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A monopoly is stillborn

Before ČEZ could complete its drive for a vertical monopoly, a few grains of sand got caught in the gears. 1) The EU launched an antitrust probe and is now rumored to be on the verge of announcing a formal investigation with a max. possible fine of Kč 200bn. 2) The Czech antitrust office started its own review of the energy market. 3) The Czech probe was spurred on by a [Power Abuse](#) report from Candole Partners that gives a compelling argument for why ČEZ's relevant market is the CR and not Europe and for how ČEZ has been expanding its margins at the expense of coal suppliers and consumers. 4) ČEZ's complicated asset swap with EPH started unraveling. 5) Fukushima threw Temelín into doubt, and ČEZ hired McKinsey to draw up a [contingency plan](#) in case the tender fails. 6) ČEZ's top managers showed great foresight by dumping their options before most of the above became apparent to outsiders.

