# **Electricity Distribution Pricing Mechanism in China**

## Hongxun Hui, Changzheng Shao, Yi Ding

College of Electrical Engineering, Zhejiang University

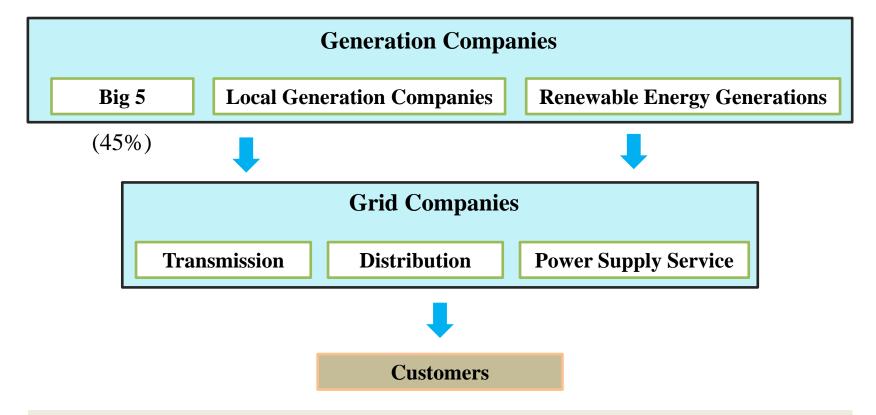
### **Chongqing Kang**

Department of Electrical Engineering, Tsinghua University





# **Power Industry Structure of China**



Find companies purchase power from generation companies and sell them to customers.





# Main Grid Companies in China

State Grid Corporation of China (SGCC)

China Southern Power Grid (CSG)

Inner Mongolia Power Co.,Ltd (IMPC)

88.0% of China's land area

10.4% of China's land area

1.6% of China's land area

66.0% of total consumed power

15.0% of total consumed power

3.0% of total consumed power

**SGCC** 



**CSG** 



98.4% of China's land area 81.0% of total consumed power

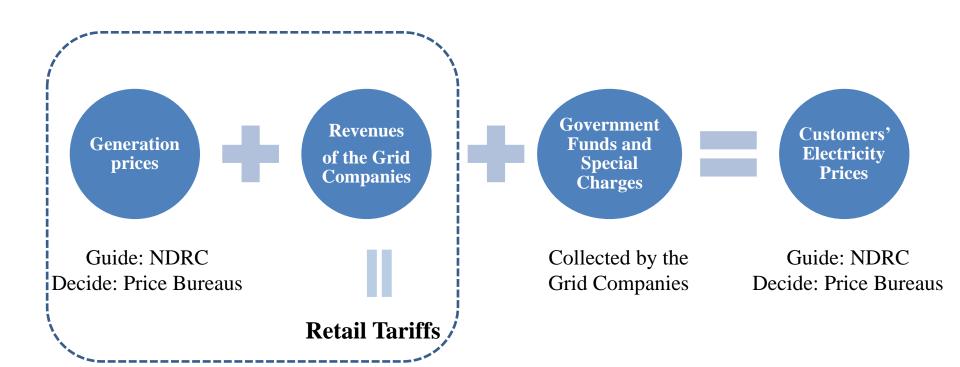
- ➤ The electricity T&D industry is expected to generate \$448.7 billion in 2015, up 1.7% from 2014.
- ➤ Over the five years through 2015, revenue has been growing at an annualized rate of 5.8%.







# Price Structure of Power Industry in China



Revenues of the Grid Companies

- = The difference between retail tariffs and generation prices
- ≈The transmission & distribution (T&D) prices.



NDRC: the National Development and Reform Commission



#### Generation Prices

From "one unit, one price" to benchmark price. (yuan/kwh)

Provinces	Generation Type	Benchmark Price
***	Coal-fired	0.3-0.5(Ave:0.419)
***	Hydropower	0.2-0.4(Ave:0.292)
***	Wind Power	0.51-0.61(Ave:0.572)
***	Nuclear Power	0.43
***	Solar Power	0.8-1.1(Ave:1.064)

#### Customers' Electricity Prices

1USD = 6.68 yuan

#### Price Catalog (Shanghai, yuan/kwh)

Profession Classification	<1kv	10kv	35kv	110kv
Residential	0.617	0.612		
Industrial / Commercial	0.885	0.860	0.835	0.815
Agricultural	0.660	0.635	0.610	



➤ The prices are decided by the *Price Bureaus* of each province.



#### Electricity T&D Price

#### Difference Between Retail Tariffs and Generation Prices (yuan/kwh)

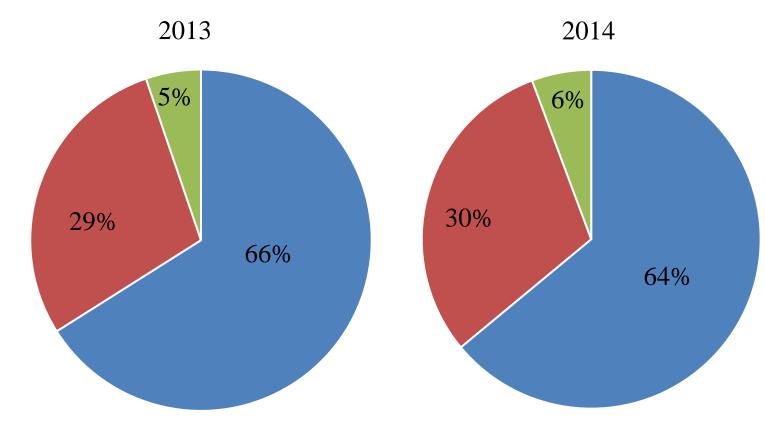
		SGCC	CSG	IMPC	Average
Tariff	2014	0.21046	0.22597	0.10498	0.20811
differences	2013	0.19349	0.21476	0.10888	0.1927
with network losses	AGR	8.77%	5.22%	-3.59%	8.0%
Tariff	2014	0.18771	0.19965	0.9173	0.18532
differences	2013	0.16899	0.18655	0.9485	0.16821
without network losses	AGR	11.08%	7.02%	-3.3%	10.17%

1USD = 6.68 yuan





# T&D price accounts for a significant proportion in customers' electricity price



- Generation prices
- T&D Price
- Government Funds and Special Charges





# **Existing Problems**

#### Distorted pricing mechanism:

- The price was not decided by market participants but the government.
- Customers' electricity prices can not reflect the generation costs, so secondary energy (electricity) can not link with primary energy.
- Difference between retail tariffs and generation prices is not transparent, and it can not reflect the T&D price.



#### • The obscure responsibility of grid companies:

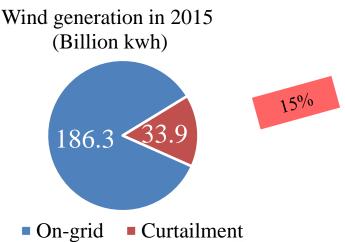
- Profits and reliability are the main evaluation indicators.
- Electricity T&D activities are monopolized.
- The operation efficiency is low.

Power & Energy Society

#### Inefficient utilization of renewable energy:

- The wind curtailment is around 15% in 2015.

The data comes from *National Energy Administration*. <a href="http://www.nea.gov.cn/2016-02/02/c\_135066586.htm">http://www.nea.gov.cn/2016-02/02/c\_135066586.htm</a>





# **Reforms of Power Industry in China**

2002

• The Chinese government started to carry out policies about "direct power-purchase for large customers". (a more market-oriented way.)

2015

• "No. 9 Document" has been issued and a new round of power industry reform has been launched.

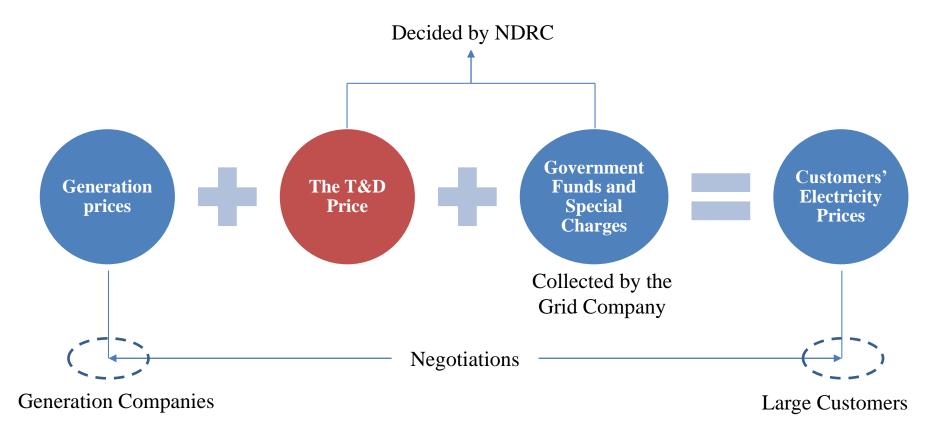


• China will deepen price reform by advancing and expanding electricity T&D price reform pilot projects.





# Price Structure After T&D Price Reform



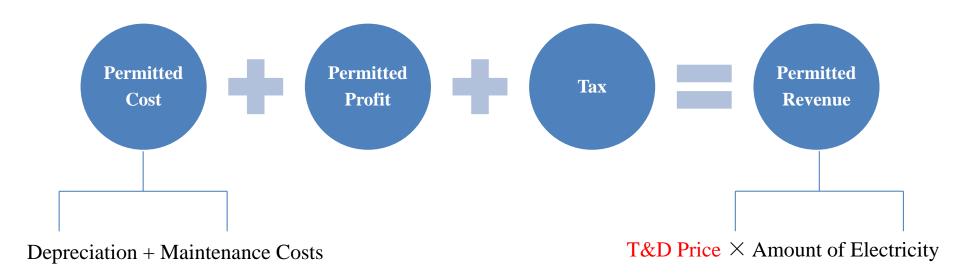
The generation prices and customers' electricity prices will be decided by the market instead of NDRC.



NDRC: the National Development and Reform Commission



# **T&D Price Calculation**



- ➤ Each voltage level has its own T&D price.
- The reform changes the financial model of grid companies.
- ➤ The NDRC oversees grid companies' gross revenue.



NDRC: the National Development and Reform Commission



# **T&D Price Reform Results in Shenzhen**

T&D Price in Shenzhen (yuan/kwh)

Voltage Level	2015	2016	2017
220kV	0.0541	0.0539	0.0537
110kV	0.0683	0.0682	0.0679
20kV	0.1363	0.1360	0.1354
10kV	0.1805	0.1802	0.1794
Average	0.1435	0.1433	0.1428

For every 1 MWh of electricity



2015, 143.5 yuan (23.5USD)

For 2016 and 2017, the new prices will be 143.3 and 142.8 yuan, respectively.





# **T&D Price Reform Roadmap in China**

2017

Stage 2

C40.00 1

Stage 1

Shenzhen

West Inner Mongolia

Anhui

Hubei

. . .

7 more provincial power grids

Beijing

Tianjing

12 more provincial power grids, and 1 regional power grid.

The reform will expand to the whole country.



January,

2015



# **Conclusions**

- Since the beginning of 2015, a new round of power industry reform has been launched. And T&D price reform is seen as a crucial part.
- Before the reform, grid companies' profits come from the difference between retail tariffs and generation prices. There is no real T&D prices.
- In the pilot provinces, local governments give separate T&D prices for each voltage level based on grid companies' gross revenue.
- In the future, the new T&D pricing system will expand to the whole country.





# Thank you for your attention!



