

North Korea power grid energy storage project





Overview

With its capital Pyongyang experiencing chronic power shortages, the nation is doubling down on energy storage hydropower stations – a hybrid solution combining traditional hydropower with modern storage tech. Does North Korea have a thermal power station?

While North Korea's thermal power stations continue to play an important role in the state's energy mix, the stations were built decades ago in collaboration with engineers from the former Soviet Union and China. The outdated technology makes them inefficient, and thermal capacity has not risen significantly in decades.

Does North Korea have a power shortage?

Preface North Korea suffers from chronic energy shortages. Rolling blackouts are common, even in the nation's capital, while some of the poorest citizens receive state-provided electricity only once a year.

Does North Korea have energy security challenges?

Access to solar panels has created capacity where the state falls short, but the overall energy security challenges facing the nation are daunting. This report, "North Korea's Energy Sector," is a compilation of articles published on 38 North in 2023 that surveyed North Korea's energy production facilities and infrastructure.

How much electricity does North Korea use?

For 2020, Statistics Korea estimates North Korea's total electricity supply at 23.9 terawatt hours (TWh), while Nautilus estimates only 14 TWh. Both agree that hydro supplies the largest portion of electricity to the country and are in broad agreement on the amount.

Will North Koreans get power a day a year?

While the regime regularly promises to solve the electricity problem, the vast



majority of North Koreans remain severely energy deprived. Those in Pyongyang may get power every day, though with rolling blackouts. But for some in the more remote areas of the country, this could mean only getting power one day a year.

How old are North Korea's energy problems?

North Korea's energy problems—and the state's promises to fix them—are almost as old as the country itself. After the liberation of the Korean Peninsula from Japanese colonialism in 1945, the northern half of the peninsula relied on its abundant water resources to generate electricity.



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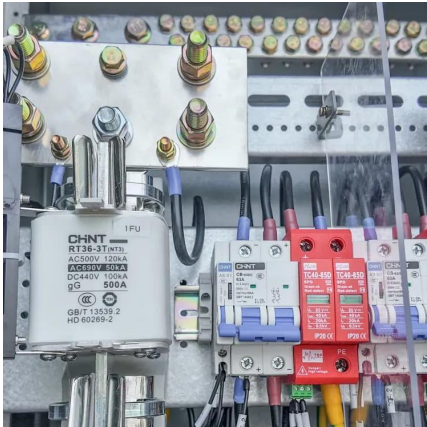
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North Korea's Energy Sector

Some energy initiatives, such as the construction of large hydropower plants, have taken decades to complete, and sources like tidal power remain grossly underutilized.

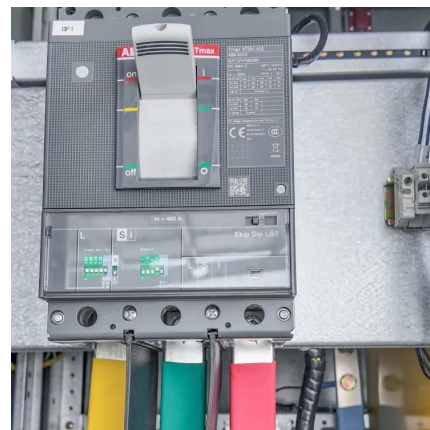
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