



Environment Digest 11

March 31st 2020

Electricity Demand and Supply

Eskom is classified as an essential and critical service supplier, and will continue operations during the lockdown. However, coal supply for Eskom's power generation will be reduced, as coal mining companies also have to adhere to the 21 day lockdown regulations. The power utility is convinced that the rate of demand, which started declining a few weeks before the lockdown period as most businesses closed operations, will continue to slow down. Therefore, Eskom should have enough coal supply to generate the needed electricity. Also, it is predicted that less electricity will be used during the morning and evening peaks, as most people will be working from home with flexible work schedules.

<https://www.iol.co.za/news/politics/coal-mining-supply-for-eskom-to-be-scaled-down-during-lockdown-says-mantashe-45538437>

[https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-03-26-most-mining-stops-but-old-king-coal-rolls-on/?tl_inbound=1&tl_groups\[0\]=80895&tl_period_type=3&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Business%20Maverick%20Thursday%2026%20March%20Lockdown%20Day%20Zero&utm_content=Business%20Maverick%20Thursday%2026%20March%20Lockdown%20Day%20Zero+CID592eb61ce7c10ab9995fd807ac5046e9&utm_source=TouchBasePro&utm_term=Most%20mining%20stops%20but%20Old%20King%20Coal%20rolls%20on](https://www.dailymaverick.co.za/article/2020-03-26-most-mining-stops-but-old-king-coal-rolls-on/?tl_inbound=1&tl_groups[0]=80895&tl_period_type=3&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=Business%20Maverick%20Thursday%2026%20March%20Lockdown%20Day%20Zero&utm_content=Business%20Maverick%20Thursday%2026%20March%20Lockdown%20Day%20Zero+CID592eb61ce7c10ab9995fd807ac5046e9&utm_source=TouchBasePro&utm_term=Most%20mining%20stops%20but%20Old%20King%20Coal%20rolls%20on)

<https://ewn.co.za/2020/03/25/eskom-says-coal-stocks-healthy-ahead-of-lockdown>

Load-Shedding

The power utility anticipates no load-shedding during the lockdown period, though the possibility is always present. Given the condition of most of Eskom's ageing power fleet, power outages are often necessary for repairs and installations to be carried out in order to avoid total blackout. For many businesses and operations it would be devastating to have power interruptions affecting facilities such as telecommunications and related activities at this time when their options of keeping afloat have already been severely impacted by the covid-19 lockdown.

<http://www.eskom.co.za/news/Pages/2020Mar25.aspx>

<https://ewn.co.za/2020/03/26/eskom-not-planning-to-turn-your-lights-off-during-lockdown>

Lovedonia Mkansi
Project Co-ordinator