canada, we're expanding to meet demand. And again, Bill will talk about an interesting story developing there. So overall, post-2020, we see an opportunity set here that should conservatively result in $2 billion to $3 billion a year of organic growth.

Continuing on with the gas story, our Gas Distribution business, the largest in North America. And I’d have to say this is our hidden gem. We love this business because it provides low-risk growth, strong cash flows year-in and year-out. We're combining Enbridge Gas with Union Gas to form the industry leader in North America. The utility sits on top of a rapidly growing population center and the Dawn Hub, which makes it the fastest-growing franchise in North America. Our new incentive framework means that we’ll have rate clarity and no rebasing for 5 years. Under this model, we believe we can generate 1% to 2% growth through synergy capture and embedded rate escalation.

In terms of growth capital, we have roughly $2 billion in projects underway right now that Cynthia and her team are completing. Post-2020, we see about $1 billion a year in new capital expenditures delivering growth. Customer additions about 50,000 a year. Extensions of our system to new communities, further expansion of the Dawn-Parkway corridor. And as you'll hear, this is sort of a gem within the gem, and other opportunities that are being worked on now on compressed natural gas and renewable natural gas. So all of that will be covered in more detail by Cynthia.

Now last but certainly not least, our Liquids Pipelines business. This business has exactly the same demand pull attributes as Gas Transmission, except in this case, the pull part is refinery demand, which has never been stronger. Its competitiveness of Liquids Pipelines business is unparalleled in the world because it feeds North America’s 2 largest and most globally competitive refining centers in the Midwest and the U.S. Gulf Coast. We’ve proven that we can leverage the scale and reach of this system to capture low-cost and low capital-intensive opportunities to grow the business. We’re making very good progress here on our secured program. It's about $11 billion now, including Line 3. But the strong fundamentals here and the capacity shortages that you all know about, set up liquids nicely for the next leg of growth in the business. In fact, we think a window has opened here to extend the opportunity for our customers and shareholders.

Over the last 4 years, we've added almost 500,000 barrels a day very quietly of capacity through expansions and low-cost optimization initiatives. Line 3 will then add 370,000 barrels per day, but the additional Mainline optimizations that are there total about 450,000 a day, and they are gaining momentum as we speak. Well, you'll hear from Guy today our 2 important parts of the Liquids Pipelines strategy that we are excited about.

First, our new long-term Mainline priority access contract and proposal. And second, over the past few months, the team has been working hard to find new ideas to address capacity constraints. And we're pleased to say that we found a couple more.

Over the last couple of years, we've talked about our goal to build a stronger position in the U.S. Gulf. With the Gray Oak pipeline that we announced today, our Mid-Continent systems and our Seaway assets and other assets in the region, really boost our Gulf Coast strategy. And you can see how it's going to take shape. Post-2020, our liquids opportunities set should result, on average, $2 billion of organic growth projects, but remember there's a lot of other embedded growth in this business that doesn't come with capital.
Now to the second area of emphasis, our self-funding model and capital allocation, which is an extremely important area for us going forward. Now as you saw, we've got a bevy of projects just in that quick summary there, in execution and in development. But I can assure you we won't be issuing equity to fund those. The suspension of our DRIP in Q3 was the last step in getting to fully self-funding mode. It's been some time since we've been able to fund our investments through internal cash flow, so let me provide some context on how we got here, which is what this chart is about.

Over the last several years, external equity made sense for us. Why is that? First, we have the largest, most attractive organic capital program in the industry, and we took those opportunities off the table. We brought in over $50 billion of projects into service since 2009. Those projects bolstered our strategic foothold. They're highly accretive. And because of those investments, DCF per share is going to hit a record, and it will grow by another 10% through 2020.

Second, we took bold action to capitalize on what we feel is a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity to reposition and diversify the company to natural gas by acquiring Spectra. That positioned us for the future.

And third, the Sponsored Vehicle buy-ins eliminate complexity. They've reduced regulatory risks. We retain more cash in the business and extend our current tax position. The buy-ins also allow us to consolidate highly strategic assets we already own the majority of.

Critical to these actions is that they've added value, and as you can see by the accretion that we're showing at the right of the chart here. Now as shareholders ourselves, I can tell you that the management team is never keen to be issuing stock. You've just been through an extraordinary period though, and positioned the company for long-term success and resiliency. From here, we'd expect to see the share count remain constant, or it could decrease over time depending on future capital allocation decisions. And I'll come to that in a sec. So with our secured capital program fully funded through 2020, how much free cash flow do we have available for reinvestment? What's our approach to allocating that capital? And what does it mean for post-2020 growth?

So in 2020, for the first time, as I said, we'll have positive free cash, about $3.5 billion, after deducting dividends and maintenance capital. The $3.5 billion comes with some added balance sheet capacity. That's the little sliver that you'll see to the right there, from incremental EBITDA when we invest it. We'll be working within the 4.5x to comfortably below 5x debt-to-EBITDA range, which gives us flexibility, depending on the quality and magnitude of projects that we see. John will take you through more about the leverage range that we've established and how that compares to others.

So the way we look at this is that our free cash gives us an opportunity to invest roughly $5 billion to $6 billion annually within the self-funding equity model.

Having free cash flow and a strong balance sheet in today's environment gives us a lot of optionality to move quickly. And with newfound flexibility, we think this provides us a competitive advantage. To the extent we're deploying that available capital to organic growth projects, we'll be focused on singles and doubles, which carry relatively lower permitting risk, but still deliver really solid returns. And based on what you'll see today from the business leaders, it will be clear we're not concerned at all about having enough projects to absorb the $5 billion to $6 billion of available investment capacity. In fact, given our project hopper, we'll probably have to make some tough choices on what projects to accept and not. But from here, we're also going to assess organic projects against other uses of internal cash flow.

So the list that you see here represent the choices at the top, which aren't going to be surprising to anybody in this room. But the options we choose will depend on the circumstances, including further debt reduction as a possibility to provide more flexibility and/or buying back shares. We'll be disciplined in our capital allocation decisions, always looking to maximize value. We'll weigh the options in the context of our financial -- we'd call it financial policy filter. So you can imagine what those are. Our return on new capital will have to exceed project-specific hurdle rates, the available investment capacity I just went through of $5 billion to $6 billion, the debt-to-EBITDA range of 4.5x to comfortably below 5x, and the dividend payout of about 65% on a cash basis.

So it's really this framework that will determine the company's key value drivers at the bottom of the chart here: the expected growth
rate, the return on capital, the credit metrics, and ultimately, that will drive our cost of capital.

We'll continue to assess and rank these options, and these are some of the factors that we're going to look at in this process. As it currently stands, the base plan, this is post-2020, assumes we invest $5 billion to $6 billion that I talked about in available capital in value and DCF per share accretive organic projects. That's what we do best, and organic growth protects the base and extends the footprint, and hopefully will add more growth in the future.

Now accelerating leverage reduction has been a priority recently, as you know, but we now have a good balance sheet capacity to take advantage of opportunities. Even though further debt reduction would not be as additive to growth, it could preserve optionality and create flexibility for emerging opportunities later. Share repurchases would be on our radar post-2020, particularly if our share price continues to be undervalued, but we'll assess that against the attractiveness again of organic investments we see at the time or creating more balance sheet flexibility.

While other options aren't at the top of the list today, we'll continue to monitor our changing needs and market conditions. For example, although, we've used asset sales heavily as a source of capital, and you'd always need to look at this option, they are lower priority for now. We've shown though, we're not afraid to part with assets when we can recycle capital, whether it's into secured projects in the core businesses or creating more balance sheet flexibility. And if you look at the valuations that we've received on the $7.8 billion that we sold this year, it's a real good example of disciplined capital allocation and work to add value.

So once we whittle down the opportunity set through a select group of highly strategic and accretive projects that we can self-fund, what does it mean in terms of our growth outlook? First of all, we continue to have great visibility to our 10% secured growth target through 2020, particularly now that we've advanced approval of Line 3 in Minnesota.

Post-2020, here's how we look at it: excluding new capital investment, we expect the base business to grow 1% to 2% annually through increased system utilization, toll escalators and ongoing efficiency measure. So that's essentially what's embedded in the current business. The 3 core businesses, as you'll hear having abundance of organic growth in front of them, and we're going to be focused on securing those opportunities. Those projects will fit squarely within our low-risk pipeline utility model. We expect to invest that $5 billion to $6 billion of annual available capital back into the business to drive out an additional 4% to 5% growth. So in combination, we're now looking at a long-term earnings and cash flow per share growth rate of 5% to 7% post-2020. On dividends, we'd expect to follow cash flow per share.

Before we wrap up, there are a couple of other important factors, and this connects back into the fundamentals I talked about earlier around the outlook for energy generally. And it relates to the sustainability of this industry on 2 fronts. Number one, reducing energy intensity. And second, safety and reliability, which often gets overlooked in these types of meetings, but something that I think we need to focus on for a minute.

First of all, the industry itself has embraced what I'd refer to as a sustainable approach, and it is making difference. So fuel switching technology and tougher standards have really come together to ensure that the intensity of energy is lowered in the future. And you can see on the chart, it's been disconnected from the rate of GDP growth. Increased use of natural gas, I referred to earlier. Since 1992, the gas additions that we've made to the base have reduced levels and emissions back to 1992 levels while the economy has grown by 80%. So that's the power of using natural gas to reduce emissions intensity. Technology has lowered oil sands energy intensity by 21%, and new production is at or below the North American average barrel.

Now even though we, Enbridge, are not a large emitter, we are focused on this as well. Since '95, our demand-side management programs in utility reduced consumption and CO2 emissions equal to taking almost 10 million cars off the road per year. We're using less energy to power our liquids and gas systems through predictive analytics, and we're one of the first to invest in renewables.

Now a broader element of this, I'm sure you've all focused on, is ESG performance. Now for us, what that means is that we look at the business through the lens of all of our stakeholders. It starts with identifying the risks around ESG, then integrating those into our priorities, the ones I talked about earlier and the capital allocation framework. So when we make capital investments or we pursue new
opportunities, we are going through ESG. That performance is managed and monitored very closely by the management team and the board. Now this area is not just a nice to have today. To be successful in the business, you need to have real skills and dedication to execute projects. What I mean by that is excellence in consultation with indigenous people, climates and technology solutions and highly advanced community and public engagement.

In terms of safety and reliability, this really is critical to everything that we just covered here and what you'll hear going forward today. As you've seen in the industry, catastrophic events can really derail a company's strategy. So the way we look at safety and reliability and environmental protection, it's foundational to the business, and it actually drives the revenue line. And customers today, landowners, communities, employees, regulators and everybody in this room, of course, wants to know that we're operating the system well and actually not just meeting but exceeding standards. That in itself is going to drive trust that we need to engender in this business today, and it's inextricably linked to the financial bottom line. So I encourage everybody to ask the companies they invest in about their ESG performance.

So to wrap up, let me come back to the bigger picture here and the investment value proposition. So for us, the Spectra acquisition was really a game changer. We came into it with one great business, world-class business. And now we have 3 premium franchises. We emerged with a much better balance between gas and oil, and frankly, a beautiful U.S. footprint that will spawn a lot of growth, a footprint, frankly, that cannot be replicated. Our assets are of the highest quality and will always have inherent value, especially with the low-risk commercial structure that we think is unmatched. This allows us to generate stable, predictable and growing cash flows. And finally, we've secured projects that will generate 10% cash flow and dividend growth through 2020, and we believe that our organic growth opportunities can drive out 5% to 7% cash flow growth beyond that. We're very confident in this business model and how we'll generate shareholder value as we continue to deliver on our strategic plan and priorities.

So I'm going to stop there, and we'll take questions. And after that, the business units are going to -- business unit leaders, rather, will take you through the plans and the exciting opportunities that we have in front of us.

So let's open up to questions.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Yes, Andrew. Go ahead, Andrew.

Andrew M. Kuske Crédit Suisse AG, Research Division - MD, Head of Canadian Equity Research, and Global Co-ordinator for Infrastructure Research

Andrew Kuske, Crédit Suisse. Al, if you look back in the last 5 or 10 years, you've obviously had a lot of big mega projects, which created a lot of risk in the balance sheet and the income statement. On a go-forward basis, I guess, what's your degree of confidence on the many multitude of smaller projects you've got that are more network extensions and really the focus on delivering those. So what's the level of confidence you have from the past to now? And how do you think that affects the valuation?

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Right. Good question. Well, as you saw earlier today, Andrew, we've locked down $1.8 billion, and I can't remember the exact number, it's probably 7 or 8 projects that comprise that $1.8 billion. Those are the kind of opportunities that we're going to be focused on for sure. And obviously because they're diversified by geography, they're smaller in scale, they do come with lower permitting risk that -- compared to what we've seen in the larger mega-scale projects, it doesn't mean that we won't pursue large opportunities. But remember, the $5 billion to $6 billion that I talked about is a pretty big envelope if you look at the annual amounts. And so if those come up, we'll certainly consider those. But really, I look at it as sort of bread-and-butter projects in what we call the singles and doubles range that will be a big area of focus. And I think when you hear the business units, you'll see how that percolates through in each of them.

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Yes, Linda.
Linda Ezergailis TD Securities Equity Research - Research Analyst

In the past few years, you've talked about this opportunity related to increasing exports out of North America. And I'm just wondering how is your evolved thinking on how this might manifest itself in terms of additional storage, perhaps more partnerships or maybe even getting involved in export infrastructure, whether it'd be through LNG liquefaction or crude oil ports or how you're thinking about that extension and pivoting to more of an export model in North America?

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Okay. Good. Well, I think, first of all, we have to start with the map. And the map really shows, particularly in the natural gas front in Bill's business, where the Texas Eastern system is extremely well positioned on the Gulf Coast. And frankly, I think, this is what he'll tell you, you're not going to see many opportunities for LNG be developed out there without having access to our system. And he'll talk about a project that's a very good example of that. So I think it starts with the asset position. I think on the liquids side of the business, again, Guy will show you a very interesting map, where now all of a sudden we've got 3 big conduits, including Gray Oak, coming into the Gulf Coast region, which I think sets us up extremely well. It's one of these quiet strategic moves where we've built up a very good infrastructure position. Certainly, we're not there relative to some of the others, but we will be -- hopefully building on that position going forward. So those are the things that we look at first in terms of infrastructure. In terms of the other part of your question, again, Guy will go through an opportunity today that I think goes right to your point. Getting closer to export markets physically. A great example of that is the offshore port that we're now working on and is under development. So it's a good opportunity. Same business model that we have, that we're developing that project. And that's again closer to the last mile, if you will, to export infrastructure capabilities. So a couple of examples there that we'll go through.

Linda Ezergailis TD Securities Equity Research - Research Analyst

And just as a follow-up. Do you see yourself being able to substantially execute that from building versus buying or some hybrid combination?

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

I think, to this point, we've been reasonably successful in doing it organically. Obviously, if it takes a longer time to move the needle on that basis, there could be some opportunities, I would say, to do some tuck-ins that maybe would advance the strategy a little quicker. So that's how we look at it at this point. Really still focused on the organic side at the moment.

Praneeth Satish Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Research Division - Senior Equity Analyst

Praneeth Satish, Wells Fargo. You've talked about there's a renewed focus on returns. I'm just curious in terms of the returns that you're targeting on the $5 billion to $6 billion CapEx. What is that number? And how has that changed over the years versus maybe a few years ago?

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

It's interesting. I think we'd all agree that returns have been compressed, certainly with a lot of new capital coming into the space, particularly from private equity. This is where the discipline comes in. And this is why we put so much emphasis this time around on capital allocation. We've got to be disciplined in terms of where we put that capital and not chase opportunity. Now we've had the luxury though of having a good organic position or a natural position in our existing footprint that's actually allowed us to maintain our returns that we're investing in pretty much at the same level as before. Now probably the tops have been cut off if you look at new opportunities, but we're still, as a general premise, in that sort of low to mid-teen equity return for the business in terms of new projects. Yes?

David Galison Canaccord Genuity Limited, Research Division - VP of Research of Pipelines, Power and Utilities

David Galison with Canaccord Genuity. So you've talked about your capital allocation priorities. Can you sort of layer in how you see large-scale M&A, how it fits in and maybe what the revised goalposts are for those? And maybe if you have a preference for geography and/or asset type?

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Okay. Well, on large-scale M&A, maybe -- let me put it this way, we just completed a very large transaction. And as everyone knows in the M&A space, you need to digest and make sure you're chewing all that through. So that's the first part. The second part is probably
more important, though. The reason we moved in that direction was really to transform the business and refocus it on natural gas. So with that being complete, I think we are in a good spot. We have what we want. And so the necessity, if you will, of having to do large-scale M&A to transform in another direction is really not needed at this point, so that's what I'd say about that. Not really on our radar at this point. In terms of geography, I'd have to say that certainly we have our asset split between Canada and the U.S. We're a little bit agnostic in that a project is a project, and as long as it has good returns and the right commercial structure, we'll go after it in our footprint. On balance, though, you'd have to say there's probably a bit more opportunity now in the United States. And this is why the U.S. footprint we acquired really sets us up quite well compared to where we were before.

Robert Catellier  CIBC Capital Markets, Research Division - Executive Director of Institutional Equity Research

Rob Catellier, CIBC. This may have been part of your plan when you acquired Spectra in the first place, but it seems like there's renewed emphasis today on natural gas investment opportunities and the utilities. So I'm wondering, 2 questions here. If you can help us with what the post-2020 capital allocation might look like? Obviously, it depends on what projects are available at the time. But is it conceivable that we really see a sort of a 50-50 split between liquids and all others? Or how do you see the shift happening there? And then I have a follow-up question.

Al Monaco  Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Okay. I think 50-50 is probably a good rule of thumb. Although, I would say, we're probably more capital-intensive, I would say, on the natural gas side. The projects that Guy is working on the liquids business, just in this next phase or the next leg of growth that I referred to, are probably a little bit less capital-intensive. Still good growth in those projects. But for a bunch of reasons around optimization of the system, it's probably less capital-intensive. So probably a little bit more weighted to natural gas, I would say. And if you include the distribution business, it sort of bolsters that point.

Robert Catellier  CIBC Capital Markets, Research Division - Executive Director of Institutional Equity Research

You alluded to in your comments the fact that there's a external capital pressuring returns a little bit. And it's also quite apparent that the permitting environment isn't a cakewalk either. So there's compression, I guess, on both ends. And so I'm curious to know what you're doing with respect to risk transfer on the development expense that goes into developing these projects before they become commercially secured and if there's ability or more of a movement in the industry to transfer some of that risk to the shippers?

Al Monaco  Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Well, certainly, it's a great question, and it's one of the biggest issues on our mind frankly with the mega-scale projects. I think, in most cases, in the smaller, mid-sized projects, we can manage that risk fairly well because of the -- call it, the less permitting risk around it. So we think on that front, we're pretty good. And going forward, as I said, we'll be able to focus more on those kinds of opportunities. Certainly, if mega-scale projects come up, we're not excited about putting a whole bunch of capital into the regulatory process when there is not enough certainty as to whether or not the project is going to be able to complete it even if we get regulatory approval.

So I guess, the takeaway is we're going to be very careful in putting capital down to spend in regulatory processes in those conditions. We've been through that once before, and it wasn't fun.

I have to go here. I think this gentleman, yes. He's coming.

Frank Bamberger  FP Asset Management - Analyst

Frank Bamberger, F.B. Asset Management. I'm a stockholder with Spectra, and of course now of Enbridge. Question is, if god forbid, there's a recession...

Al Monaco  Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Welcome.

Frank Bamberger  FP Asset Management - Analyst

What?
Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Welcome.

Frank Bamberger FP Asset Management - Analyst

If there is a recession, god forbid, in 2020, how is that's likely to affect your cash flow and dividend payout?

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Let me see. Recession in 2020. Well, I think as we've tried to indicate through a couple of means there, we're pretty much resilient to that outlook. I mean, unless you believe the volumes are not going to run on the liquids and Mainline system, I think we're pretty well insulated from those kinds of events. I think this has been proven out over a number of years. So I think that holds true actually for interest rate pressures as well. So I think in both cases, the cash flows that we have are quite resilient because they tend -- while they are in almost all cases, fixed fee, or they're long-term contracted or they have mechanisms within them to adjust rates depending on what happens. So we feel pretty good about the resiliency of the business. Robert?

Robert Michael Kwan RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Research Division - Analyst

Robert Kwan, RBC. Al, you talked about $5 billion to $6 billion of available capital in the 2020 and beyond range. And you've talked or you mentioned specifically about potentially having to make tough choices as to what projects you actually end up pursuing. So is self-funding, at least within the equity side and then maintaining your leverage target, the key priority as we go forward here?

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Well, it's a good question, Robert. Maybe the way I put it is these 2 forces come together. We've got all of these organic opportunities on the one side, which, as you saw today, they're all very much in the middle of the fairway and offer good returns with good commercial structures. So we've got a bevy of those, as I said. On the other hand, we've got, let's call it this filter or constraint that we're putting ourselves because we're not keen on issuing any new common equity. So I would say those 2 come together. And along with balancing other capital allocation options around debt reduction or buying back shares, we've kind of put it through that model, and we ranked what are going to be the best organic projects. And so I would say, to get to the bottom line of your question, it really is about self-funding, not issuing any new common shares in this environment. I'm not sure if that answers your question.

Robert Michael Kwan RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Research Division - Analyst

And just within the leverage target, that 4.5 to comfortably under or 5x, are those goal posts really what drives the 5% to 7% growth on assumption that there's no outsized returns in the project portfolio

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

That's pretty much the biggest driver, yes.

Benjamin Pham BMO Capital Markets Equity Research - Analyst

Ben Pham, BMO. I just wanted to go back to Slide 15, capital allocation post 2020. And if you take your $5 DCF 2020 divided by your stock price of $42 suggest north of 10% DCF yield. So I'm wondering then, when you compare it to organic growth low double-digit, shouldn't share repurchases be much higher in terms of where you think about current rank? I mean, even equivalent to organic growth post-2020.

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Yes. I think that's a good observation. I think if you just did the simple math, buying back shares would be certainly, as part of the list and it is. But obviously, as you know, it's not just about the current yield, if you will. The other things we look at when we think about buying back stock is what is the future cash flow comparison between the 2 alternatives, organic growth versus investing in your own stock. We'll also look at other factors. For example, on organic growth, well, does that spawn even more growth, whereas in terms of buying back shares, you're not going to have that opportunity to extend the business. And of course, strategically, we've got priorities in terms of each of the businesses. And of course, organic opportunity will tend to further those strategies. So I guess it's not just a 1-year look at where best to put the capital and buying back shares versus organic growth.

Jeremy Tonet, JPMorgan. I was just wondering, with the 450,000 of other optimization opportunities you talked about the Mainline getting more capacity there. Just wondering, if you can refresh us on what time frame you think that could be achieved? And when you talk about the $2 billion of annual CapEx spend in the post-2020 era for liquids, is that kind of tied together with that? Or how should we think about that?

Al Monaco - Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Yes. The $2 billion per year would loop some of those in. And most of them, as I recall, Guy, will get into this, of course, is sort of out to that ’21. I think there's probably one in 2022, which involves a longer time frame to reverse one of the line. So it's sort of between now and 2022. There will be more opportunities after that, of course, but that's what we're focused on.

Jeff Healy - Guardian Life - Analyst

Jeff Healy from Guardian Life. I've got question on, sort of your expectation for volume growth from Canada. How much are you constrained by the term agreement that's going in? And how much room for growth is there if the U.S. is going to be growing, let's say, 1 million barrels a year?

Al Monaco - Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

I'm sorry. Maybe you may just repeat the question. I wasn't sure I caught the first part.

Jeff Healy - Guardian Life - Analyst

Yes, If I'm just looking at the oil production volumetric growth coming out from Canada. How much room do you think there is basically in the global market if the U.S. is growing, say, by 1 million barrels a day?

Al Monaco - Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Okay. All right. So the production profile outlook that we base our assumptions on, and again Guy, will have this chart in his packet, is about 1 million barrels a day over the next decade or so. It looks like that's pretty rock solid from the upstream work that we do. In that, there's a lot of project sitting there that are sort of waiting for pipeline egress solutions. In terms of how it interacts with U.S. production growth, actually, I don't think it changes much. Obviously, most of the growth on the U.S. side comes from light oil, and that's destined for export markets. In terms of production out of Western Canada, most of that is heavy from the oil sands. That is actually what we call the perfect marriage, in that those heavy barrels are very suited to the Midwest refining market and the U.S. Gulf Coast market, so there's that natural connection between the heavy barrels and refining capabilities. So we think that production has a lot of room to grow into the U.S. market.

Robert Hope - Scotiabank Global Banking and Markets, Research Division - Analyst

Rob Hope, Scotiabank. I'm sure Guy will talk to you on this a little bit later. But just in terms of the CTS renegotiation in a couple of years, producers do like optionality. So how can you incent them to get to the table in 2019? And then I have a follow-up?

Al Monaco - Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Well, I think Guy is going to explain this, but essentially, we're at the table right now. And the whole objective is to make sure we're moving this along so that we can replace the existing CTS agreement by 2021. In terms of optionality, we're seeing pretty good interest in this concept around priority access. And when you go back to the fundamentals of why that is, it's all about optionality in that the system moves crude to various refining centers in the U.S. and in Canada. And of course, if you're producer is sitting in Western Canada or anywhere, for that matter, that's the one thing you want is your ability to move those barrels to any refinery. And that's really what they get off our system. They also are going to get toll certainty. And that's simply because we've got the scale and scope in the system that can offer very low-cost transportation. And because of that, we can provide good certainty. And if we have priority access construct, it will also give us certainty in terms of future revenues. And that's part of this discussion is that the shippers will have an interest, and we also have some interests, and the trick is to line those up.
Robert Hope  
**Scotiabank Global Banking and Markets, Research Division - Analyst**

Thank you for that. And just a follow-up. Just in terms of your 5% to 7% growth beyond 2020, would that assume some sort of cash flow step down from the CTS? Or are you going to show producer tolls roughly in line with where they are right now?

Al Monaco  
**Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director**

Well, I'm not going to get into what the toll discussion is specifically, but what I can say is that the cash flow profile is pretty much stable or growing. I guess that is probably a little bit different than we would have seen it just a short time ago given what's happening in industry. So reasonable stability and some degree of growth going forward in the Liquids Pipelines, Mainline cash flow outlook.

Jonathan Gould  
**Enbridge Inc. - Director, IR**

Any more questions? And we're going to kind of right up on it here as well. And the team will be back...

Al Monaco  
**Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director**

Okay. Thank you. We're now going to turn it over to Bill Yardley, who's going to talk through the Gas Transmission business.

**PRESENTATION**

William Turner Yardley  
**Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream**

Thanks, Al, and thanks to everyone for joining us today. It's great to be here in New York with all of you. And I'm pleased to have the opportunity to explain our outlook and the confidence that we've got on our gas business. It's really an interesting time to be discussing these assets. We've got a core business that's proven to be unwaveringly solid annually over the past decade. We'll continue to invest in and modernize these systems, in many instances, requiring rate cases to earn our return on those investments. This is something that we haven't seen for years, if not decades, on most of these pipeline systems. So as we ramp up a record year, placing $6 billion of growth capital at a service with the likes of NEXUS and Valley Crossing, our reputation remains as the company that can get it done and can get it done right. Lastly, on top of the secured projects that we've got over the coming years, we've got profound optimism on where our gas business is headed. Geographically, where our footprint is where the growth opportunities in this industry are going to come from.

So as an orientation, let me just talk about the geographic footprint and some of the recent accomplishments that demonstrates value. The Enbridge Gas Transmission assets make up one of the largest natural gas transportation networks in North America. We're connected to the most prolific and diverse supply basins. And importantly, we've linked them to the major consuming markets, both domestic and for export. So due to this connectivity and our performance, our pipeline assets are fully contracted. They have utilized the capacity and are positioned to grow. They have got a very strong reservation-based business model with no direct commodity exposure, very little volume exposure, strong contract terms and solid counter-party credit.

We've been through a period of significant optimization and expansion over the last 10 years. And during the same time period, around $15 billion of growth projects were placed at a service, with another $3 billion contracted for in execution today. We're pleased with what we've accomplished in 2018. I'm proud of the 11 projects that were placed into service in a difficult permitting and construction environment. Another strong contracting year with our customers successfully securing 98% of the contract revenue up for renewal on our major pipelines. We're proud of filing a rate case at the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission on November 30 for changes to rates on our Texas Eastern system and of the streamlining on the divestiture of our noncore assets in the U.S. and Canada to focus on what we're best at.

So we've had a great decade keeping our base strong and re-plumbing the North American gas grid. So what makes us confident in the future? It's fundamentals and it's our footprint. Natural gas fundamentals through the next decade confirmed the continued need for our service. The industry's existing infrastructure is insufficient in most places where the need for gas continues to grow. Our assets are strategically placed to take advantage of the great opportunities presented by this growing demand throughout North America. In the next 15 to 20 years, this demand-driven growth is apparent in the consuming regions of the Northeast, the Midwest and the Southeast U.S. Economical, clean, plentiful, versatile natural gas is the fuel of choice in homes and businesses, and it's been displacing other fuels with regularity. And it's been the clear choice for electric generation. Coal and oil fire generation are waning. Hydro, wind and behind-the-meter solar have been growing, but still accounts for single-digit percentages on most days. Nuclear is slowly being phased
out and nearly impossible to build anew. Natural gas is the only viable alternative at large scale for replacement and incremental electric generation needs.

Gas production in the Marcellus and Utica Shales in Appalachia continues to outpace expectations, and our Texas Eastern footprint is right on top of it. And in the Gulf, we see the largest growth, the demand for exports to Mexico and in the form of LNG to overseas markets. The re-plumbing of the major shale basins such as the Haynesville and the Permian to the Gulf Coast has begun. And in Western Canada, demand to the south and to the Pacific Northwest is also very strong. LNG export projects are gaining traction there, and we're well situated to participate through our existing assets and our Westcoast connector export pipeline project. Bottom line, opportunities exist for large-scale and regional projects along our entire geographic footprint.

The largest of these opportunities is for LNG exports. This sector demand will become a bigger part of our story as the use of natural gas outside North America increases. LNG global demand is expected to grow to 65 Bcf a day through 2030, and about 22 Bcf a day of new capacity is required to satisfy these incremental needs. And the U.S. and Canada are poised to meet the bulk of that demand as the number of proposed facilities in well-placed geographical areas is quite large and the economics quite strong. This has the potential to be a big prize, and it will be really interesting as it plays out. And 2030 really isn't that far away.

As we go through the next few slides, we'll talk more about our growth plan and how LNG factors into the possibilities for some of these regions.

So these next several slides address our 3 strategic priorities. One, optimizing our base business and the earnings associated with the existing assets. Two, executing on our secured growth projects. And then third, growing the business by capitalizing on traditional and step-out opportunities. Our base business continues to deliver predictable, stable income year after year, protecting and optimizing the bases, and its in some ways, are blocking and tackling of customer service. It's cost control and efficiency and it's regulatory strategy.

Project execution is always going to be critical. Successfully delivering on our project commitments requires nearly every department within our company to be efficiently focused on meeting the needs of our customers, our regulators, communities and other stakeholders as we bring these projects to fruition. And then, of course, growth, taking advantage of our unparalleled footprint to compete for these high-value growth projects both in our wheelhouse and further along the value chain.

So the first priority, the base. As we mentioned, this continues to be a highlight. Solid, low-risk revenues underpin the Gas Transmission businesses. There are 3 major takeaways from this rather busy graphic. First, we enjoy a high percentage of reservation base to take-or-pay revenue. Texas Eastern, 95%; Gulfstream and Florida, 98%; Algonquin and New England, 98%, et cetera. Second, the average contract term by asset, 9 years, 12 years, 8 years and so on. And these were the extremely high credit quality counterparties.

Third, this capacity is also highly utilized and valued. And as you can see, recent peak deliveries have been achieved on almost every one of these systems. This is what every good business wants. Assets that are sold out at maximum rates for long term with great customers and are clearly used and needed. It sure makes for a sustainable business, and it breeds opportunity.

So that's a pretty solid platform to build from. And over the next several years, the Texas Eastern and East Tennessee and Algonquin pipelines will require a sizable increase in capital spend to meet the evolving regulations and extend the life and capability of these valuable assets. Fortunately, these pipelines are in an excellent position to earn cost of service returns on these investments, increasing the overall DCF per year.

The Texas Eastern rate case is really significant for us. The filing is quite a long read, so I'd summarize our case for the rate increase in 4 points. First, we've seen a meaningful growth in the rate base itself, primarily from capital expenditures required on the system. Second, we've got to have a realignment of depreciation and negative salvage rates to align the return of Texas Eastern's capital invested with the estimated useful life of Texas Eastern's gas plant that's in service. Third, there's been an increase in the overall cost of providing that FERC jurisdictional service on the Texas Eastern system. And fourth, we'll have a weighted average cost of capital when applied to Texas Eastern's rate base will provide a compensatory and a reasonable level of return. So it's quite simply, the filing allows Texas Eastern recover its cost of service through just and reasonable rates.
Now similar filings will follow in the coming years for some of the other U.S. pipeline systems. And in Canada, early this year, we were able to again reach a multiyear total settlement on our BC Pipeline with our shippers. Tolls were reset to recognize a higher rate base arising, and in this case, primarily from our many recent expansion projects.

So the base business across our system, long lauded for its consistent delivery of unchanging, if not slightly improving EBITDA, is now poised to grow as well through required rate base capital investments. And this is in addition to the new pipe we're putting on the ground with our expansion projects.

So we continue to successfully execute on our major growth projects. This year has been one of our busiest construction years on record. In just the last 2 months, we brought on more than $3 billion of projects into service, with 2 projects, NEXUS and Valley Crossing. And in the current environment, this is no small feat. More than 4 years in the making, NEXUS is now delivering natural gas to customers in Ohio, Michigan and Ontario. The 256-mile, 1.5 Bcf a day pipeline supports the growing demand for natural gas in the Great Lakes region and it enables expansion of the Dawn-Parkway system and Cynthia's the gas utility business. And Valley Crossing, a 168-mile, 2.6 Bcf a day intrastate natural gas pipeline beginning near Corpus Christi, Texas, and extending south through Brownsville, where it travels offshore to the U.S.-Mexico border. The pipeline provides additional market access for the Haynesville, Permian and other supply sources through 8 pipeline interconnects at Valley Crossing's 5.2 Bcf Agua Dulce header system. It's a virtual funnel of varying supplies that get into Valley Crossing. Also transport to our customer, the CFE, Mexico State and utilities serving approximately 37 million customers.

Projects like NEXUS and Valley Crossing are very strategic and complementary additions to our pipeline portfolio, and the build-out continues. For example, T-South, a 1 -- a $1 billion expansion of the southern portion of the BC Pipeline in 2020. Also by 2020, Spruce Ridge and expansion to North system for $0.5 billion. In the Gulf, we just signed the Cameron lateral expansion project. This is -- we secured an anchor shipper, Venture Global Calcasieu Pass LNG. And we're currently holding an open season to garner further interest. So stay tuned for more details on that project. And Gulf Coast Express, which is a gas pipeline project from the Permian Basin to the east, invested into our 50% ownership in DCP and delivering right into the top of the Valley Crossing system.

So the base is strong and growing through rate proceedings. We've got $3 billion of growth projects under contract, and the fundamentals demonstrate both ample supply and growing domestic and export-oriented demand right on top of our footprint. So how specifically are we looking to take advantage of these opportunities in North America?

So these are the 4 regions where we see capital investment in the post-2020 time frame: the Northeast U.S., Southeast U.S., Gulf Coast and then Western Canada. And as we've examined our potential in these regions, we see about $2 billion to $3 billion of growth capital investment annually.


On the supply side, the Marcellus and Utica is expected to grow, and it's going to grow from 31 Bcf today to approximately 40 Bcf per day by the middle of the next decade. Throughout the last several years of Appalachia growth, we've really taken the opportunity to expand the Texas Eastern system multiple times to the east. We've reversed the pipeline from Ohio to the Gulf Coast. We built the open project in Ohio to more fully access the Utica and NEXUS to get that supply to the Midwest and Ontario. So we move about a 1/3 of this basin, and we bring these Marcellus and Utica supplies to wherever they need to go, and we can expand accordingly. As the Appalachian supply region grows, so will we.

It is fascinating to note that if Appalachia were its own country, it will be the third-largest gas-producing nation in the world. And yet just to the east, New England relies on fuel oil and LNG imported from thousands of miles away. There's something serious and wrong with that picture.

Last December and January, we saw virtually every Northeast local distribution company that we serve set new peak days or multiple peak days within that cold snap. And not surprisingly, so did we. Our pipelines that serve that region, Texas Eastern, Algonquin and Maritimes Northeast, delivered more than 11 Bcf on January 6. And for scale, that's about a 1/3 of the entire Northeast peak demand. Throughout New England, natural gas is used for home heating in about 40% of homes, and it's increasing. Most of our local distribution
companies are forecasting gradual increases in demand as their customer bases grow and they switch to natural gas. And again, as they grow, we grow.

Enbridge has opportunities to expand our current pipelines within our right of way, limiting stakeholder and environmental impacts and allowing us to meet this growth, just as we delivered with New Jersey, New York, and the AIM projects as we're doing with the construction of Atlantic Bridge, and as we're doing with the recently certificated Lambertville-East project, Enbridge will continue to develop and complete projects that meet LDC needs in the Northeast.

And looking at power generation in the region. Natural gas-fired plants make up nearly half of the electricity supply, and it's continuing to grow. Based on the planned retirement of coal, oil and nuclear plants and based on natural gas's quick start ability to complement the renewable energy resources that are being added to the grid. In New England, our pipeline system has 25 natural gas plants attached to it. That's about 60% of the gas-fired generation for the region. And yet of those plants, only about 4% of their generation is backed by firm type pipeline capacity. So connected to the majority of the plants already, we can expand along our right-of-way. When this region figures out how to contract for what they need or get fed up with burning oil or imported LNG from thousands of miles away, we'll be in position to expand for them.

So moving to the southeast markets. Electric generating capacity within Florida is expected to grow by more than 15% by 2026. The majority of this growth is projected to be natural gas-fired generation, about 9,000 megawatts through the end of that time period. So we're currently executing on Sabal trial Phases 2 and 3 to serve a good portion of this increased demand in Florida, and we're building up a $160 million Gulfstream expansion Phase 6 for in service in 2022. And that's mostly for Central and South Florida. There's also increasing need on the Panhandle as we move post-2020. And we're really well positioned to expand either Texas Eastern or the Southeast supply header to serve that load. So we see this as a really significant opportunity in the Panhandle to the tune of about anywhere from $0.5 billion to $1.5 billion.

The Gulf. So producers in many supply basins are looking for us to expand to feed the LNG and Mexico export markets that are developing along the Gulf Coast because we're really well positioned, as you can see, to do so. As Mexico continue to build out in-country, they also continue to tap into what they see as the reliable inexpensive U.S. gas. Pipeline exports into Mexico are currently around 5 Bcf a day and forecasted to grow to 8 Bcf a day over the next 5 years. Gas production in Mexico continues to decline. So over that same 5-year period, marketed supply is projected to decrease from a Bcf a day today to around 3/4 of a B. And as for LNG exports, it's forecasted as many as 7 projects will proceed in the Gulf Coast region requiring 13 Bcf a day to feed incremental liquefaction demand. And this is above the 10 Bcf a day of projects that are currently in service or under construction. So overall, liquefaction capacity is forecasted to be around that 23 Bcf a day level by 2030. And we're doing our part. We built the Gulf markets project to feed Cameron LNG, and we're executing on Stratton River to feed Freeport LNG. And now the recently signed Cameron lateral expansion for Venture Global. So Enbridge's Texas Eastern, the Brazoria Interconnect Gas or BIG Pipeline and Valley Crossing assets hug the Gulf and are in perfect proximity for capital expansion and extensions to deliver to all of the Gulf Coast LNG and Mexico markets.

Interestingly, with Agua Dulce as the site for its header, that funnel that I mentioned, into Valley Crossing, for Permian, Eagle Ford, Haynesville, Barnett and any other supply source sets us up really, really well to connect any of these supply sources to the South Texas LNG facilities and future exports to Mexico. So in addition to traditional growth, Mexico and LNG exports, Enbridge also continues to pursue offshore opportunities for attractive incremental investments in the Gulf of Mexico. We're leveraging our strong deepwater asset position, our relationships and technical capabilities as demonstrated by our recently signed $200 million project for Shell's Vito development.

Western Canada. So in the last 5 years, we're more than doubled the rate base investment in our BC pipeline system in Western Canada, including both T-North and T-South, by executing close to $2 billion of supply push and demand pull expansion projects. We built a really strong platform setting us up for opportunities going forward. The Montney and the Duvernay basins in Western Canada are world class, having both size and scale and the low cost to develop and produce versus other North American basins. And we also see Western Canadian sedimentary basin supplies building and needing pipeline takeaway from that region. Significant infrastructure improvements are going to be needed to get all these gas to market, creating a lot more opportunity for us. And the existing assets, both the BC Pipeline and Alliance and Aux Sable are in really good position relative to the growing Montney and Duvernay plays. We put a number of
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bolt-on projects into service recently such as Jackfish Lake, High Pine, Wyndwood, RAM. These are straightforward, on-system, bite-sized expansions. The Spruce Ridge and T-South expansion projects are the next in the queue and are scheduled to go into service in 2020. And there's demand for new expansions right behind these 2 projects. We recently completed a successful open season that will have us expanding our T-North system by 2023 and expect us to secure an additional expansion to T-South early in the next decade as demand for service from downstream markets continues.

The growth outlook certainly for BC Pipeline remains quite strong. And then Alliance, the Alliance story is very positive one as well. Our seasonal firm and IT contracts continue to see significant premiums to the firm tolls due to the pricing differential between AECO and Chicago markets, and of course, demand for service on Alliance remains strong also due to these price differentials. For expansions on Alliance, considering both full path or Canadian only or U.S. only paths and we're working with our customers currently to tailor a new build to meet their needs.

So in addition to traditional opportunities, we're also looking at step-up projects in Western Canada and the key area of focus here is LNG exports through our Westcoast Connector Gas Transmission project. Westcoast Connector has a developed a route to Prince Rupert. It's scalable. It's cost-effective transportation option for any of the next phase LNG export projects that are being discussed. Proof of concept here for Westcoast connector that we'll sign an exclusivity agreement with a significant LNG proponent and we'll negotiate only with Enbridge until mid-2019 for LNG transportation to the Westcoast, and we're also open to LNG terminal investment.

In addition to LNG, we're exploring the development of NGL infrastructure in Western Canada so that our pipeline customers can fully monetize the liquids that are currently entrained in the gas pipeline streams. So clearly, that would be a win-win situation.

So summary, we have a base business. It's not only solid, but provides for modest growth opportunities. We've got $3 billion of growth projects that are in flight. And where we are is where the growth is going to be. We know this business isn't for the faint of heart. We understand that what we do isn't easy, but natural gas use is growing despite those that don't want to believe that. It's cheap. It's abundant. And it's the cleanest of the fossil fuels that complements and enables the growth of wind and solar. It's the fuel of choice for increasing needs in homes, businesses and for power generation. We are in great position to make sure that those needs are met. So with that, we'll take any questions if you got them.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

William Turner Yardley Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

Jonathan, right back there.

Jeremy Bryan Tonet JP Morgan Chase & Co, Research Division - Senior Analyst

Jeremy Tonet, JPMorgan. Bill, I was wondering, with a lot of projects in Appalachia, most major projects have faced a lot of setbacks or issues. But it seems like NEXUS, once you've got the FERC quorum kind of move pretty smoothly there. What do you think was different as far as how you guys executed versus most others, I guess?

William Turner Yardley Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

Well, I would say that -- first of all, thank you for acknowledging that. Because we've put a ton of time and effort into our permitting and our stakeholder outreach strategy. What I would say is that it's difficult to compare us to anybody else in particular, but we did certainly get a lot of credit for the way that we approached that project. Maybe a little bit of the extra time helped as we were going through a difficult FERC period, but Jeremy, we learned an awful lot when we did New Jersey, New York. We've learned a lot through Sabal, through our other Appalachia region projects as to how do you treat landowners, how do you treat other stakeholders, how do you get through the permitting process the right way. And it's not to cut corners. It's not to necessarily just say, well, FERC said we could do it, so we're going to do it. We've got to engage every stakeholder, whether it's a county, state, regional government body or permitting agency and do it early. So I think we did. In that area, we were compared to others and I think we came out well. So thanks for acknowledging that. I'm not sure I answered your question all that well, but I really appreciate that.
Jeremy Bryan Tonet | JP Morgan Chase & Co, Research Division - Senior Analyst

And just want to follow up on northeast growth as well. I mean, the need us quite clear in New England, New Jersey, New York. But the environment seems quite difficult there. I mean, Massachusetts made the active decision to import Russian LNG instead of support infrastructure from Pennsylvania, cheap gas, very close. How do you move forward with that environment, granted the need is extremely clear for the infrastructure?

William Turner Yardley | Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

So all we can say is that we are really well positioned. So whether it's access northeast or some other derivative of that as we go on, the Algonquin pipeline and the Maritimes Pipeline or right where they need to be to serve the load that needs to be served. Currently, I think it's either going to take something that is truly disruptive or some fairly significant political courage to say, "look, we appreciate that we need a lot more renewable resources in the region." We're not fighting that. In fact, we're trying our hardest to marry what we can do on the gas side for along our system in the right-of-way expansion that aren't terribly invasive with the renewables and try to partners in someway shape or form. That's another mechanism. Frankly, it doesn't exist today. You either renewable or you're not. And that doesn't make sense because what the gas does to complement those renewable resources, it really does enable them to grow. So if you're going to electrify Massachusetts, and you're going to electrify the rest of New England, you're going to grow the overall need for generation. And if you're going to do it with renewables, you're going to have to back it up with gas. So that, I guess, states the case for why if needed. How it's going to get done, again, either there's going to be an event of some kind, which where gas plants won't be able to get what they need and other resources won't be available. Or it's going to take 1 or 2 governors getting together and saying, gas really is a big part of the solution and push it through either state senate.

Robert Catellier | CIBC Capital Markets, Research Division - Executive Director of Institutional Equity Research

Rob Catellier, CIBC. This question is relevant for your peers on the liquids side of the business. And you've indirectly answered it with the amount of investment opportunities you've detailed on the gas side. But I'm very curious to know the company 's opinion of Bill C-69, the Impact Assessment Act? And how that influences your appetite for growth in Canada? And how it might change your approach to project development?

William Turner Yardley | Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

Well, I'll be happy to pass it off to Al or Guy for this one, but it's probably more of an overall corporate answer.

Al Monaco | Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Well, as you can imagine, we spent a lot of time on Bill C-69 at advising the federal government that bill is currently in the Senate, as you know. And I think, generally speaking, the government -- the federal government probably has the right intention in terms of wanting to ensure predictability and certainty in the process. However, in our view, it's not quite there yet. There's some issues within Bill C-69 that cause us concern. It goes to the previous question that we talked about around putting capital to work in developing projects and then not having the certainty that even once approved, that we're going to be able to execute the project. So there's several issues with respect to timelines and certainty around timelines, what's included in the project list, what projects are included and excluded from this bill and processed. And then there are several areas, let's call them a policy generally, for example, around environmental issues that effectively get worked into project reviews. And of course, single projects cannot be responsible for addressing broader issues around environmental or emissions, for example. So we have some concerns about it. We're working with the federal government to continue to provide that advice, and we'll see where it ends up. Anything to add on that, Guy?

Yes, Linda?

Linda Ezergailis | TD Securities Equity Research - Research Analyst

I wonder if you could elaborate a little bit on the NGL opportunities that you see in Western Canada in terms of scope and scale as you can appreciate some of the incumbents there provide kind of a full path advantage that might have certain commercial attributes that are not typically within your kind of focus. So are you going to be leveraging some of your existing infrastructure and relationships? Or how do you expect to compete and under what time line and how?
DECEMBER 11, 2018 / 1:30PM GMT, Enbridge Inc Investor Conference

William Turner Yardley Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

Well, so I'll say a little bit, and I don't want to get into it too deeply. But these are -- these would be specific to NGLs that are currently entrained in our existing BC Pipeline. And that situation is getting to a point where you don't want -- that the heat content of the gas is getting too much if it reaches the market, not today, but it will in the next 2 or 3 years. So I think it's a unique opportunity to us to provide some sort of relief. And that could be a full complement NGL relief or it could be for one product specifically or another. I think that's as far as I'll go on that. But it's a -- I think it's a fairly -- I think it's an opportunity that is fairly unique to us because it's within the BC Pipeline system today.

Thomas Edward Abrams Morgan Stanley, Research Division - Executive Director

Tom Abrams from Morgan Stanley. Bill, could you give us an updated roadmap on the PennEast project? And b, are you hearing any rumblings in Mexico about contract changes with CFE that might impact your southern business there?

William Turner Yardley Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

Yes, I'll tackle the last one first. So no. No issues. Currently, no rumblings that we're hearing. We're in contact with the CFE regularly, so any changes that we're seeing in the government has not trickled down and nor would we expect them to at this point, so that's good news. As far as PennEast goes, PennEast is a challenging one, right? So we're dead in the middle of trying to get the project through all the way to New Jersey. And the New Jersey permitting process is a challenge for us. We're -- as Al alluded to, the lack of certainty within the state with -- partially with a change in the government there, has left us in a kind of an arduous situation or the task is arduous to try to get all of our survey permissions today. So I think the partnership generally looks at this project as a project that's probably going to be complete -- we complete it in sometime in 2020 with the delays that we've seen. We had hoped to get that project and actually this year when we started it. It's a long slow slog. Luckily, I would say we do have very good partners, many of them within the state of New Jersey. We think that the gas is really very well needed in that area and would be a really nice tap into the Northeast Marcellus, which would not just benefit Jersey but also could get into the Texas Eastern Algonquin systems and potentially provide some relief to New England. Robert?

Robert Michael Kwan RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Research Division - Analyst

Yes. Robert Kwan, RBC. Just coming back to the West Coast and on the LNG pipeline side of things, the one that is going ahead has below-average returns and above-average leverage. So can you just talk about how Westcoast Connector might be different, particularly mapping back to Al's comments about applying a filter to high returns and then keeping it within check?

William Turner Yardley Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

Yes. So there's a lot of water to grow under the bridge for that. What I would say is that we have, number one, I think overall, regardless of what the returns are on the first project going, I would say that it's generally a good sign that there is support for a project. And I think it would legitimates Canada's place on the world stage with regard to LNG export. The Westcoast Connector, we did a lot of work on this with Spectra. And we think that it is scalable to what is needed for the producers that are interested that are currently left behind. In terms of the financials and leverage, there's just so much to talk about or so much to decide between now and the time we actually sanction a project, difficult to say.

Robert Michael Kwan RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Research Division - Analyst

I might just follow-up or turning to the Northeast here. You talked about having the right-of-way on Tetco and Algonquin. As you look at new projects, obviously, there's going to be full regulatory associated with it, right? How much do you see actually having specific right-of-way in the easements that you've got? Or is it really just you've got general right-of-way and permitting something along the same line? It's obviously going to be easier than brand-new ridge.

William Turner Yardley Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

It's a great question. It's actually complicated to answer, but it varies. So Algonquin is really unique, and I'll harken back to what our program has been when we started AIM and moved on to Atlantic Bridge. And we're moving on to Access Northeast or whatever comes next. Basically, Algonquin is the simplest one to explain. So Algonquin is a 2-pipeline system. It's currently got or when it was -- probably, before we started AIM, it had a 30-inch pipe and a 26-inch pipe in the same right-of-way. And the 26th pipe -- 26-inch pipe was the original. So what we started do with AIM was, in addition to adding some compression, is we were replacing pieces of the 26 with
a 42 in the same right-of-way, same path. You need a little bit more for that size pipe but not -- nothing that was radical. And we were able to get it through permits and in New York State of all places, right, so with both Atlantic Bridge and with AIM. And so that, we haven't done much of that just to get AIM on and to get Bridge to the stage that it's at. We had another, I can't remember, but I think it was 30 or 40 miles of that pickup in relay associated with Access Northeast. So that's one example where having the right-of-way and having a pipeline that you can replace that's 1950s vintage pipe, all good. But take out the 26, put in a brand new 42, that's a good day. So that's one way to do it. Texas Eastern, we have in between 3 and 4 pipes in the right-of-way depending on which line you're looking at. And on those specifically, I think it varies by section, by parcel how much extra right-of-way we have, but we'll do the same type of pickup and relay if necessary if we can't get another pipe in the right-of-way.

Dennis Paul Coleman BofA Merrill Lynch, Research Division - Global Head of High Grade Debt Research and MD

Okay. And then just on the timing of how these projects might come into play? We haven't seen any FIDs on LNG. I mean, are we talking 3 or 4 years out?

William Turner Yardley Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

Dennis, we're on the east coast, we're looking at making it a reliable, reasonable source of gas to the east coast, we're looking at making the cost as low as we can. We're looking at the cost of making that gas and the cost of bringing it to the east coast. And we're looking at the cost of bringing it to the east coast.

William Turner Yardley Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

Yes. Yes, I don't -- I think we've been pretty disciplined to date not to get into that game, whether it was Florida, whether it's been the Permian. Permian is actually analogous in some way. So Permian, when we look at building a Permian pipe ourselves, the returns on the pipeline, just looking at it from a supply source to the demand point and synergistic with some of our other assets like Valley Crossing, we thought, "Well, let's get in there and bid." Those returns are pretty compressed. So you really need to have something on the supply end to augment those returns, and that's what DCP had. So participating and playing through the DCP is actually a much better return for us overall. I would wager that, that same dynamic could play out in Western Canada or, frankly, in any one of our other regions where if you can leverage what you've got, you can juice the returns a little bit and earn more than just that linear piece of pipe in the ground.

Dennis Paul Coleman BofA Merrill Lynch, Research Division - Global Head of High Grade Debt Research and MD

Okay. And then just on the timing of how these projects might come into play? We haven't seen any FIDs on LNG. I mean, are we talking 3 or 4 years out?

William Turner Yardley Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

Well, I think we'll know a lot more after we get through the next 6 months of negotiations with this one player that we're talking to. And I think if: A, if we come to some really good agreement with them and they can drag along some of their counterparts, then we'll know more. So that's -- sorry, so short story is we'll know a heck of a lot more later this year. Where are you people on the earnings calls anyway? I don't get any calls -- I don't get any questions, and now I'm getting them all.

Jonathan Gould Enbridge Inc. - Director, IR

One more here.

An idee. I come from the utility side. I follow DTE. So I've got a question on the NEXUS pipeline. My understanding is it's about 2/3 subscribed, staging in to being 2/3 subscribed. A lot of debate about that the long-term merits of that pipe since the day that you guys announced it. With Dawn looking fully supplied as we go out in time, what's the competitive advantage on that pipe? And how do you get to fully subscribed? And what types of returns do you expect once you're fully subscribed on that pipe?

William Turner Yardley Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP and President of Gas Transmission & Midstream

So yes. So the pipe today at roughly 2/3 full is -- and it probably just barely covers the cost capital of the project, right? So that's not a good place to be. That doesn't gain me any favor with my boss, so that's not a good day. But -- and frankly, the environment today, when you just build the pipe and you just build the infrastructure, it's the lowest possible time or probably the basis, at its lowest point going forward, right? So today is not a great day to judge that. So let's say 2 things. One is that over the course of the next several years, few years anyway, takeaway is going to improve from Dawn, whether it's going up into TransCanada and heading East, it's just yet another way to get gas to the East Coast; or whether it is through increased power generation. And having a partner like DTE, I think they have a
pretty good insight into the coal-to-gas conversions that are going on in that region. So there’s a pretty good -- at the very end of the pipe, I think we feel good about that. And then along the line, we spend -- I know we talked about this a lot, we spend a lot of time hooking up gas customers in Ohio. They’re not ready to sign up for firm capacity today, but they will as time goes along. That’s going to be their primary choice. So it’s too early to judge that it’s a -- the project is going to be cost of capital plus 5% or if it is going to be 3% or 8%. Too early to tell on that. For us, so DTE has their own synergies with NEXUS. But for Enbridge, when you think about what it does to connect the Texas Eastern system with the Dawn storage hub, it’s something we want to do, frankly, since we bought Westcoast back in 2002. And to have that and the ability to move gas back and forth, a couple of 100 Bcf of storage in the Ontario area and all the markets and need for storage that we see on the Texas Eastern system, I think there’s really good synergy back and forth. So if we don’t sell out for 10- and 15-year contracts early in this process, I think we have a pretty good line of sight to smaller, shorter-term contracts that will at least try to get us a little bit of revenue in the meantime.

Jonathan Gould
Enbridge Inc. - Director, IR

Any more questions for Bill? Okay. We’ll have Cynthia present on the utilities, and then we’ll have a short break after that.

PRESENTATION

Cynthia Lynn Hansen
Enbridge Inc. - EVP of Utilities & Power Operations

Good morning. So as you heard, my name is Cynthia Hansen, and I have the privilege of leading our utilities and power operations team. It’s a very exciting time for our gas utilities. So on January 1 of 2019, we will amalgamate Enbridge Gas Distribution and Union Gas into Enbridge Gas in Ontario. And the amalgamation will allow Enbridge to grow and fully leverage our utility operation. We have high-value assets, great people and a really strong customer base that provides a platform for continued geographic growth as well as opportunities to lever into other sectors like electric utilities. We have a 5-year regulatory deal with large synergy opportunities in a low-risk business with great growth potential.

So this premium utility is the largest and best situated gas utility in Canada supporting Ontario, Québec and U.S. Northeast markets. We are #1 by gas send out in North America and the third largest based on our total number of customers. Our franchise area generates 40% of Canada's GDP. Our reach into over 12 million people and businesses with our 3.7 million meters ensures that we are very well positioned for growth, both in our traditional and then the new lower-carbon market.

We have exceptional growth in customers and assets. As Al mentioned, we add over 50,000 customers each year and deploy capital in excess of $1 billion annually to maintain and grow our great assets. Our franchise services over 40% of Canada's population, and that population is expected to grow by 33% by 2040. Our Dawn storage hub and our Parkway transmission assets are tied to large demand centers that are growing. We have a 5-year regulatory contract that provides stable distribution rates with access to abundant low-cost gas that delivers the most cost-competitive energy source. Gas is 57% cheaper than electricity and 70% cheaper than heating oil.

So as our priorities, we will first optimize our base. Our near-term focus will be on that successful integration of our gas utilities in Ontario. With our recent Ontario Energy Board regulatory decision, the utility is positioned to generate very strong financial returns, capturing synergies and delivering value to both our ratepayers and our shareholders. We're building on a very strong foundation, applying learnings from previous Enbridge transformation. We already have 2 of the top quartile gas utilities in North America. And with synergy capture, we will drive to the best-in-class operating cost and support structure.

We will execute on our secured projects with our near-term in-franchise growth, and we will continue to capitalize on the growth opportunities that are inherent with our assets: growing storage and transmission, expanding into new communities in Ontario, positioning gas in the transportation market for trucking and capturing renewable natural gas within our grid. So with the integration, we’ll be very well positioned to support longer-term utilities step-out transactions.

So the new 5-year incentive structure in place raised annually based on a factor of GDP less 0.3%. This 0.3% stretch factor ensures that some of the benefits of amalgamation flow directly to our ratepayers. We share earnings with our ratepayers on a 50-50 basis after our returns exceed the allowed rate by 150 basis points, so that our benefit capture starts on day 1.
Capital programs that exceed a threshold are recovered at the allowed rate of return if the projects are required, similar to the current approach to capital for Union Gas. So the new deal allows Enbridge the opportunity for enhanced earnings in the utility while continuing our strong focus on safety and reliability.

In this low-risk business, we have developed a 5-year business plan that will deliver on the operating cost synergy opportunities with a modest investment in capital that will drive a return of approximately 100 basis points above the allowed rate of return, which is currently 9%. So while we’re focused on opportunities with the amalgamation to capture synergies and our continued growth platform, we are not distracted from the day-to-day demands of our business.

We will be working to realize synergies with the combination of the 2 utilities in a number of areas, including operations, customer care, work management, shared services, storage and transmission as well as our management functions. Our people continue to safely and reliably deliver the energy that heats homes and generates economic growth. The strengths of our committed and engaged team is the platform that allows us to continue to deliver those strong, stable financial results.

So in the next couple of slides, I’ll just highlight what those growth opportunities are. So as I mentioned earlier, we will add over 50,000 new customers each year. In addition to this very steady growth, the new provincial government in Ontario recently passed Bill 32, which supports expansion of low-cost natural gas to additional communities, driving local-business development. We'll have the opportunity to connect up to an additional 50-plus communities within our franchise area.

We have a 10-year capital asset plan that we filed with the regulator, and we will continue to reinvest and renew our assets ensuring safe and reliable operations. For required capital projects that exceed that threshold, the incremental capital model will provide a rate-based return. So we'll continue to invest over $1 billion annually in our capital programs.

Our storage assets at Dawn into Tecumseh and our transmission assets, including the Dawn-to-Parkway system, are extremely well-placed. We are the market leader with highly reliable competitive price storage and transmission services. Dawn is the second most liquid hub in America. Last year, we completed our 3-year program to build 1.2 Bcf expansion. And we're continuing to grow that liquidity at Dawn, providing peak and seasonal services, and we're already starting to leverage the combined storage operations. We have and will continue to develop transmission capacity to support our franchise growth as well as that U.S. Northeast demand.

With the completion of NEXUS and Rover, we're very well positioned to support that growth. So we recently completed an open season, and we saw a very strong interest, which will translate into additional expansion in 2021 and 2022.

Now with the extension opportunities. There are significant opportunities for more compressed natural gas in Ontario, including bussing, garbage trucks and heavy-haul trucking. CNG is a lower-cost and lower-carbon solution. We secured a number of projects along the Highway 401 corridor, and we're reviewing additional regional stations along the 400 series highways. We're currently working with municipalities and commercial operations to expand generation and capture of renewable natural gas associated with landfills, biodigesters and other opportunities.

Carbon pricing, clean fuel standards, methane regulations are driving strong demand, and the regulatory construct allows for the inclusion of the RNG injection facilities into rate base. We've successfully secured projects, including the Dufferin project with the City of Toronto, and there are 15 to 20 potential projects that are currently under review.

With our Enbridge investment in the East West Tie facilities, we're going further into the electricity space in Ontario. East West Tie filed their lead to construct with the Ontario Energy Board, and the environmental assessment comment period closed on November 16. We're excited by this potential, and we're also excited by the potential that exists for other low-risk, regulated-like business models, including alternative distribution systems and behind-the-meter solutions.

So we continue to pursue opportunities to integrate gas and electric infrastructure using combined heat pumps, geothermal loops and hydrogen storage and blending. We commissioned the first large-scale hydrogen power-to-gas fuel cell in North America this year, a 2.5-megawatt unit in Markham that provide services to the ISO.
So in summary, we have great assets located in major growth centers in Canada and connected to diverse gas supplies. Our assets deliver strong, predictable returns. Over the near term, we will drive tremendous value with the amalgamation of the utilities, streamlining our operations, optimizing our storage and transmission assets. We will be the best-in-class utility, leading in operating and cost management. This drives the 1 to 2.5% to 2% annual growth of DCF per share. And we have extremely strong organic growth with our ongoing 50,000-plus customer additions and the opportunity to expand into 50 or more new communities in Ontario.

Within the 5-year incentive agreement, we have a defined asset plan that exceeds the $5 billion and supports both the identified growth as well as the renewal of our rate base. The incremental capital model ensures that we will earn the allowed return for any required capital additions that are in excess of that threshold. So we're very well positioned to offer unique solutions to our 12 million-plus customers with complementary lower-carbon solutions, including CNG, RNG and behind-the-meter opportunities.

What we own and operate today is an extremely strong platform to support growth as we provide gas to heat homes, run businesses and transport goods. We'll continue to build out the franchise and maximize our operational efficiencies and leverage our size, safely operate while we deliver strong, stable financial results.

With that, I open it up to any questions.

**QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS**

**Andrew M. Kuske Crédit Suisse AG, Research Division - MD, Head of Canadian Equity Research, and Global Co-ordinator for Infrastructure Research**

Andrew Kuske, Crédit Suisse. Obviously, you're in a different position than what we've seen with Hydro One and just all the political shenanigans that have gone on there. But do you worry about any kind of movement for reregulation and effectively taking the returns downward for utility assets in the province?

**Cynthia Lynn Hansen Enbridge Inc. - EVP of Utilities & Power Operations**

So I would say that, as you mentioned, within Ontario, gas and electric are in very, very different spaces. We have always developed a very strong working relationship with the existing government. We've had lots of opportunities to start to establish that relationship. I am not worried that we are going to face a reregulation of the gas franchise within Ontario.

**Michael Jay Lapides Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Research Division - VP**

Michael Lapides of Goldman Sachs. Can you remind us what is the maximum earned return on equity you're allowed at, at the utilities? And/or when does a sharing mechanism if you hit a certain ROE kick in that you have to kind of give back to customers?

**Cynthia Lynn Hansen Enbridge Inc. - EVP of Utilities & Power Operations**

Right. So with the new agreement that we'll have on January 1 under the amalgamation, we will be allowed to earn, within the combined utilities, up to 150 basis points over the allowed rate of return. The allowed rate of return for 2019 is set at 8.98%, so effectively 9%. So we will be able to earn up to 10.5%. And then after that, we can still continue to earn, but we share 50-50 with the ratepayers. You're welcome.

**Benjamin Pham BMO Capital Markets Equity Research - Analyst**

Ben Pham, BMO. On your rate base growth, just kind of rough numbers, it looks like it's more of a 4% to 5% CAGR, which isn't much different with North American growth rates. So is the difference between that and 1% or 2%, is that more a regulatory lag that you're managing this new incentive term, and then in 5 years beyond, there's a big pickup in the rate base and the growth that you see longer term?

**Cynthia Lynn Hansen Enbridge Inc. - EVP of Utilities & Power Operations**

So I think the way I will capture this is that we will get strong -- the growth of 1% to 2% is strong, probably on the higher side just from the synergy capture. So we'll be very well positioned to drive that growth. Then the rest of the growth comes from our -- the $1...
billion-plus that we're going to add over the 5 years. And following that, it's going to be from our 50,000-plus customer adds that we do annually, plus the expansion in the new communities, the continued build-out of Dawn to Parkway and our transmission assets. So that's kind of in excess of that. So it will generate overall about 4% to 5% growth of EBITDA post 2020. So it's a very strong growth platform compared to overall utilities.

Benjamin Pham BMO Capital Markets Equity Research - Analyst

Okay. So it sounds like in terms of that 4% to 5%, you've generally secured that post 2020 for a number of years beyond.

Cynthia Lynn Hansen Enbridge Inc. - EVP of Utilities & Power Operations

Well, for the 5-year term, and then we'll rebase in 2024. So there will be a rebasing that happens at the end of that 5-year term.

Robert Hope Scotiabank Global Banking and Markets, Research Division - Analyst

Rob Hope, Scotiabank. Just in terms of allocation of capital, we've seen you divest 2 of the smaller utilities. I just want to get a sense of -- today's focus has really been on Ontario. What about the Québec assets? And then longer term, would you look to -- for other geographies as well?

Cynthia Lynn Hansen Enbridge Inc. - EVP of Utilities & Power Operations

Yes. That's a great question. I mean, the divestiture of the 2 smaller utilities, St. Lawrence Gas and Enbridge Gas New Brunswick, were based on that they weren't really fitting into what our core is. So basically, for those utilities, great utilities, but they didn't have a lot of growth potential. So very different from the new Enbridge gas and even Gazifere. So Gazifere, we're just completing 2 expansion projects in that franchise. There are synergies there with Gazifere being close to our Ottawa operations. So like Al said earlier though, we will continue to look at how we value our assets and how we will do our capital allocation in the future and make sure that we are getting that great return for our assets overall. But at this time, as Al mentioned, we're very strong in our financial position, and we're not looking at additional divestitures.

Jonathan Gould Enbridge Inc. - Director, IR

Any more questions?

Al Monaco Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director

Maybe I'd just tag on to one point that Cynthia made in response to Andrew's question around the Ontario business environment, let's call it that generally. One of the things that is a little bit different as well, and Cynthia alluded to this, is that the nature of natural gas and the cost structure and the efficiency of it relative to other fuels, let's just say that, in the province is extremely effective. So not only is it inherently lower cost from a heating point of view and so forth, I think the team has done a very good job at keeping cost very low, which all else to say that I think we're doing the right things for customers. So I think that puts us in a bit of a different light just in terms of the overall position in the province.

Okay, with that, we'll -- let's take a 15-minute break. There's coffee and snacks in the foyer. And we'll reconvene, let's call it, 10:45 sharp. Thank you.

(Break)

PRESENTATION

Jonathan Gould Enbridge Inc. - Director, IR

Hello? Folks, we're going to get back started again in 1 minute. So if you can make your way back to your chairs, I'd appreciate it.

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

All right. I've got the signal, and I'm ready to go. Good morning. Happy to be here to wrap up our business unit reviews by talking a bit in the next 30 minutes or so about our Liquids Pipelines business.

Like Cynthia and Bill, we're very excited about where we're at and the outlook for our business right now. We're making great progress on
a secured capital plan, we're safely moving a lot of crude and we're relentlessly focused on finding ways to increase throughput. We're working hard on a range of things that give us the confidence that we're going to continue to grow this business into the future.

There's going to be a number of new things that we're going to talk about today. The first one is we've identified several options that we think are going to allow us to increase throughput out of Western Canada by the middle of next year. An opportunity has been identified to potentially expand the Express pipeline by the end of 2019. And we're continuing to pursue longer-term options to enhance throughput on the Mainline system.

I'm going to provide an update of our discussions with customers regarding the need to replace the current CTS agreement, which expires in July of 2021. A couple of new projects have been secured, which I'll review. The acquisition of the Cheecham area facilities, the service after-basket oil corp and the exercise of our option to acquire an interest in the Gray Oak pipeline. Finally, I'll talk publicly for the first time about an offshore U.S. Gulf Coast VLCC loading facility that we're developing called Texas COLT. There's a lot to cover, so I'm going to get right to it with a quick review of what is North America's premier portfolio of Liquids Pipelines assets.

Our Mainline system, the market it serves, the flexibility it offers and our capabilities to optimize throughput is uniquely distinct with unparalleled competitive advantages. In November of this year, the Mainline delivered a record 2.785 million barrels per day into the U.S. Following completion of the Line 3 replacement, Mainline capacity will be restored to approximately 3.225 million barrels per day, 3 million of which can serve our extensive refining markets in the U.S.

Regionally, we're very well positioned in key supply areas. We serve many of the largest oil sands projects with laterals, facilities and 4 pipelines capable of transporting 2 million barrels per day to the Edmonton and Hardisty market hubs. Express pipeline transport up to 280,000 barrels per day of Canadian crude to serve markets in the Rocky Mountain region. We own and operate 2 pipelines serving North Dakota's Bakken production and are a partner in Dakota Access.

Finally, we have a growing reach into the refining center and export infrastructure along the U.S. Gulf Coast through Seaway, Energy Transfer pipeline and now Gray Oak. These assets, our commercial and operating capability, along with the many relationships that we have across this network, provide a fantastic foundation to continue to grow our business.

Our outlook is always underpinned by an assessment of the fundamentals, so let me start in Western Canada. Production growth from the oil sands under development are already producing. It continues to be strong to the point where, today, we estimate the basin production exceeds local refinery and export pipeline capacity by as much as 450,000 barrels a day. Expectations are that these projects could continue to add as much as 600,000 barrels a day of incremental production through 2025.

The oil sands is one of the greatest remaining crude oil reserves in the world. Producers have made huge strides in terms of how they more efficiently execute their capital projects, manage their operating cost and utilize technologies to lower emissions. We believe in this basin over the long term and are committed to ensuring that pipeline capacity will be available to support that growth outlook.

Record -- sorry about that. It seems that I might be missing a slide. Record throughput on the Mainline in November is further proof point of our successful track record of increasing capacity and undertaking those actions to safely maximize throughput. The flexibility of the Mainline, the high reliability performance it provides on the foundation of an extensive integrity program and the innovation of our staff are driving value everyday for our customers and for Enbridge.

Every barrel of throughput is extremely important to our customers right now, and there's a great deal of pride throughout our organization that drives the relentless focus on things like coordinating maintenance, optimizing crude slates across our multiple lines, removing smaller bottlenecks across the system. As we look forward to 2019 and beyond, we're confident that new solutions continue to be implemented.

We've always liked the fundamentals for liquids-related energy infrastructure along the U.S. coast dating back to before the crude oil export ban was lifted. Lifting of that ban has made the region even more significant for us given that it's a key factor impacting pipelines and market access alternatives. The refining capability of the U.S. Gulf Coast is well understood as is the need for additional export
capability. We believe each represents a growing need for infrastructure, ranging from pipelines to storage to blending and, ultimately, the export facility itself.

So where does this lead us to with our strategic priorities? It highlights our continued focus on optimizing throughput on the Mainline and ensuring complementary market access options are available. Providing support to this focus will be the finalizing of a new Mainline toll framework, which we believe will continue to incentivize us to maximize available capacity and throughput. Clearly, we need to execute our secured projects as planned, and we’re pleased with where we are at in that regard.

Finally, we want to continue to secure opportunity to build out our U.S. Gulf Coast presence focused on market access and export opportunity. I’m going to speak to each one of these in a little bit more detail.

My apologies, this is where my slides got out of order. I've already talked about this slide. And again, it comes back to talking about the proven track record that we've established in terms of optimizing throughput on the Mainline system.

This slide was going to look familiar to any of those who attended Enbridge Day last year or has spent any time with our investment community presentation. The reason they look familiar is that our premise remains unchanged.

Following the Line 3 replacement, our Mainline system will be capable of delivering 3 million barrels per day into the U.S., and we have the on-system demand and downstream pipeline access to get these barrels to the refinery. Our system serves the highest-priced markets with the lowest toll, resulting in the best netback opportunity for Western Canadian crude.

Assuming pipeline tools drive pricing differentials in the scenario with competing pipelines, the Enbridge Mainline is expected to offer up to $5.50 per barrel, netback advantage versus spot tolls on the competitor pipelines.

The chart on the right continues to assume that both Keystone XL and TMX are built. We are showing Keystone XL in service for 2021 and TMX, a couple of years later. And as you can see, the outlook for our Mainline throughput continues to be very strong. Barrels will dispatch out of Western Canada based on the best available netbacks. Local refineries will be served first, and contracted capacity will flow next. Beyond that, we believe the Mainline will take up the remaining volumes until such time as we're full, an outlook that will only improve following the planned contracting of the Mainline system effective July 2021.

So let's move on and talk a bit about that Mainline tolling. The hallmark of our success in negotiating the tolling framework for the Mainline, dating as far back as the mid-90s, has been creating solutions that align Enbridge interest with those of our customers. Customers continue to want long-term toll predictability, flexibility to serve different refining markets across the Mainline and incentives for Enbridge to continue to optimize throughput, all of which is available within the construct of the current competitive toll settlement.

The CTS, however, does not offer a number of new features that customers are seeking. Customers want to be able to align Mainline capacity to either of their refinery, their production or downstream pipeline contracts on a long-term contracted basis with priority access so that they're no longer subject to apportion that. Meeting these needs of customers aligns very well with our own interest. And as a result, we've been in discussions with our customers on the potential to contract the capacity of the Mainline system for several months now.

Negotiations with our customers are not complete. So at this stage, I'm not going to be diving too deeply into any of the terms and conditions. But what I can tell you is that the framework will include priority access for up to 90% of the Mainline capacity, contract terms of up to 20 years, tailored offerings for producers, tailored offerings for refiners and a large volume discount opportunity. We expect to conclude these negotiations on the framework and submit the required regulatory applications in 2019 to ensure we're ready to go upon the expiry of the CTS in July 2021.

Talking a little bit about 2019 and the potential to increase throughput. Our team has been working hard on a couple of the longer-term options that we've identified, the option to reduce deliveries coming out of North Dakota into our system at Cromer and, of course, the planning around the expected in-service date of Line 3 at the end of next year. That work has highlighted for us that we have a couple of
options to potentially increase throughput next year, and we're working very aggressively on them. Discussions are underway with our
BPAP shippers to consider a temporary suspension of deliveries to Cromer that would allow the Mainline capacity to be served from
Edmonton. Agreement has been reached with one of the shippers, and a small capital investment program is underway that is expected
to allow us to move up to 50,000 barrels a day of incremental crude from Edmonton by the middle of next year. This plan does not
increase capacity on the system, but simply replaces the North Dakota barrel with a Western Canadian barrel. The Line 3 replacement
project in Canada is expected to be complete by July of next year. As plans are developed for the required line fill and commissioning of
tanks at Hardisty, it is estimated that as much as 4 million barrels will be required over a multi-month period. And again, while this does
not add downstream capacity, it will move some barrels out of Alberta and position us to move more quickly into full operation of Line 3
once we're complete in the U.S.

Finally, our team is working to develop solutions to utilize up to 40,000 barrels a day downstream of Regina when deliveries are made to
the refineries there and a window of downstream capacity is currently unutilized. A plan and timing has not yet been landed on, but it's
another example of how we're leaving no stone unturned in our effort to increase throughput on the Mainline system.

Talking a bit about Line 3 and where we're at. As I just mentioned, we expect Canadian construction to be complete by July 1 and
planning is underway for line fill and commissioning. There's a lot going on and a lot of progress being made in Minnesota. The PUC has
followed up their verbal approvals of the certificate of need and route permit with written orders. Petitions for reconsideration of the
certificate of need were rejected by the commission, and a hearing on Thursday will deal with petitions for reconsideration of the route
permit. All of our permit applications to Minnesota agencies have been submitted and accepted as complete, and we're actively engaged
with agency staff to work through the process and time line to have the applications reviewed and the permits issued. Tribal cultural
survey of the entire right of way in Minnesota is substantially complete, and Army Corps and Bureau of Indian affairs requirements all
remain on track. The upshot of all of this, which we still continue to believe we're going to put Line 3 in service in Canada and the U.S. by
the second half of next year.

The Southern Access expansion has been overshadowed by the larger Line 3 replacement but is an important piece of the puzzle to
ensure the capacity restored on Line 3 does not bottleneck at Superior. The project involves the expansion of Southern Access from
900,000 barrels a day to 1.2 million barrels per day at a cost of about $500 million. The staged expansion of Southern Access has been
underway for a number of years now, so the project is permitted and the work well advanced to meet the second half 2019 targeted
in-service date.

Coming back to Mainline optimizations and talking about and them and their longer-term potential, it starts again with the opportunity
that we're pursuing to cease the deliveries out of North Dakota into the system at Cromer. The opportunity that we are working on and
can create for 2019 will continue into 2020, and we continue to work with other customers to try to reach commercial solutions where
they will cease their deliveries because we have the opportunity to do a bit more work on the Mainline and ultimately increase that ability
to move the barrels out of Edmonton up to 100,000 barrels per day.

Drag reducing agent is a feature we actively use to maximize throughput on the Mainline today, and our expectation is that further
opportunities will be identified to ease bottlenecks and improve throughput through the further use of DRA.

Finally, a successful plan is already in place to access 50,000 of the 75,000 barrels a day of capacity on Line 4 that we've been looking to
restore. Many of you will recall that we've talked historically about 75,000 barrels a day of incremental capacity we're trying to get back
to on Line 4. We found a solution for 2/3 of that, and are actively now working a plan to get out that last 25,000 barrels.

Longer term, we have 2 solutions that can provide another 250,000 barrels a day of incremental throughput. First and foremost, we're
going to conduct an extensive analysis across the Mainline to determine the optimal mix of DRA usage and pump station design and
configuration. It's expected that any changes to pump station design may require regulatory permits, which pushes the expected time
line for when this capacity may be realized out to 2022. Commensurate with any increased throughput of the Mainline system upstream
of superior, plans have been identified to increase capacity on Southern Access so that the barrels can get to Flanagan and, ultimately,
the U.S. Gulf Coast. A commercial model is under development that can underpin the reversal of the Southern Lights diluent pipeline
and create 150,000 barrels a day of throughput. Looking at the expected timing to execute this project and taking into consideration the
So let me wrap up this fairly lengthy review of the Mainline with a few key points. There continues to be a lot of demand from our customers to optimize throughput on the Mainline system and provide the related market access. In the face of timing uncertainty with respect to competing pipelines in Canada, we continue to execute work plans to keep all of these options alive for our customers.

Of course, creating increasing throughput on the Mainline will only benefit our customers if we can provide the market access necessary to get the barrel to the refinery. Market access is already in place for the 100,000 barrels a day of Canadian crude that can replace the North Dakota barrels into Cromer, but to accommodate the remaining 350,000 barrels a day of potential, new options will be required. Fortunately, the buildout of our market access pipelines has positioned us with attractive expansion options that can accommodate the potential volume. The Flanagan South and Seaway Pipelines can be expanded by up to 250,000 barrels a day to allow expanded access for Canadian barrels to the Houston refining center and potential export markets. The Southern Access extension can also be expanded by up to 100,000 barrels a day to increase deliveries into the Patoka market.

Opportunity to expand the Express pipeline has been under evaluation since it became part of our portfolio following the acquisition of Spectra. A plan is now being identified to undertake a combination of pump station work and drag reducing agent to add up to 60,000 barrels a day of capacity potentially by the end of next year. A range of market access options are available off of Express, and we’re seeing strong interest in the potential for this project. The technical solution and a more refined cost estimate are being developed, and we plan to secure the contractual underpinning for moving ahead with this early in the New Year.

I'm happy to report that we have entered into a $265 million transaction with Athabasca Oil Corp to acquire the Cheecham area lateral and facilities, serving Athabasca's oil sands project in the area. Athabasca is already a long term shipper on one of our oil sands pipelines, and as part of this transaction, they have entered into a long-term take-or-pay agreement covering the acquired facilities. As the slide indicates, this acquisition further solidifies our competitive position in the Cheecham area and offers the potential to drive additional revenue to our existing operations in the region.

I've talked about our confidence in the long-term future of oil sands development, and our asset base is very well positioned to capture growth that we continue to expect. New capital opportunities for additional laterals and related facilities are expected, and our already in-service pipelines have available and expansion capacity that can be accessed at very low competitive costs. In particular, our Norlite diluent pipeline has available capacity that will be able to competitively serve new projects adjacent to its footprint. Similarly, our assets in North Dakota and the basin's ability to deliver into the Platte system afford us a range of potential options to consider for future production growth.

I've discussed our interest in the Gulf Coast for a number of years now, and we continue to see a strong set of potential investment opportunities in the region targeted at creating new market access, export opportunities and related services for North American crude and liquids products. And while we've been talking about it, we've also been doing something about it. Today's announcement that we have exercised our option to acquire an interest in the Gray Oak pipeline means our portfolio now includes participation in 3 pipelines serving the Gulf Coast with up to 2.3 million barrels per day of capacity. These pipelines provide access to the Gulf, from key producing basins including Canada, North Dakota and the Permian, while also offering export opportunity through the Seaway docks. At the same time, we've been actively developing an offshore VLCC loading project that I'm going to speak in a minute. So let me move on to talk about that and the Gray Oak exercise of our option.

We're pleased to have exercised the option to acquire a 22.8% interest in the Gray Oak pipeline for approximately USD 600 million. This asset clearly fits within our Gulf Coast strategy given its access to multiple markets and a plan to connect to our offshore loading facility when complete. The pipeline has broad supply access, in our view and, in our view, will be connected to the highest-value markets, thereby providing the Permian producer with the best netbacks. The competitiveness of Gray Oak's market access, coupled with the competitive toll and strong level of customer commitments, ensures this pipeline will remain competitive and full for a very long time.

Enbridge, along with our partners Kinder Morgan and Oiltanking, have been developing -- actively developing and marketing an offshore VLCC loading project. Land has been offshore near Freeport Texas for the onshore facilities, and a 40-mile offshore pipeline to loading
buoys will facilitate the full loading of the VLCC every 24 hours. Supply access will be critical to the success of this facility and we plan superior connectivity to key supply basins and storage facilities. It’s clearly a competitive environment when it comes to developing export options, but we’re confident with our position. We have the capabilities amongst our partners to construct and operate this facility, there’s strong interest from a broad base of potential customers, and a plan is in place that targets an in-service date as early as late 2021 or early in 2022.

I spent a lot of time talking about our secured capital program and growth opportunities across the footprint of our assets. Before I close, I want to highlight that new capital investment aside, we expect to generate 2% to 3% DCF growth per year from the base business. Considering the potential for additional revenue, toll escalations are embedded in pretty much every underlying toll framework that underpins our asset base. Our strong track record of optimizing available capacity extends beyond the Mainline to our assets in the oil sands and North Dakota as well. Our Mainline toll framework provides incentive for the company to continue to drive higher throughput. On the cost side of things, like all business, we’re focused on leveraging technology to improve the productivity of our maintenance capital and integrity programs, lower operating costs and manage our power consumption.

So to wrap things up, I want to say again, we’re excited about the future and our ability to continue to grow the Liquids Pipelines business. We operate the premier liquids pipelines assets in North America, and we’re confident in our ability to complete our secured projects as planned, extract growth from the base business, and secure attractive new capital opportunities of $2 billion per year post 2020. Thank you for your attention and I’m happy to take any questions.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Jeremy Bryan Tonet JP Morgan Chase & Co, Research Division - Senior Analyst

Jeremy Tonet, JP Morgan. I was just wondering, as you think about the product and out of Western Canada and wanting to get down to the Gulf Coast, how you guys could participate in that and more. And it seems like there’s been more talk about a Capline reversal, and just wondering if you have anything you can share there as far as if that’s something you could take a part in. Could this all be wrapped into like some type of joint tariff in the CTS? Is there like bigger plans here to really move significant barrels down there?

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

Yes. So there’s a number of questions there. So first thing, we will be looking at using joint tariffs. Joint tariffs are what underpinned our -- the construction of Flanagan South and the Seaway path to the Gulf. So a joint tariff would be implemented again there with our plan in Flanagan. So really, the issue, we continue to hear messaging, sometimes positive, sometimes negative, always a little bit mixed, about the status of the Capline reversal. To the extent that it does emerge as something real, it is absolutely something that we would look at doing and trying to work together with them on. But I think at this stage of the game, we have to stay focused on that which we can control, and that’s why our focus right now is on expanding our own market access, being Flanagan South and Southern Access extension. I think if, in fact, it is a Capline reversal that makes sense for industry down the road, it’s going to require a pretty significant chunk of capacity that needs to move. So we’ll just have to wait and see how that plays out.

Jeremy Bryan Tonet JP Morgan Chase & Co, Research Division - Senior Analyst

And then just want to follow up on the Southern Access there, I was wondering, how much more could that pipe be expanded before it needs to be twinned? Is there much pumping capacity that could be left? If you just kind of...

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

Yes, so we’re expanding it now to 1.2 million barrels a day. If we get into the gory details of the math of these various options that I talked about, about 175,000 barrels a day of that 450 will need to find its way down Southern Access to Flanagan. So we have identified a plan that we think we can ask execute on the current system to optimize the operation of that to access that capacity down the road.

Thomas Edward Abrams Morgan Stanley, Research Division - Executive Director

Tom Abrams, Morgan Stanley. Where along the Trans Mountain project would you entertain remotely getting involved with that?
DECEMBER 11, 2018 / 1:30PM GMT, Enbridge Inc Investor Conference

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

Well, let me start by saying we're not involved in that and have chosen not to try to get involved in that. I think it's something we'll continue to monitor. Clearly, that project is in a stage of requiring derisking and its current owner may be the best owner through that derisking period. So we'll just have to see how that plan pans out and whether there is a point in time when that becomes interesting to us or not. I think we're confident that we have all kinds of growth opportunities absent that within our business unit and across the rest of the organization. So should something come available there, it will be a very interesting capital allocation conversation.

Patrick Kenny National Bank Financial, Inc., Research Division - Research Analyst

Pat Kenny, National Bank. Guy, just in light of Alberta's production cuts, clearly, in part, designed to protect the smaller producer. How confident are we that regulatory or political risk won't threaten the ability to offer up priority access for 90% of the Mainline?

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

Well, we're highly confident. And first off, there is precedent already in Canada. The Trans Mountain system itself went from a common carriage to a hybrid contract spot shipper system like we're -- what we're proposing. Obviously, the Keystone systems are contract capacities with reservations of spot capacities, so we're leveling the playing field. But I think probably more importantly maybe to the heart of your question, is we're making it very easy for producers to submit an application and participate in the open season. We've set a very low threshold for minimum volume requirements for people need to come onto the system. And while I'm not really going to get into exactly how we've customized the offerings for producers versus refiners and whatnot, we think we've come up with something that makes sense for a lot of them. We have the advantage right now where we're looking to contract a system that's already built. That gives us a lot more flexibility in how we approach it, as opposed to needing to secure the underpinning to build it new. So we're taking advantage of that flexibility.

Praneeth Satish Wells Fargo Securities, LLC, Research Division - Senior Equity Analyst

Praneeth Satish, Wells Fargo. Can you talk about the regulatory milestones that you have to achieve to reverse Southern Lights? And -- if you do. And would you need the consent of the existing shippers on the line? And what are their alternatives if Cochin also gets reversed?

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

So a number. So first off, yes, we need the consent of our existing shippers. We've had a lot of discussions with them already and have gone to the stage now where the discussions have gone beyond, you think this is a good idea, and if so, when; to okay, let's start thinking about what's the commercial structure of the deal that you have to put together to cease deliveries on that line, take it out of service for a period while you do the work and then put it back into service. That's where we're at, is developing that commercial underpinning. In terms of the permitting requirements, it's really going to -- so there will be some. We don't believe they're going to be extensive, primarily, because we don't need to do anything with the Presidential Permit at the border, which is great, and we actually won't be making substantial changes to a lot of the pump stations, which will have an implication on the level of permitting that you might need in any of the states.

Robert Michael Kwan RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Research Division - Analyst

Just as you think about the timing on CTS and the 2019 discussions, even though as we solve the nomination process, you have a pretty fractured shipping group. Given that you plan to file in 2019, is that a sign that just given the regulatory process and how contentious that might be, that you're not going to get to -- you don't expect to get to something unanimous?

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

No. No. In fact, we've been talking to this group, to our customers, for quite a while about a range of options as to how we would approach dealing with the tolling framework beyond 2021. I think a lot of people have in their minds that somehow, priority access is a leverage point with the current situation around priority access. But if you think about what's really driving the customers on our system, they've been talking priority access for a long time because they see other priority access pipelines coming into the market and they're going to be competing to buy barrels on our system versus these other contract pipelines. So if you're a shipper on Flanagan South who has a downstream contract, a portion of the stuff aside, you want to link up your Mainline with your downstream. So there's no -- that's been there positioned for a long time. If you're a refiner on our system, you want to be on a level playing field to buy barrels at Hardisty with barrels that are being sourced to go to either the Gulf on a competing pipeline, or to the West Coast on a competing pipeline. A lot
of these guys, we know the investment has gone into the oil sands side of things. Sometimes we lose sight of the investment that's gone in on a refiner. If a refiner has invested $5 billion, $6 billion, $7 billion into their refinery, they want to know that if they want a barrel of capacity off of Enbridge, that they can get it. So the need and the direction has been set well in advance of the current level of increasing a portion then. So that's really been the driver. Where I'm going with all of this is the timing is not because we expect a long drawn-out regulatory process that threatens 2021. We're doing it because people want to have that certainty.

Robert Michael Kwan RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Research Division - Analyst

And you need to hold the binding open season ahead of the NEB filing? Or are you going to try to get that approved and then take it to an open season?

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

The process will require an open season, and we would probably do it before we file the NEB.

Linda Ezergailis TD Securities Equity Research - Research Analyst

Linda Ezergailis, TD Securities. You've given us an outlook for what you expect from a DCF continuity perspective in your Liquids Pipelines, implying not a huge reset on CTS. But can you give us an understanding of kind of the scope of what's in and out on some of your expansion initiatives, the capital required there? Would that be kind of a separate deal? Or is that all rolled into the new CTS? Can you give us an understanding of what's in and out?

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

I think -- the way I think about it, Linda, is we're moving towards a contract framework for our Mainline, and one of the benefits of doing that is that same framework then provides the underpinning to continue to expand the system. So we're looking at whether it's the existing system and the 3 million barrels per day, or it's those increments, particularly where we need to add new capital into the Flanagan South and Southern Access to do the expansion, we're going to want to have those underpinned by contract.

Linda Ezergailis TD Securities Equity Research - Research Analyst

Okay. And just as a follow-up, up to 20 years is a long time, and there can be a lot of unforeseen changes on the cost side et cetera. Would your contract have some sort of, I guess, pass-through mechanisms for unexpected environmental costs or other things like tax changes or anything like that?

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

Yes. I don't know that we'll go to tax changes, but I think, certainly, in our environment, there will have to be some protections in there about significant regulatory change that would dramatically impact the cost structure, say, around pipeline integrity or something like that.

Andrew M. Kuske Crédit Suisse AG, Research Division - MD, Head of Canadian Equity Research, and Global Co-ordinator for Infrastructure Research

Andrew Kuske, Credit Suisse. Let's just go with the scenario that we're in 2022 and a lot of the egress issues are already resolved, and you've got projects like Imperial Oil with Aspen. Do you see a potential rush of other projects given the green house gas emissions cap that exists in Alberta today? And that may change, but let's just assume there's something, do you foresee a rush of projects trying to hit the window with improved technology trying to get under the gas emissions cap?

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

Yes. So when I think about the situation as best as we can see it, because we're not a producer, obviously, the egress is front and center right now, and we plan to be part of being the solution to that. You've talked about some of the improvements that the oil sands producers have made. I've talked about them. We do know that there are other competitive issues that the industry is facing. For example is Bill C-69 going to find its way into the development of any other projects or not. So I think in terms of the competitiveness angle for Western Canada, I think we've got a really good line of sight on the timing of 2 of them. And as long as that third leg of the stool around the overall competitiveness of the Canadian barrel is improved, I do believe we're going to see some movements very quickly. We know
that larger producers are not just sitting on their hands as it relates to these other projects, that there has been a tremendous amount of work done and they've been brought along to certain stages where when the timing gets right, that they can move more quickly. So we feel pretty good about the outlook.

Robert Hope Scotiabank Global Banking and Markets, Research Division - Analyst

Rob Hope, Scotiabank. Can you update us on whether or not you've had any discussions with the incoming governor in Michigan and the potential for the Line 5 tunnel? And then I would've guessed more broadly, just how you're dealing with stakeholders on your existing rights-of-way to ensure that they are -- they remain valid.

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

Okay. Well, I'm going to start with the second part first. We made a decision about 3 years ago, I think, within Liquids Pipelines to take a different approach to stakeholders across our right of way. And basically, what we've done is we have 6 operating regions. We've made the leadership in each one of those operating regions responsible for the stakeholder relationship plan that we have to have in their area, recognizing the uniqueness of all of them, and we're leveraging those to the greatest extent possible. I think our success in Line 3 in Minnesota to this stage is testament to exactly the strength of what those relationships and coalitions can bring to the table. So really, we're trying to get through the stakeholders at the grassroots level as to how we're going to manage going forward. To the second point of your question on Line 3, we've not had any active engagement with the incoming governor just yet, but we're really quite pleased with where we're at on Line 5. We know Line 5 is an integral piece of the infrastructure for the state of Michigan. They did a study -- they commissioned a study of alternatives and determined that there's not a lot of alternatives to Line 5. So the pipeline and the products that it brings is needed. We know Line 5 is safe. I tell everybody who wants to know the answer, I would love to have the pipeline that is in the Straits of Mackinac on every inch of our system today. I would take it. It's in really great shape. It has more integrity focus probably than anywhere else on our system, probably anywhere else possibly in North America. We've committed to do more. We are doing more. The pipeline is very safe. Now having said all of that, we do believe the potential to build the tunnel is the right thing to do for the long term, the Straits of Mackinac, and we're moving ahead with that. We've already put in place the capital for next year to do the geotechnical work and detailed engineering. That will lead then into the final design and how we move forth. We believe in this. We believe that it's the right thing for ourselves. We believe it's a great project for Michigan in terms of securing the energy needs that they require for the long term and the $500 million opportunity in northern Michigan that will bring jobs. So we think it's a great opportunity and we're moving forth. Okay, down here, Jon.

Jonathan Gould Enbridge Inc. - Director, IR

Sorry, last quick one here. We got to keep the schedule.

Frank Bamberger FP Asset Management - Analyst

Frank Bamberger, FB Asset Management. Question, do you have any pipelines in the metropolitan area near new -- within 50 miles of New York being built or existing of any environmental challenges you have?

D. Guy Jarvis Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & President of Liquids Pipelines

Yes. So the answer is no. We do operate adjacent to many metropolitan areas. Not New York city, however. Certainly, we approach -- the way we operate near metropolitan area is with much higher level of scrutiny than in other parts of our system. So it's a function of we've been around for a long time with our pipelines, and communities have tended to continue to get closer to us than they used to be. So it is a bit of a challenge for -- probably for us and probably for Bill's team as well, is growth and encroachment takes away some of that buffer that you've had historically.

Jonathan Gould Enbridge Inc. - Director, IR

Okay, we'll hand it over to John for the finance section.

PRESENTATION
Thanks, Guy, and good morning, everyone. It's been great to be back after what's been a very busy year. You've already heard a lot from Al and the executive team on our strategy and a great set of opportunities we have in front of us to continue to grow and deliver value. Now I'm going to take a little time in my segment today to drill down a little bit deeper in some areas with respect to our business risk and financial position and our go forward financial design. I'll also touch on our guidance for 2019 and update our current outlook for 2020 before moving on to review in more detail our approach to capital allocation and why we believe we can readily deliver 10% DCF per share growth through 2020 and 5% to 7% post 2020 all on a self-funded basis. And if there's an overarching message from me today, it would be that Enbridge's financial strength and flexibility is better than ever, and that we're extremely well positioned from a financial perspective as we head into 2019. And that of course, has a lot to do with the actions we've undertaken over the last year or so.

So this first slide provides a little bit of a recap from a finance-centric perspective. Since around this time last year, we've raised more than $8 billion of long-term capital, of which close to $4 billion was in the form of common equity or equivalent hybrid equity funding. With the sale of Enbridge Gas in New Brunswick last week, we now have announced close to $7.8 billion of noncore asset sales. About $5.2 billion is already closed, and the remainder will close in 2019. Proceeds have largely been applied to debt reduction and further strengthening of the balance sheet heading into the New Year. These asset sales not only accomplished a reduction in the company's business risk profile, but also enabled an acceleration of deleveraging, allowing us to achieve our longer-term target range earlier than we planned. We've continued to drive out synergies and cost savings post the Spectra combination, and we've also taken a number of significant steps to simplify the company's funding structure, which will enhance consolidated earnings and cash flow to equity and debt holders of the parent company and improve our consolidated credit profile. The impact of these actions to strengthen our financial position, together with strong operating and financial results, have allowed us to suspend the DRIP earlier than planned. And as you've heard, no additional equity is required to fund our currently secured Growth Capital Program.

So while we've done a lot to enhance our financial position, the same priorities that drove our actions over this last year will continue to guide us in the future. This slide translates those enduring priorities into key focus areas for implementation over this next planning cycle: Preserving financial strength and flexibility to ensure that secured growth can be readily funded; maintaining strong investment-grade credit ratings to ensure access to debt capital on the best possible terms; hedging, where practical, any residual foreign exchange risk, interest rate or commodity price risk that hasn't already been eliminated contractually; maintaining a sharp focus on capital allocation as the amount of free cash flow generated by our core businesses continues to grow; and continuing to simplify the business as we look to optimize our overall cost of capital. All of this, of course, with the goal of continuing to deliver highly reliable and predictable financial results.

I think it's important to pause for a moment on the commercial foundation which supports our low-risk business model, which we believe is a real differentiator. Post the Spectra combination, the scale and scope of our business has grown significantly. We're now really very well diversified across energy basins, commodity types and regulatory jurisdictions.

Looking at the combined company post the asset sales, over 98% of estimated EBITDA in 2019 will be generated from long-term take-or-pay contracts. Rates or tolls derived from cost of service formulas, or fixed fee arrangements that incorporate down side volumetric protection like our liquids Mainline competitive tolling settlement. And the contemplated contracting of the Canadian Mainline that Guy just talked about would serve to further strengthen that profile. The customers that pay our tolls are also highly creditworthy. If we take a snapshot after the most recent asset sales, over 93% are now investment-grade, and the small portion that aren't are well diversified and very closely managed.

It's also noteworthy that a large proportion of the rates and tolls that drive revenue in our business are protected by inflation escalators or other adjustment mechanisms which mitigate the impact of rising operating and/or interest rate costs. More than 70% of revenue is derived from contracts in toll frameworks that includes such features. All of this adds up to one of the very strongest business risk profiles in our sector, which both Moody's and S&P continue to acknowledge in their assessment of Enbridge's overall business strength. We think it's best in class and it's getting even stronger.

Now while we aren't able to contract away from tolling agreements or supply arrangements, we proactively hedge residual exposure to
foreign exchange rates, interest rates and commodity prices. As a Canadian dollar reporter, exposure to the U.S. dollar arises from both U.S. dollar-denominated tolls on our Canadian assets and through the income and cash flow generated by our U.S. subsidiaries. As of today, about 85% of earnings and 60% of distributable cash flow has been hedged for 2019 at a rate of approximately CAD 1.22 to the U.S. dollar. We’re also substantially hedged against rising interest rates. The current ratio of fixed rate debt to total rate debt -- total debt, I should say, is over 85%, and about 70% of the underlying benchmark on term debt plan for next year has also been hedged. I’ll provide some sensitivities on that later, but as you can see from this slide, FX and interest rate exposures are closely contained. Direct exposure to commodity prices is immaterial post the sale of our G&P assets, so overall market price risk is very low and extremely well contained. Consolidated cash flow at risk, which is basically the impact of a 2 standard deviation movement in prices, after taking into account correlation across exposure types, is not significant, less than 2% of 12-month forward DCF.

So I think this slide really speaks for itself. The stability of our low-risk businesses and our ongoing focus on risk management has clearly served us well historically. We've continually driven out steady and reliable growth year after year, notwithstanding broader industry downturns and financial market volatility. Through all of this, we've consistently achieved our annual guidance in the face of industry headwinds and tailwinds. And with the risk profile of our core asset base getting even stronger, our ability to deliver the reliable results that the market has come to expect is better than ever.

So even as we shift to a self-funded approach, we will look to optimize our overall cost of capital. The maintenance of financial strength and stability, as I said, and ongoing access to capital on the best possible terms will continue to be a priority. Our financing plans have been designed to steadily and deliberately bring down leverage and strengthen our balance sheet even while funding well over $40 billion of capital projects over the last 5 years. The capital that we raised this year, together with proceeds from asset sales and strong financial performance from the business has allowed us to further accelerate deleveraging and exceed our targets for 2018.

As of Q3, our consolidated debt-to-EBITDA ratio had fallen to 4.7x on a trailing 12-month basis, and we'd expect to achieve a similar result for the full calendar year. That's a reduction of more than 2 multiple turns since 2014 notwithstanding the various significant growth we've funded over the same time frame. We continue to believe strong investment-grade credit ratings are central to Enbridge's value proposition, and our funding plans and risk management policies support that objective. We've been a regular contact for the agencies to review our plans and projections and the implications for our credit risk profile and credit ratings. And while I can't speak for them, you can see from their update reports that they view the recent strategic actions and the go-forward prospects for our company very favorably. S&P, Fitch and DBRS have all reaffirmed their current ratings at BBB-high or equivalent. And more recently, after the release of our third quarter results, Moody's announced that it has changed its outlook on its current Baa3 rating to positive.

We think the combined business and financial risk profile of Enbridge is one of the very best in our sector and warrant strong investment-grade credit ratings across the board, so it's nice to see some positive feedback coming from the agencies after the actions we've taken this year, and we hope to see more positive developments in 2019.

Simplification has also been a big priority since the Spectra deal and there's been a lot underway on that front. As you know, we've -- another number of initiatives underway to reduce the complexity of our corporate structure with the objective of increasing the transparency of cash flow to equity and debt holders at the parent company and improving the overall cost of capital for the Enbridge group. In June, we announced the proposed buy-ins of 4 publicly traded vehicles and that process is ongoing, but progressing well and according to expectations. The buy-in of Enbridge Income Fund Holdings Inc., as AI mentioned, was completed in early November, and the SEP buy-in will close in late December. The buy-ins of EEP and EEQ still remains subject to the completion of a proxy solicitation process, which is underway and will culminate in the unitholder and shareholder vote which is currently planned for next week. In addition to reducing overall complexities, the buy-ins generate a number of very tangible benefits including increased cash flow at the parent company, a lower consolidated payout, lower ongoing administrative and operating costs and tax benefits which have the effect of extending the company's low taxability horizon post 2020 by at least 2 years.

Importantly, the buy-in of these vehicles also provides an opportunity to further simplify our debt funding strategy and strengthen the credit profile at both the parent company and the consolidated group. We'd already taken some action in this regard with the repurchase and redemption of virtually all of the outstanding bonds issued by Spectra Capital and the redemption of Midcoast Energy Partners debt, both of which eliminated a layer of structural subordination. We also announced the discontinuation of additional funding by West Coast
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Energy Inc., another intermediate holding company within the broader Enbridge group. But the Sponsored Vehicle buy-ins will really enable us to simplify the debt structure and address structural subordination in a much bigger way. To that end, we have or will be undertaking several actions. Firstly, following the closing of the buy-in of the public interest in Enbridge Income Fund in November, we sought approval from holders of Enbridge Income Fund term debt holders to exchange their outstanding notes for notes of Enbridge Inc. with otherwise equivalent terms. And I’m pleased to confirm that required majority of bondholders voted to approve this exchange, which is now expected to close before the end of the year. And with the exchange completed, we won’t be issuing any external debt out of Income Fund going forward.

Secondly, while existing term debt will remain outstanding at both EEP and SEP, until it matures or is redeemed, we also don’t plan to issue any new term debt to third parties from those entities.

Finally, we’re also planning to implement a cross-guarantee structure, whereby any outstanding term notes of SEP and EEP would benefit from a downstream guarantee by Enbridge Inc. while EEP and SEP would in turn each provide an upstream guarantee on Enbridge Inc. term debt. If completed, these cross guarantees would effectively make the term debt obligations of SEP and EEP pari passu with Enbridge Inc. and eliminate another layer of structural subordination. To be clear, we don’t plan to launch the process to implement the cross guarantees for either SEP or EEP until the buy-ins for each of those entities are successfully completed.

Going forward, the operating and capital requirements of our regulated subsidiaries will largely be met through intercompany funding provided by Enbridge Inc. That said, I would note that a few of our subsidiaries will continue to maintain credit facilities and raise term debt in external markets. The key ones are listed in the footnote to this slide, and they include Enbridge Gas Inc, that's assumed to be an amalgamated distribution utility that Cynthia just spoke to; Enbridge Pipelines Inc.; Texas Eastern Transmission; and some of our other FERC regulated natural gas transmission pipelines.

So what drives the funding plan on our financial outlook going forward? Primarily, we'll look to the metrics and targets shown on this slide: Consolidated debt-to-EBITDA of between 4.5 and 5x and FFO-to-debt above 13%; a dividend payout ratio of about 65% of DCF; sufficient bank lines to ensure that we always have more than 1 year of liquidity for contingencies and to manage through financial market disruptions; floating rate debt of not greater than 30%; and a cash flow at-risk metric of less than 5% of 12-month forward cash flow. Achievement of this metric should ensure we maintain the strong investment-grade credit ratings I spoke to earlier. It is important to note the leverage target shown on this slide are based on management's calculation of these ratios. Each agency makes different adjustments to our reported numbers in their determination of these metrics. But in developing these planning parameters, we've looked to ensure that we’ll ultimately exceed or meet the specific metrics that each agency has established to achieve our target ratings.

Leverage has no doubt received a tremendous amount of focus of late, so it maybe worth elaborating a little on how we plan to manage it going forward. In developing our capital spending and funding plans, we’ll always look to keep debt-to-EBITDA comfortably below 5x post 2019. Consolidated leverage will likely average closer to 4.5x, or possibly below that level, depending on the size of the capital program at the time. The ability to flex closer to 5x will allow us to accommodate any funding drag associated with greenfield projects that have longer lead times, or interest cost on the debt we incurred upon construction are not immediately offset by incremental EBITDA.

Okay, so before getting to guidance, let’s have a quick look at the currently secured capital growth program. We've included projects completed in 2018 because a large number of these were brought into service in the latter part of last year and will be significant contributors to year-over-year EBITDA and DCF growth next year in addition to the new projects that we expect to bring online in 2019. While volume ramp-ups and toll inflators will also contribute, it’s this diversified suite of low-risk projects that is expected to drive highly transparent growth through 2020.

So turning now to our financial guidance for 2019 and focusing here on adjusted EBITDA for each of our business segments, at Liquids Pipelines, EBITDA is expected to grow due to higher anticipated volumes in the Bakken system and the scheduled completion of the Line 3 Replacement project, where, for forecasting purposes, our models still assume a November 1 in-service date. Gas transmission will deliver a higher EBITDA, primarily on the strength of larger -- the larger transmission projects that were recently completed that Bill mentioned, and will make a full year's earnings contribution and DCF contribution in 2019. As noted, the incremental contributions from
these newly built assets are partially offset by the loss of EBITDA from the U.S. and Canadian G&P assets that we sold earlier this year.

Gas Distribution EBITDA will also grow, driven by the -- largely, by the synergies that are anticipated from the amalgamation of the Ontario utilities. And EBITDA from green power will grow on the strength of new projects placed into service, notably, the first phase of our German offshore wind power project, which is expected to commence operations in Q3 of next year.

Energy services is also expected to make a solid EBITDA contribution, given actions already taken to lock in attractive location differentials on a forward basis.

And finally, Eliminations and Other should come in better than 2019, largely due to a stronger average FX hedge rate and ongoing cost management initiatives. I would note that our estimates of EBITDA contributions from each segment clearly do have the potential to vary from the point estimates provided here. But in most cases, the variability is not expected to be large given the stability of the underlying businesses.

So that $13 billion of EBITDA in 2019 is expected to translate to bottom line DCF of about $8.9 billion after estimated maintenance capital, financing costs cash distributions and excessive equity earnings and payments to any remaining noncontrolling interests. You can think of the estimates provided here as the midpoint of a potential range of outcomes for each of these line items, which when taken together, translates to bottom line DCF, a DCF range of approximately $4.30 to $4.60 per share. I'd point that our 2019 per share guidance range is right in line with what we provided last year, and that's despite the impact of selling significantly more assets than we originally contemplated and the near-term diluted impact of the shares issued in connection with the buy-in of our sponsored vehicles that were not accounted for in last year's guidance. We managed to mitigate these impacts through improved performance in our core businesses and significant effort by our teams to generate cost savings and efficiencies post Spectra.

As I noted earlier, we substantially hedged FX and interest rates. However, we do remain exposed on hedged amounts, and you can see the sensitivities on this slide. Basically, a sustained $0.01 move in the Canada U.S. exchange rate result in a little over $0.01 move in the projected 2019 DCF per share, while a sustained 25 basis points move across the yield curve would have an impact on DCF of less than $0.005 per share. So again, pretty close contained there, and we'll continue to be proactive in trying to manage these residual risks throughout the year. Today's spot FX rates and interest rates are a little better than we've embedded in our projections, which provides a little bit of additional positive momentum for the outlook heading into the New Year.

We've also shown our current outlook for 2020 on this slide, and at $4.85 to $5.15 DCF per share, our guidance range is unchanged from last year. The big driver here, of course, is the 14% year-over-year EBITDA growth, primarily driven by the impact of a full year's contribution from the Line 3 Replacement project, other projects going into service and ongoing strong performance from the base business.

Okay. I'm not going to dwell for very long on this slide. It's really here as a reminder that our earnings and cash flow are not generated evenly over the year, and we'll have a distinct quarterly profile due to a few factors: The seasonality of our utility and interruptible gas transmission businesses, which typically generate much higher earnings and cash flow in the first and fourth quarters and undertake a higher proportion of their maintenance capital in the second and third quarters; the seasonality of revenue generated by our renewable power generations; and of course, the timing of in-service days for capital projects, which will also impact the profile of quarterly financial performance in any given year.

So as Al and the executive team have laid out today, we see plenty of opportunity to generate very solid low-risk growth beyond 2020. We believe we can readily grow the business without compromising our risk profile through greenfield and brownfield extensions and expansions of existing systems as well as selective asset acquisitions where it’s more practical and or more cost-effective to buy than to build. As Al said, we’ll be applying a very disciplined screening process, and you can see that illustrated here on this slide. We're going to look to pare down a big bucket of opportunities to a much smaller, high-graded list of investments that are aligned with our strategy, could be readily self-funded, and will generate the biggest bang for our buck in both the near-term accretion and the long-term value perspective. The slide again is illustrative, but it should give you a feel for the process.
Importantly, before capital is committed to any project or group of projects, we'll always take stock of our broader outlook and compare and contrast the anticipated value created by the investment opportunity with other capital allocation choices, whether that be debt repayment, a change in the dividend payment -- payout, rather, or share repurchase. Currently, our focus and preference is to pursue organic growth where it aligns with strategy and fits our risk profile as long as it very clearly adds value. And given the magnitude of the larger opportunity set within our core businesses, we think this will generate something in the range of $5 billion to $6 billion of high-graded investment opportunities per year on average post 2020. And that's not really hard to imagine on a consolidated asset base of close to $165 billion.

Well, so the next question might be, can you really self-fund that $5 billion to $6 billion of assets every year? And what will that translate to in terms of a longer growth rate? And the rough math on this slide is intended to answer that using our public guidance, and assuming the planning parameters that I talked to earlier. Let’s start with what we already know.

By 2020, we will be generating about $10 billion in free cash flow after maintenance capital and before dividends. That's $5 per share times roughly 2 billion shares issued in outstanding. We expect our dividend to grow again by 10% next year, so the total annual dividend paid in 2020 will grow to approximately $6.5 billion. That leaves about $3.5 billion of free cash flow to reinvest in the business. Importantly, the investments made with this free cash flow will themselves generate incremental EBITDA, which, in turn, will create additional debt capacity on the balance sheet. In this example, I've assumed we can lever that newly created EBITDA at 4.5x the bottom of our go-forward target range. The reality is not all of that EBITDA will be generated immediately upon investment, particularly if it's a greenfield project that we’re talking about. In that case, we might expect debt-to-EBITDA ratio to creep up towards the higher end of our target range. On the other hand, if it was an immediately accretive asset acquisition, that wouldn’t be the case.

But for the sake of this example, we've assumed that 4.5x would create incremental debt capacity of about $2 billion depending on the investment multiple assumed, bringing the total amount of capital to invest to somewhere around $5.5 billion. For the sake of this simple example and to be conservative, we've shown a case where investments on the available capital are made at an EV to EBITDA multiple of 9x and 8x. We've left out a couple of steps here. But if you take the EBITDA generated by this available capital, then subtract off maintenance capital, interest expense and current taxes, which are expected to be low over our planning horizon, you should get to incremental DCF in the range of $445 million to $510 million, or about $0.22 to $0.25 per share. Keeping in mind our estimate of $5 per share in 2020, that translates to 4% to 5% incremental growth generated through new investment. Now our revised long-term forecast indicates that our base business should grow, on average, between 1% and 2%, organically, through a combination of toll inflators, throughput optimization, and ongoing cost efficiency initiatives. If you put this together with the growth generated from incremental investment, you come up with a range of 5% to 7% growth, and that is without any incremental equity and without eroding our credit metrics over the longer term, essentially, sustainable self-funded growth.

So bringing it all together, hopefully, my remarks have provided a little more color on how our strategy and plans will drive the financial outlook over the next few years. In summary, we see highly transparent compound annual average DCF per share and dividend per share growth of 10% through 2020, driven by the execution of a very well advanced commercially secured capital program, and a readily achievable self-funded DCF per share growth in the range of 5% to 7% post 2020 generated from a very attractive suite of low-risk investment opportunities and solid growth from the base business.

I'm going to wrap up here where I started off by pointing out that from a financial perspective, we really are extremely well positioned. Looking forward, we won't be as focused on capital raising as we have been in recent years. We think we have plenty of capacity to grow at an attractive rate without raising any new equity, and an increasing proportion of our debt issuance will be for refinancing. However, we will continue to be driven and guided by those enduring financial priorities that I went through at the beginning of my presentation: Preserving financial strength and flexibility to ensure we can execute the strategy and continue to add value through all market cycles; maintaining access to low-cost capital as we look to refinance maturing debt; managing controllable risk and proactively hedging exposures we can’t otherwise contract away; simplifying and optimizing existing financing to ensure the best possible cost of capital; and continuing, as always, to drive out the attractive, reliable and predictable results that our investors have come to expect. And with that, I'd be happy to stop and take any questions on the finance side that you might have.
Andrew Kuske, Credit Suisse. Probably an easy one to start off with, just on the streamlining. You've had a few slides on streamlining. You all mentioned the DCP. So how do you think about the longer-term outlook for DCP from an Enbridge perspective, in particular, with the crystallization of the tax consequences coming up to roll off of the U.S. and MLPs?

John K. Whelen  
Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

For the moment, and Al may want to speak to this one as well, I think DCP wouldn't put right in the middle of our core business. On the other hand, I think we've been quite happy with the way it's been performing, with their approach to risk management in particular, which has taken a significant amount of the variability out of that business, and so we're reasonably comfortable with that at this particular point in time. So our plans don't assume anything, and the plan I presented don't assume anything with respect to DCP other than we continue to hold it.

Jonathan Gould  
Enbridge Inc. - Director, IR


Daniel Eric Lungo  
BofA Merrill Lynch, Research Division - Research Analyst

Dan Lungo, BofA. Just one thing that's noticeably absent from your financing strategy this year is hybrid capital. Could you just kind of talk to how you guys are thinking about hybrid capital going forward?

John K. Whelen  
Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

Yes. I think with the hybrid capital, it was always -- we view that always as an efficient form of equity capital, a lower-cost form of equity capital when compared to a combination of senior debt and common equity. In our current plan where we've raised so much through the acquisitions and so on and so forth, it doesn't call for a lot of incremental capital right now. Our financing plans are primarily focused on the issuance of senior debt, and a good chunk of that really just to refinance maturities as they come due.

Dennis Paul Coleman  
BofA Merrill Lynch, Research Division - Global Head of High Grade Debt Research and MD

Dennis Coleman with BofA. One thing we didn't cover today, John, is the renewables piece. And as recently as in November, you're talking about a $5 billion to $10 billion opportunity there. I'm wondering if you can just kind of layer that onto the rest of what we talked about today.

John K. Whelen  
Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

I think renewables, it's one of those businesses where the business model fits very well with what we do, the way we're approaching renewables, which is long-term, highly contracted assets at the end of the day. That probably applies more to offshore in terms of the risk return profile than it does to the onshore business, where we've seen a tremendous amount of competition. In fact, we thought we got very good value for monetizing a portion of our onshore earlier this year. And so we'll continue to explore that business, then try to build it if there is opportunities to invest with a value proposition that we like. So -- and from a finance perspective, it's got to meet all of those hurdles that we talked about in terms of risk contractual profile and so on and so forth.

Robert Hope  
Scotiabank Global Banking and Markets, Research Division - Analyst

Rob Hope, Scotiabank. Just if we go back a year ago, it seemed like the focus was deleveraging. And now today, the focus is on growth. Taking a look at the project execution funnel that you have there, would it be fair to say that you have a lot of projects in the hopper that you're derisking relatively quickly so we could see 2019 to be more of a heavy projects announcement year?

John K. Whelen  
Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

I think if you look at the plan, I think that you could see announcements. The spend and the build-out of a lot of these projects, I think, really shows up in 2020 and beyond in our plan. So you don't see a big impact financially in 2019, Robert.
Robert Hope  
Scotiabank Global Banking and Markets, Research Division - Analyst

And then just a kind of more theoretical question. Taking a look at the 5% to 7% growth, that includes 1% to 2% on the kind of base business, if projects don't show up and you are shrinking your balance sheet, is does that kind of 3% or 5% growth rate?

John K. Whelen  
Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

If projects don't show up and we're shrinking our balance sheet, and if the projects really aren't showing up we may have to look at some of those other capital allocation alternatives that you talked about, in which case, I don't think our growth profile on the DCF per share basis would necessarily change.

Linda Ezergailis  
TD Securities Equity Research - Research Analyst

Linda Ezergailis, TD Securities. Can you give us a sense over the long term maybe post-CTS renewal 2022-plus, kind of what your FX composition would be either on a sensitivity basis or what percent EBITDA would be U.S. dollars? And how you think about what the tipping point would be when you would become a U.S. dollar reporter? And when that might make sense versus hedging?

John K. Whelen  
Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

Yes, that's a great question. I think at this particular stage, we are a Canadian dollar reporter. We have no plans to change from that at this point in time. I think you'd have to see something more profoundly directional to show up in our plan before we would look to shift that. So I think the sensitivities, Linda, would not be -- we continue on with a similar type of hedging structure if we were aligned roughly the way we were in terms of the split of our business between Canada and the U.S. Well, obviously, it's something that we would continue to evaluate over time, and it will be informed by the direction ultimately that our plans take us.

Robert Michael Kwan  
RBC Capital Markets, LLC, Research Division - Analyst

John, I apologize if it's been slipped in somewhere, but there's a lot of talk of 5% to 10% post-2020 on DCF. Can you just talk about what you see that meaning for the dividend?

John K. Whelen  
Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

Well, that's a great question. I think Al talked about it right upfront in his opening remarks. I mean, as a general principle, we probably see the dividend roughly growing at the same rate that we see the DCF per share growing at, watching earnings per share as well while we do that. On the other hand, it is clear that we're not driving value from the rate of growth that we're applying the dividends. We'll look at some of those other capital allocation opportunities are considered whether the growth rates are appropriate relative to other uses of our capital going forward. So we'll keep that in mind as we go through that. As a general principle, though, we'd be looking to grow in line with DCF growth.

John K. Whelen  
Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

Okay. Good questions. It'll take a while to see our effective hedge rate, to answer the first part of your question, creep up towards spot. You will have noticed that over the last couple of years creeping up very significantly towards spot, and it will continue to do that. But over this next couple of years, that average rate that I gave is probably pretty indicative of where it will be. On the interest rate side, we'd only hedge the underlyings and not the spread. It's pretty hard to effectively spread the hedge. I'll try that again, spread the hedge -- hedge the spread, hedge the spread in most markets. Good news is our spreads have come down quite significantly.

Patrick Kenny  
National Bank Financial, Inc., Research Division - Research Analyst

So John, even though the era of financial engineering has come to an end, I'm just wondering if you see any other opportunities on the fringe to perhaps augment that 5% to 7% BCF per share growth rate going 2020?
John K. Whelen Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

We're always going to look at ways to optimize our cost of capital, but we're very convinced that undue complexity is not a value driver. So there has to be some very, very compelling reason. And frankly, we're not looking at anything in our plans that you saw. It don't include any of that sort of thing, and so we do have arrangements with funding partners. Those are well established in their typical joint ventures. That's all you're going to see.

Jeff Healy Guardian Life - Analyst

Jeff Healy here at Guardian. I've got a question. I'm kind of looking at the DCF per unit versus just looking at DCF directly. Is this sort of like kind of timeworn in line with equity messaging throughout the industry? Or are you looking ahead at potentially reducing unit count?

John K. Whelen Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

Well, I think if you're talking about would we look to buy back shares at some particular point or an action like that, I think it gets back to some of those opening remarks that Al had around -- first and foremost, we would look to go through our traditional source of businesses and primarily through organic growth. But if we're not seeing the value-add opportunity there, I don't think we'd hesitate to look at it. But it's got to add value, not just in the immediate term, but perceived to be adding value for the long term by doing that. It's got to be sustainably accretive, if you like, if we look at an action like that.

Jeff Healy Guardian Life - Analyst

Forgive me for a follow-up. Do you think right now, the industry is rewarding dividend growth or the ability looking for starting to see buybacks?

John K. Whelen Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

I think you're seeing a push. It's not rewarding dividend growth. Clearly, we would certainly argue that at the particular point in time, in the current market anyway, we've seen markets ebb and flow over the years definitely. I think for buybacks, there may be a pocket of the investor community looking for that. Although I think what they're really looking for is a catalyst, something to get the stocks in the sector back on track more than anything. Again, from our perspective, we want to make sure that it's sustainable over time, that we're actually doing something that's going to add value for the long run if we take that approach.

Michael Jay Lapides Goldman Sachs Group Inc., Research Division - VP

Michael Lapides of Goldman. Just looking at the 2020 EBITDA projection you put out to $14.8 billion, can you walk us through what's the bridge from '19 to '20? Meaning, that's a pretty big year-over-year step-up, is that almost all Line 3? If there are other really big components of it, can you just kind of walk us through high level what those are?

John K. Whelen Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

Biggest chunks, quite frankly, are Line 3, you're absolutely right, Michael, and the other projects that you see that will be placed into service, together with some continuing cost efficiencies that we see driving out in the business. Those are the biggest pieces of the year-over-year EBITDA growth.

Benjamin Pham BMO Capital Markets Equity Research - Analyst

Just 1 debt question, 2 on the bridge, 2020 versus '19. You're adding $1.8 billion of EBITDA and free cash flow, it looks like it's going up at a much smaller amount. And I would think your maintenance Capex would have been rising over time. It's not. So you kind of -- you have this empty box here purposely, I'm guessing. But I don't know if your debt going to go up dramatically, probably $1 billion or so just looking at debt-to-EBITDA. So what am I missing here? Is there a bias to the $10 billion stockpile?

John K. Whelen Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO

Our interest expense will go up. I mean, actually, we're funding a lot of assets between '19 and '20. Capitalized interest, of course, will cease. And so you'll see a fairly big difference between those 2 years. Cash taxes, I think, I'd have to go back and look at the slide, but they're going to up a snick as well. So it'll be factors primarily like that, that'll drive it.
Jonathan Gould  Enbridge Inc. - Director, IR
Okay. I think that's it, John. Thanks.

John K. Whelen  Enbridge Inc. - Executive VP & CFO
Great.

Jonathan Gould  Enbridge Inc. - Director, IR
We'll just -- we'll ask Al to come back up to wrap.

Al Monaco  Enbridge Inc. - President, CEO & Director
Well, we've covered a lot of ground. Thank you for your attention today, and maybe just a couple of closing comments here.

If you really boil this down, the value proposition here is really composed of 3 things. Number one, we think we have extremely high-quality infrastructure franchises. All 3, frankly, we wouldn't trade any of them for any other assets in this space. I would say that secondly -- and this goes a little bit to Rob's question over there about the emphasis on growth, so let me just put that one in context. I think when you go through all the opportunities that you heard today, there's no doubt that our focus is on extending and expanding the existing franchise because we have a lot of opportunity there in front of us. At the same time, though, we'll be focused on making pure in the risk side of the equation, managing the balance sheet very closely. So you saw, I think, equal emphasis through the last year but also going forward around that discipline in making sure we're living within our free cash flow to invest in the business. So I think that's a key to all of this.

On the growth side, certainly we're landing where we were last year as far as growth through 2020 at 10% CAGR through '18 through '20. And of course, we've been talking about 5% to 7% growth beyond 2020, all within, again, to emphasize our existing cash flow availability and making sure we're allocating and being flexible about where we put capital to ensure that we're maximizing value along the way. And we will test each of our opportunities within the business units, with each other but also against these other options that we're talking about.

Maybe I'll just end with a comment on something that we haven't really touched on here, but it's the management team. So from my point of view, we have a very strong and capable team. I think you saw that with the presentations. They're all very passionate about what they do. There's a bunch of people that are here today and back at home office and throughout the organization that you don't see and you haven't heard from today, but we have a very strong bench, and we're very pleased with that capability. We often say we could each replace each other in our roles, and I'm not sure how that goes over necessarily too well, but it is true. We have a lot of capability within the bench along the organization.

A final comment on this notion about what it takes to build infrastructure today in a very tough environment. And it comes to the people who actually engage communities, indigenous groups, community leaders and political leaders around what we do in this business and how we do it. And the very important message that we have to get across is the passion and the commitment that we have to do things safely and reliably, and that is the key driver of getting people to ensure that they're supporting the infrastructure -- the critical infrastructure that we run but also build for the future growth of our business going forward.

Finally, all these people I'm talking about were all owners. So we're all stock owners in the business, and we take this growth and balance sheet and healthy infrastructure very seriously because it is our own money, and that is very important at the end of the day.

So we thank you very much for attending. I know it's been a long morning, but hopefully, you can join us for lunch shortly in the other room. Thank you.
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