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BEL Recovers from 4 Acts of Sabotage over the Weekend

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) informs the public that four (4) acts of sabotage over the weekend resulted in several power outages and damages to the Company's transmission facilities in the north and west of the country.

An act of sabotage in the Cayo District on the night of Friday, April 22, 2005 caused damage to two poles supporting the 115KV Line from Mollejon. As a result, the entire country, with the exception of Ladyville, suffered power outages of 45 minutes on Friday night.

On Saturday night, there was a short countrywide outage as we lost our supply line from Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE).

Sunday night, the Company's 115KV Line was again targeted in the Corozal District with two separate acts of sabotage. At one location two poles were set on fire and about 80% of the structure was damaged. These acts resulted in a nationwide power outage that started at 9:25pm and lasted into the early morning when full power was resorted around 2:00 am.

BEL advises the public that it is now forced to schedule rotating power outages across the country over the next few weeks while the Company makes permanent repairs to these damages. These outages will be announced as plans are finalized.

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.

BEL encourages the public to report any act of sabotage by calling BEL's toll free number at 0-800-BEL-CARE or 0-800-235-2273 or contacting the nearest Police Station. 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.

BEL appreciates the efforts of the BDF soldiers who continue to patrol the Company's transmission lines, in an effort to prevent further acts of sabotage.

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