Nicaragua: Electricity Conservation Measures Introduced In Attempt To Avoid Rationing

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On Jan. 9, Nicaraguan Energy Institute (INE) director Emilio Rappaccioli announced a series of energy conservation measures designed to prevent the need for obligatory electricity rationing. The measures, aimed at reducing power demand during peak afternoon and early evening hours, are summarized below. * Implementation of daylight savings time from Jan. 1 through Sept. 21. * Use of air conditioning in public buildings is limited to between 9:30 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. * Substitution of 40-watt with 36-watt bulbs in public buildings. * The foreign diplomatic corps is requested to turn off air conditioners after 9:30 p.m. on week nights. * As of Jan. 14, night-time baseball games are prohibited. * Managers of private sector factories and businesses have agreed to avoid using heavy machinery, including irrigation equipment, for several hours per day during peak use periods. * Nicaraguans are requested to avoid ironing clothes on weekdays, and to disconnect refrigerators for two hours between 6:00 p.m. and 9:00 p.m. Nicaragua's electricity generation capacity is 250 megawatts per day, while consumption averages 253 MW. The deficit is covered by power generated in Costa Rica. During the month of December, Nicaragua paid Costa Rican electricity suppliers US $6.3 million. (Basic data from ACAN-EFE, 01/09/92)

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