

Power, water company to initiate energy plant at Sur

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Muscat: Following a reassessment of a proposed independent power and water project at the Al Ghubrah site, the Oman Power and Water Company (OPWP) is preparing to initiate a competition for a major, 1,500 megawatt independent power project on the industrial estate at Sur.

Subject to securing the necessary environmental and regulatory consents, OPWP expects to issue a request for proposals for the project around the beginning of August.

The OPWP will invite proposals for around 400 megawatt of early power ahead of peak summer demand in 2013 and full commissioning of 1,500 megawatt ahead of 2014 summer peak demand.

OPWP had originally proposed a new independent water and power project at the Al Ghubrah site to take advantage of existing infrastructure and allow older plants to be retired to improve environmental compliance at the site.

However, in line with best international environmental practices, the Sultanate is seeking to located new power stations away from residential areas.

Subject to securing environmental consent, a large scale reverse osmosis technology water project of around 40MIGD will be developed at Al Ghubrah site to safeguard growing water demands and further improve environmental conditions at the site.

Confirming plans for a 1,500 megawatt project at Sur, OPWP CEO Bob Whitelaw said “The proposed location on the industrial site at Sur is ideal for the development of such a large scale power plant.