

Bow Plant Has 50-Day Supply

By BARBARA JOHNSON
Monitor Correspondent

BOW — The Public Service Co. of N.H. power plant on River Road, Bow, which supplies Merrimack County with its electric power, has only a 50-day supply of coal remaining in its stockpile.

An impending walkout by the nation's coal miners threatens in less than a week.

According to Norman Cullerot, public relations director for the PSC in Manchester, once the plant runs out of fuel, it can no longer be depended on.

Unit No. 1 at the plant can be converted to oil, he said, but unit No. 2 cannot.

The Bow plant is the only power source in the state that relies totally upon coal, which Cullerot explained, is 50 percent cheaper to use than oil.

He added that the PSC is hoping for an early settlement between the coal miners and operators association.

"We hope we don't reach the point where we run out

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ident Arnold Mil- of the nation's coal is ready to
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Bow Power Plant

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of fuel," Cullerot said, "but we would negotiate to try to obtain more coal from other sources."

He added that the time of year is a difficulty in itself.

"Mother Nature doesn't cooperate in December," he said, "and transportation is a problem with impending snow storms.

"Everything brought in to the Bow plant has to travel by rail."

Cullerot said he felt that consumer conservation at this critical time is extremely important.

"Residential customers," he said, "have been neglectful in energy conservation. We have to face reality now."

Cullerot figured that 40 percent of power in New Hampshire is produced by coal, 40 percent by oil and hydroelectric power, and 13 percent by nuclear power from investments made in four generating stations in New England.

In an emergency, Cullerot projected, since the PSC is a part of the New England power pool, power could be purchased from them, but the fuel might be twice as costly.

Dom D'Ambruoso, executive secretary of the Public Utilities Commission said, "the purchasing of oil by the PSC is an area in which the management exercises its prerogatives and they negotiate for contracts and occasionally make spot purchases of coal to provide enough fuel for the Bow station.

"The PUC does not interfere with management prerogatives unless, after the fact, expenditures of the company could be shown to be unreasonable."

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