

Dennis Colenutt

Energy Sector Economist

Overview

Dennis Colenutt is Managing Director of Wight Economics Limited (WEL) a UK-based economic consulting firm specialising in the economics of the energy sector. Up to 2006 Dennis was a Director of NERA Economic Consulting in London. Dennis specialises in energy sector economics generally, and the power sector in particular. His work has focussed primarily on two areas (i) the development of market structures that promote the development of competition and facilitation of private sector participation in these industries; and (ii) the institutions and mechanisms that are necessary for the development of effective regulatory arrangements.

Over many years, Dennis' clients have included utilities and their investment banking advisers, governments, and regulators. His work in the UK has included advising one of the major generators in the run up to privatisation, advising British distribution companies in connection with price regulation, and advice in connection with the restructuring of the gas sector. He has also worked extensively overseas on energy transactions and advisory projects. This has included wide-ranging work on energy liberalisation and regulation in many countries in the EU, Central, Eastern, and South Eastern Europe, Russia, the Middle East, China, South and South East Asia, including Singapore, and Latin America.

Recent major projects have included a study for the UK's Sustainable Development Commission on the costs of nuclear power generation. Recent overseas assignments include major projects modelling and forecasting the Russian and Singaporean power sectors, advising potential buyers of generation assets, and the design of commercial arrangements for a major power inter-connector project linking Gulf states. Other major overseas assignments include detailed work on implementation of power-sector competition in Greece, Croatia, Cyprus and Slovakia to meet the IME Directive of the European Union, work on tariffs and regulatory procedures in Slovakia, Vietnam, and Kosovo, engagement as an independent expert to review tariffs in Belize, and advice to the major Russian power utility, RAO-UESR, on tariff and market modelling issues.

Dennis holds a First Class Degree in Economics from the University of Sheffield, and a M.Sc. (Econ) degree from the University of Wales. Prior to joining NERA, Dennis worked for many years as an Economic Adviser in the British Department of Trade and Industry.

Qualifications

1973

UNIVERSITY OF SHEFFIELD

B.A., Economics, Class I

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1975 **UNIVERSITY OF WALES**
M.Sc., Economics

Career Details

2006 – present **WIGHT ECONOMICS**
Director

2000 - 2006 **NERA ECONOMIC CONSULTING**
Director, London (and Office Head 2004-2006)

1996 – 2000 Associate Director

1987 – 1996 Senior Consultant

1982 – 1986 **DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY**
Economic Adviser

1979 – 1982 **CIVIL SERVICE COLLEGE**
Economic Adviser

1977 – 1979 **PRICE COMMISSION**
Economic Adviser

1975 – 1977 **OFFICE OF FAIR TRADING**
Senior Economic Assistant

1973 – 1975 **UNIVERSITY OF WALES**
Research Officer

Project Experience

- § Regulatory and tariff specialist for a multi-disciplinary project funded by the World Bank to assist EVN, the major electricity utility in Vietnam, with the design and implementation of its unbundling and equitisation programme;
- § Director of the NERA team working on a project for the UK's Sustainable Development Commission assessing the evidence on the costs of nuclear power generation, and the measures that would be required to facilitate investment in nuclear power generation in the UK power market.
- § Advice to a major electricity generator in England and Wales in its preparations for privatisation, with particular reference to regulatory matters;
- § Advice to the UK Government with regard to the proposed privatisation of the electricity industry in Northern Ireland, with particular reference to institutional and regulatory matters;

- § Advice on aspects of regulation for a Scottish vertically integrated electricity utility; including estimation of the cost of capital;
- § Director of two separate projects for Singapore power generators, to provide advice on issues related to the application of the vesting contract regime imposed on generators by the Singapore regulator;
- § Project director of work to advise a major generator in Singapore on pooling and contractual issues in the new market environment of the electricity industry in Singapore;
- § NERA Team Leader of three project providing advice to PUB and then to Singapore Power on regulatory issues, price controls, and contractual and pooling aspects of restructuring and privatisation of the electricity industry in Singapore;
- § Senior Team Member of a NERA team carrying out forecasting and advisory work for a potential bidder in the context of the sale of generating assets in Singapore;
- § Director of a multi-disciplinary project to advise lenders for a major power generation project in Bulgaria. The work cover a range of aspects of the proposed investment and the regulatory environment within which it would be made, and involved detailed investigation in Bulgaria, desk research and modelling;
- § Leader of the NERA team in a multi-disciplinary project carried out for the Government of Bulgaria, advising on commercial and regulatory aspects of the privatisation of the Bulgarian power distribution companies;
- § NERA team leader for a multi-disciplinary project carried out for the Macedonian Regulatory Commission for Energy to examine and make proposals for a feed-in tariff regime for small hydro-power plants, including a study of the costs of small hydro plants;
- § Adviser on energy sector regulatory procedures for a multi-disciplinary project funded by the European Union, to assist with capacity building in the Energy Regulatory Office in Kosovo;
- § Director of two large projects in Russia for RAO-UESR, to provide technical advice on modelling of power markets and provides assistance with the derivation of power market prices;
- § Director of two major projects for RAO-UESR, the major Russian power utility, to provide advice on transmission pricing and access issues, including modelling of transmission tariffs;
- § Director of a project for the Russian Federal Ministry of Energy to advise on the likely impact of power sector reforms on the fuel supplying and transportation industries in Russia;

- § Member of a multi-disciplinary team working on two confidential projects to advise two major international energy utilities on the Russian power market, including modelling of future market conditions and prices;
- § Director of a multi-disciplinary project team to carry out for the Hellenic Transmission System Operator an assessment of the current state of the development of the Greek electricity market, the degree of competition, and private sector participation in it, and to make recommendations for necessary changes;
- § Director of a multi-disciplinary project team to advise the Public Power Corporation in Greece, on implementation of the distribution system operator provisions of the 2003 EU Electricity Directive;
- § Director of a project for the Public Power Corporation of Greece concerned with the restructuring of the power industry necessary to meet the requirements of the 1996 EU Electricity Directive;
- § Director of a project for the Public Power Corporation of Greece to prepare a draft electricity law suitable for the restructuring and regulation of the power industry necessary to meet the requirements of the 1996 EU Electricity Directive;
- § Director of a major multi-disciplinary project for the detailed design of the power trading arrangements in Greece necessary for the liberalisation of the electricity market, including preparation of all necessary Codes and agreements;
- § Director of project work for the Greek Regulatory Authority for Energy concerned with (i) the preparation of Regulations dealing with Authorisations, and (ii) the preparation of a Supply Code for Eligible Consumers;
- § Director of a multi-disciplinary project for the Public Power Corporation of Greece for the development of distribution tariffs and access terms, including a Distribution Code, for the liberalisation of the electricity market;
- § Leader of the NERA team for a project to advise on tariff and regulatory aspects relevant to the privatisation of one of the three power distribution companies in Slovakia. This included review of the tariff and commercial aspects of the proposed privatisation;
- § Director of a NERA project carried out for the Government of Slovakia to develop tariff regulation proposals for the privatisation of the electricity distribution utilities in Slovakia;
- § Leader of the NERA market design team in a project for the Government of Slovakia to prepare recommendations on power market design and transmission tariffs, in order to implement the EU's IME Directive;
- § Leader of the NERA team in a project for the Government of Croatia to examine options for the reform of the Croatian power sector;

- § Leader of the NERA team in a project for the Government of Cyprus to develop and recommend detailed power sector reform measures to implement the EU's IME Directive, including licensing, trading arrangements, and tariffs;
- § NERA team leader for a multi-disciplinary project to advise the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnector Authority, based in Saudi Arabia, on the development of arrangements for energy trading and access to the new cross-border transmission system linking the six member states.
- § Team leader for a multi-disciplinary project to advise the Gulf Cooperation Council Interconnector Authority, based in Saudi Arabia, on the development of arrangements for energy trading and access to the new cross-border transmission system linking the six member states.
- § Director of a project funded by the Asian development Bank to advise the Electricity Authority of Cambodia (EAC) on the establishment and operation of effective price regulation for the Cambodian power sector, including training to staff;
- § Independent expert, advising on proposals by the Belize Public Utilities Commission for revisions to the regulation of electricity tariffs and charges;
- § NERA team leader for a project for KEPCO to advise on restructuring and privatisation of the power sector in Korea;
- § Director of a project for a major generating company on the development of competitive electricity trading arrangements in a liberalised electricity sector in the Republic of Kazakhstan;
- § NERA team leader of a project to provide advice to IRHE, the power utility in Panama, on commercial and regulatory aspects of the plans for restructuring, regulation, and privatisation of the Panamanian power sector;
- § Regulatory specialist providing advice on distribution regulation for a major power sector reform project in Mexico;
- § Manager of a project for the Electricity Generating Authority of Thailand on the future structure of the power industry and the appropriate basis for the provision of transmission services by EGAT;
- § Reviewing and advising on regulation and restructuring of the Czechoslovakian gas, electricity, and district heating industries, and proposals for their privatisation;
- § Reviewing and advising on regulation and restructuring of the Latvian electricity, gas, district heating, and oil industries, and proposals for their privatisation;
- § Reviewing and advising on regulation and restructuring of the Bulgarian electricity, gas, district heating, oil and coal industries, and proposals for private sector participation;

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- § Director of a multi-disciplinary project funded by the World Bank to advise the Chinese State Electricity Regulatory Commission (SERC) on capability building for effective regulation of the power sector across China;
- § Director of a project on the regulatory framework for the power sector as part of a World Bank funded project concerned with the creation of a power market in Zhejiang Province, People's Republic of China;
- § Director of a project for the Zhejiang Province Electric Power Corporation to prepare a regulatory review of a number of national power markets and for the organisation and delivery of a regulatory study tour in Europe;
- § Regulatory specialist in a project concerned with the implementation of proposals for sectoral reform of the electricity industry in the State of Orissa, India;
- § Regulatory specialist in a project assisting with the establishment of the Electricity Regulatory Commission in the State of Andhra Pradesh, India;
- § Manager of a major project for the UK Department for International Development to assist with the establishment of a power sector regulatory body in the State of Haryana, India;
- § Power market adviser in a World Bank funded project to advise the Government and NEK on market rule design and supplier of last resort arrangements in Bulgaria. The work included detailed examination and modelling of the market rules and of their interface with the proposals for a wider South East Europe power market;
- § Reviewing and advising on proposals for a new gas system balancing regime to support open access to the gas system in Britain;
- § Advice on structural and competition aspects of the gas industry in Britain, in connection with a major Monopolies Commission investigation;
- § Project manager of a study to evaluate the Indian natural gas industry, to provide advice on industry structure, and make proposals for an appropriate regulatory framework;
- § Project manager of a study to evaluate the Indonesian natural gas industry and make proposals for an appropriate regulatory framework;
- § Director of a project to advise and assist with the design and implementation of a regulatory framework for the natural gas industry in Bangladesh;
- § Director of a confidential study to advise an EU utility on the potential costs and benefits of the acquisition of a holding in a gas utility.

Conference and Seminar Papers

"Economics and Regulation of Open Access", paper presented to the conference on Regulation and Marketing in the UK Gas Industry, London, 4 October 1993.

"The Power Sector Regulatory Environment and Issues", paper presented to the London Procurement Conference on Electric Power Utilities, US Embassy, London, 14 June 1994.

"The Coal Authority and Coal Industry Privatisation", paper presented to the conference on Privatising the Coal Industry, London, 7 July 1994.

"Reviewing the Regulators: Lessons from the UK and Abroad", paper presented to the NERA's Client Regulatory Workshop, London, 19 January 1995.

"Lessons to be learned from the Western Experience: RPI-X v Rate of Return Regulation", paper presented to the Asian Power 95 Conference, Singapore, 2 March 1995.

"Market Competition and Independent Energy Production: An International Perspective", paper presented to the Third Greek National Energy Conference, Athens, 8 May 1998.

"Regulation and Privatisation of the Electricity Sector", paper presented to a Workshop of the Asia Pacific Energy Research Centre, Tokyo, October 1999.

"Competition in Generation, Price Signals, and Regulatory Risk", paper presented to the Second Industry Roundtable on the Energy Market in South East Europe, Sofia, October 2003.