Fact Sheet

Seventh Power Project Caye Caulker Sub Marine Cable Project Fact Sheet

Caye Caulker's electricity load demand is increasing significantly, whereby its maximum load demand is predicted to be 8 MW by 2040 due to increases in settlement size and tourism. The island is not connected to the main national electricity grid but is supplied using diesel power generation. Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) aims to connect Caye Caulker to the main national grid power network to meet the required future electricity demands; improving upon the existing system reliability while ensuring a continuity of supply and reduced system losses. This will be achieved by installing a submarine cable between Caye Caulker and Ambergris Caye.

The key features of the project include:

- A 34.5kV Underground and Submarine Transmission Line connecting Caye Caulker to San Pedro for efficient power transmission.
- Construction of a Switching Station in San Pedro: Key node for transitioning from overhead to underground and submarine lines.
- Construction of a substation in Caye Caulker, designed to receive power from San Pedro and distribute it across the island.
- Submarine Cable Installation: 14.5 km cable to connect the two islands.

The project is on track for completion by early 2025, at which point Caye Caulker will be fully connected to Belize's national electricity grid.

The outcome of this interconnection project will contribute to strengthening the power supply capabilities of Caye Caulker and will provide economic, environmental, and social benefits compared with the continued use of the existing power diesel generators.

The existing diesel generators will remain on the island and will be able to supply electricity if the need arises. Additionally, the new gas turbine at San Pedro will serve as a backup to the national grid. Therefore, Caye Caulker will have three points from which electricity can be supplied, the National Transmission Grid, San Pedro Gas Turbine, and the existing generators at Caye Caulker.

During construction, there could be minor short-term impacts such as increased traffic and noise due to the movement of heavy equipment and supplies.

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Project Benefits to Caye Caulker

- ✓ Once operational, the new system will improve the electricity supply, efficiency, and reliability of Caye Caulker, and will provide a system that can take the future load growth demand that is projected for Caye Caulker.
- ✓ The current electricity needs of the island is 3 Megawatts. The island has a current capacity of 5 Megawatts which will increase by 17 Megawatts through the interconnection project.
- ✓ The new power infrastructure will improve power quality, reduce outages, and provide a stable electricity supply for future growth.
- ✓ Reliable electricity will boost the tourism sector, and local businesses, and support long-term development on the island.
- ✓ The reduction in diesel power generation will significantly lower carbon emissions and reduce noise pollution on the island.
- ✓ The cost of electricity will not increase as a result of the interconnection.

A Grievance Mechanism is being put in place to receive and address all stakeholder concerns and grievances resulting from the project.