



**A FORTIS COMPANY**

Belize Electricity Limited  
2 ½ Miles Northern Highway  
P.O. Box 327  
Belize City, Belize  
Corporate Tel.: 501-227-0954  
Customer Care: 0-800-235-2273  
Fax: 501-223-0891  
Email: [pr@bel.com.bz](mailto:pr@bel.com.bz)  
Website: [www.bel.com.bz](http://www.bel.com.bz)

Immediate Release: **Thursday, June 11, 2009**

Contact: Dawn Sampson-Nuñez – Manager, Corporate Communications

E-mail: [dawn.sampson@bel.com.bz](mailto:dawn.sampson@bel.com.bz)

## **BEL Statement on the CFE Supply of Electricity**

By a written notice [in Spanish] dated April 30, 2009, Comisión Federal de Electricidad of Mexico (CFE) informed BEL that due to a serious fault which had developed at their generating station at Campeche and difficulties in the availability of gas, it would not be able to provide a “firm” supply of electricity over the next four-month period and was declaring an “emergency” under the contract of supply. CFE on average provides 54 per cent of BEL’s electricity and CFE appreciated fully the seriousness of the impact that this development could have on Belize’s electricity supply. At the end of its notice, CFE requested BEL’s understanding of the situation.

For clarification, a “firm” supply of electricity under the Contract with CFE provides for a guaranteed supply of electricity at a specific contract rate. When an “emergency” is declared, then the power can be shut off with just fifteen minutes notice and in such a case, BEL has to bring online all possible supplemental local generation sources to try to maintain supply and avoid power outages. In fact, as occurred yesterday, the CFE supply can cease without warning.

CFE had to suddenly disconnect Belize from its system. Since then BEL has received word from CFE that it has resolved the problem which caused yesterday’s disconnection, but the major problem indicated on April 30, 2009 remains.

BEL has tried its best to grapple with this situation and development and has negotiated as best as it could, continued supply from CFE even in the “emergency” situation. However,

the electricity is supplied at a “spot rate” which is invariably much higher than the rate specified for “firm” electricity supplied under the contract.

Not only has BEL sought to do its best to maintain continuous electricity supply, but it has over the years projected for future power needs and welcomed projects, which would reasonably reduce Belize’s electricity supply on foreign sources, including foreign fuel supplies. The Belize Cogeneration Energy Limited plant for example is scheduled to come online later this year and the Vaca Hydroelectric Facility in 2010.

The Government of Belize and the Public Utilities Commission are being kept fully abreast of developments.

As was stated in the Company’s April 30, 2009 press release, BEL will continue to use local generation sources efficiently to minimize possible power outages and maintain reliable power supply.

[Click to view the **CFE LETTER** and an **ENGLISH TRANSLATION**]

END