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250 power firm jobs must go

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Thirteen hundred staff at China Light & Power (CLP) have been offered voluntary redundancy – and the company expects 250 employees to take up the offer.

If staff have to be made compulsorily redundant they will not be offered the 18 months' payoff in the voluntary scheme.

Although 300 staff volunteered for redundancy last year, further cuts were necessary, management said.

Those targeted included infor-

mation management technicians, accountants, and human resources staff from the Castle Peak and Black Point power plants.

The staff union has reacted angrily to the proposal and demanded immediate negotiations.

CLP assistant public affairs manager Chiu Siu-mui denied that workers were being threatened. She said: "We are not threatening them or using scary tactics."

"We are only trying to paint a true picture of our situation so they can understand."

The company hopes to keep its numbers to 1,050 and 1,100 respectively in the Castle Peak and Black Point power plants after the layoffs.

Voluntary redundancy has been in operation since 1993. But it is the first time compulsory redundancy has been threatened.

A spokesman for China Light & Power Chinese Employees Union said forced termination had never been mentioned by the company boss Ross Sayers in a series of meetings between the union and the company.