

KUWAIT CITY:Kuwait has enough power supply to meet the growing needs of the consumers, especially this summer, Minister of Oil, Electricity and Water Mohammed Al-Olaim told the Arab Times Sunday. Al-Olaim discussed all issues related to the supply of electricity and water in the country during his meeting Sunday with the parliamentary Public Utilities Committee. "We assure the public that Kuwait's power supply this summer is enough and the situation will be better than last year," he asserted. He said the Ministry will implement a number of projects to avert an expected energy crisis during summer.

Confirming the Ministry has installed additional power generation units, Al-Olaim affirmed these units have greatly contributed in increasing electricity production, which is enough to cover the needs of the people. He added the probability that Kuwait will experience water and power shortage this summer is almost nil as the country has enough supply.

Other issues discussed in the meeting are the Ministry's projects for 2009 until 2012. Al-Olaim confirmed most of these projects had been approved and the public will see the results in 2009, 2010, and 2012. He said tenders for other projects were floated earlier while the presentation of bids from interested companies will be closed within a few weeks and a huge tender will be floated this month.

Commenting on reports about the power disruptions in some areas, Al-Olaim explained these are isolated cases and should not be conceived as an indication of an imminent power crisis as these disruptions are often caused by faulty electric transformers and cables. He pointed out such incidents might occur in any place at any time due to maintenance policies and natural causes.

Moreover, convener of the Public Utilities Committee Dr Ali Al-Omairi said the committee met for the second time Sunday with Al-Olaim and other officials in attendance to discuss the preparations and measures taken by the Ministry to face a possible energy crisis next summer and the following years until 2012.

Al-Omairi said Al-Olaim assured members of the committee that the Ministry has completed the required preparations to prevent an expected energy crisis this summer. The Minister also promised that Kuwait will not experience any power and water disruption next summer as the Ministry is bent on increasing power production, he concluded.