

CIVIL ENGINEERING CONTRACTOR
01 May 2011, p.12

Nigeria

Power overhaul

The new 180 MW power plant in Port Harcourt, Rivers State, will be commissioned in the third quarter of 2011 and should contribute to stabilising power supply in the area. This, together with the ongoing installation of several transformers and substations in Rivers State, will significantly reduce the frequency of power outages, according to Dame Aleruchi Cookey-Gam, administrator of the Greater Port Harcourt City Development Authority. The Rivers State government has made substantial investments in power generation, transmission and distribution over the past seven years, she adds.

Despite plans for an electrical reticulation network and the new power station, the city experiences up to 30 power outages on a daily basis, according to Ryno van Wyk, technical coordinator for Arcus Gibb. "In some instances, we use generators full-time for up to two weeks." Cookey Gam refutes the frequency of outages stated by Van Wyk but does admit that regular power supply is a challenge.

