



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



Energy Statistics Working Group Meeting

Special Issue Paper 2 Public versus Autoproducers: A never ending statistical issue?

Pekka Lösönen
Eurostat

ENERGY STATISTICS WORKING GROUP MEETING



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



Current definitions

Problems with the current definitions

Possible solutions

Conclusions

ENERGY STATISTICS WORKING GROUP MEETING



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



Current definitions

“**Public** supply undertakings generate electricity and/or heat for sale to third parties, as their primary activity. They may be privately or publicly owned. Note that the sale need not take place through the public grid.”

“**Autoproducer** undertakings generate electricity and/or heat, wholly or partly for their own use as an activity which supports their primary activity. They may be privately or publicly owned.”



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



Problems with the current definitions

- In many countries the public supply comprised of a large state owned company in a near monopoly position
 - ◆ Public supply data was easy to collect and to comprehend
 - ◆ In liberalised markets the monopolies have been broken and there are a lot of public supply companies



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



- **Autoproducer plants were clearly related to industrial activity of a company and often even to a site or a factory**
 - ◆ **Production by Autoproducers gave a clear indication on the quantity of generated electricity in industry**
- **Outsourcing of power plants have caused the meaning of the previous Autoproducers data to change to Public supply**
 - ◆ **Power companies buy industrial plants wholly or partially, plants may then have several owners**
 - ◆ **Industry forms subsidiaries**



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



- The problem lies in classifying outsourced industrial plants
- The current definition does not allow obtaining real public supply vs. industrial production
- Different reporting practices
- Many countries have difficulties in reporting the data

ENERGY STATISTICS WORKING GROUP MEETING



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



Possible solutions

1. Abandon the division completely

- **Easy solution**
- **Calculation of emissions for industry is difficult, since the data covers also the fuel input into power plants**
- **A lot of useful information would be ignored**
→ ***Not a recommended solution***



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



2. Divide production and fuel input, not plants

- **“Autoproducer” and “Public supply” production may take place in the same plant**
 - ◆ Public supply production sold to grid
 - ◆ Autoproducer production used by the company itself
- **Confidentiality problems and difficulties in obtaining the data, outsourced industrial plants “sell” electricity to grid**
 - ***Not a recommended solution***



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



3. Divide plants according to the purpose of supply

- “Autoproducer” plants cover also outsourced plants in industrial or commercial sites when the purpose of the plant is to supply electricity to that site, even if the plant is owned by a public supply company
 - ◆ The definition would be in agreement with the spirit of considering Autoproducer production used by the company itself
- Difficult to define when the main purpose of the plant is to supply electricity to the industrial site
 - *Not a recommended solution*



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



4. Divide outsourced plants by production

- **An outsourced industrial plant is considered “Autoproducer” if**
 - ◆ It sells electricity/heat only to one industrial company or factory
 - ◆ It sells more than 50% of produced electricity/heat to one industrial company or factory
- **Confidentiality problems and difficulties in obtaining the data, since “plants” do not sell electricity**
- **Classification of the plant either to Autoproducer or Public supply may vary from year to year**
 - ***Not a recommended solution***



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



5. Divide outsourced industrial plants by ownership

- **An outsourced industrial plant is considered**
 - ◆ Always a Public supply plant
 - **No disagreement with current definition**
 - ◆ “Autoproducer” if even a small share of the plant is owned by a company whose main activity is not electricity generation
 - **Large disagreement with the current definition but may result in better quality statistics according to initial purpose of the division between Public supply/Autoproducers**



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



◆ Above 50% of the plant is owned by a company whose main activity is not electricity generation

→ Slight disagreement with the current definition

◆ 100% of the plant is owned by a company whose main activity is not electricity generation

→ No disagreement with the current definition, but mostly this is not the case in outsourced industrial plants (It is not “outsourced”)

→ *Could be used with care*



16-17 November
IEA, Paris



Conclusions

- Division of the plants by the main activity of the owner is feasible
 - ◆ Current definition need not be changed
- Perhaps the name of Public supply producers could be renamed “**Main activity producers**”
 - ◆ public is often wrongly perceived as public owned
 - ◆ **autoproducer** is more self explanatory and would remain unchanged