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A Fortis Company

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BEL Schedules Emergency Outages to Offset Problems in the Generation of Power

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) informs the public that it has been forced to schedule rotating power outages across the country as the Company works to tackle problems at its generation facilities. The first of those outages commenced at 10:00 am today, Friday, April 29, 2005 and will continue until further notice.

BEL is currently meeting 90% of its load demand due to electrical problems at the Gas Turbine, which began after the unit tripped on overload several times during the incidents of sabotage. These incidents also forced BEL to run down the Mollejon storage as the supply from CFE was cut off. The country is presently being supplied with power from BEL's diesel generators and Mexico's Comision Federal de Electricidad (CFE).

Specialists from General Electric Co. (GE), which is the supplier of BEL's Gas Turbine Unit, are presently assisting local technicians in repairing the problems at the Gas Turbine. With limited water available at the Mollejon hydroelectric facility, the Company is preserving the available water for use during the peak hours tonight.

The general public is hereby advised to expect emergency power outages. BEL continues to make every effort to minimize the length of these outages and restore full energy supply to the country. BEL apologizes for any inconvenience caused.

END