



Guyana backup power

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With the usual increase in demand for electricity during the Christmas holidays, the Guyana Power and Light (GPL) Inc. is assuring its customers that there is enough electricity being generated.

In fact, GPL says it has over 45 megawatts of power in reserve and it will require no backup generating sets this season. But that's no sure guarantee that citizens will not experience power outages as setbacks to the transmissions line could cause a shutdown.

GPL's management promises that all systems are in place to minimise these occurrences and wants the support of the public to help prevent shutdowns caused frequently by road accidents.

The assurance was bolstered by the Divisional Director of Operations, Bharat Harjohn who talked up the company's generating capacity.

"We have enough generation capacity for the season across the country," he said, guaranteeing that maintenance to generating units and the transmission and distribution network was also on schedule.

All planned maintenance will be completed by December 15 and will continue in the new year but in the interim, the company said only emergency maintenance will be conducted.

"Each component of our generation and distribution operations is healthy for the holiday season," Harjohn told a press conference on Wednesday.

Harjohn said vegetation has been addressed and new components, such as feeders, have been installed and commissioned. Harjohn said the reserve power is located at the upgraded Garden of Eden plant along the East Bank of Demerara.

"Most of that power [at Garden of Eden] has to find itself back to Georgetown to our control center and then move up east. So, if our transmission lines fail when bringing that power for distribution, we will have a challenge," he explained.

He said the system can be unstable based on unforeseen circumstances.

Addressing the chances of power outages, Chief Executive Officer Bharat Dindyal said "transmission is the challenge" although enough power is being generated.

He said the only exposure is on the transmission side.



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