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HM Government of Gibraltar Publishes Manx Energy Report : Power Problems Identified in 1999

Given the recent issues with power-cuts Her Majesty's Government of Gibraltar has today published the 1999 "Strategic Review of the Electricity Department" submitted to it by Manx Energy of the Isle of Man (a division, in 1999, of the Manx Electricity Authority).

The report illustrates that in 1999, twelve years before they left office, the previous administration was already aware that by 2010 the engines available at Waterport Power Station would be unable to cope with demand.

This is seen in the following paragraphs of the report:

(i) Para 3.3.1.1 Generation Plant, at Page 27, first full paragraph on that page, describing the life of sets at waterport and identifying they would have to be replaced by 2009/10.

(ii) Para5.1 Future Generation Options, at page 47: clearly showing Waterport had a maximum life of 10 years, ie until 2009. The report therefore further specifically advises that, in 1999, serious consideration should be given to the strategy to be adopted for the future generation of electricity in Gibraltar.

The Government considers it is important that this report should be put into the public domain as it demonstrates the need for investment which was not heeded in due time by the previous GSD administration and which has directly resulted in the power cut problems affecting our Community.

Further reports are available dealing with other aspects of the under investment by the previous administration in this sensitive area.

The Chief Minister, Hon Fabian Picardo MP, said: "I agree that it is important that our Community understands what the real history of this problem is. The documentation is being put in the public domain so that it is clear to the whole Community that there would have been time to plan and act and avoid power cuts if actions had been taken on time by the GSD when they were in power. Despite that, when we were elected there was not even a final contract signed for the power station to be built. It is important people know the facts and see the evidence for themselves. Here it is."