Sector View

Integrated Utilities

	1 M	3 M	6 M	31/12/15
Utilities	1.3%	3.5%	-4.8%	-3.7%
DJ Stoxx 600	2.6%	6.4%	-3.6%	-4.4%
*Stoxx Sector Indices				

Companies covered					
E.ON		BUY	EUR10		
Last Price	EUR9.326	Market Cap.	EUR18,661m		
EDF		BUY	EUR13.5		
Last Price	EUR11.87	Market Cap.	EUR22,792m		
ENGIE		BUY	EUR16.5		
Last Price	EUR14.315	Market Cap.	EUR34,861m		
RWE		NEUTRAL	EUR9.5		
Last Price	EUR12.68	Market Cap.	EUR7,664m		



It could have been worse

According to Reuters, the German commission dedicated to making decisions on nuclear dismantling in the country expects a EUR7bn surcharge for nuclear storage on top of the EUR18bn already provisioned for by the main operators in their accounts. This surcharge would be at the lower end of the indicated EUR6-18bn range discussed previously. If confirmed, the news is clearly positive for E.ON and RWE as the potential rise in provisions would be limited and as it finally implies that any additional liability could be capped. Positive.

ANALYSIS

- What was in the press yesterday? According to Reuters, citing sources familiar with the plans, nuclear operators present in Germany may have to come up with a further EUR7bn to remove unwanted long-term liability for the storage of nuclear waste from decommissioning plants. The utilities (E.ON, RWE, EnBW & Vattenfall) will have to transfer provisions set aside to pay for the interim and final storage to a fund in cash by 2022 while the provisions dedicated to dismantling will remain in the groups' accounts. This recommendation implies that the utilities will have to create new provisions at some point on top of the existing ones, and more importantly to create a dedicated asset fund in their balance sheet. As of today, the four utilities have EUR40bn provisioned in their accounts o/w EUR18bn dedicated for nuclear storage.
- Repercussions for E.ON & RWE? If confirmed, the news implies that E.ON and RWE would have to create new provisions at some point, on top of the existing ones, and more importantly to create a dedicated asset fund in their balance sheet. The positive element is that rumors indicate only EUR7bn in additional costs, at the lower end of the EUR6-18bn range indicated previously. For E.ON, we calculated a potential negative impact of EUR1.9/share and of EUR3/share for RWE assuming EUR7bn needs to be found before 2022.
- Conclusion: As it is, assuming both groups will have to book new provisions of up to EUR7bn of their current nuclear waste storage provisions is clearly negative, but since the amount is at the low end of the guidance range, and as it indicates that liabilities will be capped, it is not so negative. We also see positively the fact that utilities will only have to cash-out the provisions dedicated to nuclear waste storage and not for entire provisions. The commission aims to complete its recommendations on 27th April and make them public by this date. Despite higher exposure to German nuclear, we continue to favor E.ON over RWE inside our European integrated utilities universe.

VALUATION

- At the current share price E.ON is trading at 8x its 2016 EBITDA and at 11.6x its 2016e earnings
- E.ON: Buy with FV @ EUR10/share
- At the current share price RWE is trading at 8.3x its 2016 EBITDA and at 17.3x its 2016e earnings
- RWE: Neutral with FV @ EUR9.5/share

NEXT CATALYSTS

- April 26th 2016: E.ON Capital market day
- May 11th 2016: E.ON Q1-16 earnings
- May 12th 2016: RWE Q1-16 earnings

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Stock rating

BUY	Positive opinion for a stock where we expect a favourable performance in absolute terms over a period of 6 months from the publication of a			
DUI	recommendation. This opinion is based not only on the FV (the potential upside based on valuation), but also takes into account a number of			
elements that could include a SWOT analysis, momentum, technical aspects or the sector backdrop. Every subsequent published update on the will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.				

- NEUTRAL Opinion recommending not to trade in a stock short-term, neither as a BUYER or a SELLER, due to a specific set of factors. This view is intended to be temporary. It may reflect different situations, but in particular those where a fair value shows no significant potential or where an upcoming binary event constitutes a high-risk that is difficult to quantify. Every subsequent published update on the stock will feature an introduction outlining the key reasons behind the opinion.
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Distribution of stock ratings

BUY ratings 57.6%

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SELL ratings 8.6%

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