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The electric power issue is the main story of this edition.

Despite the shock caused by the blackout last November that left 18 states without power, Brazilian society does not fear that electricity shortages might jeopardize Brazil's economic development. The country has enormous hydroelectric potential, which already accounts for 85% of electricity generation. But there are some obstacles to developing this potential, such as the time it takes to obtain environmental permits — which can cause Brazil to use more thermal coal and fuel oil, sources of energy more expensive and dirtier — and the high cost of energy due to taxes and charges.

Business has harshly criticized the environmental licensing situation. "In the first five years of the Lula government, no environmental licenses for hydroelectric plants were granted," lamented the director of energy association FIESP, Carlos Cavalcanti. "The Environment Ministry has licensed oil and coal projects and no hydroelectric project, when that is the source of cleaner and cheaper energy."

Eletrobrás CEO José Antonio Muniz Lopes disagree. He does not believe that delays in obtaining environmental permits for some hydroelectric projects will create bottlenecks that jeopardize Brazil's economic growth.

Though they may not fear a blackout, most Brazilian industries fear that there is a risk of rationing due to high energy prices. According to studies by the Brazilian Association of Large Industrial Energy Consumers and Free Consumers (EMBRACE), the sum of taxes and other charges represents 52% of an electric bill, compared with 12% in France and 8% in the United Kingdom. The National Confederation of Industry (CNI) considers that this has led to Brazil losing competitiveness in a wide range of products.