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Gas and Electricity, their Regulation and Legal Protection

p.8 **The role of regulations in the reformed energy markets**

The *World Forum on Energy Regulation* took place in Rome in October 2003; in the course of this forum, different ideas about Energy regulation and their impact on privatization processes were discussed.

One of the full meetings was dedicated to 'Regulation and competition in the energy markets: promotion and protection of the rights of the groups of interest in the competing energy markets' and Mr. Claude Mandil, Executive Director of the International Energy Agency (IEA) delivered a talk about 'The role of regulations in the reformed energy markets'.

During his address, the reasons that initiated the reforms carried out on the energy markets, the benefits obtained and the doubts arisen as from the moment the different events of supply shortages in California, Italy, France, etc. took place, were reviewed. It was also considered whether competitive markets meet reliability, energy security and environmental protection standards and whether they would play this role in the future. And, finally, Mr. Mandil mentioned the important role that governments still have to play in liberalized markets, in spite of the fact that interventions have to be carefully managed so as not to affect market benefits.

p.12 **Regulations and legal certainty**

The maximum aspiration vested in a legal system is that it remains valid as long as possible; that is to say, that its principles apply until such time as they are repealed in accordance with any of the methods established for that purpose.

Therefore, Legal Certainty is aimed at keeping in force the Regulatory standards that made practical, safe and cost-effective Public Services possible – from the time of their effectiveness until the present day.

Following is an analysis of the importance of the above subject regarding energy regulations and the possible ways to achieve legal firmness.

p.16 **Gas, electricity and transport**

The Electricity-Gas interaction has been a subject of discussion of growing importance in the last few years. In the course of the IV LACGEC (*Congreso Latinoamericano y del Caribe de Gas y Electricidad – 4th Latin American and Caribbean Gas and Electricity Congress*) held in Rio de Janeiro in April this year, a panel was dedicated to discuss the 'Sphere of Action or Complementation of the Gas and Electricity Markets'. In this article there is a summary of one of the presentations made by the team with comments about three key issues of the relationship between Gas and Electricity: Sphere of Action, Complementation and Energy Transportation, that is aimed at putting in order the conceptual outlook about the possibility of interaction between these markets. To explore the scope of interaction between Natural Gas and Electricity markets that, together, concentrate 35% of secondary energy sources in the world and more than 50% in Argentina, allows one to have a global view of the energy sector and to understand the possibility of interaction between these markets
By Hugo Carranza from Total.

p.22 **The crises in the Latin American energy sector**

Energy crises are caused by an accumulation of factors which, together, can produce an excessively tricky situation.

Several people specialized in energy issues talked at the round table about 'The crises in the Latin American Energy Sector' held during the 4th Latin American and Caribbean Gas and Electricity Congress' in Rio de Janeiro. Panel members: Ester Fandiño (CACIER), Daniel Montamat (Consultant), Mauricio Tiomno Tolmasquim (Executive Secretary to the Brazilian Mines and Energy Ministry) and José Luiz Alquéres (Alstom); Mr. Jacques Chambert Loir (Total) was the Moderator.

p.40 **Energy integration: the European experience**

Even though Europe has a vast experience about integration of its different countries, it still has a long way to go in respect of Energy.

In the course of the 4th Latin American and Caribbean Gas and Electricity Congress held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, Mr. Raúl Yunta Huete, Eng., Director of the Spanish National Energy Committee, Gas Area, as well as member of the Gas Task Force belonging to the Council of European Energy Regulators (CEER) depicted an interesting outlook of the European experience on the integration of its energy markets.

- p.50 **Regulatory independence: Is it feasible?**
A presentation by Jorge Vasconcelos, President of the Council of European Energy Regulators, held at the World Forum on Energy Regulation that took place in Rome in October 2003, where Petrotecnia acted as one of its sponsors. On the other hand, Bernard Tenenbaum, World Bank Lead Energy Specialist spoke about 'Regulating by contract: Is it an alternative to regulatory independence?'
- p.54 **The lack of legal certainty in Argentina**
Argentina, once and again, has denied its population the guarantees offered by the rule of law. When it has not been due to its endemic macrocephalic condition or to its continuous *coups d'etat*, irresponsibility of the managing powers, union abuse, overbearing picket rallies, irregularities in courts as well as in the immovability of judges it has been for its deceiving journalism, structural corruption, and local cheating behavior (*viveza criolla*) manifested in transgression and anarchy.
The legal certainty that Juan Bautista Alberdi preserved for us in the text of the Constitution has been badly affected. That is why today, more than ever, we have to examine our souls in depth and by doing this we will take a step forward and leave behind the tragic slow-down that we are suffering as a nation and as a human group.
By Ernesto Poblet.
- p.58 **4th Latin American and Caribbean Gas and Electricity Congress (LACGEC)**
Technical papers
During the 4th LACGEC held in Rio de Janeiro, sixty technical works on the established agenda were submitted.
Ten summaries of the works received are being published, according to suggestions made by the Technical Committee.
- p.66 **Considerations about science.**
Where are Physics going?
In this new issue of *Petrotecnia* we have started the section 'Considerations about science' ("*Reflexiones sobre la ciencia*") in order to create a space for meditation and analysis of the important subjects that lead the way to the future. The thoughts that we are publishing today refer to Physics and some historical events are discussed as examples. Also, a few of the present lines of research in three different scales (cosmic, cellular and atomic) which could indicate the path to be taken in a few years' time are mentioned.
By Raúl Barrachina, Balseiro Institute Director.
- p.72 **International Energy Forum**
The growth of distribution systems and the legal certainty
Energy in the 21st Century
Second Prize: "legal aspect"
We have continued publication of the works for which prizes were awarded in the Competition organized by the IAPG on the occasion of the International Energy Forum (Buenos Aires, October 6-10, 2003) about 'Energy in the 21st Century' and have published the work for which Leonardo Fabian Massimino was awarded the second prize on the 'legal aspect'.
The work refers to the legal system ruling the natural gas distribution systems in the Argentine Republic and, more specifically, to the problems that arise when it is intended to carry out works that make consumer access to gas as a public utility (residential, industrial and power plants) possible, in a given Service Area.
The complete version shall be available for consultation at the IAPG Library.
(www.iapg.org.ar).
- p.88 **Camisea project: The 'gas era' has begun in Peru**
On August 5 and 6, the official celebrations of a milestone in the history of that country were held: completion of the works for the Camisea gas pipeline and multi-purpose pipeline and their start-up. National and local government officials were present, headed by the President of Peru, Mr. Alejandro Toledo, as well as representatives of the different companies that took part in this major infrastructure project.
- p.92 **Gerardo Degiorgis: Work, a philosophy of life**
In the course of his career of more than five decades, he worked in several oil areas and became one of the oil industry's personalities. He declared that he received the most important tuition from a son of Piedmont emigrants –his father– at his cart factory, in the Province of Santa Fe. He was taught the philosophy of work, something that he states one does not learn from books or at any plant's machine room. During the interview that Gerardo Degiorgis (87) granted to *Petrotecnia* at his home in the Bombal section, Province of Mendoza, he recalled his vast experience in the oil activity.

p.98 **Business News**

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