



A FORTIS COMPANY

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BEL Responds to BEWU

A press release by the Belize Energy Workers Union (BEWU) today unjustly attacks the integrity of Belize Electricity Limited (BEL).

BEL has been holding a series of Employee Meetings to discuss the Company's application to the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) and to explain the Company's financial position. During the sessions held to date, in which Union Executives were present, healthy discussions took place and employees asked questions and provided comments on the situation. The sentiments in the BEWU's press release were not shared in these Employee Meetings.

During negotiations to review and amend the existing Collective Bargaining Agreement, the Union Executive had initially requested across the board salary increases of 25%.

BEL informed the Union Executive that it could not approve such a significant increase, since it is already having difficulties coping with increasing costs and Independent Job Evaluations have confirmed that BEL's salary increases have adequately met increases in cost of living. The Company conducts regular Job Evaluation and Remuneration studies and adjusts salaries regularly to ensure that salaries reflect increases in cost of living.

In December 2007, the Company offered to adjust salaries by 2% in addition to merit increases. This was refused by the Union and the Company proceeded to implement the 2% increase for management employees.

The Union Executive is now insisting that BEL agrees to a salary increase of 4.5% for non-management employees, retroactive to June 2000. BEL had already fulfilled this obligation in November 2000, which was an action item coming out of the 2000 Union Negotiations and cannot agree to such an unreasonable request.

With respect to the Union Executive's allegation that BEL illegally terminated a former employee, the Company clarifies that it has and continues to follow proper procedures when employees leave the Company either voluntarily or involuntarily.

END