



A FORTIS COMPANY

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BEL Completes \$4.6 million Upgrade of Southern Transmission Line

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) has successfully completed a \$4.6 million upgrade to the Southern Transmission Line from 34.5 kV to 69 kV. The upgrade commenced in early 2005 and was done to meet load growth, improve voltage quality and reduce system losses in the area.

“We must keep pace with the demands and expectations of our customers,” said President and Chief Executive Officer Lynn Young. “With the completion of this project, we are better positioned to deliver improved service quality and reliability to customers in the area. The growing tourism and aquaculture industries in Southern Belize will particularly benefit as we are now able to easily meet their capacity and quality demands.”

With the completion of this project, BEL will now decommission the Independence Diesel Generating Station, consequently reducing carbon emissions and improving environmental conditions.

The first phase of constructing the Southern Transmission Line was completed in 1997 with the connection of Dangriga to the National Grid. In 2003, Independence was connected and the final phase was completed in 2004 with the connection of Punta Gorda. The upgrade required BEL to make modifications to the La Democracia, Mullin’s River and Dangriga Substations over the past year.

This upgrade is a major subcomponent of BEL’s Fifth Power Development Project (Power V) established to meet BEL’s Transmission and Distribution System expansion and upgrade requirements, improve service quality and reduce the frequency of power outages.

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