



Foreign Ministry of Yeeland

Yeeland is an industrialized country with a medium-sized population. Most citizens live in urban areas with high electricity needs. Yeeland, Grusa and the U.S. are **economically interdependent**. Yeeland buys wheat from Grusa and sells farming equipment to Grusa and the U.S. Yeeland shares responsibility for the Lake Eco Wetlands Preserve with Grusa. About 10% of Yeelanders work at the Lake Eco Wetlands Preserve or in the nearby hotels, shops, and restaurants that cater to “crane tourists.” 40% of Yeeland’s national income comes from crane tourism. Yeeland is a member of the United Nations and a party to the Water Convention.

Yeeland’s population is growing and its industries are rapidly expanding, requiring more power for the cities. There have already been several blackouts in Yeeland’s big cities that adversely affect schools, businesses, public transportation, grocery stores and, most significantly, hospitals. The government’s top priority is providing electricity to as many of its citizens as possible, as soon as possible.

Yeeland has completed about 75% of a four-year project to build a new **hydroelectric power** plant and dam along the Great Sox River. Yeelanders are very concerned about the power outages, which are becoming more frequent and lasting longer. They worry especially about hospitals being disrupted, and every day Yeeland’s politicians receive calls and letters from citizens demanding the government to fix the problem immediately.

As an alternative to its hydroelectric power plant, Yeeland could instead invest in wind and solar energy technology, which cost about the same. These technologies do not use water to generate power. However, Yeeland would have to study the possibilities, develop a completely new energy plan, and only then begin building. That process could take up to three years. In the meantime, Yeeland’s cities would continue to experience significant power outages.

The government of Yeeland believes it is abiding by the “reasonable use” standard of the international **Water Convention**. Last week, the President of Yeeland defended the plant and dam on television, saying, “The Great Sox River is on our land. It is our river. Other countries should not try to dictate what Yeeland does with its own natural resources.”

Opening Position: Yeeland’s top priority is to provide enough power for all its citizens and to stop these harmful power outages. It is unreasonable for homes, businesses, schools and hospitals in the cities to endure frequent blackouts. The Water Convention Bureau should support Yeeland’s position under the “reasonable use” provision of the Water Convention.