

POWER DIGEST

A CURATION OF TOP ENERGY SECTOR STORIES

COAL ANSWERS THE CALL



Zambia's efforts to strengthen its electricity supply have renewed focus on a 600-MW coal-fired power plant planned for Sinazongwe. The project is being developed by Ever Great Energy Company Ltd, a joint venture between the Wonderful Group and United Capital Fertilizer, and includes construction of a new transmission line to feed power directly into the national grid.

According to project details, the plant will be built in four phases, each delivering 150 MW. The first two units are expected to come online in July and October 2026, while the remaining 300 MW is scheduled for completion and grid integration in 2027. Once fully operational, the facility is projected to employ 1,800 workers, providing a significant boost to local job creation.

Sinazongwe has long been identified as a strategic hub for coal-powered generation. The new 600-MW project will become the district's second major coal facility, following the Maamba Coal Plant, which is itself undertaking an expansion to double its existing 300-MW output.

Energy analysts say Sinazongwe is quickly becoming central to Zambia's near-term energy security strategy, particularly as the country works to close supply gaps and stabilize the grid. Supporting this momentum, Ministry of Information spokesperson Henry Kapata recently confirmed that equipment for the Ever Great project is now preparing for shipment to Zambia.



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MANSA TO GIFT ZAMBIA 14MW FOR CHRISTMAS



ZESCO Managing Director Justine Loongo says the utility will only inject 14 megawatts from the new 50-MW Mansa Solar Plant into the national grid this December, after delays in completing the transmission line meant to carry the power to consumers.

During a site visit to the US\$48 million project yesterday, Loongo said the solar plant itself is “almost ready,” but a critical section of the evacuation line remains under construction, preventing ZESCO from taking the full output.

“We should have commissioned in December, but the delays on the evacuation line pushed us back,” he said.

The incomplete infrastructure means ZESCO can only absorb a fraction of the plant’s capacity for now. The full 50 MW is expected to be evacuated around March or April next year, once the line is finished and fully energized.

Loongo noted that the setback has prompted ZESCO to rethink its planning model for future solar projects. The utility will now prioritize construction of evacuation lines before generating stations, to avoid situations where power plants are completed but cannot operate at full capacity.

Once fully commissioned, the Mansa Solar Plant is expected to deliver enough power to supply 15,000 to 20,000 homes, a development that could significantly ease load-shedding in Mansa and surrounding districts.



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DROUGHT YEAR

IMPACT

**ENERGY
DIVERSIFICATION
INVESTMENT**

2014/15

LOADSHEDDING

**384MW
COAL/SOLAR**

2018/19

LOADSHEDDING

0MW

2023/24

LOADSHEDDING

**>1,500MW
COAL/SOLAR**

By the end of 2026, Zambia will have an ADDITIONAL capacity to generate more than 1500MW from solar and coal sources combined.

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ZAMBIA AND ZIMBABWE TALK ENERGY AT ZIM-ZAM 2025



The 2025 Zimbabwe–Zambia Energy Projects Summit opened this week with a strong call for deeper collaboration across the region’s public and private energy players, as Southern Africa pushes to expand generation capacity and improve cross-border power infrastructure.

Speaking at the conference, ZESCO Managing Director Eng. Justine Longo underscored the central role of partnerships in stabilizing and growing the regional energy landscape. “Meaningful collaboration across public, private, and regional actors remains essential to strengthening energy security and unlocking new opportunities for development,” Longo said.

The high-profile summit, running from November 26–28, 2025, brings together governments, investors, utilities, developers and multilateral bodies with a shared objective: accelerating Southern Africa’s shift toward reliable, diversified and investment-ready power systems.

A major focus of this year’s agenda is investment mobilization for large-scale electricity projects, including efforts to attract capital for renewable energy expansion in solar, wind and hydropower. Organizers say the region must aggressively pursue clean-energy growth to meet rising demand and respond to climate-related pressures on traditional generation sources.

The summit is also examining strategies to strengthen transmission interconnections across borders — a longstanding bottleneck in the region’s power trade. Discussions include harmonizing tariffs, modernizing cross-border infrastructure and encouraging private capital participation to position Southern Africa as a competitive regional electricity trading hub.

ZESCO is expected to outline recent policy and regulatory reforms aimed at improving transparency, reducing investment risk and opening the sector to greater private participation. Delegates include the Energy Ministers of Zambia and Zimbabwe, representatives of the Southern African Power Pool (SAPP), the African Union, and a range of regional and international energy companies.

Organizers say the summit comes at a pivotal moment, as Southern African nations confront persistent supply shortages, drought-related hydropower disruptions and the need for large-scale grid upgrades. For many participants, the hope is that coordinated planning—and stronger regional cooperation—can finally unlock the long-promised potential of Southern Africa’s energy market.