

GET AUXILIARIES READY— POWER HOUSE TROUBLE

Mechanical trouble occurred to the second 25,000 k.w. machine at South Fremantle power station when it was running up early yesterday.

State Electricity Commission general manager and chief engineer F. C. Edmondson said this last night.

The machine was being run to the instructions of and under the guarantee of the contractors.

Mr. Edmondson said the machine was being opened up and, because of the heat, this work had to proceed gradually. Nature of the trouble will not be known until today.

Mr. Edmondson requested that all who had auxiliaries should put their plants in order to run by 8 a.m. Monday if necessary.

On present indications they will be needed.

A further statement on the trouble will be made by Mr. Edmondson late today.

REDACTED SECTION

POWER MACHINES DISCLOSURE

Position Regarded As Serious By S.E.C.

The mechanical breakdown in the No. 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at South Fremantle power station, which has necessitated power cuts in the metropolitan area, is similar to one which occurred in the No. 1 machine last May.

The Minister for Electricity (Mr. Brand), who disclosed this last night, said it was a tragedy that so early in their life these two machines should have suffered such serious breakdowns.

The State Electricity Commission, he said, regarded the position so seriously that it was advising the contractors that it would look to them to meet all costs incurred.

It would also expect the contractors to take "exceptional" steps to bring the turbo-alternator now out of order, back into operation again in the shortest possible time.

Mr. Brand said that he had received a report from the general manager of the S.E.C. (Mr. F. C. Edmondson) on the breakdown to the No. 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at the South Fremantle power house.

It was now evident, he continued, that the high pressure spindle had been distorted in a similar manner to the occurrence in the No. 1 turbo-alternator last May.

Following that occurrence, Mr. Brand said, the spindles from Nos. 1 and 2 turbo-alternators

Nos. 1 and 2 turbo-alternators were returned to England under the instructions of the contractors.

Transferred

The spindles from Nos. 3 and 4 machines, which were awaiting erection in B station at South Fremantle, were transferred into Nos. 1 and 2 machines.

In each case, Mr. Brand continued, the machines were still in the "maintenance" period and were therefore completely under the starting, running and maintenance instructions of the contractors—the supplying company.

The procedure laid down by the company for operation of the turbo-alternators had been rigidly adhered to.

Mr. Brand said that full pressure was being maintained on the overhaul of the No. 6 25,000-kilowatt alternator at the East Perth power station, but it would be some weeks yet before this was ready.

This machine went out of action on November 28 last year when a short circuit set fire to it.

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Explanation

Mr. Edmondson in his report to Mr. Brand explained that until the No. 2 turbo-alternator—which broke down early on Saturday morning—had been dismantled it was not possible to state definitely the cause of the trouble.

Earlier, Mr. Edmondson had announced that repairs to the machine would take five weeks and that in that time power restrictions for commercial premises and shops would operate.

The machine had failed when it was being run up according to the maker's instructions and under guarantee preparatory to being put on load after being shut down the previous evening.

It had been operating for five months in the A station at South Fremantle.

Last night Mr. Edmondson said that his request for economy in the use of power had been responded to excellently yesterday.

No Switch-Off

Cooperation had been so good, he said, that there was no switching-off by the S.E.C. at all during the day.

However, Mr. Edmondson pointed out that Tuesday normally produced the heaviest draw on power in the week, and he appealed for economy in the use of power.

He specially asked housewives to fit their ironing in if possible

hours of last evening to turn all street lights on, Mr. Edmondson continued.

The thanks of the public were specially due to those who had operated their own auxiliary plants, he added.

between noon and 1 p.m., when the factory load was off, and after 5 p.m.

Shops, commercial and business premises should 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.

It would be a great help, he said, if market gardeners did the bulk of their pumping before 8 a.m. and after 5 p.m.

It was possible in the early hours of last evening to turn all street lights on. Mr. Edmondson

SOUTH FREMANTLE POWER STATION BREAKDOWN

Similar to Earlier Trouble in Other Machine

Perth, Feb. 18.—The mechanical breakdown in the No. 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at South Fremantle power station which has necessitated power cuts in the metropolitan area is similar to one which occurred in the No. 1 machine last May.

The Minister for Electricity, Mr. Brand, who disclosed this to-night, said it was a tragedy that so early in their life these two machines should have suffered such serious breakdowns.

The State Electricity Commission, he said regarded the position so seriously that it was advising all contractors that it would look to them to meet all costs incurred.

It would also expect the contractors to take "exceptional" steps to bring the turbo-alternator now out of order back into operation again in the shortest possible time.

Mr. Brand said that he had received a report from the general manager of the S.E.C., Mr. F. D. Edmondson, on the breakdown to the No. 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at the South Fremantle power house.

It was now evident, he continued, that the high pressure spindle had been distorted in a similar manner to the occurrence in the No. 1 turbo-alternator last May.

Following that occurrence, Mr. Brand said, the spindles from Nos. 1 and 2 turbo-alternators were returned to England under the instructions of the contractors. The spindles from Nos. 3 and 4 machines which were awaiting erection in B station at South Fremantle were transferred into Nos. 1 and 2 machines.

In each case, Mr. Brand continued, the machines were still in the "maintenance" period and were, therefore, completely under the starting, running and maintenance instructions of the contractors—the supplying company. The

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Overhaul of East Perth Machine

Mr. Brand said that full pressure was being maintained on the overhaul of the No. 6 25,000 kilowatt alternator at the East Perth power station but it would be some weeks yet before this was ready.

This machine went out of action on November 28 last year when a short circuit set fire to it.

Mr. Edmondson in his report to Mr. Brand explained that until the No. 2 turbo-alternator—which broke down early on Saturday morning—had been dismantled, it was not possible to state definitely the cause of the trouble.

Earlier Mr. Edmondson had announced that repairs to the machine would take five weeks and that in that time power restrictions for commercial premises and shops would operate.

The machine had failed when it was being run up according to the makers' instructions and under guarantee preparatory to being shut down the previous evening. It had been operating for five months in the A station at South Fremantle.

Good Response to Request

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To-night Mr. Edmondson said that his request for economy in the use of power had been responded to excellently to-day. Co-operation had been so good, he said, that there was no switching off by the S.E.C. at all during the day.

However, Mr. Edmondson pointed out that Tuesday normally produced the heaviest draw of power in the week and he appealed for economy in the use of power.

NEW POWER SPINDLE COMING BY AIR

A replacement spindle for the No. 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at the South Fremantle power station, which broke down on Saturday, is being flown to Perth from England immediately.

The general manager of the State Electricity Commission (Mr. F. C. Edmondson), who announced this last night, said that it was now expected that the machine would be back on load in about 3½ weeks.

In the meantime the power cuts which were announced on Monday would continue.

Shops, commercial and business premises should reduce their lighting by two-thirds and refrain from using window-lighting and neon signs between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

He had been informed by the Perth representative of the makers of the machine that the replacement spindle was being flown out and that it was expected that the machine would be ready for service again by about the middle of March.

Power cuts in the metropolitan area were originally expected to last for five weeks, but the decision to fly out the spindle would speed up repairs.

"Cooperating"

Mr. Edmondson said that the public was still cooperating well.

Because of this, there had been no need yet to switch anyone off.

He thanked particularly people using auxiliary plants, who by their public spirit had helped the general position.

Until No. 2 25,000-kilowatt turbo-alternator came back into service again there was still need to reduce the load between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., Monday to Friday.

This was because the No. 1 25,000-kilowatt turbo-alternator at the South Fremantle power station and the machines at East Perth power station, which were fed in as one through the frequency changer

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The power cuts became necessary early last Saturday morning when the high-pressure spindle was distorted in the No. 2 machine.

The same failure occurred in the No. 1 machine last May.

REPAIRS TO ALTERNATOR AT SOUTH FREMANTLE

New Spindle Being Flown Out From England

Perth, Feb. 19.—A replacement spindle for the No. 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at the South Fremantle power station which broke down on Saturday is being flown to Perth from England immediately.

The general manager of the State Electricity Commission, Mr. F. C. Edmondson, who announced this to-night, said that it was now expected that the machine would be back on load in about three and a half weeks.

In the meantime the power cuts which were announced on Monday would continue. He had been informed by the Perth representatives of the makers of the machine that the replacement spindle was being flown out and that it was expected that the machine would be ready for service again by about the middle of March.

Power cuts in the metropolitan area were originally expected to last for five weeks but the decision to fly out the spindle would speed up repairs.

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UNCERTAINTY ABOUT BIG GENERATOR

There was no guarantee that the No. 1 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at the South Fremantle power station would not go out of action soon, the Minister for Works (Mr. Brand) said in the Legislative Assembly last night.

Mr. Brand was replying to series of questions asked by Mr. Sleeman (Lab., Fremantle) regarding the breakdown of the Nos. 1 and 2 machines at South Fremantle.

The spindle in the No. 1 machine failed last year and the spindle in the No. 2 machine failed earlier this month.

Mr. Brand said that Metropolitan-Vickers—the maker of the 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternators—had advised that it was sending one of its leading executives from England to make an investigation of the breakdowns.

Action was being taken by the State Electricity Commission, he said, to safeguard the general interests of the public in order to distribute equitably the electricity that was available.

Spindles

Mr. Brand told Mr. Sleeman that he remembered saying on July 14 last year that the spindle in the No. 1 machine was found to have a roughness when the machine reached 1,400 r.p.m.

He also remembered saying that the spindles from Nos. 3 and 4 machines—which were waiting to be installed—were to be changed over to Nos. 1 and 2 machines and that the spindles from Nos. 1 and 2 machines were to be sent back to England to be re-treated.

When asked whether he would make a general statement to allay any anxiety on the part of the public, Mr. Brand said that he had already made one.

He wished to thank the public for its cooperation during the present power restrictions.

Mr. Brand said that he was aware that, although the spindles had been changed in the machines, the one in No. 2 had

now been found to be distorted.

Power Spindle Arrives In Aircraft

The replacement spindle for the No. 2 25,000-kilowatt turbo-alternator at the South Fremantle power station was due to arrive at the Guildford airport early this morning in a MacRobertson-Miller DC3 freighter aircraft after having been flown from England.

The plane was due at Guildford about 4 o'clock this morning.

The 2½-ton spindle in a crate 12ft. long and 3ft. 6in. wide was the only freight it carried on its flight from Darwin to Perth via Port Hedland.

The original intention was to pick up other freight on the way, but so much time was taken up in loading the spindle at Darwin that it was decided to fly to Perth as quickly as possible.

The Qantas freighter carrying the spindle arrived at Darwin from England yesterday morning and it took two hours to unload the part.

With the aid of cranes, tractors and ropes threaded in and out of the DC3, the MacRobertson-Miller Darwin staff struggled for eight hours to get the 5,617lb. spindle into the aircraft.

The task was completed at 3 p.m. and the plane took off shortly afterwards for Perth.

The turbo-alternator broke down on February 17.

WORK BEGINS ON NEW SPINDLE

THE replacement spindle for South Fremantle power station's No. 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator reached the power station soon after 8 a.m. today.

Its installation was started immediately but it was not indicated when the job would be finished and the generator returned to load.

The spindle, which weighs more than two tons, arrived at Guildford airport by air from England about 4 a.m. A local carrying firm unloaded the spindle and transported it to South Fremantle.

Today general manager and chief engineer F. C. Edmondson paid a tribute to the airline companies for the expeditious way in which they had flown the spindle from England.

• No. 2 turbo-alternator was stopped early on February 16 because of distortion of the high pressure spindle. There was similar trouble when No. 1 machine was started last year.

SPINDLE FOR POWER STATION GENERATOR ARRIVES



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a new spindle for the No. 2

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25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at the South Fremantle power station arrived at Guildford airport about 4 a.m. yesterday.

The crate containing the spindle is shown being manoeuvred from the aircraft. Unloading took 2½ hours.

The spindle, which weighs 2½ tons, was flown from England to Darwin and it was there transferred to a MacRobertson-Miller DC3 freighter for the final stage of its journey.

It was delivered to the South Fremantle power station shortly after 8 a.m. yesterday.

It is not known when the job of installing the spindle will be completed.

The Minister for Works (Mr. Brand) said he was very pleased at the speed with which the new part had been sent to the State.

The general manager and chief engineer of the State Electricity Commission (Mr. F. C. Edmondson) said:

"Great credit is due to the contractors in Manchester, the local agent in Perth and the airline companies for getting the spindle here so quickly."

NEW SPINDLE IS NEARLY READY

The No. 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator at the South Fremantle power station may get a "trial run" with its new spindle this week.

The general manager and chief engineer of the State Electricity Commission (Mr. F. C. Edmondson) said yesterday that the work of installing the replacement spindle was progressing well.

Since the spindle arrived by air on Friday morning from the English contractors, he said, work had gone on continuously round the clock.

"Each step in the work," said Mr. Edmondson, "has been carefully and methodically done before proceeding with the next step.

"If the present rate of progress continues, it should be possible to have a trial run this week."

Appeal Renewed

Mr. Edmondson asked that those who were able to do so, should continue to help by running auxiliary power plants between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

He also asked shops and business and commercial houses to reduce their lighting to one-third and refrain from using shop window lighting and illuminated signs between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m.

Market gardeners were asked to do the bulk of their water pumping between those hours.

Mr. Edmondson said that the cooperation of the public to date had been so good that there had been no need for the commission to resort to switching off power or lighting.

If all helped, he said, it would still be possible for the commission to refrain from inconveniencing people by switching off.

Power House Spindle Has "Trial Run"

The No. 2 25,000 kilowatt turbo-alternator, which has been out of action at the South Fremantle power station since February 17, started a "trial run" at 5 p.m. yesterday.

The general manager and chief engineer of the State Electricity Commission (Mr. F. C. Edmondson), who announced this last night, said that by noon today it should be possible to make a statement regarding the restoration of full power to the metropolitan area.

Since the new spindle arrived on Friday morning work had gone on continuously to bring the machine back on load.

The machine broke down when it was being run up according to the maker's instructions and under their guarantee. It was later announced that the spindle had become distorted.

Since the No. 2 machine has been out it has been necessary for shops and business houses to reduce their lighting by two-thirds and refrain from using shop window-lighting and neon signs between 8 a.m. and 5 p.m. from Monday to Friday.

Alternator At Fremantle On Load Again

The "trial run" of the No. 2 25,000-kilowatt turbo-alternator at South Fremantle power station had been successful and consumers could now return to their normal use of electricity, the general manager and chief engineer of the State Electricity Commission (Mr. F. C. Edmondson) said yesterday.

The machine, which went out of action when the spindle became distorted on February 17, was now running on load.

Mr. Edmondson said that the thanks of the public were due to those people who had run their auxiliary power plants and the firms which used their electric furnaces at night, and to everyone who had cooperated by reducing their use of power.

He described it as "a really fine effort" which had avoided the inconvenience of switching off.

Great credit, he continued, was also due to the manufacturers of the power machine in Manchester, the airline companies and the local representative of the manufacturers for the quick arrival of the replacement spindle.

Mr. Edmondson praised the manufacturers' staff and S.E.C. employees who had worked around the clock to get the spindle installed so promptly.

FULL REPORT SOUGHT ON POWERBREAK

Reference to the recently damaged spindle at the South Fremantle power station was made by Mr. Sleeman (Lab., Fremantle) in the Legislative Assembly last night.

He asked the Minister for Electricity (Mr. Brand) to see that the exact report made by the Metropolitan Vickers representative was given to the public.

No "whitewashing" was wanted, said Mr. Sleeman.

Mr. Brand replied that it was not his policy to "whitewash."

He undertook to give all the necessary information when it became available.

W.A. blackout

PERTH, Tuesday: Kwinana refinery lost eight hours' production, representing 600,000 gallons of petroleum products, during a breakdown at South Fremantle power station at 1.20 a.m. today.

The metropolitan area was blacked out for two hours.