

cc *McGregor*

POWER STATION ENDURANCE

stocks

1. Coals/at CEGB power stations are currently about 18 mt, a fall of 0.8 mt over the past week. Scottish power stations have a further 2 mt of coal.
2. NCB deliveries last week were about 0.5 mt of which 0.3 mt went to power stations and 0.2 mt to other customers.
3. CEGB oil burn is now close to the maximum, saving about 0.5 mt of coal a week.
4. Stocks of coal at UK power stations are sufficient to meet the full expected demand for electricity until early October with no further coal deliveries, provided that maximum oil burn can be sustained. Continued coal deliveries are a bonus. The range of possible outcomes is illustrated in the following table:

Continued coal deliveries (mt per week)	Oilburn (per cent of maximum)	Endurance until
0	100	early October
0	50	mid August
0.5	100	February 1985
0.5	50	mid November

Department of Energy
24 April 1984

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01 211 6402

Tim Flesher Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
London
SW1

25 April 1984

Dear Tim

I attach a copy of the weekly note on power station
endurance, which you may wish to show the
Prime Minister before this afternoon's meeting
of MISC 101.

Yours

John

J S NEILSON
Private Secretary

Covering SECRET.



10 DOWNING STREET

From the Private Secretary

Prime Minister

You queried the endurance figures, in particular how stocks of 18 mt could last until early October if they were being run down at 0.8 mt (with Notts coal) or 1.1 mt (without it).

Policy Unit have been over the figures with the Department and are satisfied that CEGB have done their sums correctly. First, CEGB argue that most of the stock is usable. Secondly, coal burn will decrease still further over the summer. Finally, we have only just got to maximum oil burn.

Nevertheless, for your reassurance, I think we should have the expected profile of coal burn set out, against which to measure progress. I will set this in hand.

AT

25/4