Ukraine / Electricity

Prykarpatoblenergo

Clients come & go, profits stay the same

granted a license for

November 27, 2007

Current Price: USD 2.48 12M Target: **USD 2.40**

electricity supply to

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PREN UZ Bloomberg

Market information

No of Shares, mln	103.6
Market Price, USD	2.48
52Wk H/L, USD	2.66/0.38
MCap, USD mln	256.5
Free float	7.0%
Free float, USD	18.0

Corporate Governance Rating* BA

* The rating is based on Concorde Capital's corporate governance survey. Q denotes quality corporate governance standards, AA - above average standards, A - average, BA - below average and P – poor.

Ownership

State (NC ECU)	25.0%
Privat group	27.6%
Privat/Energy Standard	33.8%
Other	13.6%

LukOR in PREN's customer base



estimates

Stock performance



New licensee

rating.

Last week, the NERC approved a license for electricity supply (600 GWh per year) at a non-regulated tariff for petrochemical enterprise LukOR. This amount roughly corresponds to LukOR's annual electricity consumption and 30% of electricity supplied by Prykarpatoblenergo. The license raises the risk of Prykarpatoblenergo no longer supplying electricity to LukOR, thus loosing a significant share of its market.

Last week, the National Electricity Regulatory Commission

Prykarpatoblenergo's main electricity consumer, LukOR. Despite the risk of its market for supply services shrinking by 30%, the earning power of the company will not be impaired.

We stick to our USD 2.40 target price and HOLD investment

Will LukOR do it?

The annual economy for LukOR from internal electricity supply at current tariffs is estimated at USD 0.7 mln (1% of sales). In the past, LukOR has not been successful in realizing its license: from Feb. 2003 to Oct. 2005, LukOR remained a customer of Prykarpatoblenergo, even though it held an electricity supply license. We see the probability of realization this time at somewhere above 50%.

"Worst case" scenario: No changes in the bottom line

The possible departure of its main customer Prykarpatoblenergo's top line. Nevertheless, earning power will not be impaired as:

- The current tariff policy prevents the company from reducing its bottom line. Distribution/supply tariffs are designed to generate a pre-determined profit, which is linked to an Oblenergo's investment program. A decrease in Prykarpatoblenergo's customer base by more than 5% allows the company to apply for a tariff revision and thereby preserve its predetermined profit in absolute terms, effectively increasing margins, as unexpected as it may seem.
- In the longer term, the regulator's transition to a RAB-based tariff policy will render the point moot altogether by correlating an Oblenergo's value with its asset base. A customer exodus has no effect on the company's asset value, and only a minor effect on the company's regulatory asset base (RAB) via working capital.

Forecasts for 2008

with LukOR in customer base		w/o LukOR
Electricity supply, TWh	1.88	1.33
Sales, USD mln	131.3	102.4
EBITDA margin	9.7%	12.2%
Net margin	3.3%	4.1%
Source: Company data, Concorde Capital estimates		



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