

Lights will stay on as Eskom copes with outages

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30 Jul 2012

The peak demand so far this year was supposed to be 36,258 MW on July 16 according to the 54th system status bulletin. Demand side management, which involves asking large industrial users to temporarily stop some industrial processes, meant that the actual peak demand was only 35 443 MW or a saving of 815 MW on July 16.



Unplanned outages eased to 2 900 MW on July 23 from 4 500 MW on July 19 and 4,100 MW on July 16.

Eskom said in its planning for winter that planned maintenance would only be 600 MW last week instead of the actual planned maintenance of 2 250 MW, while unplanned outages were 4 100 MW even though the 900 MW Koeberg Unit 1 was returned to service after an electrical fault on the non-nuclear side of the unit shut it down on July 11.

The Koeberg shutdown meant that outages due to unplanned maintenance shot up to 4 717 MW on July 12 from 3 626 MW on July 9, but it should have returned to Eskom's benchmark of not having more than 3 600 MW out in unplanned outages. The peak unplanned outages so far this year were 5 776 MW on May 3.

The available capacity of 35 514 MW on July 12 was well down on the 37 105 MW available on July 9 and this year's peak of 38 168 MW on June 25.

Planned maintenance and unplanned outages on July 23 were 2 266 MW and 2 900 MW from 4 240 MW and 4 011 MW respectively on May 21.

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