

Qatar: Big increase in water, power consumption

07 May 2009

DOHA: Consumption of water and electricity in the country has grown significantly since the beginning of this year, a senior official of **Qatar General Electric and Water Corporation (Kahramaa)** has said.

In the first two months of this year, demand for electricity grew by an average of 15 percent compared to the same period last year. Consumption of water also went up by an average of 20 percent during the same period, according to Engineer Eisa Hilal Al Kuwari, director of the electricity network at **Kahramaa**.

He attributed the rise to a rapid expansion of the distribution network. As a result of this, the number of people relying on water tankers has dropped drastically. The number of tankers supplying drinking water across the country has fallen to 4,083 from the 6, 526 that were operating last year.

Engineer Abdulla Ali Dhiyab, director of the electricity distribution department at **Kahramaa**, said the corporation had prepared an action plan to ensure smooth supply of electricity during summer.

The plan includes maintenance and upgrading the network to reduce power disruptions to the minimum during the peak hours in summer.

A hotline 991 has been set up to receive complaints from the public. A new emergency office will be opened in the Industrial Area shortly, adding to the eight such centres currently operating in various parts of the country, said Al Dhiyab, in an interview with Al Sharq.

The department has procured a new state-of-the-art device that can easily detect disruptions in high-voltage cables. This will also help engineers repair the cables in a short time.

"This is highly important when major infrastructural projects are underway in the country. Some contracting companies are tampering with the cables and they don't inform Kahramaa when some problems crop up. The new device will help in identifying the problem," said Al Dhiyab.

Meanwhile, Al Kuwari said the Qatarisation plan in **Kahramaa** had been progressing well, with the number of the Qatari employees now reaching 42.3 percent of the total workforce. The target is to raise this to 71 percent by 2013, with a six percent increase every year, he added.

(Zawya)