



SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY  
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Private Secretary to the  
Prime Minister  
10 Downing Street  
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*Dear Andrew*

CEGB POWER STATION ENDURANCE

I attach a further report for the Prime Minister.

*Yours sincerely  
Michael R.*

M F REIDY  
Private Secretary

cc WGregson CO  
9

## CEGB POWER STATION ENDURANCE

1. Coal stocks at CEGB power stations this weekend (15 April) are expected to be about 18.8 mt.
2. NCB coal production this past week is estimated at around 0.5 mt. CEGB power stations have received about 0.3 mt and other customers about 0.2 mt.
3. CEGB oil burn has now reached 75% of maximum. Full oil burn should be achieved next week. The necessary oil supplies to sustain maximum burn have been secured through to late May with relatively modest effect on the spot price. It appears that the ability of the international oil industry to make abnormal supplies of fuel oil available to the CEGB is greater than had earlier been supposed. The CEGB has reassessed power station endurance which is now put at 26 weeks from the beginning of April, slightly more than previously estimated. This assumes that maximum oil burn is sustained and that nothing prevents all coal stocks being burned. Any continued coal supplies to power stations would be a bonus:

Coal deliveries (mt per week)	Oil burn (per cent of maximum)	Endurance until
0	100	end September
0	50	mid August
0.5	100	February 1985
0.5	50	mid November

4. Scotland is less dependent on coal for electricity generation than is the CEGB. The SSEB is therefore able to export electricity through the interconnector in an endurance emergency. Such exports will be adjusted so that power station endurance in Scotland is not less than that in England and Wales. At present such electricity imports save the CEGB about 50 KT of coal a week.

Department of Energy  
13 April 1984