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AGL powers in to stop 'covert action'

ALMOST a third of workers at Victoria's biggest power station have called in sick this week, which the operator says poses a threat to the state's power supply.

AGL, owner of the Loy Yang power plant in the Latrobe Valley, launched an emergency application at the Fair Work Commission last night to stop what the company calls "covert industrial action".

The company warned the action poses an ongoing threat to the state's power supplies, with the plant only operating at half of its capacity.

ANTHONY GALLOWAY

Many of the workers, represented by the CFMEU, have refused to do overtime to cover for the sickies, Fair Work heard last night.

Since Sunday, about 30 per cent of the plant's workforce has called in sick, which is three times the average. On Monday, 15 of the plant's 33 employees rostered on to work called in sick.

CFMEU district secretary Geoff Dyke rejected any suggestion that it was organising overtime bans and sick leave at the plant.