



**A FORTIS COMPANY**

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## **BEL Prepares to Meet Energy Demand as CFE Informs of Its Intent to Suspend Firm Energy Supply**

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) is working to secure sufficient energy supply to meet the country's peak demand of over 74 megawatts (MW) following a notice received earlier today from Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE) of Mexico that it will not be able to supply BEL with firm energy for the next four months, commencing May 8, 2009. During the dry season, BEL purchases as much as 43 MW of firm capacity from CFE.

In its notice, CFE explains that damage to major generating equipment in central Campeche, following the total system outage yesterday, has severely limited their capability to provide firm energy to the Yucatan Peninsula, which has forced that company to suspend the firm energy supplied to BEL. This damage was responsible for a national power outage in Belize.

BEL currently sources power from hydroelectricity, the West Lake Generating Facility, diesel-generating plants in Belmopan and Caye Caulker and from mobile units. Since hydroelectric production is less than it is in the rainy season, BEL will continue to use local generation sources efficiently to minimize possible power outages.

On April 6, BEL connected to Belize Aquaculture Limited (BAL) for the provision of power supply to meet system demand and to maintain system reliability. BEL and BAL signed a 15-year-term Power Purchase Agreement (PPA) in 2008 for the purchase of up to 15 MW of firm capacity and energy from its 24 MW heavy fuel oil fired plant located in the Stann Creek District.

BEL encourages customers to continue practicing energy conservation.

END