

News_COP_2001-48.pdf

Engineers warm up to coal

By M. Ismeth

Warning that the looming power crisis, would have a severe socio-economic impact on the country, The Institute of Engineers (IESL) has called for the immediate development of coal-fired power plants.

"In view of the urgency to meet the fast-growing demand for electricity at the lowest cost, the IESL strongly recommends the implementation of the coal-fired power plant at Norochcholai, without delay."

the institute has said in a letter to President Kumaratunga.

The Institute has said there is no feasible alternative to coal for bulk power generation, in the short to medium term over the next 10 years, while the CEB has already warned of a power crisis in 2004, owing to its inability to begin construction of the Norochcholai power plant in 1999.

The IESL has also recommended that feasibility studies be conducted on other sites including Mawella for the setting up of coal power plants.

10 May 2001 Sunday Times