



A FORTIS COMPANY



*Wednesday, March 18, 2009*

## **BEL & Telemedia Work on Joint Project to Install Communications Cable on 115 kV Transmission Line**

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) in conjunction with Belize Telemedia Limited (Telemedia) has commenced installation of a Communications Cable on the 115 kV Transmission Line between Belize City and Belmopan City. The project will continue through to the end of April 2009.

BEL advises its customers that some short power outages have been necessary to facilitate switching during the undertaking of this project. BEL has been providing advance notice to customers of these planned power outages on an ongoing basis and the Company will continue to do so via print and/or electronic publications. Customers are also advised that numerous work crews will be visible along the Western Highway during the project and motorists are asked to take all necessary safety precautions when driving past work crews.

This fiber cable is the second Telemedia cable between Belize City and Belmopan City (in addition to Telemedia's existing underground fiber optic cable) and it provides increased resilience between these two important cities, at a cost of BZ\$4 million. It is an integral part of Telemedia's overall network expansion plans to deliver a full range of telecommunications services, including high speed Internet, to all parts of the country, including small rural communities and community schools and to provide the capability to meet the future demands of an e-enabled government and the wider Belize economy.

During the undertaking of this project, BEL will also take the opportunity to upgrade its Transmission Line Facilities to reduce the likelihood of outages caused by failures on the Transmission System.

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