

Sanctions for plants providing cold reserve have been raised four times. The executive director of the Electricity System Operator Ivan Yotov announced this on the Bulgarian National Radio. "The same plants are participating because there are no others. ESO cannot import power plants, production capacities or ensure other cold reserve after TPP Varna was phased out. This is the truth" Yotov commented in relation to the fact that part of the power plants which couldn't activate their cold reserve last year were selected again by the operator to support spare capacity.

In his words, a recurrence of last year's heavy situation is not expected, although ESO is preparing for similar conditions. Therefore the operator required the insurance of a cold reserve 100 MW higher than the previous year, or a total of 700 MW for the period of October 1, 2017 until March 31, 2018. The tender conducted provided 623 MW, as no candidate applied for a second tender procedure to make up the reserve to 700 MW explained Yotov. "In the case of Maritsa East 1 TPP and CountourGlobal Martisa East 3 TPP it is National Electricity Company's decision because it has a contract with them. Only Maritsa East 2 TPP increased the reserve with 70 MW", said ESO's executive director. As for the agreement with the Romanian transmission operator for providing emergency aid, concluded last year, Ivan Yotov explained that the difference with the previous agreement is that the help is now paid. If Bulgaria asks emergency aid from Romania, the operator of our northern neighbor should respond within one hour whether it can provide power supply, when and in what quantity. However, the provision of the help will happen only if Romania has the ability to do so. The latter applies in relation to the provision of aid by the other neighbouring countries too - Greece, Serbia, and Macedonia.

Ivan Yotov added that planned repair works of power plants will end until a month. Making of trenches along the power lines is still due to be completed. He strongly stated that there is no danger from an electricity regime during the winter. He also commented that when it comes to water reserves, Bulgaria is in the best condition compared to other countries in the region.

Source: publics.bg