



Thursday, 22 May 2008

MEDIA RELEASE

MEDIA STATEMENT BY ESKOM, 22 MAY 2008

The risk of emergency load shedding during today's evening peak period (17:00 to 22:00) has increased significantly following technical problems experienced at some of Eskom's power stations. About 16% of Eskom's installed capacity is currently not available due to planned maintenance, unplanned outages, and load losses. Any additional technical problems that may arise during the evening peak period (17:00 to 22:00) will compel Eskom to introduce emergency load shedding.

Emergency load shedding remains a measure of last resort after Eskom has utilised all available resources, including gas-fired and hydroelectric generating plant, and after existing demand market participation agreements with large industrial customers have been utilised. In the event of emergency load shedding this evening, Eskom will use the previously drawn-up load shedding schedules. These are available on the Eskom website (www.eskom.co.za).

Eskom is appealing to all South Africans to intensify their drive to save electricity during tonight's peak period.

Important safety message: Eskom urges all consumers to continue treating connections as live. We recommend that during load shedding all appliances be switched off, rather than being left to come back on immediately when power is restored.

ENDS

Issued by Eskom's Media Desk

For more information, please contact:

Tel: (011) 800 3304/3343/3309/3378

Fax: (011) 800 3805

Cell: 082 805 7278

Email: mediadesk@eskom.co.za