Strengths and weaknesses of the British Electricity market model

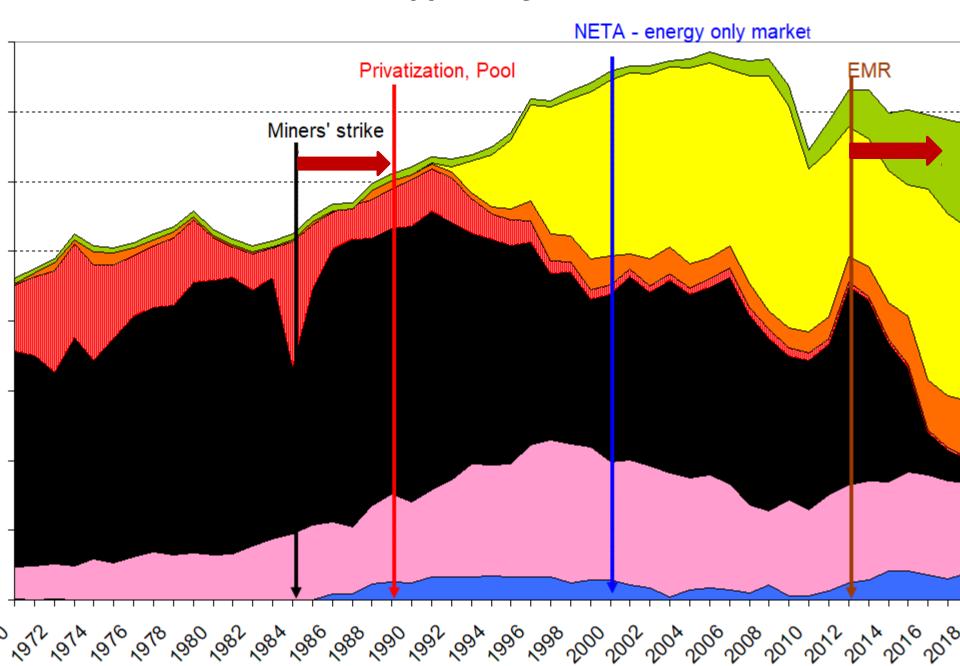
David Newbery

EPRG, University of Cambridge

FSR-IAEE online seminar

11th October 2021

Generation supplied by fuel 1970-2018



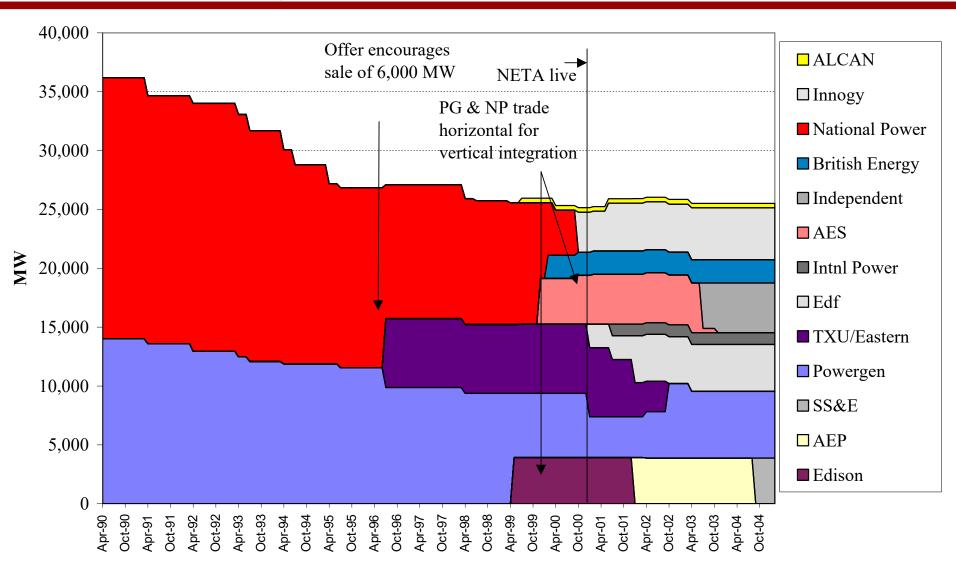
Key events in GB electricity

- Privatization: private owners more efficient than public
 - -but private cost of capital roughly double public sector
 - => payback period half, 10 years without guarantees
 - -early generation investment backed by 15-yr PPAs
 - -network regulated under RPI-X, then RIIO
- 1989: spare capacity, CCGTs cheap, coal costly
 - -pool: central dispatch with capacity payments
 - -ideal for competitive bidding but privatized as fossil duopoly
 - => "dash for gas", overcapacity => competition
- NETA (2001) replaced pool with energy-only market
 - -failed to deliver needed investment
 - -renewables support failed to deliver
- => 2011 Energy Market Reform



The gradual emergence of a competitive industry

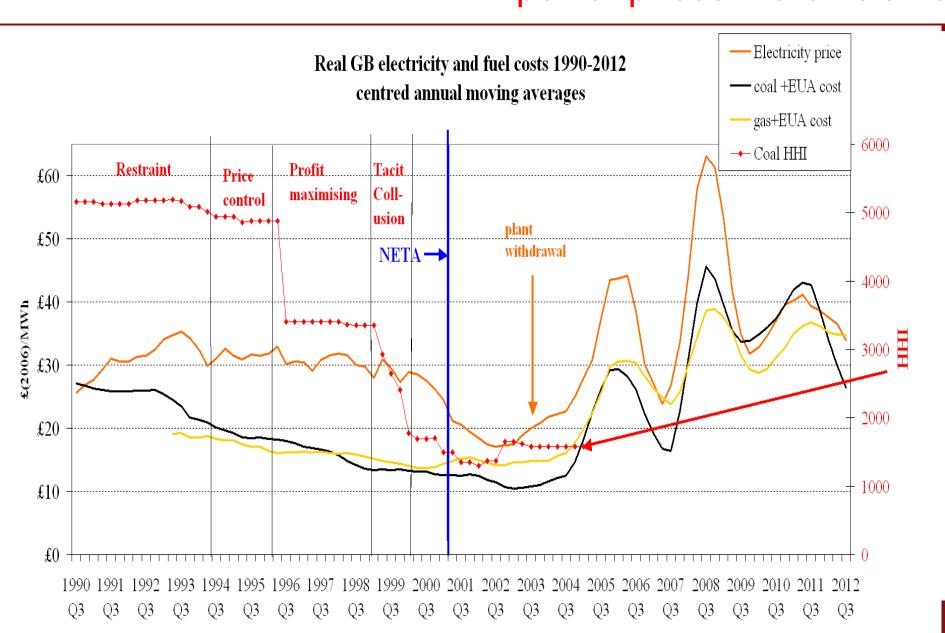
Capacity Ownership of Coal Generation 1990-2004



Source: NGC Seven Year Statements, various years, and data from J Bower and C Humphries, slide from D Newbery www.eprg.group.cam.ac.uk



NETA: Profit margins fell, fuel and power prices more volatile





Electricity Market Reform 2011 (*Act 2013*)

Why EMR?

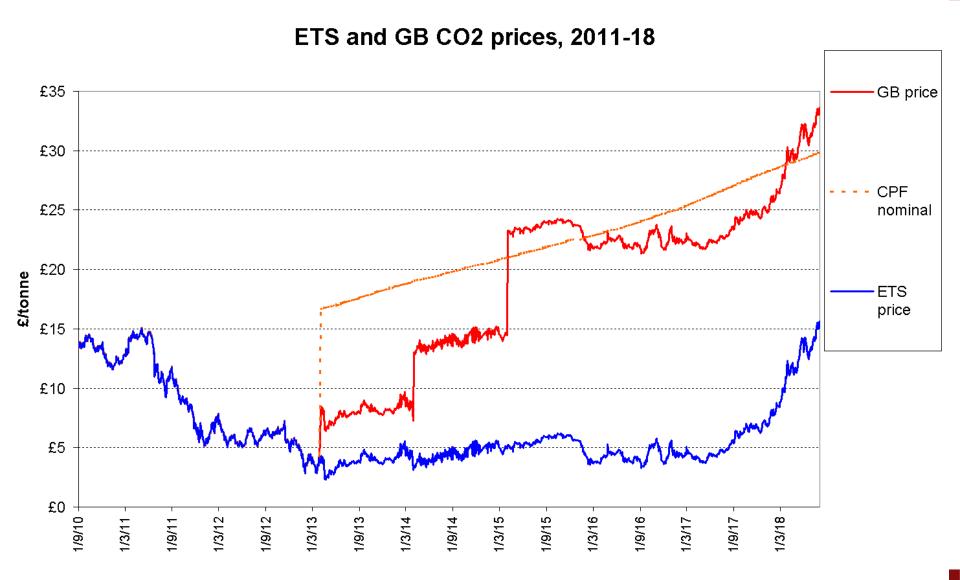
- ETS offers inadequate low-C investment signal
- RES not on target
- Generation investment crunch but no investment
 Consensus that market not delivering objectives

=> capacity payments auctioned

- HMT sets Carbon Price Floor in 2011 for 2014
- de-risk RES investment => Contracts to lower WACC
 - Originally bureaucratically set, then auctioned



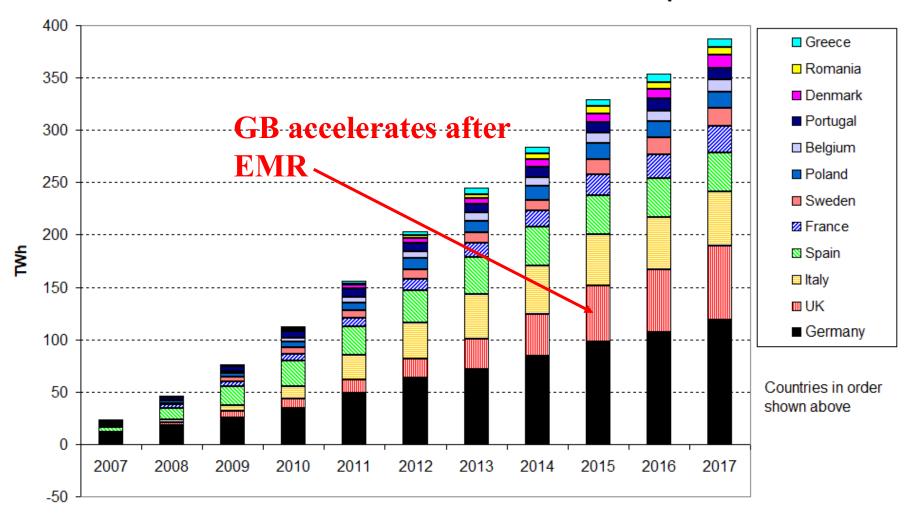
GB Carbon Price Support and resulting CO₂ price





EU renewable generation added since 2006

Cumulative increment in RES-E since 2006 top 12 MSs





Regulation

RPI-X improved operating efficiency successfully delivered network investment

but hard to benchmark

=> replaced by Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs (RIIO)

Network innovation competitions very successful

Reforming network tariffs less so with capacity auctions unseemly entry on small diesel generators on distribution networks



Lessons

GB: rich evidence of what works and what not renewables support now good, could be improved very durable investment needs contractual support nuclear & CCS inching towards RAB finance

Regulation: good at investment assurance leading on innovation support less good at agile tariff adjustment

moving to better balance of competition in and for market, auctions and RAB finance



Acronyms

CCGT combined cycle gas turbine CCS carbon capture and storage

CfD Contract for Difference

EMR Electricity Market Reform => Energy Act 2013

NETA New Electricity Trading Arrangments

PPA Power purchase agreement

RAB Regulatory asset base (on which investors earn return + depreciation)

RES Renewable energy/electricity supply

RIIO Revenue = Incentives + Innovation + Outputs

RPI-X revenue indexed to retail price index less efficiency factor (X)

WACC weighted average cost of capital