



PetroMed⁴

MARCH 2009 | Electricity Market

- Israel Land Administration director general Yaron Bibi has cancelled the need to obtain ILA approval to install solar energy receptors on roofs of legally built buildings and has also foregone any payment for the installation of any solar system. The ILA says that the measure is aimed to encourage renewable energy use by private consumers for the good of the electricity market.
- In March 2009 three licenses were granted by Minister of National Infrastructures Ben-Eliezer for private electricity producers to build pumped storage power plant.
- Opposition to setting up the D coal station in Ashkelon is continuing.
- Electricity consumption since the beginning of 2009 has decreased by 10% compared to the previous year due to the financial crisis and the relatively warm weather.

Israel Electric Corporation (IEC)

- IEC will be forced to increase its purchases of low sulfur coal by an estimated \$30-40 million a year because of ongoing delays in the installation of scrubbers at the Orot Rabin Power Station in Hadera. Low sulfur coal costs more than regular coal. IEC is supposed to install scrubbers to remove 90% of the sulfur emissions from its coal-fired power plants in 2009. As a result in the delays on the scrubbers, the Ministry of Environmental Protection has ordered the company to use low sulfur coal.
- IEC employees launched labor sanctions to protest the implementation of the Compass restructuring plan by CEO Amos Lasker. The sanctions have persisted throughout the whole month causing heavy losses to IEC and raising concern of power shortages.