

## **Renewable projects vetted**

Deputy energy permanent secretary Praphon Wongtharua says 70 renewable energy projects lagging behind schedule are being strictly screened.

The projects were granted licences years ago with a commitment to start operations from 2012-13.

But the licence holders said obstacles such as a lack of financing had delayed their start.

To screen the 70 delayed projects, Energy Minister Anantaporn Kanjanarat has assigned relevant agencies to work together including the Energy Regulatory Commission, the Energy Ministry and the Provincial Electricity Authority.

After an initial screening, the government found the first group of 32 delayed projects represented a combined 100 megawatts of power-generating capacity.

The second group of 38 delayed projects would combine for a power-generating capacity of 120 MW.

The screening committee will look at the projects case by case to see whether any are in need of a helping hand from the government.

"For instance, many projects were delayed due to regulations under the country's Industrial Works Act and City Planning Act," Mr Praphon said, adding that some laws enacted previously were not compatible with the current policy of promoting renewable energy.

As a result, some renewable energy developments such as solar farm projects are barred under the City Planning Act.

Other renewable projects were delayed because they lacked transmission lines to connect generated power to the grid.

Mr Praphon said the screening process would conclude this month.

The government has set a target for renewable energy to constitute 30% of power generated by 2036, up from 12% currently.

On another issue, Gen Anantaporn expects the retail price of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) for December to rise slightly in line with global prices.

The country's Energy Policy Administration Committee will discuss the issue before announcing the LPG monthly price on Thursday.

The current retail price of LPG is set at 22.29 baht a kilogramme.

