



A FORTIS COMPANY

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BEL Reports on Power System Performance

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) reports that bad weather and a fault on the transmission line between Mexico and Belize led to several outages over the weekend.

On Friday night, a ground wire broke away from a pole near the Buena Vista Substation and caused a fault on the transmission line between Mexico and Belize.

The outage was extended because the Gas Turbine is currently out of service for maintenance for two weeks. The restoration of the system is normally done with the Gas Turbine. However, because the Gas Turbine was out of service the restoration had to be coordinated with Belize Electric Company Limited and Belize Aquaculture Limited. This caused the restoration to take much longer than it otherwise would have been.

Hydro Maya Limited has also informed BEL that their generating equipment has suffered damage due to a mechanical failure and consequently will be out of service while the repairs are being completed.

On Sunday at 2:30 p.m., a lightning arrestor failed during a lightning storm that had passed over Belize City, causing an outage to the city. The faulty arrestor was replaced and power was restored by 5:23 p.m. to all areas in the city.

At 8:00 p.m. on Sunday, there was another weather related incident at Mile 8 on the Western Highway, which caused an outage to those communities on the Western

Highway from Belize City to Hattieville to Belize River Valley and also those communities from Mile 1 to Mile 3 on the Northern Highway. Power was restored at 8:40 p.m.

At 3:11 a.m. today, power supply was lost to those areas along the Southern Highway, from its junction with Hummingbird Highway to Sittee River Village. Power was restored to all areas by 4:23 a.m., except to Sittee River. Power was restored to this community at 2:10 p.m. The outage was the result of a tree falling on a power line in Sittee River during an early morning storm in the area. Power restoration was delayed because several large trees fell across the access road to the community and assistance was needed to remove the fallen trees.

BEL has also been notified by Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE) that they continue to experience generation problems. To date, CFE has been maintaining supply to Belize with minimal interruptions despite their generation problems; however, they have now advised that on July 15, they may have to take out another one of their large generators for maintenance. This can worsen the current power supply situation, which is already critical. BEL will keep the public informed of any further developments.

END