



A FORTIS COMPANY

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### **BEL Submits ARP Application to PUC – Proposes Changes to Tariff Structure**

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) has submitted a tariff application to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) commencing the Annual Review Proceeding (ARP) for the electric utility. BEL's tariff structure includes a Cost of Wholesale Power component (CWP), a Value Added of Delivery component (VAD) and a Rate Stabilization Account (RSA) component. The values for each of these components are combined to determine the mean electricity rate customers pay.

In its application, BEL is proposing several changes to the current tariff values. The PUC will consider BEL's application to determine the mean electricity rate, to become effective July 1, 2007 to June 30, 2008.

Other changes include removing the service charge of \$10 from residential customer bills and replacing it with a flat rate of \$5. The flat rate would only apply to residential customers whose consumption falls below \$5 for the month. BEL is also proposing changes to the residential tariff structure to encourage more conservation by decreasing cost to low consumption customers. High consumption customers could see small increases of up to 2 per cent. The below table depicts changes in monthly bills under the proposed new tariff structure compared to the current tariff structure.

<b>RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMERS COMPARISON</b>		
<b>Monthly Usage kWh</b>	<b>Monthly Bill Current Tariff</b>	<b>Monthly Bill Proposed Tariff</b>
50	\$24.50	\$17.50
300	\$132.00	\$130.50
400	\$178.00	\$177.50
500	\$224.00	\$224.50
600	\$270.00	\$271.50
800	\$362.00	\$365.50
1000	\$454.00	\$459.50

Over 75 per cent of residential customers consume below 500 kWh per month. Changes to the commercial tariff structure are also being proposed, which will result in a 2 per cent average increase in rates for customers under this category. For industrial customers, BEL is proposing to remove the off-peak and peak charges and replace these charges with one flat rate per kWh as noted in the below proposed Tariff Schedule.

The PUC is accepting written comments from the public on BEL's application until April 23, 2007 after which the Commission will make its initial decision no later than May 2, 2007. Thereafter, interested parties are invited to submit their comments to the PUC within 10 days of PUC's initial decision. The PUC's final decision will be issued no later than June 26, 2007 to take effect July 1, 2007.

<b>Belize Electricity Limited Proposed Rates for Tariff Classes</b>		
<b>Tariff Class</b>	<b>Current Tariff</b>	<b>Proposed Tariff</b>
<b>Social</b>		
Flat Rate	\$ 4.00	\$ 4.00
0000 - 0050 kWh (minimum \$4.00)	0.26	0.26
<b>Residential (Include small commercial less than 2,500 kWh/month)</b>		
Service Charge	\$ 10.00	\$ -
Flat Rate	-	5.00
0000 - 0050 kWh	0.29	0.35
0051 - 0200 kWh	0.41	0.44
Above 0200 kWh	0.46	0.47
<b>Commercial (Commercial greater than 2,500 kWh/month)</b>		
Service Charge	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
00,000 - 10,000kWh	0.44	0.45
10,000 - 20,000 kWh	0.43	0.44
Above 20,000 kWh	0.42	0.43
<b>Industrial 1 (Using greater than 30,000 kWh/month)</b>		
Service Charge	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Demand Charge per kVA/month	35.00	35.00
Off - peak energy	0.32	0.33
Peak energy (6 p.m. 9 p.m. Mon to Fri)	0.46	0.33
<b>Industrial 2 (Avg. Peak Load of 1.5 MW &amp; greater)</b>		
Service Charge	\$ 100.00	\$ 100.00
Demand Charge per kVA/month	21.00	21.00
Off - peak energy	0.26	0.28
Peak energy (6 p.m. 9 p.m. Mon to Fri)	0.46	0.28
<b>Street Lighting</b>	<b>\$ 0.52</b>	<b>\$ 0.55</b>

END