

2012년 7월 3일 키워드 스피킹 방송 / 주제: 전력수급 비상

summary

Last week, Korea conducted its first-ever public **blackout drill** to **raise awareness** and prepare for expected nationwide blackouts this summer due to growing concerns over severe **power shortages**. The 20-minute emergency response training involved shutting off the electricity to pre-selected buildings, along with calls for local citizens and businesses to voluntarily **power down**. It's **still early in the summer**, but the government has reported that Korea's **energy reserves** have frequently dipped below emergency levels.

The national energy crisis can be attributed to many factors. The first being the seasonal **rise in energy consumption** in the summer. With rising temperatures and cheap electricity rates, many people and businesses are quick to turn on their air-conditioners. The situation has further declined with 4 out of Korea's total 21 nuclear reactors being **out of commission** due to delayed repairs and equipment failures.

In order to cope with the **surge in demand** and lack of energy production, the Korea Electricity Power Corporation, or KEPCO, has approached the government to **raise electricity fee rates** by an average of 13-percent. In response, the government has declined KEPCO's request and asked for the power agency to seek other alternatives. The government needs to soon make some tough decisions that realistically reflect the nation's power situation, or else face putting the entire nation in the dark.

Key Words

1. 때이른 무더위 unusually early warmer summer; unusual warmer summer; early summer season
2. 전력사용량 급증 spike in power use; surge in energy consumption; sharp rise in power use
3. 예비전력 emergency power reserves
4. 예비전력이 동나다 power reserves are gone; power reserves are depleted
5. 정전대응훈련 power shortage drill; energy conservation drill; drill to prepare for blackouts; power outage drill
6. 전기의 소중함을 모른다 electricity is taken for granted; We take electricity for granted; we always think it's going to be there
7. 문열고 냉방하다 turn on the air conditioner with doors open; open the doors while turning on the air conditioner; use AC (air conditioner) inefficiently
8. 전기요금 인상 electricity fee hike; price hike

More Key Words

1. 대중의 인식을 제고하다 raise awareness
2. 전력사용량을 줄이다 power down
3. 수력발전 hydro electricity
4. out of commission 퇴역한, (원전이) 가동 중단 상태인