

Powerhouse Hitch Temporary

Described as a "temporary difficulty," a hitch at the East Perth powerhouse caused an interruption to power supplies to some areas last night.

State Electricity Commission's general manager W. H. Taylor said today that the areas affected were at Fremantle, Claremont, Inglewood, Kalamunda and the hills districts.

The power hold up was not extensive and was not related to the statement by Electricity Minister Doney that the 25,000 kilowatt generator had been running since 1938 without a complete overhaul.

No further blackouts were expected.

● Mr. Doney said that because of the load on the powerhouse it had not been possible to make a complete overhaul of the 25,000-kilowatt generator. Concern was felt about the supply of electricity between now and the operation of the South Fremantle power station at the end of next year.

NEW POWER STATION

Change To 50-Cycle Equipment

The Minister for Electricity (Mr. Doney) informed Mr. Wild (Lib., Swan) in the Legislative Assembly yesterday that it would not be necessary to pay any compensation to existing 40-cycle equipment holders when the South Fremantle power station began generating and there was a change-over to 50-cycle equipment.

Most of the existing equipment was suitable for operation on 50-cycle with little or no alteration, said Mr. Doney. The whole question, including the responsibility for the cost of necessary alterations to equipment, was being considered by the State Electricity Commission and a recommendation would be made to the Government when all the facts were known and assessed.

Appeal By Power Chief

General manager F. C. Edmondson of the State Electricity Commission today appealed to all people connected with work on the new South Fremantle power station to do their utmost to complete the plant as soon as possible.

He said that, with the East Perth power station working to capacity, there would be times when people would be inconvenienced by power restrictions until South Fremantle power station was producing.

"To supply the present load all machines at the East Perth power station have at one time to be run for some hours each day. There is no spare plant," he said.

• *East Perth power station has a power output of 53,000 kilowatts from six generators. There are two 4000 kilowatt machines (installed in 1916), one 7500 machine (1922), one 12,500 machine (1928) and one 25,000 kilowatt machine (1938).*

... A Bigger Load Has The Power Men Worried ...

A plea for economy in the use of electricity was made by general manager F. C. Edmondson of the State Electricity Commisison today.

"The first burst of dull weather placed a heavy load on the East Perth power station," he said.

"Consumers should strictly observe restrictions and use electricity sparingly for lighting and other purposes."

Some time ago Electricity Minister Doney warned people that electricity supplies in the metropolitan area were limited until such time as the new South Fremantle power station was working.

It was stated that winter restrictions (now in force) would be inavoidable and that it may become necessary to switch-off sections for short periods if there was an overload.

DEPRECIATION ON POWER UNITS

Sir,—I suggest that our Federal members should make immediate representations to the Federal Treasurer for special rates of depreciation to be allowed on emergency power plants purchased for business or industrial purposes, to be used during the present emergency and other similar emergencies which are likely to occur only too frequently until the South Fremantle Power Station is in operation.

The existing rate of depreciation allowable under the Federal Income Tax Assessment Act is 5 per cent per annum, but it appears imperative that this rate should be increased to 25 per cent in order to provide a deduction of the whole cost of the plant, spread over its estimated useful life. Section 55 of the Act provides that depreciation be allowable, based on the effective life of the unit, which in the case of an emergency power plant will cease as soon as the South Fremantle Power Station begins to function. I understand that the State Electricity Commission Regulations will forbid the use of private power plants as soon as power becomes available from South Fremantle. This is a matter of emergency, and one which should be taken up immediately by our representatives in the Federal House.

If business proprietors know that they will be permitted to write off the cost of auxiliary plants at a special rate they will be far more ready to incur expenditure on auxiliary equipment, and so relieve the pressure on the already greatly overburdened East Perth supply.—Yours, etc.,

J. M. GROOM.

Opinion

Don't waste time on abuse

THERE'S no sense in blaming or abusing any State political party for the present breakdown and the appalling power position. To do this is a waste of time.

As matters stand the power plant at East Perth appears to be worn out, and we can expect the position to go from bad to worse. The onus is on the present Government to induce (financially) every qualified electrician, technician and expert from this or any other State to speed up the completion of the South Fremantle power station.

An all-out effort should be concentrated on whatever the Electricity Commission considers best.—A Woman, Mt. Lawley.

WE would like to express our thanks to State Electricity Commission General Manager Edmondson and his staff for their efforts on our behalf. We have managed well so far and we hope they can stand the strain arising from the present position. We co-operate in every way.—Tuart Hill.

S. West Power Scheme

It is interesting to note that the South-West power station will be able to continue operations in an emergency, such as a shortage of coal, by drawing on turbines to be installed at the foot of Wellington dam.

South Fremantle power station which is now in the course of erection, will also have alternative means of generating electricity, should there be a shortage of coal.

More Winter Power Cuts

Winter power restrictions are likely to be more extensive this year than last. They may include limitations on shop lighting, not restricted last year.

Regulations expected to be gazetted tomorrow will probably restrict the use of electricity for shop window lighting, shop lighting, display lighting, neon signs and radiators.

Some months ago Electricity Minister Doney warned people that some restriction would be necessary this winter to ease the strain on the East Perth power station.

On Monday he said that the first unit of the new South Fremantle power station would be in operation early next year

Perth Electricity Cuts

Probability of Extension

STRAIN ON POWER HOUSE

Perth, This Afternoon.

Winter power restrictions are likely to be more extensive this year than last. They may include limitations on shop lighting, which was not experienced last year. The regulations are expected to be gazetted to-morrow.

They will probably restrict the use of electricity for shop window lighting, shop lighting display, the lighting of neon signs and for radiators. Some months ago the Hon. V. Doney warned people that some restriction would be necessary during winter to ease the strain on the East Perth power station. On Monday he said that the first unit of the new South Fremantle power station would be in operation early next year.

Extra coal for the power stations

IF a reserve of coal could not be built up over recent months I wonder if the Government or the State Electricity Commission can explain to the public just how it expects to run the new South Fremantle power station, the enlarged Collie power station and part of the East Perth power station from coal supplied only by Collie.—Wondering, North Cottesloe.

• *Mines Minister Parker: "There are big development schemes in hand which are expected to provide sufficient coal by the time the South Fremantle power station is operating."*