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Generation Loss on Mexico's Electrical System Results in Nationwide Power Outage in Belize

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) advises the public that a nationwide power outage last night was caused by a loss of generation on Comisión Federal de Electricidad's (CFE) electrical system.

CFE reported that at 9:22 p.m. yesterday, they lost 150 megawatts of generation and this automatically de-energized the 115kV transmission line which is used to service Belize. This resulted in a collapse of Belize's entire National Electricity Grid. In addition, the entire Yucatan Peninsula, including all of Merida and Quintana Roo, sustained a total power outage due to the loss of generation.

BEL was able to restore power to all its service areas by sourcing power from the Chalillo and Mollejon Hydroelectric Facilities, BEL's diesel generators and the Westlake Gas Turbine Unit. By 9:55 p.m. power was restored to most feeders in Belize City and Ladyville, and by 11:07 p.m. power had been restored to all other service areas. CFE's supply was fully restored with limited capacity at 2:02 a.m. today.

Up until 10:00 this morning, CFE officials reported that they were still investigating the cause of their generation loss.

BEL regrets any inconvenience caused by this outage. For more information on scheduled outages, customers may call toll free at 0-800-BEL-CARE or 0-800-235-2273.

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