
Hubei Province rations power amid coal shortage

Saturday, 25 Dec, 2010

Reuters reported that Central China Hubei province started rationing power supplies to some users from Wednesday following similar moves by neighboring Henan and northern Shanxi and Shaanxi provinces as coal stocks at power plants dwindled.

Changjiang Times reported that Hubei Grid Corp would cut 20 million kilowatt hours of power to energy intensive companies and small chemical makers today. With falling coal stocks and rising power demand, power shortages could increase to 60 million kWh per day by the end of December.

According to data published by the Hubei Economy and Information Technology Commission coal inventories at 14 power plants connected to the provincial grid fell to 1.71 million tonnes on Dec. 21 from 2.21 million tonnes at the beginning of the month as the volume of coal burned continued to exceed the volume of coal shipped in. The commission said power plants burned 128,300 tonnes of coal on Tuesday, higher than the 110,600 tonnes they received.

Chu Tian Jin Bao another local newspaper reported that coal consumption by power plants in Hubei province from November this year to March 2011 was expected to reach 16.7 million tonnes, but only 11.5 million tonnes of coal would arrive according to current delivery projections.

Hubei relies on coal-fired plants for power in winter when generation from its massive hydropower stations declines seasonally. But it has to compete with other provinces for the fuel when national demand swells on cold weather.

(Sourced from Reuters)

For more news visit at www.steelguru.com