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Elia needs 1,600 to 1,700 MW of additional capacity to ensure security of supply this winter

- The additional, unexpected unavailability of multiple nuclear power stations for winter 2018-2019 is unprecedented.
- In consultation with the federal energy minister and market players, Elia is actively working to help develop appropriate solutions.

BRUSSELS - With just a few weeks to go before winter starts, Belgium is facing the unexpected unavailability of multiple nuclear power stations, a situation that is severely testing the balance between generation and consumption. The unexpected, long-term unavailability of Doel 1, Doel 2, Tihange 2 and Tihange 3 means a 3,000 MW capacity shortfall until mid-December, i.e. 25% of total installed manageable generation capacity in Belgium. Without an additional 1,600 to 1,700 MW of capacity, system operator Elia cannot always guarantee security of supply without a load-shedding plan. November is the most critical month.

NON-COMPLIANCE WITH LOLE CRITERIA

According to the analysis Elia submitted early this week to Energy Minister Marie Christine Marghem, the LOLE (Loss of Load Expectation) legal criteria will not be met under the current market circumstances. LOLE is a statistical calculation that defines the number of hours for which the available generation facilities cannot meet demand. When the system is operating normally, LOLE must be less than three hours for ordinary circumstances and less than 20 hours for extreme situations.

ACTIVELY SEEKING SOLUTIONS

Possible solutions are currently being examined in consultation with the federal energy minister and market operators. However, security of supply is not guaranteed for November. For now, Elia does not see enough solutions that could fully resolve the adequacy issue, which is why, even if the Belgian and international markets provide us with all available capacity (generation, demand and import), we cannot yet rule out the need to activate the load-shedding plan.

Elia is working actively with the relevant parties to examine and develop appropriate solutions. We are also calling on all market operators and suppliers to fulfil their legal responsibility and guarantee that their portfolio is balanced at all times. Elia remains at the disposal of the Belgian authorities for further assessment of security of supply this winter.

About the Elia Group

ONE OF EUROPE'S TOP FIVE PLAYERS

The Elia Group is active in electricity transmission. We ensure that generation and consumption are balanced around the clock, supplying 30 million end users with electricity. With subsidiaries in Belgium (Elia) and north-west Germany (50Hertz), we operate 18,600 km of high-voltage connections. As such, our group is one of Europe's top 5. With a reliability level of 99.999%, we provide society with a robust power grid that is important for socio-economic prosperity. We also aspire to be a catalyst for a successful energy transition towards a reliable, sustainable and affordable energy system.

WE MAKE THE ENERGY TRANSITION HAPPEN

By expanding international high-voltage connections and integrating ever-increasing amounts of renewable energy generation, the Elia Group promotes both the integration of the European energy market and the decarbonisation of our society. The Elia Group is also innovating its operational systems and developing market products so that new technologies and market parties can access our grid, thus making the energy transition happen.

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IN THE INTEREST OF SOCIETY

As a key player in the energy system, the Elia Group is committed to working in the interest of society. We respond to the rapidly changing energy mix, i.e. the increase in renewable energy, and constantly adapt our transmission grid. We also ensure that investments are made on time and within budget, with a maximum focus on safety. When we carry out our projects, we manage stakeholders proactively by establishing two-way communication with all affected parties very early on in the development process. We also offer our expertise to our sector and relevant authorities to build the energy system of the future.

INTERNATIONAL FOCUS

In addition to its activities as a transmission system operator, the Elia Group provides various consulting services to international customers through its subsidiary Elia Grid International (EGI). Elia is also part of the Nemo Link consortium that is building the first subsea electrical interconnector between Belgium and the UK.

The Group operates under the legal entity Elia System Operator, a listed company whose core shareholder is the municipal holding company Publi-T.

www.elia.be/www.eliagroup.eu

