

Rating: Buy  
S&P 500: 1143

## **Encana Corporation**

### **Bold Moves**

|                                       |         |  |       |
|---------------------------------------|---------|--|-------|
| <i>Symbol</i>                         | ECA     | <i>Ebitda Next Twelve Months ending 9/30/05 (US\$mm)</i> | 9,100 |
| <i>Rating</i>                         | Buy     | <i>North American Natural Gas/Ebitda (%)</i>             | 68    |
| <i>Price (US\$/sh)</i>                | 49.74   | <i>Natural Gas and Oil Production/Ebitda (%)</i>         | 100   |
| <i>Pricing Date</i>                   | 11/3/04 | <i>Adjusted Reserves/Production NTM</i>                  | 6.5   |
| <i>Shares (mm)</i>                    | 472     | <i>EV/Ebitda</i>   | 3.4   |
| <i>Market Capitalization (US\$mm)</i> | 23,500  | <i>PV/Ebitda</i>   | 4.1   |
| <i>Debt (US\$mm)</i>                  | 7,900   | <i>Undeveloped Reserves (%)</i>                          | 36    |
| <i>Enterprise Value (EV) (US\$mm)</i> | 31,400  | <i>Natural Gas and Oil Ebitda (US\$/mcfe)</i>            | 5.38  |
| <i>Present Value (PV) (US\$mm)</i>    | 37,600  | <i>Present Value Proven Reserves(US\$/boe)</i>           | 16.65 |
| <i>Net Present Value (US\$/share)</i> | 63      | <i>Present Value Proven Reserves(US\$/mcfe)</i>          | 2.77  |
| <i>Debt/Present Value</i>             | 0.21    | <i>Earnings Next Twelve Months (US\$/sh)</i>             | 6.50  |
| <i>McDep Ratio - EV/PV</i>            | 0.83    | <i>Price/Earnings Next Twelve Months</i>                 | 8     |
| <i>Dividend Yield (%/year)</i>        | 0.8     | <i>Indicated Annual Dividend (US\$/sh)</i>               | 0.40  |

Note: Estimated cash flow and earnings tied to one-year futures prices for oil and natural gas.

Reported results may vary widely from estimates. Estimated present value per share revised only infrequently.

### **Summary and Recommendation**

We continue to recommend current purchase of the common shares of **Encana (ECA)** for its concentrated, large cap participation in North American natural gas. The company has been among the most aggressive in developing new supply in Canada and the U.S. The stock becomes more concentrated on the premium energy business with the bold moves to sell North Sea properties and to declare the intention to sell Gulf of Mexico and Ecuador oil properties. Already the largest independent natural gas producer on the continent, the company expects 14% volume growth for 2005 over 2004. The stock has appreciation potential to net present value of \$63 a share that relates to a constant real oil price of \$35 a barrel.

### **Oil Price Move Possibly Just Starting**

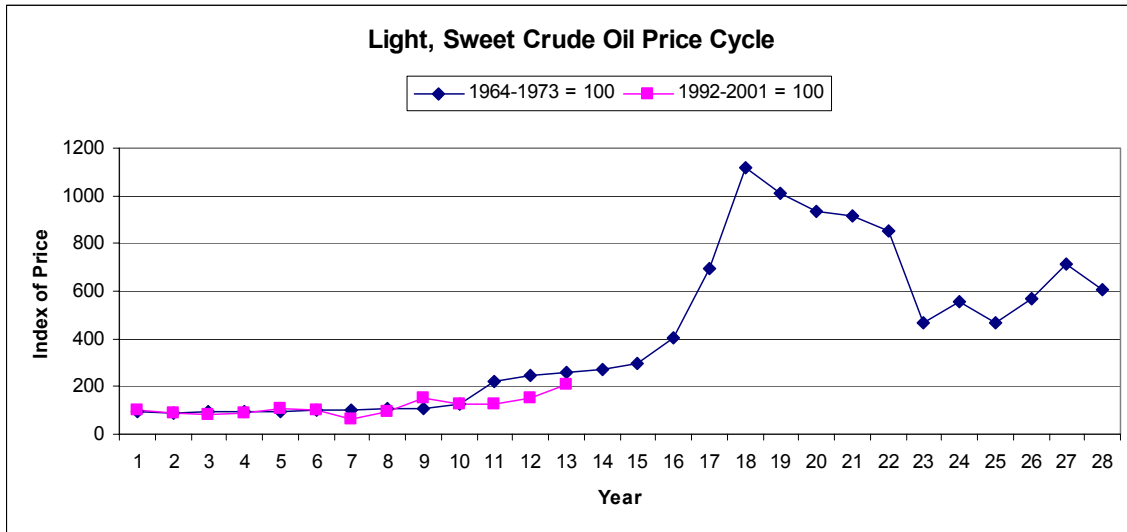
To offset any inclination to underestimate further potential for oil and gas price, we compare the relatively stable price period from 1992 to 2001 to the period from 1964 to 1973. Each was a ten year period that immediately preceded a sharply lower stock market in 2002 and in 1974. After quiescence, oil price started moving up in each case. We may be in the early stages of a new historic move (see chart [Light, Sweet Crude Oil Price Cycle](#)).

Frankly, few investors would give much weight to the likelihood of continued oil price strength. Contrast that with the growing chorus for a weaker dollar. It may just be that oil price is not high, but the real value of the dollar is low. That, too, is a parallel to historical experience.

Let us imagine how the cycle might unfold. By the way we chose to draw the chart Year 13 corresponds to 1976 and 2004. Once the move got going in the previous cycle, the annual average oil price did not decline until Year 19 (1982). The annual peak of 1100, or 11 times the first ten year average, was too high to be sustained. It might be less disruptive economically if the peak ahead of us were lower and the decline shallower. The end point in Year 28 at 600

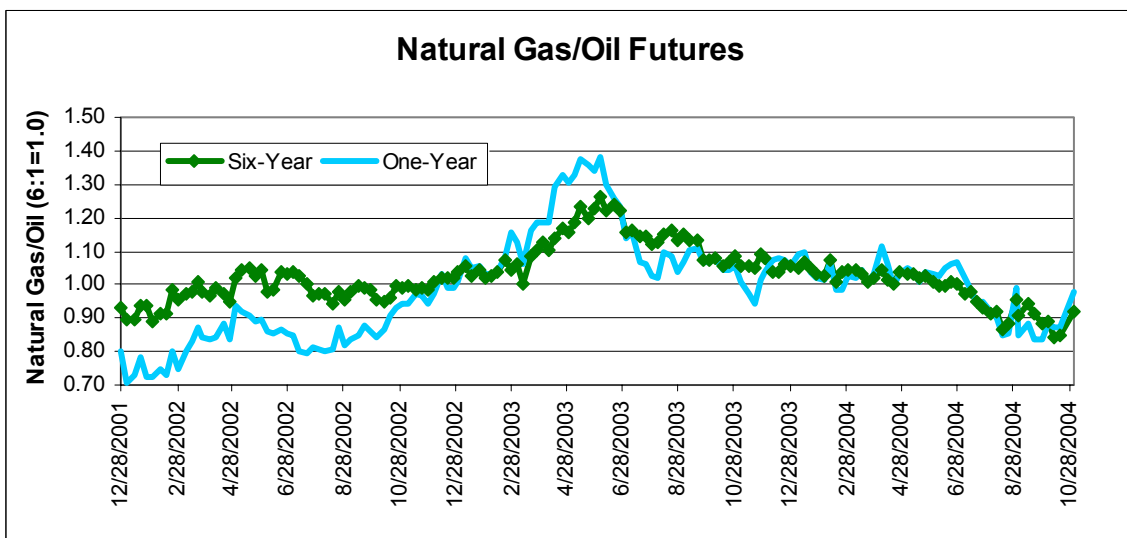
**Please see disclosures on the final page.**

implies a tripling over the next 15 years. If higher oil price unfolded gradually it would give everyone time to adjust.



**Relative Outlook for Natural Gas Favors Encana**

Oil has been stronger than natural gas since the winter of early 2003 (see chart Natural Gas/Oil Futures). We think that the 1.2 premium ratio that natural gas reached in the Spring of 2003 is an indicator of where the cleaner fuel is headed in the future from 0.9 now.



Please see disclosures on the final page.

### **Profit from Oil Success, Concentrate on Natural Gas**

The large cap independent producer has about 68% of its value concentrated on natural gas production (see table Functional Cash Flow and Present Value). North American natural gas is the premium energy business where competition is limited and the quality of the product high.

#### **Encana Corporation Functional Cash Flow and Present Value**

|                            | <i>NTM</i><br><i>Ebitda</i> | <i>Adjusted</i><br><i>R/P</i> | <i>PV/</i><br><i>Ebitda</i> | <i>Present</i><br><i>Value</i> |        |
|----------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------------|--------|
| North American Natural Gas | 6,150                       | 6.1                           | 4.1                         | 25,500                         |        |
| Oil                        | 2,990                       | 7.5                           | 4.0                         | 12,100                         |        |
|                            | 9,140                       | 6.5                           | 4.1                         | 37,600                         |        |
| Debt                       |                             |                               |                             |                                | 7,900  |
| Net Present Value (\$mm)   |                             |                               |                             |                                | 29,700 |
| Shares                     |                             |                               |                             |                                | 472    |
| Net Present Value (\$/sh)  |                             |                               |                             |                                | 63     |

North Sea oil properties, accounting for about 7% of current year oil production have been sold for \$2.1 billion. A billion dollar gain will be recognized in the fourth quarter. The price is higher than what the amount of production would indicate because it includes the largely undeveloped “Buzzard” discovery. Buzzard was an exciting discovery by Encana predecessor, PanCanadian Energy when successful drilling results were announced in early 2002. The willingness of Encana to part with it attests to the relative attractiveness of the company’s resource opportunities in North American natural gas.

To be sold in 2005, Ecuador accounts for 29% of 2004 oil volume. The oil prospects are also favorable for the Amazon jungle property. We visited those operations in 1997 when being developed by Pacalta Resources, the Canadian company later acquired by Encana predecessor, Alberta Energy. Pacalta’s properties were once owned by a favorite exploration company, Supron Energy. Some thirty years ago, the late chief executive of Supron named one of the early discoveries after his wife.

Remaining oil volume, all in North America, is 32% heavy oil, 22% light and medium and 10% natural gas liquids. Heavy oil produced from oil sands offers the most potential for growth.

The company produces heavy oil primarily from its Foster Creek and Christina Lake properties near Imperial’s Cold Lake and not far from oil sands mining projects, Syncrude and Suncor. Encana’s steam-assisted gravity drainage (SAGD) operations are efficient, but do consume valuable natural gas. Moreover, because Encana does not provide upgrading for the product, its price can be discounted severely at times. Nonetheless growing volume of heavy oil production should be increasingly valuable.

**Please see disclosures on the final page.**

After the sale of the Ecuador oil properties, Encana's resource value concentration on natural gas would increase further. In addition, if we classify natural gas liquids with natural gas rather than oil, the natural gas concentration exceeds 80%. We like near pure plays on North American natural gas.

### Track Quarterly Cash Flow and Project It

Quarterly reports are interesting to us not for the bottom line earnings number, but for the operating and cost details that give us a basis for anticipating future performance (see table [Next Twelve Months Operating and Financial Estimates](#)). From the base of the latest quarter, cash flow (Ebitda) rises in line with revenue that is driven by futures prices.

**Encana Corporation**  
**Next Twelve Months Operating and Financial Estimates**

|                            | <i>Q1</i>      | <i>Q2</i>      | <i>Q3</i>      | <i>Q4E</i>      | <i>Year</i>   | <i>Q1E</i>     | <i>Q2E</i>     | <i>Q3E</i>     | <i>Next<br/>Twelve<br/>Months</i> |
|----------------------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|---------------|----------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|
|                            | <i>3/31/04</i> | <i>6/30/04</i> | <i>9/30/04</i> | <i>12/31/04</i> | <i>2004E</i>  | <i>3/31/05</i> | <i>6/30/05</i> | <i>9/30/05</i> | <i>9/30/05</i>                    |
| <b>Volume</b>              |                |                |                |                 |               |                |                |                |                                   |
| Natural Gas (mmcf)         | 2,712          | 3,037          | 3,128          | 3,128           | <b>3,002</b>  | 3,128          | 3,200          | 3,400          | <b>3,215</b>                      |
| Oil (mbd)                  | 265            | 270            | 259            | 240             | <b>258</b>    | 240            | 240            | 240            | <b>240</b>                        |
| Total (bcf)                | 391            | 424            | 431            | 420             | <b>1,666</b>  | 411            | 422            | 445            | <b>1,699</b>                      |
| Total (mmcf)               | 4,302          | 4,657          | 4,682          | 4,568           | <b>4,553</b>  | 4,568          | 4,640          | 4,840          | <b>4,655</b>                      |
| <b>Price</b>               |                |                |                |                 |               |                |                |                |                                   |
| Henry Hub (US\$/mmbtu)     | 5.64           | 6.10           | 5.49           | 7.49            | <b>6.18</b>   | 8.62           | 7.16           | 7.20           | <b>7.62</b>                       |
| Differential               | 0.31           | 0.52           | 0.18           | 0.25            | <b>0.29</b>   | 0.29           | 0.24           | 0.24           | <b>0.27</b>                       |
| Encana (\$/mcf)            | 5.33           | 5.58           | 5.31           | 7.24            | <b>5.89</b>   | 8.34           | 6.93           | 6.96           | <b>7.35</b>                       |
| WTI Cushing (US\$/bbl)     | 35.23          | 38.34          | 43.89          | 51.67           | <b>42.28</b>  | 49.68          | 48.36          | 46.96          | <b>49.17</b>                      |
| Differential               | 4.61           | 3.65           | 1.78           | 2.10            | <b>3.29</b>   | 2.02           | 1.97           | 1.91           | <b>2.00</b>                       |
| Encana (\$/bbl)            | 30.62          | 34.69          | 42.11          | 49.57           | <b>38.99</b>  | 47.66          | 46.39          | 45.05          | <b>47.17</b>                      |
| Total (\$/bbl)             | 31.48          | 33.90          | 35.26          | 45.37           | <b>36.57</b>  | 49.28          | 43.06          | 42.76          | <b>45.06</b>                      |
| <b>Revenue (\$mm)</b>      |                |                |                |                 |               |                |                |                |                                   |
| Natural Gas                | 1,315          | 1,542          | 1,528          | 2,083           | <b>6,469</b>  | 2,347          | 2,017          | 2,178          | <b>8,626</b>                      |
| Oil                        | 738            | 852            | 1,003          | 1,094           | <b>3,689</b>  | 1,029          | 1,013          | 995            | <b>4,132</b>                      |
| Total                      | 2,850          | 2,718          | 2,458          | 3,178           | <b>11,204</b> | 3,377          | 3,030          | 3,173          | <b>12,758</b>                     |
| <b>Expense (\$mm)</b>      |                |                |                |                 |               |                |                |                |                                   |
| Ebitda (\$mm)              | 1,481          | 1,571          | 1,737          | 2,276           | <b>7,066</b>  | 2,426          | 2,166          | 2,273          | <b>9,141</b>                      |
| Deprec., Deplet., & Amort. | 624            | 733            | 694            | 694             | <b>2,745</b>  | 694            | 694            | 694            | <b>2,776</b>                      |
| Hedging                    | 149            | 234            | 264            | 489             | <b>1,136</b>  | 294            | 208            | 244            | <b>1,235</b>                      |
| Interest                   | 79             | 96             | 103            | 103             | <b>381</b>    | 103            | 103            | 103            | <b>412</b>                        |
| Ebt                        | 629            | 508            | 676            | 990             | <b>2,803</b>  | 1,334          | 1,161          | 1,233          | <b>4,719</b>                      |
| Income tax                 | 157            | 127            | 110            | 347             | <b>741</b>    | 467            | 406            | 431            | <b>1,652</b>                      |
| Net Income (\$mm)          | 472            | 381            | 566            | 644             | <b>2,063</b>  | 867            | 755            | 801            | <b>3,067</b>                      |
| Per share (\$)             | 1.00           | 0.81           | 1.20           | 1.36            | <b>4.37</b>   | 1.84           | 1.60           | 1.70           | <b>6.50</b>                       |
| <b>Shares (millions)</b>   |                |                |                |                 |               |                |                |                |                                   |
| Ebitda margin              | 52%            | 58%            | 71%            | 72%             | <b>63%</b>    | 72%            | 71%            | 72%            | <b>72%</b>                        |
| Tax rate                   | 25%            | 25%            | 16%            | 35%             | <b>26%</b>    | 35%            | 35%            | 35%            | <b>35%</b>                        |

Our projections boost natural gas volume in 2005 to the low end of management's projection. We have taken North Sea volumes out of 2005 and reduced debt for the proceeds from the North Sea transaction expected to close on December 1.

Earnings are dampened by hedging losses that would reach a record level in the last quarter of 2004 and diminish in 2005. To rein in potential losses, the company has entered into additional

**Please see disclosures on the final page.**

transactions that limit the negative potential of previous transactions. The amount of oil and gas hedged for 2005 appears to be about half that for 2004.

Earnings are further dampened by an increasing tax rate. Despite hedging and taxes, earnings may be sharply higher next year with today's commodity price expectations.

Kurt H. Wulff, CFA

**Disclaimer:** This analysis was prepared by Kurt Wulff doing business as McDep Associates. The firm used sources and data believed to be reliable, but makes no representation as to their accuracy or completeness. This analysis is intended for informational purposes and is not a solicitation to buy or sell a security. Past performance is no guarantee of future results.

McDep does no investment banking business. McDep is not paid by covered companies including revenue from advertising, trading, consulting, subscriptions or research service. McDep shall not own more than 1% of outstanding stock in a covered company. No one at McDep is on the Board of Directors at a covered company nor is anyone at a covered company on the Board of Directors of McDep.

McDep or its employees may take positions in stocks the firm covers for research purposes. No trades in a subject stock shall be made within a week before or after a change in recommendation.

**Certification:** I, Kurt H. Wulff, certify that the views expressed in this research analysis accurately reflect my personal views about the subject securities and issuers. No part of my compensation was, is, or will be directly or indirectly related to the specific recommendations or views contained in this research analysis.

**Research Methodology/Ratings Description:** McDep Associates is an independent research originator focused on oil and gas stocks exclusively. The firm applies the thirty years of experience of its analyst to estimate a present value of the oil and gas resources and other businesses of covered companies. That value is compared with a company's stock market capitalization and debt. Stocks with low market cap and debt relative to present value tend to outperform stocks with high market cap and debt relative to present value. Buy recommendations are expected to deliver a total return better than 7% per year above inflation. Hold recommendations assume the attributes of the underlying business are reflected in the current price of the stock. Sell recommendations are expected to deliver a negative total return less than 7% per year including the effects of inflation.