



A FORTIS COMPANY

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BEL Completes Preliminary Assessment of Damages to Power Supply System and Commences Restoration Efforts

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) has completed a partial assessment of its power supply system in northern Belize following the impact of Hurricane Dean to the area and has commenced service restoration efforts.

As of 5:30 p.m. today, power has been fully restored to Caye Caulker.

In San Pedro Town, BEL has restored service to approximately 50 per cent of the island. BEL should complete service restoration works in those areas up to Boca Del Rio by Thursday and up to San Pedro North by the end of next week.

In Orange Walk Town and surrounding areas, the substation should be energized by tomorrow which will allow BEL to initiate service restoration to sections of the area. Complete service restoration should be by mid-next week.

The system in Corozal Town and surrounding areas received the most damages and BEL expects to complete repairs and restore service to the area within two weeks.

Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE) has reported to BEL that the transmission line, which feeds power to Belize, suffered significant damages. Consequently, BEL has lost power supply from CFE and is now awaiting information from the Mexican utility on when it plans to reconnect to Belize.

Even with the loss of the CFE power supply, BEL has sufficient in-country generation sources to meet Belize's power demand for up to one month, providing the Chalillo and Mollejón hydroelectric facilities, Hydro Maya and Gas Turbine Unit all remain operational.

As the restoration works progress, there may be short outages in other parts of the country. BEL will provide updated information as needed.

With the hurricane now passed, BEL reminds residents in the northern districts of the following the safety tips:

- Report all fallen and/or broken lines or poles to BEL.
- Do not go near to and/or touch fallen or broken electric lines or poles.
- Do not attempt to remove any branches or other objects which may have fallen on the power lines or poles.
- Never raise any tall object near a power line. Carry it level with the ground and be cautious when removing water pipes and well casings
- Do not use electrical appliances that have been wet. Water can damage the motors in electrical appliances, such as freezers, refrigerators, washing machines and dryers.

For more information, please contact BEL as 0800-BEL-CARE or (0800-235-2273).

END