



A FORTIS COMPANY

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CFE Extends Suspension of Firm Power Supply to Belize

Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE) has advised Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) that it is extending its suspension of firm power supply to Belize.

On April 30, 2009, CFE advised BEL that it had to suspend firm energy supply through to September 2009. Firm energy refers to guaranteed power supply under BEL's contract with CFE. CFE cited damage to major generating equipment in Central Campeche as the cause of the emergency situation.

In a correspondence to BEL, dated September 30, 2009, CFE informed that while the generating unit at Central Campeche has been brought back on line, they are unable to produce to full capacity as a result of problems with gas availability. CFE also informed that maintenance works on another major generating unit in Merida recently commenced and that the unit will be out of service for twenty days.

The correspondence concludes by saying that CFE is consequently not able to offer BEL firm capacity and energy, until the generation capacity is restored.

Since CFE's notice in April, BEL has been able to maintain power supply to Belize by relying on local generation sources, including the hydroelectric facilities at Belize Electric Company Limited and Hydro Maya Limited; the heavy fuel plant at Belize Aquaculture Limited and BEL's own Gas Turbine Unit. BEL has also been able to purchase as-available power from CFE but at a much higher cost than it would have paid under the contract.

BEL remains committed to meeting this challenge and will continue to manage local generation sources to minimize power outages and cost of power. BEL encourages customers to continue practicing energy conservation.

END