

## Bulgaria Possibly to Halt Electricity Export in 2007

*... thereby losing a good source of revenue from customers like Austria.*

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Bulgaria is quite possibly to suspend selling electricity abroad after it shuts down two nuclear units in the end of 2006.

The closure of units 3 and 4 was negotiated with the EU as part of Bulgaria's pre-accession engagements. In December 2002 the Balkan country decommissioned units 1 and 2 of Kozloduy nuclear power plant.

Thus, in the beginning of 2007 the plant will continue operating on two units only – 5 and 6. It will generate electricity shortage for the country and force it to suspend its export, energy officials from the National Electricity Company said.

Bulgaria has boasted to be the fourth major energy exporter in Europe, after France, the Czech Republic and Poland.

Official data for 2005 showed that the National Electricity Company sold 34,380 million kWh, including 7,600 kWh of export.

An expert analysis by the International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA), revealed in November 2005, showed the cost of direct Bulgarian losses will reach EUR 734 M with the two units' shutdown.

Late on Wednesday NEC officials presented to the parliamentary energy committee an update program on the national energy system development.

It says that alternative energy sources are to start operating not earlier than 2009. In two years a mighty hydro power plant – Tsankov Kamuk – is to be commissioned. Gorna Arda hydro cascade in the Rhodopes mountain will also seek completion.

Besides, three gas and two coal power plants are to be built up by 2020.

The second nuclear power plant at Belene will back up the national energy production in 2012 earliest.

Some 40% of the potential renewable energy sources in Bulgaria are available in the form of biomass, head of the Energy Efficiency Agency Tasko Ermenkov said. Biomass has the biggest potential and chances for development in the near future, he believed. [Stupid guy!](#)