

## REPORT BY

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### **LOAD SHEDDING MANAGEMENT PLAN – CITY OF JOHANNESBURG**

The City of Johannesburg announced its plans, at the council meeting held today the 31<sup>st</sup> of January 2008, to intervene on the immediate and medium to long term, to minimise the impact of ESCOM's power outages, on the residents of Johannesburg.

Immediate Interventions include:

- Geysler control – Ripple control units that, when activated are able to yield a reduction of power demand, will be extended to a further 200 000 or more households. At present the nearly 100 000 installed units, are able to yield a 150MW reduction in power demand.
- Structured load shedding – A robust, dependable load shedding schedule will be developed where there would be certainty on when each area is programmed for load shedding. This plan will be adhered to, to avoid random cut-offs.
- Community Mobilisation – This includes co-operation with large consumption customers to reduce demand immediately. Also intensive marketing drives with residents and consumers to install energy saving devices.
- Economic and Social Protections – City Power will assist with strategic installations and institutions such as hospitals, banks, information and communications technology companies, security institutions etc to ensure continued supply of electricity or minimised disruption if any. City Power will deploy its technical resources to advise public institutions, particularly the hospitals and other essential service installations.
- Energy efficient standards for new developments – The City's Development Planning and Urban Management will work with developers to ensure voluntary compliance with energy saving measures in new buildings and possibly retrofitting projects.
- Vehicle Mobility – The City has identified critical traffic intersections that will either be provided with back up power or serviced by permanent traffic officers. The City will also be considering the installation of solar energy supply to all critical and strategically located traffic intersections after the analysis of the recently successfully completed pilot projects by the Johannesburg Roads Agency (JRA).
- Education and Awareness – The City and ESCOM will be focussing on an integrated public education and awareness media campaign, to solicit public participation.

Medium to Long Term Interventions:

- Kelvin Power Station will accelerate its asset refurbishment and maintenance programme to meet an immediate capacity of 300MW and long term target of 400MW.
- eGoli Gas will ensure the supply of gas critical to re-instatement of City Power gas turbine project.
- eGoli Gas will accelerate its plans to roll out infrastructure to existing and new household clients to encourage the use of gas as an alternative source of energy.
- Monitoring and control systems for public lighting to be identified and installed. These would help dim or even switch off the public lights if need be. The switching off would save households from being switched off.
- Diesel turbines to be revamped within 4 months and produce 120 MW to alleviate load shedding. During 2010 they can supply large customers at a lesser cost than the ESCOM winter or peak cost.

In Addition:

- 300 000 household will be supplied with energy efficient light bulbs over 6 months at a cost of R15 million, with a saving of up to 45MW.
- The City of Johannesburg in partnership with various stakeholders will make an equity contribution of R12 million towards the installation of Solar Water Heaters. Approximately 30 MW can be replaced with solar energy source.
- Use of solar power for traffic lights and public lighting, R100 to R280 million will be made available. Up to 100 MW can be replaced within 12 months.

#### FINAL THOUGHT

ESCOM generates approximately 37 000 MW of electricity for the country. During peak demand Johannesburg consumes about 10% (3 500 MW) of the total supply.

The reality of the current load-shedding crisis is that it is of such a nature that it cannot be completely resolved immediately but requires urgent interventions.

This is also an ideal opportunity for us as South Africans to take a closer look at the devastating impact of coal power stations on our environment, and especially our limited natural water supply as a result of coal mining. We need to find safer, cleaner, alternative power supply, and what better time, than at the time of a crisis.

If we all make an effort to save electricity we can get through the crisis and protect our environment in the process, and work toward a sustainable future.

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