



A Fortis Company

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BEL Staff Working to Repair Damage to Transmission Lines

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) advises the general public that an act of vandalism to the Company's transmission lines resulted in a power outage affecting 95% of the country from 6:31 pm to 7:33 pm on Tuesday, April 19, 2005.

BEL technicians have determined that six (6) of the Company's poles supporting the 115KV Line from Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE), Mexico to the West Substation were cut by vandals, resulting in a disruption in power across the country. Power was eventually restored to all consumers in just over an hour. Currently, only Orange Walk and Corozal are receiving power from CFE, with the remainder of the country being supplied with power from the Gas Turbine, local diesels and Mollejon.

BEL employees are working vigorously to repair the damaged lines and restore power supply from CFE to the entire country. The Company expects that repairs will be completed and full service restored within 2 days.

Due to the fact that Mollejon does not have much water storage and the need to have available sufficient power during the peak hours tonight, BEL is forced to schedule power outages during the course of today. A schedule of those outages will be announced shortly. In the meantime, consumers are asked to take all possible measures to limit their use of electricity with a view to conserving energy.

BEL notes that the BDF is assisting the Company to prevent further acts of vandalism with BDF soldiers currently patrolling the transmission lines.

BEL also advises that the perpetrators of these criminal acts are putting their safety and that of the general public at risk by tampering with energized power lines. In addition, the resulting power outages carry cost implications, as damaged equipment needs to be replaced; efforts to provide the most economical power available are affected and crew time spent on emergency repairs is time lost for scheduled operations and capital works.

The Police Department is investigating this latest case of vandalism to BEL's power lines. In the meantime, the Company encourages the public to report any act of vandalism by contacting the nearest Police Station or telephone BEL's toll free number at 0-800-BEL-CARE or 0-800-235-2273. A reward will be offered to any person who makes a report on the perpetrators of these acts, which leads to an arrest and conviction.

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