

Mini Hydro Stations Boost Electricity Supplies

Eastern European countries facing critical electricity shortages are turning to the installation of small hydro-electric generating stations, some with a maximum output as low as 25 kW. A recent EU and World Bank study has described mini hydro stations as a cost-effective solution for the coming 15 years. Each station can serve a medium-sized industry or local neighbourhood by tapping into regular water flow from small streams and rivers rather than needing a dam. Macedonian Minister of Economy Vera Rafajlovska says there are tenders to build and operate 400 such plants within six months – starting with a first tranche of 60 that opened in June. “Any additional source is good, but this is no solution,” says Belgrade-based electricity trading company representative Koco Agnjusev.

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