

PUB press release



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OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1978

The Year In Brief

1978 was a year of intensive development.

The Public Utilities Board's total capital expenditure was \$442.8 million in 1978, mainly on projects to develop the Republic's electricity, water and gas production and distribution facilities bringing the Board's total operational assets in property, plant and equipment to \$2,208.9 million. Works under construction at the end of 1978 amounted to \$799.6 million. This year's capital expenditure is by far the largest sum spent since the formation of the Board in May 1963.

During the year, the Republic's first 250 MW generating unit was commissioned and the third stage development of the Senoko Power Station project was approved. A Singapore - Malaysia electrical network link was established and Kranji-Pandan water began to flow to industries in Jurong after a thirty-month deferment to enable industries to complete their own water treatment plants. Satisfactory progress was maintained on the construction of the Western Catchments Scheme. The Pulau Tekong Scheme was substantially completed by the end of the year.

Electricity Projects

A major proportion (88%) of the total development expenditure was incurred by the Electricity Department. Of the \$391.2 million spent by the Electricity Department, \$298.3 million was for the construction of the Stage II development of the Senoko Power Station and \$79.5 million was for the extension of the Board's transmission and distribution network.

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Construction of Senoko Power Station Stage II progressed satisfactorily. Initial firing of the boiler of the first 250 MW generating unit was carried out on 11 August. This was followed by steam admission to the turbine on 2 October and synchronisation of the generator on 23 October. This 250 MW unit underwent various commissioning tests until the end of the year. This \$600 million extension of the station with three 250 MW turbine generators, is scheduled for completion by early 1980.

An important project implemented during the year was the installation of two circuits of 22kV cables from Woodlands Substation to the 22kV substation of the National Electricity Board, Malaysia at the Johore Bahru Customs Complex. The interconnection, for a supply capacity of 18 MW, was commissioned on 22 July.

172 new distribution substations and 3 transmission substations were commissioned in 1978, bringing the total number of substations in operation in the Republic to 2,388. 894 km of cables comprising both high and low voltage mains were installed in 1978.

Water Supply Projects

Capital expenditure of the Water Department totalled \$39.9 million in 1978. Of this, \$16 million was spent on the Western Catchments Scheme, \$2.6 million on the Pulau Tekong Scheme and \$16.8 million on water mains and service reservoirs.

The Western Catchments Scheme progressed satisfactorily during the year. By year end, all the dykes had been completed. Construction of the Murai Dam continued during the year, and extension of Choa Chu g Treatment Works commenced in June. The scheme comprises four new

impounding reservoirs to be formed by damming across the estuaries of four rivers - Sarimbun, Marai, Poyan and Tengeh in the western part of Singapore. Scheduled for completion in 1981 this \$70 million project will increase reservoir storage capacity by 28 million cubic metres.

The \$6.7 million Pulau Tekong Scheme was substantially completed by the end of the year. The dam and ancillary works were completed in December and the impounding reservoir was filled to its top operating level. The treatment works and pumping stations were also completed in December. Construction of the 1,140 cubic metre reinforced concrete service reservoir started in September and was about 15% completed by the end of the year. In November, work began on laying of the 8 km distribution network which will supply treated water to the population on the island.

After a deferment of 30 months, the supply of Kranji-Pandan water was extended to Jurong Industrial Estate from 12 October. A daily output of 90,000 cubic metres was maintained to meet the demand in Jurong and the rest of the supply area.

During the year 115.7 km of mains were laid, of which 101.7 km were distribution mains chiefly to supply water to new housing developments. Construction of the 32,000 cubic metre Kent Ridge Service Reservoir was nearly completed by the end of the year. Satisfactory progress was maintained on the construction of Bukit Kalang and Nanyang Service Reservoirs which are scheduled for completion in 1980.

Gas Projects

The Gas Department spent a total of \$8.4 million in 1978. 2 million was spent on the expansion of the distribution network, \$1.6 million on purchase of gas appliances for hire and \$0.9 million for production facilities.

73.9 km of gas mains were laid during the year. The bulk of the distribution mainlaying activities were concentrated in HDB housing estates, mainly at Ang Mo Kio, Clementi and Bedok.

Return from Operation

Sales of electricity, water and gas during 1978 were higher than in 1977. Electricity sales increased by 15.7%; water sales rose by 6.6%; and gas sales went up by 12.7%.

At the end of 1978, there were 542,367 consumers' accounts, an increase of 34,422 accounts or 6.8% over 1977. 455,801 were domestic consumers' accounts; 83.5% of these had total monthly charges not exceeding \$50 per month.

Recurrent expenditure was \$545.7 million in 1978, an increase of \$71.3 million or 15% over that for 1977. The Board's total income for 1978 amounted to \$654.9 million.

After deduction of recurrent expenditure, the trading surplus was \$109.2 million which gives a net return from operation of 4.9% on the Board's total assets in operation of \$2,208.9 million. After deducting non-operating expenditure of \$42.3 million and loan repayments of \$73.2 million from the trading surplus of \$109.2 million, the Board incurred a net revenue deficit of \$6.3 million. External loans amounting to \$309.3 million were obtained in 1978 to finance the greater part of the Board's capital expenditure.

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