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CEB wants five coal plants

By Munza Mushtaq

The Ceylon Electricity Board has recommended the setting up of five coal power plants of a capacity of 300 MW each from year 2008 to 2015. This recommendation has been made by the CEB in its long term generation expansion plan 2002-2016.

The CEB in its plan has recommended the construction of the country's first ever coal plant of 300 MW to be commissioned in the year 2008. However the Board has said that the commissioning of it earlier is advisable.

According to this plan the second and third coal plant should be sited on the West Coast to be commissioned by 2010 and 2012 respectively.

The other two plants of the capacity of 300 MW should be located in Trincomalee to be commissioned in 2013 and 2015, the CEB has said.

Yet despite these recommendations, the country is yet to see its first coal power plant at Clappenberg in Trincomalee.

Upto now only the site has been found for the construction of the coal plant.

Meanwhile according to energy consultant Tilak Siyambalapitiya a total of six years is necessary to build a coal power plant.

The CEB has indicated that the country's first coal plant should be in operation by the year 2008 or as earlier as possible to be able to meet the future power demands.