

#### Nat Resources & Energy Electric Utilities

Equity - India

#### Neutral

Target price (INR)	185.00
Share price (INR)	174.05
Potential return (%)	6.3

Note: Potential return equals the percentage difference between the current share price and the target price

Performance	1M	3M	12M
Absolute (%) Relative^ (%)	8.3 -2.3	-2.5 0.7	-9.3 -3.2
Index^		BOMBAY	SE IDX
RIC Bloomberg			TPC.BO
Market cap (USDm) Market cap (INRm)		1,4	29,085 435,123
Enterprise value (INRm) Free float (%)		1,7	788,659 11

#### 31 January 2012

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Issuer of report: HSBC Securities and

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## Disclaimer & Disclosures

This report must be read with the disclosures and the analyst certifications in the Disclosure appendix, and with the Disclaimer, which forms part of it

### NTPC (NTPC IN)

N: Another weak quarter

- Decline in plant load and availability, due to fuel shortage and demand pressure to continue, lowers incentive earnings
- ▶ Bank lending squeeze to SEBs increase NTPC's receivable days, though states still paying in stipulated time
- ▶ Cut our estimate by 4-5% for FY12-13, TP to INR185 (INR194).
  Despite concerns, better placed on fuel among peers, hence maintain our Neutral rating

**3Q results below expectations:** NTPC reported net profit of INR21.3bn (-10% yoy) which after adjusting for prior period items (mainly tax) is INR21.9bn (-1% yoy), 5% below our and consensus estimate. The decline is attributed to lower incentives as plant availability declined on account of domestic fuel supply shortage.

Plant load factor (PLF) and Plant availability factor (PAF) both declines: While decline in PLF by c360bps yoy was in line with our expectations, the decline in PAF was significant at c830bps during the quarter (PAF at 85.3% against 87% expected by us) attributed to low coal availability. We believe the fuel supply pressure is unlikely to improve over the next 1-2 years and hence plant load factor at its power plants is not likely to improve soon.

**Bank lending squeeze to State Electricity Boards (SEBs)** continues to increase NTPC's receivable days, at 77 days, which after adjusting for favourable tariff orders is around c60 days higher than 45days in the previous year. The SEBs continue to pay within the stipulated due date, unlike earlier where they used to avail cash discounts by paying before the due dates.

Better placed on fuel, compared to other private power producers as its significant capacity has fuel tied up, with priority allocation, and given 100% cost-plus model, any increase is pass-through to customers. Progress on NTPC's captive Pakribarwadih mine is on schedule and progressing well and company expects to start production in 2013.

**Cut our EPS estimates by 4-5% for FY12-13** to account for lower coal availability resulting in lower incentives (lower our PLF estimates by 300-435bps for FY12/13). We introduce our FY14 estimates, and expect it to report EPS CAGR of 8% over FY12-14.

Cut target price to INR185 (from INR194) as we lower our estimates and maintain Neutral rating: We use DCF to value NTPC and apply a WACC of 10.3% to derive our 12-month target price. Key upside risks are faster-than-expected execution of projects under construction and upside from profits from captive coal mines. Downside risks include non-availability of fuel, impacting operations and efficiency gains.



#### Financials & valuation

Financial statements								
Year to	03/2011a	03/2012e	03/2013e	03/2014e				
Profit & loss summary (INRm)								
Revenue	567,553	593,550	668,444	757,943				
EBITDA	142,427	146,546	168,906	202,024				
Depreciation & amortisation	-27,197	-30,953	-37,431	-47,260				
Operating profit/EBIT	115,230	115,593	131,476	154,764				
Net interest	-24,929	-24,294	-27,632	-31,395				
PBT	121,496	110,415	120,854	140,002				
HSBC PBT	115,473	110,415	120,854	140,002				
Taxation	-27,453	-21,768	-24,259	-28,583				
Net profit	94,043	88,647	96,595	111,419				
HSBC net profit	88,020	88,647	96,595	111,419				
Cash flow summary (INRm	)							
Cash flow from operations	100,906	117,601	118,642	143,452				
Capex	-137,358	-189,120	-179,706	-165,512				
Cash flow from investment	-103,159	-172,606	-163,192	-148,998				
Dividends	-31,492	-31,358	-32,982	-34,631				
Change in net debt	47,995	91,645	83,138	46,064				
FCF equity	-73,171	-90,635	-78,074	-38,694				
Balance sheet summary (I	NRm)							
Intangible fixed assets	7	7	7	7				
Tangible fixed assets	897,182	1,055,349	1,197,624	1,315,877				
Current assets	380,453	392,281	426,728	489,360				
Cash & others	178,598	195,188	212,486	255,655				
Total assets	1,361,215	1,514,696	1,674,903	1,839,274				
Operating liabilities	133,385	126,670	128,434	132,67				
Gross debt	507,548	615,783	716,219	805,452				
Net debt	328,950	420,595	503,733	549,79				
Shareholders funds	684,435	736,423	794,429	865,330				
Invested capital	965,659	1,125,780	1,283,439	1,416,918				

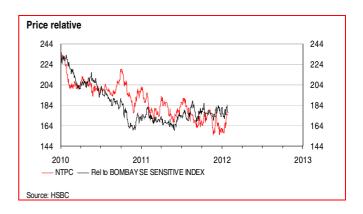
Ratio, growth and per share an	alysis
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03/2011a	03/2012e	03/2013e	03/2014e
17.4	4.6	12.6	13.4
8.9	2.9	15.3	19.6
13.1	0.3	13.7	17.7
10.0	-9.1	9.5	15.8
6.6	0.7	9.0	15.3
0.6	0.6	0.6	0.6
10.0	8.9	8.7	9.1
13.4	12.5	12.6	13.4
8.8	7.5	7.4	7.8
25.1	24.7	25.3	26.7
20.3	19.5	19.7	20.4
5.7	6.0	6.1	6.4
47.7	56.7	63.0	63.2
2.3	2.9	3.0	2.7
30.7	28.0	23.6	26.1
11.41	10.75	11.71	13.51
10.67	10.75	11.71	13.51
3.80	3.80	4.00	4.20
83.01	89.31	96.35	104.95
	17.4 8.9 13.1 10.0 6.6 0.6 10.0 13.4 8.8 25.1 20.3 5.7 47.7 2.3 30.7	17.4 4.6 8.9 2.9 13.1 0.3 10.0 -9.1 6.6 0.7  0.6 0.6 10.0 8.9 13.4 12.5 8.8 7.5 25.1 24.7 20.3 19.5 5.7 6.0 47.7 56.7 2.3 2.9 30.7 28.0  11.41 10.75 10.67 10.75 3.80 3.80	17.4 4.6 12.6 8.9 2.9 15.3 13.1 0.3 13.7 10.0 -9.1 9.5 6.6 0.7 9.0  0.6 0.6 0.6 10.0 8.9 8.7 13.4 12.5 12.6 8.8 7.5 7.4 25.1 24.7 25.3 20.3 19.5 19.7 5.7 6.0 6.1 47.7 56.7 63.0 2.3 2.9 3.0 30.7 28.0 23.6

Key forecast drivers							
Year to	03/2011a	03/2012e	03/2013e	03/2014e			
Installed Capacity (MW)	34,194	38,014	42,384	48,684			
Generation - parent (BU)	221	223	247	268			
Generation - total (BU)	228	234	264	288			

Valuation data				
Year to	03/2011a	03/2012e	03/2013e	03/2014e
EV/sales	3.0	3.0	2.8	2.6
EV/EBITDA	11.8	12.2	11.2	9.7
EV/IC	1.7	1.6	1.5	1.4
PE*	16.3	16.2	14.9	12.9
P/Book value	2.1	1.9	1.8	1.7
FCF yield (%)	-5.4	-6.6	-5.6	-2.8
Dividend vield (%)	2.2	2.2	2.3	2.4

Note: \* = Based on HSBC EPS (fully diluted)



Note: price at close of 27 Jan 2012



#### 3QFY12 results - Results highlights

NTPC reported net profit of INR21.3bn (-10% yoy) which after adjusting for prior period items (mainly tax adjustment) is INR21.9bn (-1% yoy), 5% below our and consensus estimate. The decline is attributed to lower incentives due to lower availability factor on account of domestic fuel supply pressure.

**Power generation growth is moderate:** In Q3, generation was up 3% yoy to 56.4bn units in line with our estimates. On a 9m basis, generation declined by 1% yoy to 161.8bn units. The company expects to reach c227bn units for FY12, implying a 13% yoy growth in 4Q at c65bn units which is challenging given the fuel pressure.

**Decline in PLF (by 358bp) and PAF (by 835bp)** given the low availability on account of fuel shortage. While the decline in PLF is in line with expectations, the quantum of PAF decline was higher than our expectation (PAF at 85.3% against 87% expected by us). We believe the fuel supply pressure is unlikely to improve over next 1-2 years and hence plant load factor at its power plants is not likely to improve soon.

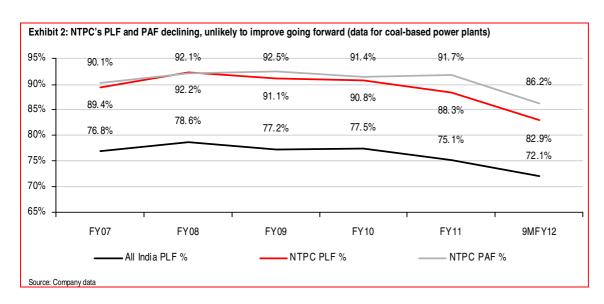
**Receivable days increased** to 77 days from 45 days in previous year. The company mentioned that excluding the impact of favourable tariff orders, the receivable days is around 60 days. The increase is attributed to weak financial health of its customers SEBs, who are facing credit squeeze from banks. The SEBs continue to pay within the stipulated time unlike earlier where they used to avail cash discounts by paying before due dates.

INRm	3Q12	3Q11 (Restated)	у-о-у%	1Q12	2Q12	HSBC	Act v/s HSBC	Act v/s Cons.
Generation (MU)	56,391	54,736	3%	54.600	50,861	56,407	0%	-
PAF - Coal based %	85.3%	93.6%	-835	89.9%	83.4%	87.1%	-184	
PLF - Coal based %	83.6%	87.2%	-358	86.8%	78.4%	84.1%	-47	
Sales (MU)	52,637	51,315	3%	51,050	46,922	52,853	0%	
Net Sales	156,466	132,615	18%	141,715	153,775	168,073	-7%	
Other operating income	511	150	240%	3,527	3,213	500	2%	
Sales - total	156,977	132,765	18%	145,242	156,988	168,573	-7%	-2%
Fuel cost	107,933	83,386	29%	97,498	106,494	116,762	-8%	
Staff cost	7,188	6,885	4%	6,907	7,848	7,300	-2%	
Other expenditure	9,162	7,989	15%	8,647	7,046	9,000	2%	
EBITDA	32,694	34,504	-5%	32,190	35,600	37,811	-14%	-7%
Dep	7,560	5,986	26%	6,411	6,583	6,600	15%	
Interest cost	4,496	3,247	38%	3,744	3,312	3,500	28%	
Other income	8,610	6,538	32%	6,437	6,881	5,700	51%	
PBT	29,248	31,810	-8%	28,472	32,586	31,111	-6%	-11%
Tax	7,318	9,634	-24%	7,714	8,347	8,089	-10%	
Net profit (adjusted)	21,929	22,176	-1%	20,758	24,239	23,022	-5%	-5%
Net profit (reported)	21,304	23,715	-10%	20,758	24,239			
% to sales								
Fuel cost	68.8%	62.8%		67.1%	67.8%	69.3%		
Staff cost	4.6%	5.2%		4.8%	5.0%	4.3%		
Other expenditure	5.8%	6.0%		6.0%	4.5%	5.3%		
EBITDA	20.8%	26.0%		22.2%	22.7%	22.4%		
Tax rate %	25.0%	30.3%		27.1%	25.6%	26.0%		
Net profit	14.0%	16.7%		14.3%	15.4%	13.7%		

Source: Company data, HSBC estimates, Bloomberg for Consensus

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#### Reduce our EPS estimates by 4-5% for FY12-13

We do not expect fuel pressure to ease over the next 1-2 years and assuming low coal availability factor, we reduce our PLF estimates by 435bps for FY12 and 300bps for FY13 and assume lower incentives. Accordingly our net profit estimates are lower by 4% in FY12 and 5% for FY13. We introduce our FY14 estimates and now expect NTPC to report EPS CAGR of 8% over FY12-14.

Exhibit 3: Changes to HSBC estimates for NTPC						
INRbn	New _		Old		Diff %_	
	FY12e	FY13e	FY12e	FY13e	FY12e	FY13e
Generation (BU)	223	247	235	256	-5.2%	-3.6%
Avg. PLF %	80.1%	81.6%	84.5%	84.6%	-435	-302
- Coal	81.6%	83.6%	86.2%	86.8%	-468	-318
- Gas	69.9%	69.9%	71.9%	71.9%	-202	-202
Sales	594	668	624	696	-4.9%	-3.9%
EBITDA	147	169	153	176	-4.0%	-3.8%
Net profit (adjusted)	89	97	92	102	-3.7%	-4.9%
EPS (INR)	10.8	11.7	11.2	12.3	-3.7%	-4.9%

Source: HSBC estimates

#### Valuation and risks

We use a DCF methodology to value NTPC and apply a WACC of 10.3% – assuming a cost of debt of 8.7%, cost of equity of 10.9%, beta of 0.9, and terminal growth of 3.5% (from 4%) – to derive our 12-month target price which is reduced to INR185 (from INR194) based on the revised estimates.

Under our research model, for stocks without a volatility indicator, the Neutral band is 5ppts above and below the hurdle rate for Indian stocks of 11%, or 6-16% around the current share price. Our target price implies a potential return of 6.3%, which is within the Neutral band; hence, we reiterate our Neutral rating on the stock. Potential return equals the percentage difference between the current share price and the target price, including the forecast dividend yield when indicated.

Our target price of INR185 implies a FY14e PB of 1.8x versus the current FY13e PB of 1.8x, and an FY14e PE of 13.7x versus the current FY13e PE of 14.9x.



**Key upside risks,** in our view, are faster-than-expected execution of projects under construction and upside from profits from captive coal mines. **Downside risks** that we see include non-availability of fuel impacting its operations and efficiency gains.

Exhibit 4: NTPC: Valuation summary						
Particulars	INRm	INR/Share (New)	INR/Share (Old)			
Enterprise value	1,886,495	229	239			
Less: Gross Debt	615,783	75	77			
Add: Cash & bank	195,188	24	22			
Add: Investments	67,059	8	10			
Less: Minorities	4,851	1	0			
Equity value – Total / Target price	1,528,109	185	194			

Source: HSBC estimates

Exhibit 5: NTPC: Capacity under								FV4F-	EV4C-
Project name	State	Ownership (%)	Capacity (MW)	Type of fuel	FY12e	FY13e	FY14e	FY15e	FY16e
Parent									
Sipat - I	Chh	100%	1,980	Coal	1,320	660	0	0	0
Barh - I	Bih	100%	1,980	Coal	0	0	660	1,320	0
Barh - II	Bih	100%	1,320	Coal	0	660	660	0	0
Simhadri - II	AP	100%	500	Coal	500	0	0	0	0
Bongaigaon	Ass	100%	750	Coal	0	250	500	0	0
Mauda	Mah	100%	1,000	Coal	0	500	500	0	0
Rihand - III	UP	100%	1,000	Coal	0	500	500	0	0
Vindhyachal - IV	MP	100%	1,000	Coal	0	500	500	0	0
Koldam	HP	100%	800	Hydro	0	400	400	0	0
Tapovan Vishnugad	Utt	100%	520	Hydro	0	260	260	0	0
Singrauli III	UP	100%	500	Ćoal	0	0	0	500	0
Solapur	Mah	100%	1,320	Coal	0	0	660	660	0
Mauda II	Mah	100%	1,320	Coal	0	0	660	660	0
Rupsiyabagar Khasiabara	Utt	100%	261	Hydro	0	0	0	261	0
Subtotal			14,251	,	1,820	3,730	5,300	3,401	0
Joint Ventures			,			,	,		
Indira Gandhi STPP	Har	50%	1,000	Coal	1,000	0	0	0	0
Vallur - Phase I (JV with TNEB)	TN	50%	1,000	Coal	1,000	0	0	0	0
Vallur - Phase II (JV with TNEB)	TN	50%	500	Coal	0	0	500	0	0
Nabinagar (JV with Railways)	Bih	74%	1,000	Coal	0	250	500	250	0
Muzaffarpur - II (JV with BSEB)	Bih	51%	390	Coal	0	390	0	0	0
New Nabinagar	Bih	50%	1,980	Coal	Ö	0	0	1,320	660
Meja Urja Project	UP	50%	1,320	Coal	0	0	0	660	660
Lata Tapovan	Utt	100%	171	Hydro	0	0	0	0	171
Rammam-III	WB	100%	120	Hydro	0	0	0	0	120
Sub total	.,,	.5576	7,481	, 0	2,000	640	1,000	2,230	1,611
Grand Total			21,732		3,820	4,370	6,300	5,631	1,611
Company guidance			,. 0_		4.980	4.000	na	na	na

Source: HSBC estimates

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# Disclosure appendix

#### **Analyst Certification**

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HSBC believes that investors utilise various disciplines and investment horizons when making investment decisions, which depend largely on individual circumstances such as the investor's existing holdings, risk tolerance and other considerations. Given these differences, HSBC has two principal aims in its equity research: 1) to identify long-term investment opportunities based on particular themes or ideas that may affect the future earnings or cash flows of companies on a 12 month time horizon; and 2) from time to time to identify short-term investment opportunities that are derived from fundamental, quantitative, technical or event-driven techniques on a 0-3 month time horizon and which may differ from our long-term investment rating. HSBC has assigned ratings for its long-term investment opportunities as described below.

This report addresses only the long-term investment opportunities of the companies referred to in the report. As and when HSBC publishes a short-term trading idea the stocks to which these relate are identified on the website at www.hsbcnet.com/research. Details of these short-term investment opportunities can be found under the Reports section of this website.

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For each stock we set a required rate of return calculated from the cost of equity for that stock's domestic or, as appropriate, regional market established by our strategy team. The price target for a stock represents the value the analyst expects the stock to reach over our performance horizon. The performance horizon is 12 months. For a stock to be classified as Overweight, the potential return, which equals the percentage difference between the current share price and the target price, including the forecast dividend yield when indicated, must exceed the required return by at least 5 percentage points over the next 12 months (or 10 percentage points for a stock classified as Volatile\*). For a stock to be classified as Underweight, the stock must be expected to underperform its required return by at least 5 percentage points over the next 12 months (or 10 percentage points for a stock classified as Volatile\*). Stocks between these bands are classified as Neutral.

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\*A stock will be classified as volatile if its historical volatility has exceeded 40%, if the stock has been listed for less than 12 months (unless it is in an industry or sector where volatility is low) or if the analyst expects significant volatility. However,



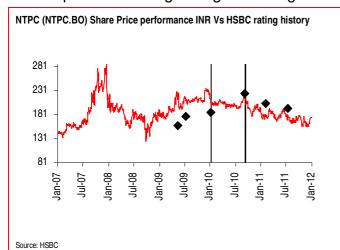
stocks which we do not consider volatile may in fact also behave in such a way. Historical volatility is defined as the past month's average of the daily 365-day moving average volatilities. In order to avoid misleadingly frequent changes in rating, however, volatility has to move 2.5 percentage points past the 40% benchmark in either direction for a stock's status to change.

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#### As of 30 January 2012, the distribution of all ratings published is as follows:

Overweight (Buy)	53%	(26% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)
Neutral (Hold)	36%	(21% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)
Underweight (Sell)	11%	(13% of these provided with Investment Banking Services)

#### Share price and rating changes for long-term investment opportunities



Recommendation & price target history					
From	То	Date			
Underweight (V)	Underweight	01 February 2010			
Underweight	Neutral	04 October 2010			
Target Price	Value	Date			
Price 1	157.00	09 June 2009			
Price 2	177.00	04 August 2009			
Price 3	185.00	01 February 2010			
Price 4	225.00	04 October 2010			
Price 5	204.00	03 March 2011			
Price 6	194.00	08 August 2011			

Source: HSBC



#### **HSBC & Analyst disclosures**

Disclosure checklist					
Company	Ticker	Recent price	Price Date	Disclosure	
NTPC	NTPC.NS	174.05	27-Jan-2012	2,5,6,7,11	

Source: HSBC

- 1 HSBC\* has managed or co-managed a public offering of securities for this company within the past 12 months.
- 2 HSBC expects to receive or intends to seek compensation for investment banking services from this company in the next 3 months.
- 3 At the time of publication of this report, HSBC Securities (USA) Inc. is a Market Maker in securities issued by this company.
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- 8 A covering analyst/s has received compensation from this company in the past 12 months.
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- 1 This report is dated as at 31 January 2012.
- 2 All market data included in this report are dated as at close 27 January 2012, unless otherwise indicated in the report.
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