Q. Vander Weide Evidence – Is it also relevant to consider what proportion of a utility's earnings is derived from regulated vs. non-regulated operations?

A.

Dr. Vander Weide believes that it would be relevant to consider the proportion of a utility's earnings derived from regulated vs. non-regulated operations if consideration of these data were likely to produce significantly different cost of equity results than the results obtained from consideration of a utility's total assets devoted to regulated operations. However, Dr. Vander Weide does not believe that the DCF results for a group identified by a criterion relating to proportion of earnings derived from regulated operations would be significantly different from the DCF results for a group identified by proportion of assets derived from regulated operations. In addition, Dr. Vander Weide notes that company data on the percentage of total assets related to regulated operations are readily available from the Edison Electric Institute, whereas they do not provide data on percentage of earnings from regulated operations. Thus, the percentage of earnings from regulated operations would have to be collected from the segment reports contained in each company's SEC filings. Dr. Vander Weide determined that the time and expense of obtaining the segment data for potential proxy companies would not contribute sufficient additional information to justify the expense.