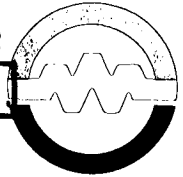


30 JUN 1980

Acc. No.

NARC

89 0002 46



PUB press release

ISSUED BY
PUBLIC RELATIONS DIVISION, PUBLIC UTILITIES BOARD, PUB BUILDING, SOMERSET ROAD, SINGAPORE 0923. TELEPHONE 2358888

OPERATIONAL ACHIEVEMENTS OF 1979

The Year In Brief

The Public Utilities Board spent \$167.5 million in 1979 on projects to further develop the Republic's electricity, water and gas production and distribution facilities, increasing the Board's total investment in operational assets in property, plant and equipment to \$2,951.2 million.

In 1979 two major projects were completed. These were the Stage II of Senoko Power Station project and the Pulau Tekong Water Supply Scheme.

During the year, the fuel escalation charges in the electricity and gas tariffs were adjusted twice to cover the oil price increases. In the first revision, implemented in May, electricity price was increased by 0.99 cent per unit and gas price by one cent per unit. The second increase in August was 2.31 cents per unit for electricity and 1.76 cents per unit for gas. The costs of fuel oil and naphtha had increased from \$160 and \$270 per tonne in 1974 when the tariffs were last revised, to \$260 and \$520 per tonne respectively.

To encourage conservation of electricity, a nation-wide 'Save Electricity' Campaign was organised by the Board from April to June. A 5% reduction in electricity consumption was achieved during the three months.

Electricity Projects

A major proportion of the total development expenditure was incurred by the Electricity Department. Of the \$116.4 million spent by the Electricity Department, \$14.1 million was for the construction of the Stage II development of the Senoko Power Station and \$96.3 million for the extension of the Board's transmission and distribution network.

The second stage of the Senoko Power Station project costing \$586.5 million was completed during the year with the successful commissioning of the second and third 250 MW generators in April and September respectively. Work is now in progress on Stage III development which is estimated to cost \$400 million. The first of the two 250 MW generators of Stage III will be commissioned in 1983.

The new Power System Control Centre at the Ayer Rajah 230 kV Substation began operation in March. The Centre automatically monitors with the aid of computer, the distribution of electrical power in the 230 kV and 66 kV supply system and controls the output of power from the power stations.

181 new substations were commissioned in 1979, bringing the total number of substations in operation in the Republic to 2,702. 1,171 km of cables comprising both high and low voltage mains were laid in 1979.

Water Supply Projects

Capital expenditure of the Water Department for 1979 totalled \$41.3 million. Of this, \$21.4 million was spent on the Western Catchments Water Supply Scheme and \$13.9 million on water mains and service reservoirs.

70% of the Western Catchments Scheme was completed by the end of 1979. The Scheme comprises four impounding reservoirs formed by damming across the estuaries of the Sarimbun, Murai, Poyan and Tengeh rivers. Scheduled for completion in 1981, the project is estimated to cost \$70 million.

With the completion of Pulau Tekong Water Supply Scheme in August, Pulau Tekong became the first off-shore island to have its own piped water supply. The \$7.3 million Scheme involved the construction of an impounding reservoir, a water treatment works, a service reservoir and a distribution system.

The Board discontinued treatment of water from Kranji and Pandan Reservoirs in April because the water stock position at other reservoirs was good. Industrial consumers benefitted from the shutdown because of the lower chloride content of water supply from other sources. They were able to suspend operation of their own treatment plants.

During the year, 92 km of mains were laid, of which 85 km were distribution mains chiefly to supply water to new housing developments. Satisfactory progress was maintained on the construction of the service reservoirs at Bukit Kalang, Nanyang and Kent Ridge. They are scheduled for completion in 1980.

Gas Projects

The Gas Department spent a total of \$7.7 million in 1979. \$4.4 million was spent on the expansion of the distribution network, \$2.3 million on the purchase of gas appliances for hire and \$0.2 million for production facilities.

55 km of gas mains were laid during the year. The bulk of the mainlaying activities were concentrated in HDB housing estates, mainly at Ang Mo Kio and Nee Soon.

Return From Operations

Sales of electricity, water and gas during 1979 were higher than in 1978. Electricity sales increased by 10.2%, water sales rose by 6.3% and gas sales went up by 7.6%.

At the end of 1979, there were 567,681 consumers' accounts, an increase of 25,314 accounts or 4.7% over 1978.

Recurrent expenditure was \$653.6 million in 1979, an increase of \$107.9 million or 19.7% over that for 1978. The Board's total income for 1979 amounted to \$772.4 million.

After deduction of recurrent expenditure, the trading surplus was \$118.9 million and net return from operation on the Board's total assets in operation of \$2,951.2 million was 4%. After deducting non-operating expenditure of \$10.9 million and loan repayments of \$77.9 million from the trading surplus of \$118.9 million, there was a surplus of \$30.1 million. External loans amounting to \$13.96 million were obtained in 1979 to finance part of the Board's capital expenditure.