

Freeport Power Company Is a Reliable Barometer of Progress



Douglas H. Jones, Assistant Secretary, Local Government, Freeport, speaks at dedication ceremonies for Freeport Power Company's new 40,000-kilowatt steam generating plant. (Photo by Jualmo)

Progress is measured in several ways in this bustling city on Grand Bahama Island, but perhaps the most reliable barometer is Freeport Power Company, Limited, which serves the area's homes, businesses and industries.

To meet steadily growing demands, Freeport Power recently completed a 40,000-kilowatt steam electric plant, which increased its total capacity to 120,000 kilowatts. While such a figure isn't likely to make Consolidated Edison turn green with envy, it is significant in Freeport because it represents a 500 per cent increase in capacity in the short span of three years.

The city of Freeport, a child of the 1960s, went through its early growing pains while being served by a 20,000-kilowatt diesel generating plant.

After the opening of Freeport's first resort hotel in 1964, the growth of the city accelerated at a rapid rate. By early 1966, it was clear that electricity consumption soon would exceed generating capacity.

In 1966, Freeport Power purchased a 40,000-kilowatt steam plant and began construction work for its installation. This plant went into operation in mid-1968. Demand continued to increase and a 20,000-kilowatt gas-turbine generator was installed in late 1970.

The addition of the new 40,000-kilowatt steam plant assures that ample power reserves will be available for the continuing expansion of commerce and industry.

John T. Kimball, president of The Grand Bahama Port Authority, Limited, parent company of Freeport Power, pointed out at the recent plant completion ceremonies that power companies must constantly build for the future. Kimball noted that over the past few years Freeport Power had spent \$30 million, most of which was aimed toward future growth.

Speaking at the same ceremony, Robert F. Ball, president of Freeport Power, and executive vice president of the Port Authority, emphasized the company's accent on future planning. "Our increase in generating capacity of six times in only three years has been required because of our dramatic growth," he said, "and Freeport Power has additional units scheduled for the future to keep pace with our service obligations. We always assure an ample and dependable power supply to pace the growth of Freeport."

The new plant has a maximum capacity of 44,000 kilowatts. The boiler is a VU 60, Combustion Engineering Type, with maximum design pressure of 1,450 PSIG and design temperature of 955 degrees Fahrenheit. It is oil-fired. The turbine is a single-cylinder, uni-flow, impulse type, condensing 18 stages at a speed of 3,600 r.p.m. The generator is totally enclosed, hydrogen-cooled, with a voltage of 13,800. Sea water, supplied from three wells at a rate of 10,000 gallons each per minute, is used for cooling.

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The new plant was completed two weeks ahead of schedule and only 25 months after the original letter of intent to build was signed. This is remarkable in that most projects of this type require from three to four years to complete. Ground was broken for the new plant in June 1970.

The recent plant completion ceremonies marked another milestone in the development of Freeport/Lucaya. The increased capacity provides enough power for a city of 100,000 people, indicating the confidence in the future of this community that is felt by the Board of Directors and management of the Port Authority and Group Companies.

It is predicted that in 10 years Freeport Power Company's present facilities will form only a small part of the total power development.

Freeport Power Company's endeavors to serve the growing demands of this island community have not been limited only to expanding the capacity of its electric plant. Over the past 18 months Freeport Power has developed and commenced two major lighting programs patterned to meet local requirements.

The "Night Guard" lighting program met with immediate enthusiastic response from industrial, commercial and residential subscribers. To date, 585 of these private night-long mercury-vapor lamps have been

sold to subscribers throughout Freeport/Lucaya. The "Night Guard" luminaire is turned on automatically at dusk and switched off automatically at dawn, providing night-long security and safety.

The second phase of the program was the installation of area lighting along selected roadways. These installations were provided by The Grand Bahama Port Authority and The Grand Bahama Development Company, and now total 420 in Freeport/Lucaya. They operate on the same principal as the "Night Guard" light, turning on and off automatically.

The benefits of the over 1,000 mercury-vapor "Night Guard" and roadway installations include prevention of traffic accidents and crime, increased property values, broader nighttime use of public facilities, prevention of urban decay, stimulation of commercial and industrial growth and civic pride.

Freeport/Lucaya is an area, that from its inception has been built with the future in mind, and Freeport Power Company is a sterling example of this far-sighted planning.

Given the same expertise and advance planning it has exhibited in recent years, Freeport Power is likely to remain the most reliable barometer of progress and growth in Freeport/Lucaya. ■

Freeport Power Company's new 40,000 kilowatt steam electric plant provides the backdrop for the speakers' platform at the plant completion ceremonies.

(Photo by Patrick Fisher)

