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## **Uruguay: Electricity Rates To Be Reduced Beginning In 1992**

*by Barbara Khol*

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On July 29, Alberto Volonte, president of the state-run electricity company UTE, told reporters electricity rates will be reduced in a gradual fashion beginning in 1992 through year-end 1994 for manufacturers and farmers to facilitate Uruguayan competitiveness in the Southern Cone Common Market (MERCOSUR). Volonte did not provide details on rate changes. The Uruguayan government has also commenced a long-term plan for purchasing natural gas from Argentina and Bolivia, involving pipeline construction; and, bio-gas production. Most of the nation's electricity supply derives the Salto Grande hydroelectric complex, located 500 km. northwest of Montevideo. Under MERCOSUR, free circulation of goods and services among Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay is scheduled for Jan. 1, 1995. (Basic data from AFP, 07/29/91)

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