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ELECTRIC POWER DEVELOPMENT IN ECONOMIC REGION II-b, USSR

[Numbers in parentheses refer to appended sources.]

At the outset of the First Five-Year Plan the total capacity of the electric power stations in the Belorussian SSR (USSR Economic Region II-b) was 14,400 kilowatts, or 2.7 times the 1913 capacity, and their output during 1927-1928 was 37.3 million kilowatt-hours, or 8.9 times the 1913 output. The power stations included municipal stations with a total capacity of 8,300 kilowatts and an output of 18.2 million kilowatt-hours, rural stations with a capacity of 400 kilowatts and an output of 0.6 million kilowatt-hours, and stations serving industries and transport with a total capacity of 5,700 kilowatts and an output of 18.5 million kilowatt-hours.

The largest of the municipal electric power stations were in Minsk (3,020 kilowatts), Gomel' (2,000 kilowatts), Vitebsk (980 kilowatts), and in Bobruysk (650 kilowatts). The largest industrial power station having two turbo-generators with a total capacity of 1,350 kilowatts was in operation at the Dobrush Paper Factory.(1)

First Five-Year Plan

The peat-burning BelgRES, the first regional electric power station in the Belorussian SSR, was completed and put into operation at the end of 1930. Its output went to the large industrial cities of Vitebsk, Shklov, Orsha, and Mogilev through a newly built network of high-voltage transmission lines.

A number of industrial electric power stations were constructed to supply power to the newly built or reconstructed large industrial plants. The TETs at the Borisov Match Factory with a capacity of 2,000 kilowatts and the TETs at the Bobruysk Lumber Combine with a capacity of 8,500 kilowatts were completed and put into operation in 1929. A new TETs with a capacity of 3,500 kilowatts was put into operation at Dobrush Paper Factory in 1931. Mogilevskaya TETs with a capacity of 5,000 kilowatts, Novo-Belitskaya TETs with 1,000

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kilowatts, and a TETs of 2,500 kilowatts at the Krichev Cement Plant were put into operation in 1932. Also, construction of the Minskaya TETs No 2 was started in 1931.

Simultaneously with the construction of new power stations, the existing municipal power stations were enlarged. By the end of the First Five-Year Plan the capacity of the Minsk Electric Power Station was increased to 5,700 kilowatts, that of the Gomel' Electric Power Station to 5,000 kilowatts, and that of the Bobruysk Electric Power Station to 1,550 kilowatts.

As a result of these measures the total capacity of electric power stations by the end of the First Five-Year Plan had increased to 60,000 kilowatts, and the output for 1932 was 176.7 million kilowatt-hours. In spite of the considerable increases, electric power capacity was still lagging behind the increasing general industrial capacity, causing thereby a shortage of electric power.(1)

Second Five-Year Plan

In 1934 the first turbogenerator with a capacity of 6,000 kilowatts was put into operation at Minskaya TETs No 2. This doubled the electric power generating capacity of Minsk. Electric power stations in Gomel' and Polotsk were enlarged considerably. A new TES with a capacity of 1,000 kilowatts was completed in Slutsk and other power stations were completed in a number of rayon centers.

In 1937 the second turbogenerator with a capacity of 2,000 kilowatts was put into operation at the Krichev Cement Plant TETs. Smaller industrial power stations were put into operation in Bobruysk, Rechitsa, and other points.

Belenergotrest (Belorussian Power Trust) was organized in 1933 and later reorganized into Belenergotpravleniye (Belorussian Power Administration). This administration was instrumental in the development of the network of electric power stations under the jurisdiction of the government of the Belorussian SSR.

During the Second Five-Year Plan the Northern Power System took shape and its capacity increased with the inclusion of the Mogilevskaya TETs. Furthermore, work was started to enlarge the BelGRES, the backbone of the system.

At the end of the Second Five-Year Plan the total electric power-generating capacity of the Belorussian SSR increased to 88,600 kilowatts, and the output in 1937 was 430.4 million kilowatt-hours. However, the increase in capacity was still smaller than the increase in general industrial capacity. The increase in the power output was achieved mainly by utilizing to the utmost all available electric-power-generating facilities. Delays in completion of electric power stations during the period resulted in power shortages in a number of industrial centers.(1)

Third Five-Year Plan

To expedite electrification, a long-range plan for the development of peat production was adopted by the government of the Belorussian SSR. The Third Five-Year Plan provided for an increase of 100,000 kilowatts (over 100 percent) in the electric-power-generating capacity, while industrial capacity was to be increased only 50 percent. This was a step toward the liquidation of the electric power shortage.

In connection with the decision for locating new industries, plans were made for the creation of three powerful electric power centers: a northern center including BelGRES, a southern center including a regional electric power station to be built in Vasilevichi, and a central center including a GRES to be built in Smolevichi.

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BelGRES No 1 was enlarged during the period, thus increasing considerably the capacity of the Northern Power System. In Minsk the work of installing the second turbogenerator at TETs No 2 was under way during the Third Five-Year Plan, and the TETs in Borisov was being enlarged. A number of new electric power stations were under construction in Mozyr', Polotsk, and other cities.

In 1939 the western part of Belorussia which had been under Polish rule was united with Soviet Belorussia. Since the level of electric power development in the newly acquired regions was considerably lower than that in the rest of Belorussia, it became necessary to take immediate measures to increase the power generating capacity there.

The outbreak of the war prevented the completion of the Third Five-Year Plan. The construction of the electric power stations in Vasilevichi, Smolevichi, and in western Belorussia was stopped at an early stage. The work on enlarging the Minskaya TETs and Borisovskaya TETs was also left uncompleted.

At the outbreak of the war the total generating capacity in eastern Belorussia was 20 times the 1913 capacity, and their output was 112 times 1913 output. The output by categories expressed in percent was as follows:

<u>Stations</u>	<u>Output</u>
Regional	30.0
Municipal	37.0
Industrial	30.0
Transport	1.9
Rural	0.6
<u>Others</u>	<u>0.5</u>
Total	100.0

In spite of the rapid development of the power-generating capacity during this period, the output was still insufficient to satisfy the existing demand. An insufficient number of large regional electric power stations made it necessary for most of the industries to depend on relatively small and detached power stations. This very often led to an interruption of the power supply because of breakdowns. Electric power output per capita in Poleskaya and Pinskaya oblasts was about one half of the average output for the whole Belorussian SSR, and there was not a single GES of any appreciable size in operation in the republic in spite of the existing rich water resources.(1)

War and Immediate Postwar Years

Almost all electric power stations in the Belorussian SSR were destroyed during the war and after liberation the electric power generating capacity was again at the 1913 level.

Belorusenergo (Belorussian Regional Power Administration) was organized by the Ministry of Electric Power Stations USSR after the liberation of Belorussia to construct large power systems based on large regional electric power stations. In 1945 the Belenergoupravleniye, which had been under Narkomkhoz, Belorussian SSR, was reorganized into Glavenergoupravleniye (Main Power Administration) and placed under the Council of Ministers Belorussian SSR. This organization was entrusted with the restoration of electric power stations under the jurisdiction of the Belorussian SSR.

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The following capacities were restored in 1944 and 1945:

Gomel'skaya TsES	1 turbogenerator of 3,000 kw
Grodnenskaya TsES	1 turbogenerator of 1,400 kw
Slutskaya TsES	Capacity increased to 1750 kw
Volkovysk Cement Plant TsES	Restored completely
Borisovskaya TETs	1 turbogenerator
Old Dobrushskaya TsES	1 turbogenerator

The electric power output in 1945 was 82.1 million kilowatt-hours.(1)

Fourth Five-Year Plan

The Fourth Five-Year Plan provided for the restoration of old electric power stations, the building of new electric power stations, and the creation of three large power systems, the building of which was authorized by the prewar Five-Year Plan.(1)

According to the plan, electric power stations with a total capacity of 243,000 kilowatts were to be restored, small hydroelectric power stations with a total capacity of 16,000 kilowatts were to be built, and the municipal power stations in Gomel', Mozyr', Grodno, and other cities were to be restored. Electric power stations under republic jurisdiction with a total capacity of 47,000 kilowatts, including hydroelectric power stations with a total capacity of 10,000 kilowatts, were to be completed.(2)

The plan to increase the power-generating capacity to 2.2 times prewar capacity and industrial capacity to 116 percent of prewar capacity indicated the trend toward bringing the lagging electric-power-generating capacity in line with the industrial capacity.

Although at the end of 1948 total electric power generating capacity was 116 percent of prewar capacity, there was still a shortage of power.(1)

Among the plants restored or newly built during the plan period were: Minskaya TETs No 2, BelGRES No 1 imeni Stalin, and electric power stations in Grodno, Mozyr', Gomel', Molodechno, Bobruysk, Brest, Baranovichi, Slutsk and others. The Minsk Industrial TETs was also completed and the Smolevichskaya GRES was almost completed. Construction of the Vasilevichskaya GRES was not completed, nor was the goal for the number of new hydroelectric power stations reached.(3)

After 1950

Tentative plans for the further electrification of the Belorussian SSR after the completion of the Fourth Five-Year Plan provide for an increase in the power generating capacity to approximately 1.5 or 1.8 million kilowatts. This could be achieved by carrying out the following work:

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Northern Power System -- This system could further be developed by building large hydroelectric power stations on the Zapadnaya Dvina and Dnepr rivers, large TETs in the main industrial centers, and a large regional TETs near the large peat deposit in Mogilevskaya Oblast. The system will have to depend mainly on the output of the hydroelectric power stations and will have to serve the whole northeastern part of the Belorussian SSR from the Latvian border to the city of Bykhov, including Polotsk, Vitebsk, Orsha, Shklov, Mogilev and a number of industrial centers which are being recreated.(1)

Central Power System (Minsk) -- This system must depend exclusively on thermal electric power stations because no water power resources are available in the central part of Belorussia. Enlarging to their full capacities electric power stations now existing or under construction, including Minskaya TETs, Smolevichskaya GRES, and Minskaya Industrial TETs, is being contemplated. The building of a new TETs in Minsk and a new large regional peat-burning electric power station based on the Sergejevichskiy peat deposit is also being contemplated.(1)

Southern Power System -- The southern system will be developed mainly by enlarging the Vasilevichskaya GRES to its full capacity. Three GRES on the Dnepr River and a municipal TETs in Gomel' could be added later. The southern system will serve Gomel', Rechitsa, Mozyr', Bobruysk, Zhlobin, and Rogachev.(1)

Western Power System -- This system could be established by building a large GES on the Neman River and two large peat-burning regional stations. It will serve Grodno, Volkovysk, Slonim, Baranovichi, Lida, Novogrudok, Brest, Kobrin and Pinsk.

The four power systems would be interconnected and would include over 70 percent of the total generating capacity in the Belorussian SSR, about 45 percent of which would be represented by hydroelectric power stations.(1)

M. G. Pervukhin, deputy chairman of the Council of Ministers USSR, in a speech delivered in the Council of Nationalities in connection with the budget for 1954, mentioned that the Belorussian SSR was among the republics where development of the electric power was still lagging behind.(4)

[The following table is a compilation of figures on the development of electric power in the Belorussian SSR between 1927 and 1952. The figures in the table are for installed electric power capacity, in thousands of kilowatts, and output, in millions of kilowatt-hours. All figures are either taken as cited from the sources, in which case only the source is cited, or calculated on the basis of information contained in the sources. In the latter case, the figures used as a basis for calculations are quoted in the text of this report or in the notes accompanying the sources given below.]

	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Output</u>
1927	14.4 (a)	37.3 (a)
1932	60.0 (a)	177.0 (a)
1935	78.0 (a)	315.0 (d)
1937	88.6 (a)	430.4 (a)
1940	--	453.0 (f)
Outbreak of war	106.6 (a)	470.0 (a)

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	<u>Capacity</u>	<u>Output</u>
1944	5.3 (a)	
1945	--	4.2 (a)
1946	--	82.1 (a)
1948	124.0 (a)	217.0 (g)
1949	--	370.0 (h)
1950	191.9 (e)	523.0 (i)
1952	--	654.0 (b,c)
		940.0 (j)

(a) Minsk, Sotsialisticheskoye Narodnoye Khozyaystvo Belorusskoy SSR (National Economy of Belorussian SSR), Academy of Sciences Belorussian SSR, 1949.

(b) Moscow, Zakon o Pyatiletnem Plane Vosstanovleniya i Razvitiya Narodnogo Khozyaystva SSSR na 1946-1950 gg. (The Law on the Five-Year Plan for the Restoration and Development of the National Economy of the USSR, 1946-1950) OGIZ, Gospolitizdat, 1946.

(c) Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 8 Jul 51: "The Fourth Five-Year Plan for production of electric power was exceeded."

(d) Moscow, SSSR Strana Sotsializma (USSR, Country of Socialism), Gosplan, 1936.

(e) Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 19 Jan 51.

(f) Ibid., 7 Aug 51: "1950 output was 144 percent of 1940 output."

(g) Ibid., 17 Jan 50: "Planned output for 1950 was 300 percent of 1946 output."

(h) Ibid., No 15, 50: "Output in 1949 was 141 percent of 1948 output."

(i) Ibid., 30 Jan 51: "Output for 1950 was 125 percent of 1949 output."

(j) Yerevan', Kommunist, 31 Dec 53 "Output in 1952 was almost twice the prewar output."

SOURCES

1. Minsk, Sotsialisticheskoye Narodnoye Khozyaystvo Belorusskoy SSR (National Economy of Belorussian SSR), Academy of Sciences Belorussian SSR 1949
2. Moscow, Zakon o Pyatiletnem Plane Vosstanovleniya i Razvitiya Narodnogo Khozyaystva SSR na 1946-1950 gg. (The law on the Five-Year Plan for the Restoration and Development of the National Economy of the USSR, 1946-1950) OGIZ, Gospolitizdat, 1946
3. Minsk, Sovetskaya Belorussiya, 8 Jul 51
4. Moscow, Pravda, 27 Apr 54

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