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## TABLE-China early May reservoir volumes fall 11.6 pct yr/yr

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BEIJING, May 3 (Reuters) - Water inventories in China's major reservoirs in early May declined for the first time in 13 months, data from the Water Resources Ministry showed, increasing concern that electricity supplies could further tighten in hydropower-heavy regions.

Power use restrictions have been instituted in some central, southwestern and eastern provinces, in part because of limited hydropower generation. [ID:nL3E7FI1ED][ID:nL3E7FK0DQ]

Water volumes in six large reservoirs, which accounted for nearly half of stocks in over 700 reservoirs nationwide tracked by the ministry, decreased 11.6 percent from a year earlier and fell 9.4 percent from the month before, the data showed.

Stocks in the massive Three Gorges reservoir declined quickly from a month ago as outflows surpassed inflows to meet downstream shipping and irrigation demand.

Hydropower output in March rose 28.8 percent from a year earlier and output in the first quarter increased 32.9 percent on year, government data showed.

Water volumes in major hydropower reservoirs in early May (millions of cubic metres):

	2011	2011	2010	Pct
	May 3	April 1	May 6	change
				on yr ago
Yangtze River				
Three Gorges	23,686	28,044	24,189	-2.1
Xinan River				
Xinjiang	12,500	12,600	14,100	-11.3
Yellow River				
Longyang Gorge	14,816	15,977	18,458	-19.7
Han River				
Danjiangkou	5,771	7,410	9,400	-38.6
Songhua River				
Fengman	5,957	5,797	5,068	17.5
Baishan	4,400	4,262	4,740	-7.2
Total*	67,130	74,090	75,955	-11.6

\* Inventories in the reservoirs accounted for nearly half of stocks in over 700 reservoirs tracked by the ministry.

(Reported by Jim Bai and Tom Miles; Editing by Chris Lewis)

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