

## PRESS CLIPPING SHEET

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# EGAS stops pumping gas to all fertiliser plants, except Abu Qir



## PETROLEUM MINISTRY PRIORITISES PUMPING GAS TO FACTORIES FEEDING DOMESTIC MARKET

By Mohamed Adel

The Egyptian Natural Gas Holding Company (EGAS) has stopped supplying gas for the MOPCO, Al-Masriya 1, Al-Masriya 2, El Nasr, Helwan, Alexfert, EBIC, and Delta-Fertilisers factories. The cut was caused by the increasing demand of power plants.

An EGAS official told Al-Borsa newspaper that consumption of power plants rose to 3.53bn cubic feet of gas per day, despite the decline in temperature. This was due to the Ministry of Electricity having reduced the consumption of fuel oil instead of gas.

He added that about 138m cubic feet of gas are pumped daily to the public sector, including Abu Qir Fertilisers. The volume pumped is a part of the 510m feet contracted by all fertiliser plants in Egypt.

The official said they did not have a specific timing for the return of gas to fertiliser plants, which have suffered greatly from gas stoppages during the summer months. These halts are

a result of the current decline in gas production, and the rising consumption of power plants.

The official noted that the Ministry of Petroleum prioritises the pumping of gas to factories that feed the local market, while it does not support factories that export their total production.

He said that about 40m cubic feet per day of gas are pumped to the Egyptian Iron & Steel factory in El-Tebeen area, in addition to 60m cubic feet to Helwan, National Cement and Suez Canal Cement factories.

EGAS had decided to completely stop pumping gas from the rest of the cement factories, and convert them to operate on fuel oil. EGAS' total contracts cover approximately 430m cubic feet per day.

He pointed out that Egypt's gas production reached 4.3bn cubic feet per day as a result of the natural continued attrition of well productivity. Egypt also imports about 500m cubic feet of gas per day.