

State of emergency in the energy and water sectors: measures taken to ensure the supply of energy, fuel, and water to the population



Starting on **26 September**, the Republic of Moldova enters a state of **emergency in the energy and hydrological sectors**.

At present, the country has sufficient electricity, fuel and water supplies. However, the risks affecting their availability have increased, and the authorities need to be able to act more quickly to prevent disruptions and protect the population should the situation deteriorate.

In the region, Ukraine's energy infrastructure continues to be affected, electricity import capacity is limited, and international gas and fuel markets remain unstable. At the same time, drought and very low water levels in the Nistru and Prut rivers are putting increasing pressure on water reserves. With the cold season approaching, energy consumption is also expected to rise.

Through **Decisions [No. 8](#) and [No. 9](#) of 25 September**, the National Crisis Management Commission approved measures focused on three basic objectives: ensuring sufficient electricity supply, maintaining adequate fuel stocks in the country, and protecting water reserves for the population and essential services.

The purpose of these measures is to **prevent problems rather than wait for them to occur**. The state will prioritize available electricity for domestic consumption during peak hours, protect the supply of hospitals and essential services, accelerate fuel deliveries into the country, maintain safety stocks, and restrict the use of water for non-essential purposes.

At the same time, contingency solutions are being prepared in case conditions deteriorate, including emergency electricity from neighbouring systems, additional domestic generation, alternative water sources, artesian wells, high-capacity pumps, and the delivery of water to communities that may be affected.

Electricity

When the energy system is under pressure, **hospitals, emergency services, water intake and pumping stations, and other essential facilities will receive priority in electricity supply.**

During peak consumption hours, between **18:00 and 22:00**, available electricity will be prioritized for domestic needs, with exports being restricted. If a deficit arises that cannot be covered through regular purchases, the authorities will be able to request emergency electricity from neighbouring countries' power systems.

At the same time, combined heat and power plants will be able to increase electricity generation when required by the system, while new energy generation and storage projects will benefit from accelerated procedures. The objective is to have as many domestic sources available as possible and greater reserve capacity when consumption increases.

The state will also reduce its own consumption. Public authorities and institutions will decrease their use of electricity and fuel, while public lighting will be reduced where this can be done safely. Public buildings and commercial premises will reduce unnecessary lighting, while decorative and advertising lighting will be switched off. High-energy-consuming businesses will be encouraged, wherever possible, to shift energy-intensive activities outside peak hours. The aim is to reduce consumption that can be postponed or avoided so that available electricity reaches those who need it most.

Fuel

To ensure that filling stations can continue to be supplied, a number of measures are aimed directly at **protecting fuel stocks in the Republic of Moldova and accelerating the delivery of new supplies into the country.**

At the Giurgiulești International Free Port, the export and re-export of petrol and diesel will only be permitted if at least **2,500 tonnes of petrol and 7,500 tonnes of diesel** remain in storage, subject to certain exceptions provided for in the decision.

At the same time, vehicles transporting fuel into the Republic of Moldova will have dedicated lanes at border crossing points, while trains carrying fuel will be given priority on the railway network. This will help reduce delays in fuel deliveries.

To prevent the purchase of unusually large quantities of fuel in containers and the creation of artificial shortages, diesel purchased in containers at filling stations will be limited to **40 litres**. For specialized containers used to refuel agricultural machinery, the limit will be **100 litres**.

To protect consumers, as long as a filling station has standard diesel in stock, it must remain available for sale at the regulated price and cannot be replaced by more expensive types of diesel. Only once the standard diesel stock has been exhausted may the station sell other available types, allowing fuel supply to continue.

Water

Ensuring access to **drinking water is a priority for the population and essential services**, including hospitals and social institutions, schools, emergency services and critical infrastructure. At the same time, before the beginning of the cold season, the necessary water supply will be secured for the operation of centralized district heating systems.

For the duration of the state of emergency, water abstraction from the Nistru and Prut rivers for irrigation is suspended. Drinking water from public supply systems and water abstracted from surface sources may not be used for activities that can be postponed, including watering lawns and decorative green spaces, washing streets, courtyards or building façades, filling swimming pools and recreational pools, or other similar activities. These restrictions apply throughout the day.

In parallel, water operators must prepare in advance for a situation in which water levels in the Nistru or Prut continue to fall. They will assess how long they can operate using existing reserves, what alternative sources are available, and what measures must be taken if water availability decreases by **10%, 20% or 30%**.

If water can no longer be supplied through the network in a particular locality, **mobile water supply will be organized**. Priority will be given to hospitals, social institutions, schools, emergency services and residents of the affected communities.

Contingency solutions are also being prepared, including high-capacity pumps, while verified artesian wells and other groundwater sources may be brought into operation if surface water levels continue to decline.

The measures provided for under **Decisions [No. 8](#) and [No. 9](#) enter into force on 26 September 2026**. The Ministry of Energy coordinates the response in the energy sector, the Ministry of Environment coordinates the response in the hydrological sector, while the **National Crisis Management Center coordinates and monitors the situation at the national level and oversees the implementation of the measures**.

The **National Crisis Management Commission** will continue to monitor developments and adjust the measures whenever necessary.