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El Salvador: Oil Imports Privatized; Report On Damages To Electricity Infrastructure

by Deborah Tyroler

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On July 5, Sigfredo Ochoa, president of the state-run energy company, told reporters that as of July 1, oil import activities had been privatized. Next, Ochoa delivered a report on damage to the country's electricity infrastructure in the past decade. Damage from guerrilla sabotage, he said, now surpasses \$44 million. In the first five months of 1990, said Ochoa, the government spent close to \$2 million for repair of towers, transformers and transmission lines. While electricity blackouts affect mainly the eastern part of the country, Ochoa said that rationing on the order of 20% to 35% has been applied on a daily basis throughout El Salvador. Next, in the first half of 1990, the state-run company was obligated to spend over \$2.6 million producing electricity by burning hydrocarbons to "regularize" the flow and distribution of electricity. (Basic data from Notimex, 07/05/90)

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