HIGHLAND CAPITAL MANAGEMENT

Q1 2019

MLP MARKET REVIEW

MLP PERFORMANCE[1]

The Midstream Energy sector generated strong performance during the first quarter of 2019. MLPs (as measured by the Alerian MLP Index, "AMZ") were up 16.80% while the Alerian Midstream Energy Index ("AMNA", a proxy for broader midstream performance including c-corps) was up 22.15%. This performance was positive vs both the broader S&P 500 Index (which was up 13.65%) and the S&P Oil & Gas Exploration and Production Select Industry Index (an index designed to largely measure the performance of U.S. exploration and production (E&P) companies, which was up 16.12%). Midstream energy experienced a strong return during the quarter following the market dislocation of 4Q18.

FUNDAMENTALS

We believe the fundamental backdrop for midstream energy remains favorable. We have experienced a rebound in commodity prices in the New Year which we see as reflective of a healthy underlying supply/demand environment. We expect US shale volumes to continue growing with WTI over $50/Bbl, which in combination with constrained infrastructure should drive operating leverage and better margins for midstream.

Beyond our favorable view of cash flow stability and health for this sector, we believe corporate behavior and capital allocation decisions will be a key driver in share price performance going forward. We believe this sector has made substantial progress towards improving capital discipline and focusing on per share value creation. We see several key issues for management teams to focus on: 1) maintaining an appropriate amount of leverage, 2) corporate simplification / IDR elimination (to the extent not completed already), and 3) moving toward a self-funding model for equity. In addition, there is an ongoing debate in the investment community on the merits of converting from an MLP to a C-Corp following several C-Cop transactions. While C-Corps are likely to generate a broader investor universe, we believe the merits of a C-Corp conversion should be evaluated on a case-by-case basis, and the conversion trend does not imply one size fits all. The bottom line is that as this sector continues to evolve, we see ample opportunities for management teams to create equity value beyond focusing on "growth at all costs".

Despite these positive factors, midstream MLPs appear cheap relative to history and relative to other yield-oriented asset classes. The median MLP yields 8.9% which is a 21.3% discount relative to its five year average of 7.0%, and trades at an estimated 2020 EV/EBITDA multiple of 9.7x which is a 20.3% discount relative to its five year average of 12.2x.[2] Meanwhile, Utilities trade at a 10.7x EV/EBITDA which is a 5% premium to its five year average and REITs trade at 17.2x which is a 5% discount.[2]

OUTLOOK

We believe the midstream sector has seen good performance due to favorable underlying fundamentals combined with attractive valuation levels. We have witnessed a trend since the 2015-16 industry downturn of consolidation and simplification. Companies have the opportunity to create value by focusing on per share (leverage adjusted) cash flow. We believe capital structure simplification and capital allocation discipline combined with strong fundamentals and an attractive valuation could benefit the midstream sector over time.

[1] Source: Bloomberg
[2] Source: Wells Fargo, "Midstream Monthly Abridged – April 2019", 4/5/19

RISK CONSIDERATIONS

The information herein contains forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements are based on our current expectations and assumptions regarding the fund's portfolio and performance, the economy and other future conditions and forecasts of future events, circumstances and results. As with any projection or forecast, they are inherently susceptible to uncertainty and changes in circumstances. The fund's actual results may vary materially from those expressed or implied in its forward-looking statements.

MLP Risk is the risk of investing in MLP units, which involves some risks that differ from an investment in the equity securities of a company. The Fund intends to invest substantially in MLP units. Holders of MLP units have limited control and voting rights on matters affecting the partnership. Additionally, a sustained reduced demand for crude oil, natural gas and refined petroleum products could adversely affect MLP revenues and cash flows and changes in the regulatory environment could adversely affect the profitability of MLPs.

MLPs may trade less frequently than larger companies due to their smaller capitalizations, which may result in erratic price movement or difficulty in buying or selling. MLPs are subject to significant regulation and may be adversely affected by changes in the regulatory environment, including the risk that an MLP could lose its tax status as a partnership, which could reduce or eliminate distributions paid by MLPs.

Credit Risk. The risk that the Fund could lose money if the issuer or guarantor of a fixed income security, or the counterparty of a derivatives contract or repurchase agreement, is unable or unwilling (or is perceived to be unable or unwilling) to make a timely payment of principal and/or interest, or to otherwise honor its obligations. **Currency Risk.** The risk that the values of foreign investments may be affected by changes in the currency rates or exchange control regulations. **Derivatives Risk.** Derivatives, such as futures and options, are subject to the risk that changes in the value of a derivative may not correlate perfectly with the underlying asset, rate or index. Derivatives also expose the Fund to the credit risk of the derivative counterparty. Derivative contracts may expire worthless and the use of derivatives may result in losses to the Fund. **Foreign and Emerging Markets Risk.** The Fund may invest in foreign and emerging market securities which involves certain risks such as currency volatility, political and social instability and reduced market liquidity. **Growth Investing Risk.** The risk of investing in growth stocks that may be more volatile than other stocks because they are more sensitive to investor perceptions of the issuing companies growth potential. **Leverage Risk.** The risk associated with the use of leverage for investment purposes to create opportunities for greater total returns. Any investment income or gains earned with respect to the amounts borrowed that are in excess of the interest that is due on the borrowing will augment the Fund's income. Conversely, if the investment performance with respect to the amounts borrowed fails to cover the interest on such borrowings, the value of the Fund's shares may decrease more quickly than would otherwise be the case. Interest payments and fees incurred in connection with such borrowings will reduce the amount of net income available for payment to Fund shareholders. **Value Investing Risk.** The risk of investing in undervalued stocks that may not realize their perceived value for extended periods of time or may never realize their perceived value.

S&P 500 Index is a basket of 500 stocks designed to provide a broad snapshot of the overall U.S. equity market. The total return index series reflects both ordinary and special dividends.

Alerian MLP Index (AMZ) is a composite of the 50 most prominent Master Limited Partnerships (MLPs) that provides investors with an unbiased, comprehensive benchmark for this emerging asset class.

S&P Oil & Gas Exploration and Production Select Industry Index is comprises stocks in the S&P Total Market Index that are classified in the GICS oil and gas exploration and production sub-industry.

AMNA is a composite of North American energy infrastructure companies. The capped, float-adjusted, capitalization-weighted index, whose constituents are engaged in midstream activites involving energy commodities, is disseminated real-time on a price-return basis (AMEI) and on a total-return basis (AMEIX).

Utilities are measured/represented by the S&P 500 Utilities Index

REITs are measured/represented by the FTSE NAREIT Index

Index returns assume reinvestment of all dividends and distributions, if any. Indices are unmanaged, have no fees or costs and are not available for investment. The performance of the indices may be materially different from the individual performance attained by a specific investor. An investment cannot be made directly in an index.