


'Prepare For Power Cuts'



OLYMPIA — (AP) — The probability of Northwest power shortages in 1983-84 is so high that conservation will be needed to avoid hardship, the head of the Bonneville Power Administration said last night.

Testifying before a joint meeting of the House and Senate energy committees, Sterling Munro said the 1983-84 water year will be the most dangerous.

He predicted a 40 percent chance of shortages that year.

"When the weatherman predicts a 40 percent chance of rain, you're wise to carry an umbrella or wear a raincoat," he said.

With a 40 percent chance of electrical power shortages, the region should prepare for curtailment.

"That means everybody dust off your curtailment plans — refine them, up date them and get ready to implement them, including making the tough decisions as to who gets cut off first, second, third and so on," he said.

Terming the situation "grave," Munro said it is too late now to start coal-fired or nuclear power projects in time for the 1980s.

"Conservation looks like our best bet," he said.