

Area faces power shortage in coming winter months

There may be an electrical power shortage in this area in the months ahead, but at worst, demand can only exceed supply by a few percentage points.

That's the estimation of Herbert Hunt, director of operations and engineering for the Eugene Water and Electric Board (EWEB). One of Hunt's responsibilities is keeping track of the power supply. Right now he says he's "neither optimistic nor pessimistic" about the near future.

Hunt was interviewed by the Emerald at his EWEB office on Friday. He said his staff was developing a "curtailment plan" for conserving electricity if shortages do occur.

"We know very definitely that the amount of energy that can be produced in the Northwest is just about equal to the anticipated load that will be coming up this winter," Hunt said. "If we are short we're not going to be short 30 or 40 or 50 per cent. We're going to be short in the neighborhood of maybe two, three, or four per cent, a very small amount."

By MARK FRYBURG
Of the Emerald

Since the "curtailment plan" isn't complete yet, Hunt couldn't say what action EWEB would take if the shortage arrived. He assured the Emerald that "it's not anticipated" that any possible shortage "would really seriously in any way affect the living of people or their jobs or the output of goods and material and so forth."

He speculated that a few of the conservation measures that might become imperative during a light shortage would be turning the thermostat down "a little bit." Commercial enterprises might have to reduce display lighting and other illumination. No industrial production would have to stop, but electrical motors that might normally be

left idling would have to be shut down when not in use.

Such procedures would "easily save the amount of energy that we're talking about."

Unusually low power supply is caused by unusually low water behind the dams. "The reservoirs will probably not fill at all this summer. The energy is not just in the reservoirs," Hunt stressed.

Looking into the next few years, Hunt sees no problem in meeting the demand load. His prediction would be wrong if a severe national emergency created power shortages in regions with less adequate energy supplies.

"It's quite conceivable that to lessen the difficulties in another part of the United States, the hydropower in the Northwest would actually be denied to the customers up here and shipped to that part of the country. The probability of that is quite remote. I don't foresee that in the near future at all," he stated.

Most people in the United States get their power from the combustion of "fossil fuels," coal, oil and natural gas. Those energy supplies are getting scarcer, emphasizing the need for alternate power sources. "It's

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Photo by Steve Twedt

Herbert Hunt

Calls IFC irresponsible

Leo criticizes AD budget cut

By JAMES RUSSELL
Of the Emerald

Before attending the State Board of Higher Education Finance Committee meeting last Friday, ASUO President Greg Leo took time out to talk about the University's incidental fees,

an inevitable tuition hike in the fall and alleged violations on the part of the Incidental Fee Committee (IFC) in matters of budget and finance.

"It's important for the students to be aware of all issues," said Leo. "The legislature zipped through the state's higher

education budget in 20 minutes during the latter part of the previous session."

The effects of this action will not be known for quite some time, speculates Leo, but it could be crucial.

Leo added that students can't do much about the tuition hike instituted at the board meeting due to what he calls rising costs, increasing inflation and federal funding trends.

He also said that the incidental fee at the University will again rise this fall, probably to around the \$21.50 level. This is an increase of almost \$2.50 per student.

"I don't expect problems with the University budget," commented Leo, "but one area has been a problem: the funding for the athletic department (A.D.)"

University guidelines, Leo went on to say, limit the amount of money that can be cut from any traditionally-funded program to a 10 per cent reduction the first two years and then none the third year.

"The IFC budget is in direct violation to these guidelines," said Leo. "Many forces will be angered if a good quality athletic program is not run at the University."

The IFC's recommendation of \$138,000 for the A.D. was \$12,000 short of the amount proposed by both Leo and former ASUO President Bill Wyatt.

The clash between Leo and the IFC arose because of a prior commitment on the part of the ASUO to pay for unrealized student ticket sales by the athletic department. This year \$22,000 was spent by the ASUO for this purpose.

The extra \$12,000 was originally planned by Leo to

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