

Dust Blankets East Perth

Vigorous protests are being made by East Perth residents at the nuisance they say is caused by ash and dust from the East Perth power station.

At least 1000 houses in a large area adjacent to the power station are affected.

East Perth MLA H. E. Graham said today that in a course of a check he had made of the area he had received complaints that:

- ◆ Living conditions were fast becoming unbearable.
- ◆ Washing days were proving largely a waste of time because no sooner were newly-washed clothes put on the lines than they became soiled again with soot and ash.
- ◆ Inside houses a fine layer of dust quickly settled on beds, newly-polished floors and furniture.
- ◆ Beds in sleepouts had to be covered with paper or old sheets to protect bedcovers.
- ◆ In certain parts people could not lie on lawns without getting dust on their clothing.
- ◆ People feared possible effects on their health in the dust-laden atmosphere.

Mr. Graham said today that the trouble had probably been aggravated by the recent spell of hot weather and the prevailing easterly winds which drove ash over the residential part of the district instead of allowing it to settle on the river flats.

Said he: "The trouble has been accentuated by the poor quality coal consumed recently at the East Perth power station. The chimney at the more modern section of the station has a device which causes most of the ash to precipitate within the chimney.

"But the five chimneys of the older portion of the station are not fitted with such safeguards. This older portion is operating constantly under full pressure because of the high demand for power.

Mr. Graham said he had urged the State Electricity Commission to take steps without delay to alleviate the nuisance.

He had been told that, while the SEC appreciates the hardships that many East Perth people were enduring, remedial measures were far from easy. The SEC had said that the new South Fremantle power station would be in operation before remedial devices could be manufactured and installed on the chimneys at East Perth.

"East Perth residents can have the satisfaction of knowing that the worst period has passed and that they will not have to put up with the nuis- | have to put up with the nuis-

have to put up with the nuisance next summer. By that time, it can reasonably be anticipated, the South Fremantle power station will be functioning," said Mr. Graham.

Premier Says Bank Keeps Ashes Out Of Swan River

Pollution of the Swan River by ash from East Perth Power House has been largely overcome, according to Premier McLarty.

Writing in answer to questions on the subject from East Perth Councillor F. D. Book, he said that a bank had been thrown across the area being reclaimed there.

This increased the "ponding" effect and ensured settlement of the ashes inside the "ponding."

The water flowing into the river near the bathing shed was now clear and free from ashes, the Premier said.

When pumping on to this area had been completed, the ashes would be bulldozed to form a level surface. It was expected that the filling in would be completed in about three months, after which filling in on the south side of the power house would begin.

The dust menace at East Perth arising from the power house would ease considerably when South Fremantle Power Station came into operation,

MLA Wants Light On Our Power

North-East Fremantle MLA Tonkin today asked Electricity Minister Doney to enlighten people on the South Fremantle power station position.

He said that the public was entitled to know whether the power station would be operating this winter and if they would have to prepare for possible power cuts.

Reliable information indicated that there would be no relief from power cuts this winter, said Mr. Tonkin.

Power from the new South Fremantle station would not be available at the earliest until after winter, he understood.

Electricity Minister Doney must be in a position to make a definite statement on this point. In the public interest that statement should be made immediately by him or by the Premier.

It should not be left until after the election when it would be too late for many people to make necessary preparations.

Traders were entitled to know the true position so that they could order lamps and candles to meet public demands.

Those who depended upon power supplies for industrial purposes needed to know what to do about the installation of auxiliary power plants to enable them to meet power shortages.

The Government's difficulty in announcing a precise date was recognised, but it must surely be able to say whether such date would be after the winter or not.

People did not want a repetition of what happened last year when the supply of lamps and candles ran out and people were left to grope in the dark, said Mr. Tonkin.

Load To Be Shared

THE new South Fremantle power station was scheduled to relieve East Perth power station of part of the next winter load, Works Minister Brand said in the Legislative Assembly.

Replying to East Perth Member Graham, he said that sections of the plant which had passed the construction stage were being checked and tested.

It was impossible to nominate an approximate opening date for the new station because at the moment the work there was of an indefinite nature.

ELECTRICITY NEEDS

Englishman To Meet The Premier

Before the new South Fremantle power station was completed it would be necessary to make plans for another station near Perth, said Mr. G. R. T. Taylor, chairman of directors of the International Combustion Co., one of the largest boiler-making firms in England, when he reached Fremantle in the Orontes yesterday.

A power station was almost out-of-date before it was built, said Mr. Taylor. In this era, when every country was short of power, it was necessary to plan well ahead. Electricity was the base for all industries and for the progress of a country. His firm had supplied boilers for the South Fremantle station.

While in Perth, Mr. Taylor will confer with the Premier (Mr. McLarty) and senior State Government officers. He was last in this State two years ago.

NEW POWER STATION

Though the South Fremantle power station was officially opened on Wednesday with the first of its four units already working and the second, in terms of months, not far from completion, it was emphasised by speakers that the Perth metropolitan area is not yet out of danger. Assurances were

Labour Opposition (Mr. Hawke) for the part he played in initiating the project. When the current electricity programme for city and country is completed all political parties in the State will be able to claim—and justly claim—a share of credit for a very worth-while achievement.

given, however, that the State Electricity Commission is on the move with the firm intention of getting itself ahead, and keeping itself ahead, of public demand for power, with an adequate margin of safety. There was comfort in the announcement that all the essential plant for the completion of the South Fremantle station to a generating capacity of 100,000 kilowatts is in hand so that work can go forward steadily on that project. That alone will give the metropolitan area almost double the power potential of the existing East Perth power house which is to be re-equipped with two new 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternators.

When newspapers are necessarily so charged as they have been in recent years with reports of industrial upheavals and limited output, it was refreshing on Wednesday to be told how well everyone connected with the South Fremantle undertaking had co-operated to bring it into production with the least possible delay. It is good that such tributes should be earned—and paid. Essential works like the South Fremantle power house should be outside the arena of party politics and it was gratifying to hear the present Minister for Electricity (Mr. Brand), who performed the opening ceremony, pay generous tribute to the Deputy-Leader of the Labour Opposition (Mr. Hawke) for the part he played

POWER BREAKDOWN AT EAST PERTH

Electric power throughout the metropolitan area was cut off suddenly about 5.40 p.m. yesterday when the No. 6 25,000 kilowatt turbo-generator at the East Perth power station broke down. Restricted supplies of power were restored later in the evening.

If the breakdown in the big machine is serious it might be some time before full supplies of power are again available to the metropolitan area.

In the meantime, users of light and power have been asked to exercise the greatest possible economy.

Even if the machine is out of commission for some time, the effect on metropolitan power supplies will not be nearly so severe as was the case when previous breakdowns occurred.

Some power from the new South Fremantle power station—which produces 50 cycle current—can be converted for use on the Perth and suburban system.

The chairman of the State Electricity Commission (Mr. R. J. Dumas) said last night that if consumers would assist the commission as they had done previously by exercising the utmost economy in the use of power, and if industrial establishments with stand-by sets would operate these as much as possible, it was hoped to get through the period while the No. 6 generator was under repair with a minimum of inconvenience to the public.

Emergency

Mr. Dumas said that it would not be known what was wrong with the generator until it had cooled down and tests had been made.

It was possible that the insulation on one or more coils in the stator had broken down.

If this was the case, the machine would be off load for at least a week and possibly longer, depending on the extent of the trouble.

Some time ago, he said, plans

Some time ago, he said, plans had been prepared for an emergency such as this so that disturbance to householders and industry could be reduced to a minimum.

Change-Over

As soon as the No. 2 turbo-alternator was completed at South Fremantle, the supply to Hadfields Ltd. and Chamberlain Industries Ltd. was changed over to 50 cycles.

In addition, the change-over in South Perth had advanced to such a degree that about 2,000 houses would go on to 50-cycle electricity from next Saturday morning.

During the past 12 months, he said, the demand for electricity had increased to a great extent.

As a result despite the transfer of load to 50 cycle frequency, the remaining machines at East Perth, together with the output from the 25,000 kilowatt frequency changer from South Fremantle, would not quite be able to meet the demand.

South Fremantle

Mr. Dumas explained that although the South Fremantle power station was now generating its 50,000 kilowatts on a 50 cycle frequency, that power could only be used up to the capacity of the 25,000 kilowatt frequency changer, together with the 50 cycle consumption by Hadfields Ltd., Chamberlain Industries Ltd. and the 2,000 houses in South Perth.

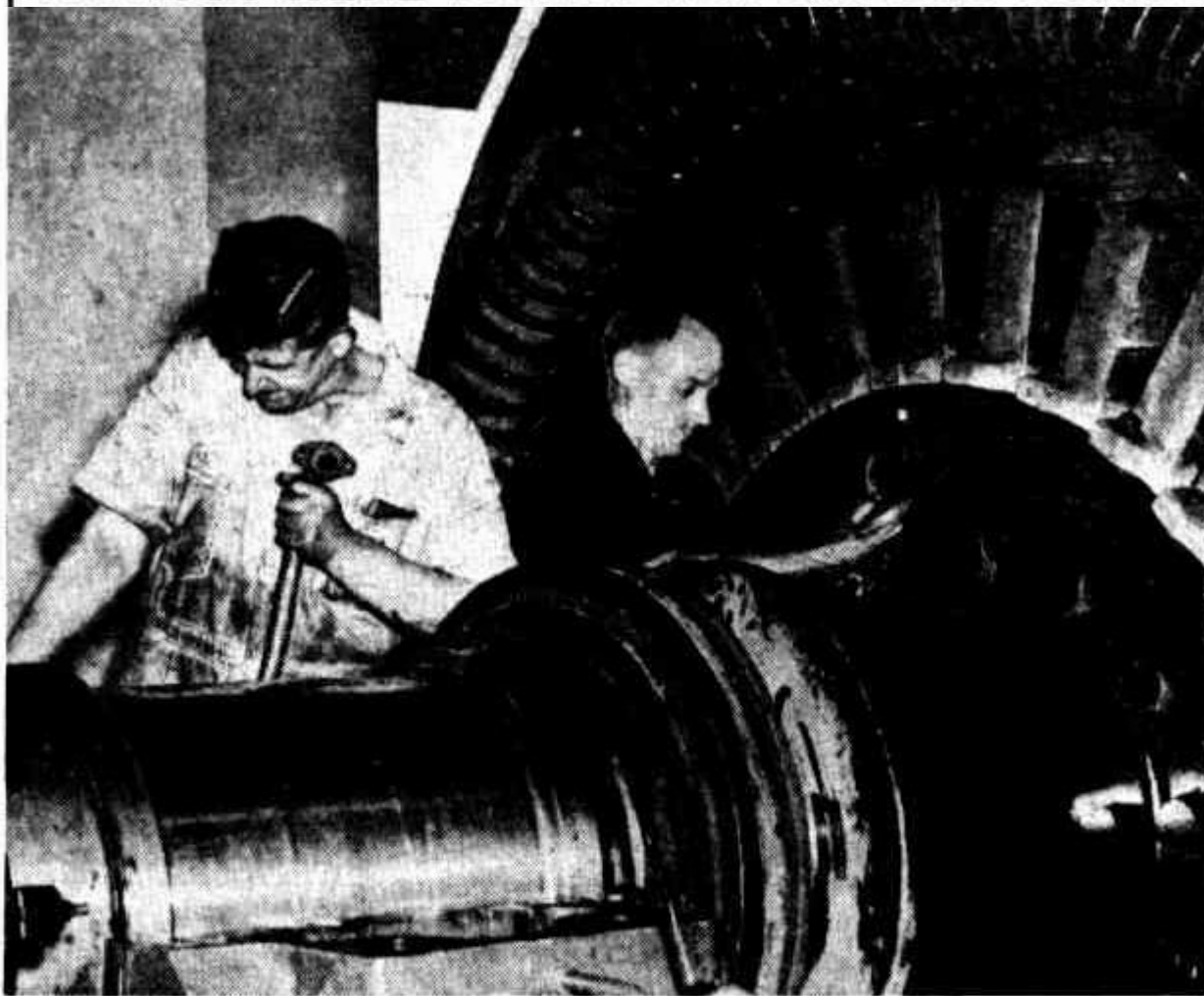
As the change-over to 50 cycles was extended, the load on the South Fremantle power station could be increased and the load on the East Perth power station relieved in emergency cases such as existed at

power station relieved in emergency cases such as existed at present.

Mr. Dumas said that the 25,000 kilowatt generator at East Perth was installed in 1938 and had run almost every day since then without a major overhaul, other than the repairing of actual parts which had broken down from time to time.

It was intended that both the electrical and steam sections of the machine would be completely overhauled next January, by which time it was expected that enough consumers would be changed over to 50 cycle frequency to allow this job to be done.

A FAULT HERE BRINGS POWER CUTS AGAIN



State Electricity Commission men working yesterday on the dismantling of the frequency changer at the East Perth power station in which a fault developed early yesterday morning, plunging Perth in darkness during an electrical storm. The fault prevents the 50-cycle electricity from the South Fremantle power station being converted to 40-cycle frequency, which is used throughout most of the metropolitan area.

EGG BOARD HEAD'S REMOVAL SOUGHT

Motions seeking removal from office of the chairman of the Egg Marketing Board (Mr. C. L. Harvey) and legislation giving producer majority representation on the board were agreed to by a meeting of poultry farmers at Armadale last night.

The motions will be presented to a special meeting of the executive council of the Poultry

Armed Bandit

THERE'LL BE PLENTY OF POWER FOR EXPANDING INDUSTRY

GROWTH of South Fremantle power station in the next few years will be ample to meet the needs of the Kwinana oil refinery without affecting supplies to the rest of the metropolitan area.

By the time the refinery is in operation (expected in 1956) South Fremantle and East Perth power stations together will be able to produce more than 150,000 kilowatts.

It is expected that this, with the South-West power scheme and with other power developments including the boosting of Bunbury's power supply by the installation of two or three 30,000 kilowatt machines, will take care of the increasing power consumption, including the refinery call for upward of 18,000 kilowatts.

POWER CUTS BEGIN IN SHOPS TODAY

Repair Of Big Machine Requires Five Weeks

Power restrictions, which will last for five weeks, will begin in the metropolitan area at 8 a.m. today for commercial premises and shops because of the mechanical breakdown at the South Fremantle power station.

The general manager of the State Electricity Commission (Mr. F. C. Edmondson), who announced this last night, appealed to the public to economise in the use of power to avoid blackouts.

Repairs to the No. 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at the power station would take approximately five weeks, Mr. Edmondson said.

During that time, he said, the whole of the metropolitan area would be affected.

The South Fremantle power station was tied to the East Perth power station by the frequency changer and the two stations acted as one.

Therefore his appeal for economy applied to all consumers who drew power from either of these stations.

Mr. Edmondson said that it would be necessary from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., Monday to Friday, for commercial premises and Shops to reduce their lighting by one-third and to refrain from using window lighting and neon signs.

Auxiliary Plants

Mr. Edmondson requested all who had auxiliary plants to run them from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on weekdays.

Large electric furnaces would be run at night to ease the day

be run at night to ease the day load, he said.

At night-time the load could be carried by the available machines, but it might be necessary to switch off street lighting in the early evening.

The public had always responded well to requests in the past.

If business men, manufacturers, householders and the public generally all helped by reducing their use of power in the daytime on weekdays, there would be little need for the S.E.C. to switch-off power.

Five Months

Mr. Edmondson said that the big machine failed early on Saturday morning when it was being "run up" according to the maker's instructions and under guarantee.

The turbo-alternator had been installed at the power station for only five months.

Engineers had had to wait for the machine to cool down before they could open it up yesterday to ascertain the nature of the trouble.

Mr. Edmondson said that section A at the power station—the part now operating—consisted of two machines, each of 25,000

part now operating—consisted of two machines, each of 25,000 kilowatts.

The machine which had failed was No. 2 of section A.

Ultimately, two extra machines would be installed and they would be Nos. 3 and 4 of section B.

POWER RESTRICTIONS AGAIN IN PERTH

Mechanical Breakdown at South Fremantle

Perth, Feb. 17.—Power restrictions which will last for five weeks will begin in the metropolitan area at 8 a.m. to-morrow for commercial premises and shops because of a mechanical breakdown at the South Fremantle power station.

The general manager of the State Electricity Commission, Mr. F. C. Edmondson, who announced this to-night, appealed to the public to economise in the use of power to avoid blackouts.

Repairs to the No. 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at the power station would take approximately five weeks, Mr. Edmondson said. During that time, he said, the whole of the metropolitan area would be affected.

The South Fremantle power station was tied to the East Perth power station by the frequency changer and the two stations acted as one. Therefore his appeal for economy applied to all consumers who drew power from either of these stations.

One Third Reduction

Mr. Edmondson said that it would be necessary from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday to Friday for commercial premises and shops to reduce their lighting by one third and to refrain from using window lighting and neon signs.

Mr. Edmondson requested all who had auxiliary plants to run them from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. on week days. Large electric furnaces would run at night to ease the day load, he said.

At night time the load could be carried by the available machines, but it might be necessary to switch off street lighting in the early evening.

Failed During "Run-Up"

Mr. Edmondson said that the big machine failed early yesterday morning when it was being "run-up" according

yesterday morning when it was being "run-up" according to the makers' instructions, and under guarantee. The turbo-alternator had been installed at the power station for only five months.

Engineers had to wait for the machine to cool down before they could open it up today to ascertain the nature of the trouble.

Mr. Edmondson said that section A at the power station—the part now operating—consisted of two machines, each 25,000 kilowatts.

The machine which had failed was No. 2 of section A. Ultimately two extra machines would be installed and they would be Nos. 3 and 4 of section B.

NO WEEKEND CUTS IN ELECTRICITY

Power restrictions, which were operating between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. on weekdays, would not be necessary at the weekend, the general manager of the State Electricity Commission (Mr. F. C. Edmondson) said yesterday.

This was possible because factories and business premises would not be using power on Saturday and Sunday, he continued.

There was no need to switch off yesterday because of the excellent cooperation of the public.

However, it was necessary for business premises to reduce their lighting by two-thirds and refrain from using window lighting and neon signs between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

These cuts were expected to last for 3½ weeks until the No 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at the South Fremantle power station was repaired.

Change-Over In Electricity At Fremantle

Work had already started in supplying Fremantle consumers with 50-cycle electricity from the South Fremantle power station, the Minister for Local Government (Mr. Doney) told Mr. Sleeman (Lab., Fremantle) in the Legislative Assembly yesterday.

About 1,400 consumers' premises had already received the change-over from 40 cycles.

Engineers Solve Power Problem

Spontaneous combustion tendencies of Collie coal under long-term storage conditions have been overcome by the State Electricity Commission at the South Fremantle power house.

Special measures to achieve this were explained to the Perth division of the Institution of Engineers in a paper presented last night by the general manager of the Commission (Mr. F. C. Edmondson) and the engineer in charge of the drawing office (Mr. C. G. Carter).

To counter the fire danger the coal store is enclosed by a 10ft. high retaining wall which denies winds access to the sides of the stockpile.

The coal, being stacked by bulldozer, is thoroughly compacted and this, with the protection of the sides, effectively prevents air circulation in the interior of the pile and inhibits the outbreak of fire.

At intervals, vertical pipes led to the interior of the stockpile into which thermometers may be lowered for temperature observation.

Transmission Lines

Four transmission lines will connect the South Fremantle power station to the East Perth power station. These follow two routes, the first duplicate line being already in operation and the second under construction.

The existing line consists of duplicate circuits carried on steel supporting structures for 15 miles to Rivervale, where the overhead section terminates, the remaining 2½ miles to the East Perth power station being carried out in oil-filled cable.

The use of underground cable was dictated by the necessity to bring the line through a heavily built-up area on the approach to East Perth and by the objection of the Civil Aviation Department to tall supporting structures near the Maylands aerodrome.

Construction of the South Fremantle station involved, among other things, the placing of 20,000yds. of concrete and the running of 320 core miles

of 20,000yds. of concrete and the running of 320 core miles of cable. About 7,000 tons of steel sections have been fabricated into buildings, steelworks, bunkers, chutes and chimneys.

Uncertainties

Much time and energy was expended to obtain scarce vital materials and equipment. Shipping delays and uncertainties added to the difficulties.

The paper dealt with the civil, structural, mechanical aspects of the station, which came into operation in March last year.

A section of the paper covering output showed that generation of electricity by the State Government began in 1918. Units generated increased from 14,019,407 kilowatt hours in 1918 to 152,210,960 k.w.h. in 1942 and 327,738,600 k.w.h. in 1951-52. Until the South Fremantle station began operations the entire burden fell on the East Perth station.

The eight water tube boilers of the new station are designed for maximum evaporation with alternative firing either from pulverised coal or oil fuel.

LOCAL COAL FOR POWER SHOWS RISE

The State Electricity Commission's consumption of Collie coal now averages about 7,500 tons a week.

The Minister for Works (Mr. Tonkin) told this to Mr. North (L.C.L., Claremont) in the Legislative Assembly yesterday.

By 1958, he said, it was estimated that the consumption would have increased to between 10,000 and 12,000 tons a week.

These estimates, however, must be treated with reserve.

Coal production at the Collie fields at present averaged about 19,000 tons a week.

The South Fremantle power station had installed alternative connections for oil-burning.

Equipment was also available at the East Perth power station for a rapid change-over if required.

Power Failure At Mandurah

MANDURAH. Thurs.—Mandurah and the surrounding areas were blacked out tonight when the electricity supply failed.

The disruption was caused by a high-tension fault between Rockingham and Mandurah.

State Electricity Commission employees went out to locate the fault.

Mandurah has been supplied with power from the South Fremantle power station since last December.

Fumes Pest Not Expected From Kwinana

After the initial test period, the discharge from the smokestacks at Kwinana would not cause a dust or fume nuisance.

The Minister for Works (Mr. Tonkin) told Mr. Lawrence (Lab., South Fremantle) this in the Legislative Assembly yesterday.

Mr. Tonkin said that at times there was a dust nuisance caused by the smokestacks of the South Fremantle power station.

This was brought about by the precipitators—which were still under the contractors' control—being taken out of action for adjustment.

It was expected that the contractors would complete the work within three or four months.

The precipitators at the power station were the most modern and the best means of eliminating the dust nuisance.

State Guards Against Big Insurance Loss

If the South Fremantle power station, which is insured for £5,700,000, were destroyed, the State Government Insurance Office would have to pay only £25,000.

The Chief Secretary (Mr. Fraser) said this in the Legislative Council yesterday.

He was replying to the second-reading debate on the State Government Insurance Office Act Amendment Bill, which the House later rejected.

Mr. Fraser said that as a result of reinsurance with other organisations, the State office would not be financially embarrassed if catastrophes destroyed some of the buildings it had insured.

Winthrop Hall at the University was insured for £1,325,000, but the office's share in the risk was £10,000.

The destruction of the Royal Perth Hospital, which was insured for £1,279,750, would cost the office only £25,000.

In a recent £8,618 claim for damages to the State ship Koolinda, the proportion payable by the State office was £862.

"Pressure"

Mr. Fraser said that the members of the Underwriters' Association would not be in the least perturbed if the Bill were passed.

An extension of the office's activities would benefit the State, members of that association and the public generally.

It could only be assumed that considerable pressure against the Bill had been brought to bear on the association by bodies like the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber of Manufactures.

Without the State office, the scheme allowing parents to insure their children against acci-

sure their children against accident at school for 3/6 a child, with a maximum of 10/6 a family, would not have been possible.

More than 80,000 parents of children attending State schools were now obtaining an adequate insurance cover for their children for a very low premium.

When the scheme was first mooted, the rate quoted by the tariff companies was prohibitive.