



**A Fortis Company**

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**Full Tariff Review Proceeding Concludes – PUC Approves  
Tariff Structure Adjustment**

The Public Utilities Commission (PUC) has approved a tariff structure adjustment for electricity rates, effective, July 1, 2005 through June 30, 2006. The adjustment will see an average increase in rates by 4 cents per kWh to 39 cents per kWh.

On March 2, 2005, BEL requested an average increase of 5 cents per kWh, mostly to recover the extra cost of fuel which has been deferred to the Rate Stabilization Account (RSA) since 2000. As of June 2005, the balance in this account stood at \$22 million. Also driving the need for a rate increase are the rising cost of oil, increases in the cost of goods and services in Belize and an anticipated increase in the cost of power from Mexico.

In its final decision, the PUC also approved a reduction in the social rate threshold to 50 kWh per month. Previously, the threshold for social rate customers was 125 kWh per month. Reclassified customers will now be subsidized at 38 cents per kWh as compared to 25 cents per kWh for customers under the 50 kWh threshold.

“We recognize the challenges the increases present our customers,” said President and Chief Executive Officer, Lynn Young. “We also recognize the high expectations of our customers with respect to the reliability of our service. The adjustments will help us to maintain and improve our service.”

With the new tariff structure now in place, plans are underway to expedite several reliability improvement projects aimed at further reducing outages and improving service. BEL’s long-term generation plan is also to reduce dependence on oil-sourced power. BEL is working along with Belize Electric Company Limited, Hydro Maya Limited and Belize Sugar Industries Limited to bring on-line sources such as the Chalillo Hydroelectric project, the Hydro Maya project and the Cogeneration project, which will help to mitigate the effects of oil prices.

For more information, customers are asked to contact BEL at 0-800-BEL-CARE or 0-800-253-2273.

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