

Evaluation of investor attractiveness of power-generating companies: special reference to the development risks of the electric power industry

A. Domnikov, G. Chebotareva & M. Khodorovsky

*Banking chair, Ural Federal University after the first President of Russia
B. N. Yeltsin, Russia*

Abstract

The paper presents the author's methodical approach to the investor attractiveness evaluation of power-generating companies on the basis of risks development decomposition, which can calculate the value of risks in the financing of electricity capital projects.

Keywords: electricity, investor attractiveness, electricity system, power-generating company, power-generating object, risks of development, the cost of development risks.

1 Introduction

Electricity is one of the most important branches of fuel and energy complex, providing a multilateral and profound impact on social and economic development and the environment. This is due to the high importance of its manufactured products – electricity energy and the large proportion of the heat. It is not the functioning of the national economic complex and the livelihoods of the population [1]. Therefore, the solving of industry problems (regarding quality, reliability and sustainable economic power supply) requires the periodical financing of the economy. However, capital project financing involves a comprehensive complex assessment of its investor attractiveness, including the potential costs from the identified risks scale [2, 3].



2 Electricity development risks

The graphic-analytical methodical approach, that is present in this paper, calculates the development risks at the different levels of the electricity system. The first level is the power generating company (PGC), which directs and regulates the realization of all the company projects and is therefore responsible for the financial needs and for providing all of the production. The PGC composition includes different types of electricity stations: heat stations, condensation stations and hydropower stations. These PGC elements are the second system level – power-generating objects (PGO). Their specificity is related to the direct production of electricity and heat and ensure the qualitative aspect of the process.

In general, the definition of development risks in electricity propose the existence of potential threats, which can be realized in the electricity enterprise (with a high probability) and lead to a deterioration in its competitive position in the market and further development. Electricity development risks include the probability of reaching high BPA deterioration, irrational pricing of policies, inefficient investment decisions and high tax burdens.

2.1 The definitions of electricity development risks

In accordance with the characteristics of the power system elements at the PGC level, the following development risk groups apply [4–7]:

1. Financial risks – the probability of the appearance of unforeseen financial losses (profit or income reducing, capital losses, increasing of borrowed funds dependence, worsening of “goodwill” indicator) in situations of indeterminacy of the financial terms of company. In electricity branches, these types of risks are some of the most serious and difficult to manage. The specifics of these risks are: lack of experience of competitive electricity market participants, difficulty in the realization of the company’s investment program and the large probability of insolvent consumers [8].
2. Technical and economic risks – this concerns the probability of losses arising from the adoption and implementation of non-rational management decisions with a significant deviation from the investment program of the PGC. This group, in the first instance, includes risks related to costs increasing as a result of technical wear of electricity equipment (according to PGC reports the volume of retiring generation capacity by 2020 may reach 75% [9]), and also to fuel cost increasing and the general rise of first production cost. In addition, this group can include the risks of having an irrational structure of power-generation capacity, which can lead to the competitive reduction of prices on the energy market. An additional feature is in the range of the regulatory–legal framework in relation to the establishment of tariffs for electricity and heat.
3. Project risks – the risks arising from the financing of electricity capital projects. As a rule this is due to the changing of initial conditions of the project’s financing and also to additional costs in the form of institutional risks (increased tax payment, changing of currency exchange, etc.).



A description of the developing risks group specific to PGO is presented below [4–6, 10]:

1. Ecological risks – the heat station during operation emits significant amounts of dangerous compounds that harm the biosphere. Furthermore, they have detrimental thermal effects on the environment and affect the topography.
2. Technological risks of the power-generation company include the processes for the quality adherence of services and the safety of heat and electricity, which are realized through the modes of PGO, as the main equipment.
3. Fuel supply risks – the irrational balance of fuel (gas, petroleum, coal, fuel and oil), the imbalance of fuel stocks in technical terms at the stations, as well as rising fuel prices.

2.2 The structure of electricity development risks

The risks ingredients of PGO and PGC, which characterize their structure, are presented in Table 1.

Table 1: Decomposition of the development risks of power companies and their objects.

№	Group of development risks	Types of development risks
1.	Finance risks	1.1. The slowdown of capital turnover 1.2. Growth of outstanding debt 1.3. Lower profit 1.4. Growth in accounts payable 1.5. The decrease in investment
2.	Technical and economic risks	2.1. Growing share of obsolete equipment in the total amount of BPA 2.2. Rising cost of fuel 2.3. Increase in the cost of power 2.4. Irrational tariff policy
3.	Project risks	3.1. Increase in the cost of the project 3.2. Increasing the duration of the investment phase of the project 3.3. Institutional risks
4.	Ecological risks	4.1. Above normal greenhouse gases tons of nitrogen oxides 4.2. Above normal thermal effects on the environment
5.	Technological risks	5.1. Violation of equipment reliability 5.2. Violation of the regime of functioning 5.3. Equipment failure, damage it 5.4. Deviation of the frequency of the current 5.5. Deviation of the voltage 5.6. Of casualties and damage equipment
6.	Risks of fuel supply	6.1. The rising price of coal 6.2. Deterioration in the quality of fuel 6.3. Disruptions in the supply of fuel

3 The method of investor attractiveness assessment

The developed method of PGC investor attractiveness assessment process with specific development risks uses expert-analytical methods of qualitative analysis. This technique is used to justify the decision on the eligibility of the project's financing while minimizing the value of the subjective assessments of the risk analysis model based on the results of the judgments of highly professional experts. The steps of this method are represented in Fig. 1.

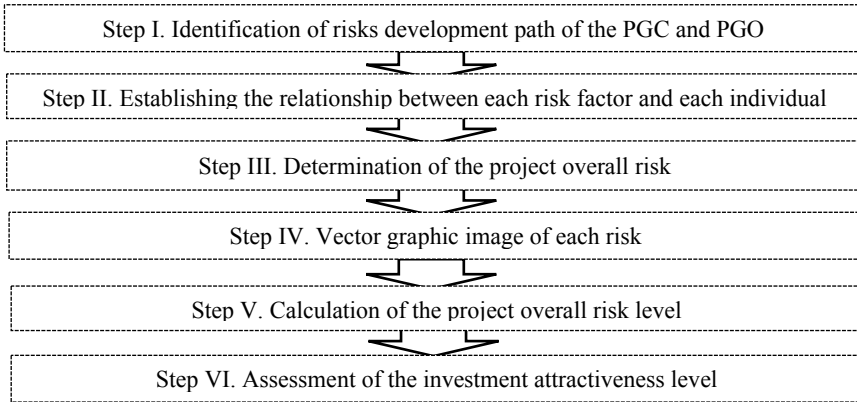


Figure 1: Steps scheme of PGC investor attractiveness assessment.

3.1 The method indicators

To assess the threat level and, thus, the costs of development risks in the project financing in the power-generating object, the impact of risks on private indicators must be considered (Table 2). This, in turn, allows us to assess the values, for which to depend upon, for the final financial results of the investment project. The methodological link between the types of development risks and the private figures significantly impacts these threats, the final amount of revenue and hence the profit of the company. For example, the implementation of technological risks will increase the costs associated with the repair of equipment, etc.

Also this can highlight the general indicators that describe the parameters of the investment project, such as the volume of attracted financing, the share of the company's own funds, a loan term, grace period, etc.

The evaluation of the development risk's impacting levels on the project, based on expert opinion, uses the scale below [11]:

- Up to 15° – low degree of influence;
- 15° – 30° – a moderate degree of influence;
- 31° – 45° – a significant degree of influence;
- 46° – 60° – a strong degree of influence;
- 61° – 75° – critically strong degree of influence;
- 76° – 90° – catastrophically strong degree of influence.

Table 2: Private figures used in electricity development risks analysis.

Private indicator	Symbol	Rating formula
1.Profitability of project assets	P_1	Project pre-tax profit/Project assets
2.Profitability of project sale	P_2	Project profit/Project revenue
3.Tax liabilities	P_3	Project profit tax value/Project revenue
4.Project solvency	P_4	Current liabilities * Evaluation period/Project revenue
5.Project liquidity	P_5	Current assets/Current liabilities
6.Projet autonomy	P_6	Equity capital/Capital invested to project assets
7.Prosperty of own funds	P_7	Own current assets/Current assets
8.Absolute liquidity	P_8	Free cash/Current liabilities
9.Average output per worker	P_9	Project revenue/Average number of project team

4 Practical assessments of the relationship between each risk factor and each individual indicator

In this study, a survey was carried out in the form of a questionnaire survey of experts (heads of services and departments of JSC “TGC-9”) to assess the cost of development risks for a given scale, the results of which are presented in Table 3 [12].

5 Graphical analyses of development risks

Using the results of the calculation shown in Table 3 it can be concluded that the structure of development risks at the PGC level is the following: 52% – financial risks, 35% – technical and economic risks and 13% – project risks. At the PGO level: 54% – technological risks, 25% – risks of fuel supply and 21% – ecological risks.

The graphical assessment of the PGC and PGO’s overall development risks are detailed in the images of Fig. 2 and Fig. 3, respectively.

When comparing the share of PGC and PGO development risks it is exposed that the share of company risks is 56% and the proportion of object risks is about 44%. Thus the PGC development risks are more significant for making an investment decision. In addition to this, a comparison of the future share risks is needed to analyze the development risks cost for the assessment of the PGC investor attractiveness level. The level of influence of all the risks is given in Fig. 4.

Table 3: The risks impact on electricity projects.

Risks group	Private indicators/Risks impact on indicators, degree										Average risk amount $R_{average}$
	P_1	P_2	P_3	P_4	P_5	P_6	P_7	P_8	P_9	P_{10}	
Risks of power-generating company											
1. Financial risks											
$R_{1.1.1}$	44	39	42	35	41	24	20	35	32	32	34.7
$R_{1.2}$	46	38	26	41	35	35	32	43	25	25	35.7
$R_{1.3}$	40	47	32	43	41	41	45	40	49	49	42.0
$R_{1.4}$	43	46	34	38	42	48	44	38	28	28	40.1
$R_{1.5}$	35	31	30	32	40	44	31	41	35	35	35.4
Total amount of financial risks	208	201	164	189	199	192	172	197	169	169	187.9
2. Technical and economic risks											
$R_{2.1}$	32	28	27	32	20	31	40	42	31	31	31.4
$R_{2.2}$	28	30	28	29	39	30	34	36	35	35	32.1
$R_{2.3}$	26	31	34	31	31	28	32	31	36	36	31.1



Table 3: Continued.

$R_{2.4.}$	29	32	37	31	32	19	32	20	34	29.6
Total amount of technical and economic risks	115	121	126	123	122	108	138	129	136	124.2
3. Project risks										
$R_{3.1.}$	14	15	12	15	15	26	10	10	20	15.2
$R_{3.2.}$	15	11	23	20	15	16	25	14	19	17.6
$R_{3.3.}$	8	12	35	13	9	18	15	10	16	15.1
Total amount of project risks	37	38	70	48	39	60	50	34	55	47.9
Total amount of PGC risks $R_{totalPGC}$	360	360	360	360	360	360	360	360	360	360.0
Risks of power-generating objects										
4. Ecological risks										
$R_{4.1.}$	22	31	28	32	29	45	33	31	19	30.0
$R_{4.2.}$	23	33	29	34	25	40	35	31	21	30.1
Total amount of ecological risks	45	64	57	66	54	85	68	62	40	60.1



Table 3: Continued.

5. Technological risks	39	20	30	33	19	21	22	29	16	25.4
$R_{5.1.}$	30	22	31	22	18	25	29	27	17	24.6
$R_{5.2.}$	32	29	24	29	25	25	29	27	21	26.8
$R_{5.3.}$	25	24	21	22	26	21	29	20	29	24.1
$R_{5.4.}$	18	31	20	21	22	21	18	21	20	21.3
$R_{5.5.}$	25	41	20	26	24	28	33	34	15	27.3
$R_{5.6.}$	169	167	146	153	134	141	160	158	118	149.6
Total amount of technological risks										
6. Risks of fuel supply	25	30	29	25	23	21	19	29	17	24.2
$R_{6.1.}$	29	24	21	29	28	22	27	24	19	24.8
$R_{6.2.}$	24	19	21	18	23	19	16	25	21	20.7
$R_{6.3.}$	78	73	71	72	74	62	62	78	57	69.7
Total amount of fuel supply risks	292	304	274	291	262	288	290	298	215	279.3
Total amount of PGO risks $R_{totalPGO}$										



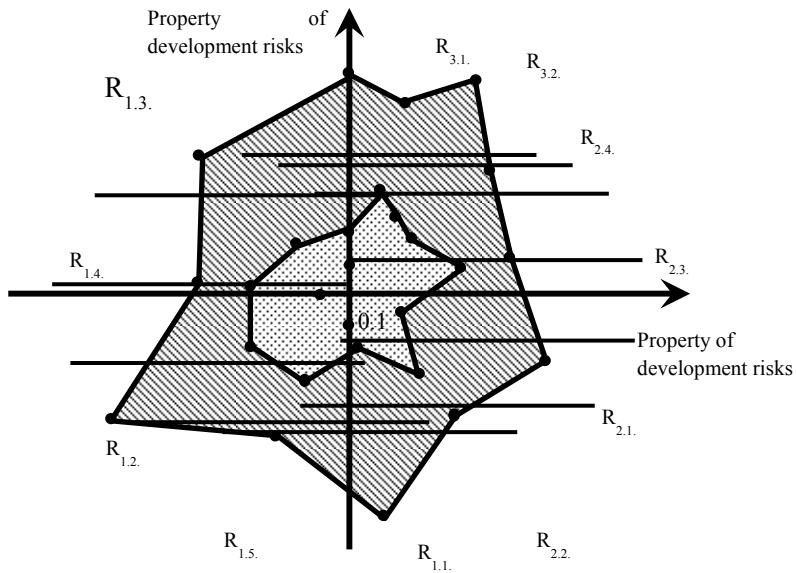


Figure 2: Graphical representation of the PGC total development risks.

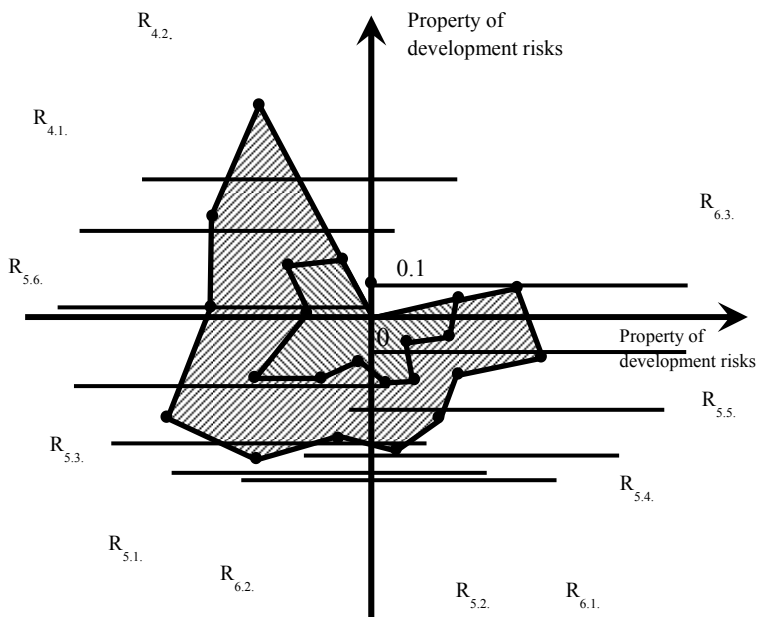


Figure 3: Graphical representation of the PGO total development risks.

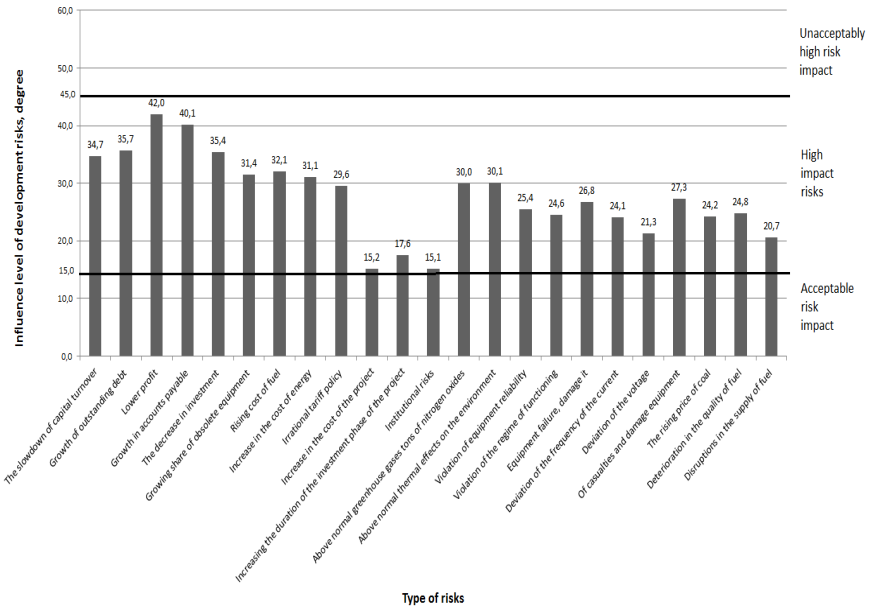


Figure 4: Influence level of every development risk on structural unit.

According to the developed methodology the PGC investor attractiveness assessment is based on determining the level of development risks impact on the basis of the following scale:

- Up to 15° – acceptable risk impact;
- 15°–45° – high risk impact;
- Over 45° – unacceptably risk impact.

In this case, Fig. 4 shows that none of the development risks rise above the 45° limit (unacceptably risk impact), three risks are in the 15° limit (acceptable risk impact) and only two of the 23 development risks are over the 40° level. The average risk value for the project is 27.8°. All this indicates a high level of PGC investor attractiveness.

6 Calculation of overall project risk

The next step of the PGC investor attractiveness assessment is the determining of the actual magnitude of total development risk, the calculation of which is as follows (1):

$$S_{int} = \frac{\sum \left[R_i * R_{i+1} * \sin \left\{ \frac{\left(\sum \alpha_{R_n} (P_i) + \sum \alpha_{R_n} (U_j) \right)}{(m+k)} \right\} \right]}{2} \quad (1)$$



where:

S_{int} – index of aggregate risk value;

R_i = side a ;

R_{i+j} = side b .

$$\left(\sum \alpha_{R_n}(P_i) + \sum \alpha_{R_n}(U_j) \right) / (m+k) = \text{angle } \alpha; \quad (2)$$

where:

$\alpha_{R_n}(P_i)$ – the value of the expert assessment of n -th factor impact in i -th component of the project financial and economic sustainability;

$\alpha_{R_n}(U_j)$ – the value of the expert assessment of n -th factor impact in j -th component of the project total result;

k – the quantity of estimate indicates of the project final result;

m – the quantity of estimate indicates of the project financial and economic sustainability.

The calculations show that if the average amount of risk realization is 0.5 (maximum of this one is 0.7, the minimum is 0.3) then the total development risk value will be: for PGC – 0.8599 and for PGO – 0.6828. The final amount of development risk (S_{int}) for PGC and PGO is 1.5427. For the final decision on financing for this investment project, it is necessary to compare the date with the average sector index, which is approximately 2.200 [5].

Thus the total risk figure of the company and the object is below the industry average in absolute values by 0.6573 and relative to 29.88%. This indicates the high level of attractiveness for this energy business investment.

7 Conclusions

In general, the graphic-analytical approach of the PGC investor attractiveness evaluation that is presented in this paper takes the development risks value of electricity, in the first place, and includes components such as: the assessment of every identified risks value in accordance with the scale, thus, the average amount and also the total project risk amount compared with the average industry value.

The calculations show that the PGC share has 1.3 times more risks than the PGO share. This is primarily due to the fact the PGC bear a great responsibility and are responsible for the efficient work (in the production and financial aspects) and the uninterrupted supply of fuel to PGO and qualitative functioning of the equipment. That is why the structure of all the risks for the share of PGC risks accounts for a large proportion (Fig. 4) – their average value is greater than 30°. The development risks inherent of the PGO have an average size of 25°.

In the study of the specific risks, the most dangerous risks for the company such as lower profit and growth in accounts payable, were identified, also

including the least dangerous – institutional risks and increase in the cost of the project.

The methodical approach that is presented in this paper allows us to estimate the level of PGC investor attractiveness for the future decision about the project financing for the modernization, expansion, renovation and creation of a new PGO. However, with the passage of time the situation on the energy market and in PGC may change, therefore, this process of assessment should be performed regularly and the amplification of adverse factors implements measures to neutralize them.

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