

Shell to increase gas supply to 350m standard cubic feet

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Power generation, particularly from thermal stations, will soon improve, the Managing Director, Nigeria Gas Company, Mr. Voka Mukoro, has said.

Speaking during the inauguration the transitional board of the Power Holding Company of Nigeria in Abuja, on Monday, Mukoro explained that Shell Nigeria had promised to raise its supply of gas up to 350 million standard cubic feet.

According to him, “As at today, Shell produces and delivers to NGC from its Otorogu plant about two million standard cubic feet.

“In the last three or four weeks, it used to be 150m scf. But it has increased this morning to 200. We do expect and Shell has promised to ramp it up to 350mscf. We are waiting and pushing them to see that more gas comes from that plant.”

Mukoro, who absolved NGC, a subsidiary of the Nigerian National Petroleum Corporation, of blame regarding the shortage of gas, stated that it only supplied PHCN with gas made available by the major oil producing companies, notably Shell and Chevron.

He said, “NGC receives gas from Shell Nigeria from its Otorogu plant and Chevron from its Escravos plant. There is an additional gas supply also by Shell from its Oben plant. These plants supply us gas, which we supply to PHCN.

“Chevron plant from Escravos gives us about 190m scf on a daily basis. If you add that to what Shell is giving us, you have about 390.

“From the Oben plant from where NGC delivers gas up north to Geregu, Shell is giving us about 80 to 90 on a daily basis.”

Meanwhile, every state government should get involved in the efforts to solve the shortage of power in the country, the Nigerian Electricity Regulatory Commission and the Energy Commission of Nigeria have advocated.

The two organisations plan to push this agenda at a two-day National Workshop and Exhibition titled “Participation of State Government in the Power Sector: Matching Supply with Demand,” which they have invited the 36 State Governors and other stakeholders.

In a statement jointly signed by the chief executive officers of the two agencies in Abuja on Monday, the commissions stated that governments at all levels must be involved in the efforts at addressing power problems in the country.

It was further explained that the state governments were strategically positioned to play crucial roles in ensuring that the Federal Government’s plan to ensure effective and adequate power generation, transmission and distribution was achievable.

The NGC boss admitted that the demand for gas by PHCN outstripped the present supply by NGC, adding that the utility company had the capacity to deliver more mega watts if NGC was able to deliver more gas.

The Minister of Energy, in-charge of Power, Mrs. Fatima Balaraba Ibrahim had earlier stated that generations by thermal stations were reduced beyond the available capacity because of shortage of gas.

She put the current generation to about 2,700MW.