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Nicaragua: On Electricity Rates & Supply

by Deborah Tyroler
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On Sept. 13, Energy Minister Emilio Rappaccioli told reporters electricity rates would be increased for all user groups. The rate for individuals and companies using power for irrigation and pumping stations will be raised by 62% to 64%. Electricity bills for domestic use are to increase an average 34.5%. Rappaccioli said the higher rates are necessary to cover costs from purchasing 60 kilowatthours of electricity from Costa Rica over the Sept. 14-Dec. 31 period for a total \$6.1 million. The Costa Rican increment, according to Rappaccioli, will help the government to reduce 17% rationing imposed two weeks ago to 7%. Rationing was implemented due to drought conditions affecting the Central American region. Nicaragua's two hydroelectricity plants account for 30% of the total power supply. Forty percent of the total derives from thermoelectric plants, and the remaining 30%, geothermal. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, AFP, 09/13/91)

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