

COVERING SECRET

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Andrew Turnbull Esq
Private Secretary to the
Prime Minister
10 Downing Street
LONDON SW1

20 September 1984

Dear Andrew

ENDURANCE

I attach this week's report on power station endurance.

Copies also go to Margaret O'Mara and Richard Hatfield.

Yours
John

J S NEILSON
Private Secretary

COVERING SECRET



POWER STATION ENDURANCE

1. Coal deliveries to CEGB power stations last week were 0.65 mt (including non-NCB sources), the best achieved since the start of the strike. Coal burn was 0.57 mt so that for the second week stocks have increased, by 0.08 mt. The Board's stocks last Sunday night (16 September) were 14.5 mt with a further 0.9 mt at Scottish power stations.
2. Total NCB deliveries last week were about 0.82 mt, of which about 0.20 mt went to customers other than power stations.
3. The average rate of coal deliveries to CEGB power stations over the whole period of the strike has been 0.45 mt per week. The average over the past 8 weeks has been 0.49 mt.
4. The range of endurance outcomes is estimated by the CEGB as follows:

<u>Average coal deliveries</u>	<u>Oil burn (% of maximum)</u>	
	<u>90%</u>	<u>100%</u>
0.30 mt/week	early Jan	late Jan
0.35	mid Jan	early Feb
0.40	late Jan	Late Feb
0.45	early Feb	early March
between 0.45 and 0.52	-	(see Note)
above 0.52	-	Autumn 1985

NB: Between 0.45 and 0.52 mt/week it is particularly difficult to forecast endurance with confidence. The margin needed to extend endurance from Spring (March/April) throughout the Summer is small, as Sir Walter Marshall has explained.

Department of Energy
19 September 1984