

PRINCIPLES AND WAYS OF INVESTING IN ENERGY SECTOR

Anatol Saracuţa
Chief of Audit Department
ANRE



Situation before Restructuring

- Obsolete infrastructure (70% wear);
- Lack of investments in the sector for over 15 years;
- Electricity meters installed in 1965- 1980 and unverified for more than 10 years, lack of meters with household consumers of natural gas and thermal energy;
- Losses and thefts: electricity (total 20-30%), natural gas (10-15%), thermal energy (over 25%);
- Long-lasting non-payments (100 Ml.\$ electricity, 150 ml \$ thermal energy and 115 ml \$ gas), barter settlements (50-70%);



Situation before Restructuring

- Huge debts to energy and gas suppliers (equivalent to the annual energy and natural gas consumption, 262 ml.\$)
- Tariffs not covering incurred costs (losses over 125 ml.\$);
- Transformation of debts in state foreign debts (140 ml.\$);
- Rotational power disconnections
- □ Lack of sources for investments



Measures Taken

- Energy sector restructuring (vertically integrated natural monopoly) and the creation:
- □ 4 electricity-producing enterprises (3 CET and CHE)
- □ 5 (currently 3) electricity distribution and supply enterprises
- Privatization of 3 distribution enterprises (currently merged into one)
- □ State Enterprise "Moldelectrica" transportation and dispatch service (not susceptible for privatization)
- □ JSC "Moldovagaz" (50% shares of SAD "Gazprom") natural gas importer, 13 affiliates created (legal entities): one natural gas transportation enterprise and 12 distribution and supply enterprises
- □ Other 13 emerging private companies authorized for natural gas distribution and supply.



Measures Implemented (continuation)

- Development and implementation of Debt Restructuring Plan
- Development and adoption of the Law on Energy, Law on Electricity and Law on Natural Gas
- Creation of an independent regulator (ANRE)
 Other legislative and normative acts governing the activity of energy enterprises



Situation:

- In 2000-2003 investments only in RED Union Fenosa (RED privatized) on average 6,0 ml. \$ annually
- Since 2004 investments in all REDs and the electricity transportation enterprise, a total of 15- 23 ml \$ yearly
- In 2002-2008 investments in gas networks made only by the state and citizens a total of over 100 ml \$
- Since 2009 private investment in gas sector
- Since 2010 investments estimated at over 28 ml.\$ in energy sector and over 35 ml.\$ in gas sector.



Factors of influence (at state level):

- Obligation of enterprises to invest (prescribed by law and License Condition);
- Privatization;
- Improvement of investment climate in the country;
- Setting 0 tax rate to the revenue used for development;
- Appearance of accessibility to bank credits and loans and reduction of interest rates;
- Economic growth



Factors of influence(regulator):

- Independent regulatory authority;
- Clear rules, set for a long-lasting timeframe;
- License for activity with conditions, one-sidedly unchanged for 25 years;
- Quality indicators and responsibility for non-compliance;
- Tariff methodology for 5-7 years, corresponding to market economy rules;
- Profitability according to WACC for the net assets of the enterprise;
- Cost-covering tariffs;
- Obligatory methodology provisions to use the wear of the existing assts in making new investments;
- Equal conditions for all investors and recovery of investments through tariffs (wear and profitability).



Summary:

- Long-term investor's interests are ensured by law, licenses and normative regulatory acts;
- Investitors are guaranteed to have the possibility to recover their investments and also gain profit from investments;
- Ensuring investment recovery and 0 tax rate to re-invested capital is an incentive for further investment



Investment Plans

- Strategic investment plans of enterprises
- Annual plans (approved by ANRE)
- Efficiency of investments
- Modification of annual plans (with ANRE consent)
- Report on annual investment plan performance (presented to ANRE)
- Accepting only investments in compliance with the plan approved by ANRE to be included in tariffs .



Annual Investment Plan

Contents:

- Investments in deployment of new networks (based on urban development plans);
- Investments in reconstruction, renovation, modernization and restoration of existing networks
- □ Capital repair of fixed assets (capitalization);
- Investments in metering;
- Procurement of equipment;
- Investments in buildings and constructions;
- Investments in means of transport;
- □ Investments in systems, programs, computers;
- Investments informatics, telecommunications, telemetry, automation;
- Other investments.



Investment Principles

Necessities:

- Deployment of new networks in compliance with urban plans, gasification plans for localities
- Increasing consumption requirements of existing consumers
- Telemetry, automation, telecommunications
- Metering
- Quality of service obligations
- Renovation, rehabilitation, modernization of existing networks
- Reduction of technological consumption and losses in networks
- Auxiliary infrastructure and creation of labor conditions



Investment Principles

- Investor's requirements:
- Long-term playing rules
- Independent regulator
- Accessible recourses
- Ensured investment recovery
- Adequate rate of profitability



Requirements to Investment Plans

Justification:

- necessity;
- value;
- investment source;
- period of operation;
- efficiency (number of new consumers, growing sales, quality of service improvement, reduction of losses, costs, influence on tariffs, etc.);
- life of fixed assets.



Role of Regulator

- Decisions approving investment plans and reports are based on:
- Technical and economic analysis of proposed investments
- Necessity and legality;
- Transparency and impartiality;
- Economic justification for the interest of the sector, national and consumers' interests;
- Efficient regulatory tools for investment (procedures, instructions, sanctions, tariff proprofessional organization, etc);
- Equality, fairness and efficiency for all;
- Prompt and timely decisions.

Main Challenges, Lessons Learned

- Lack of in-depth experience and qualified expert in investment matters
- Lack of a financial market and tools for determining correct and reasonable rates of profitability.
- Conflict of interest
- Political factors: political conjuncture, involvement, criticism
- External factors: economic recession, restrictions, dependence on import of equipment, materials, services, etc.
- Economic situation: lack of resources, stagnation, high inflation
- Government commitments to donnors (WB, IMF, EBRD, etc.)
- Different treatments and views
- Sometimes mismatch between functions of ANRE and actions of Government, Parliament, Presidency.

Vă Mulțumim!