



BELIZE ELECTRICITY LIMITED

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BEL Completes Major Reliability Improvements to its Belize City Power Distribution System

On Sunday, April 19, Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) completed major works to improve the Company's ability to maintain, upgrade or relocate key infrastructure in the Belize City Load Center with minimal power interruptions and respond to a catastrophic equipment failure that could result in the disruption of supply to Belize City for weeks.

The works included the use of a mobile substation at BEL's West Lake Facility and commissioning of the newly constructed Banak and Palloti substations located on Banak Street in Belize City and Mile 1 on the Philip Goldson Highway, respectively. This work was a part of BEL's Power Six Project funded by the Caribbean Development Bank (CDB).

The works proved timely, as BEL was asked to relocate two 115KV transmission structures on Mopan Street and Lake Independence Boulevard in Belize City to facilitate construction of major roadways under the Ministry of Works' Flood Mitigation Infrastructure Project.

Ordinarily, carrying out these works would have resulted in an 11 hour power interruption affecting all of Belize City. However, the Company chose to use this opportunity to test and commission the two new substations in order to limit the outage to one hour – 30 minutes each at the start and completion of works. Additionally, a small area in proximity to the Belize Civic Center, where one of these transmission poles was located, experienced a power interruption for the duration of works, as this could not be avoided.

BEL used this opportunity to conduct maintenance at its Magazine Road Substation, which, along with the 115kV transmission line, supplies almost all of Belize City. Therefore, one set of short power interruptions was required for both works.

BEL also mobilized crews from all over the country to upgrade high voltage power lines in the Coral Grove and Buttonwood Bay areas. These works required an 11-hour power interruption for customers in portions of these areas. These crews also served as contingency response teams in the event that some unintended power interruption occurred during the commissioning.

Unfortunately, during the commissioning of the new substations, an unforeseen overload of an underground power cable near the Cemetery Road roundabout caused a power interruption to about half of Belize City. BEL's crews responded and were able to restore power within a period of one to four hours.

While today's works caused much inconvenience to customers, the Company is now confident that its investment in the mobile substation and the new Banak and Palotti Substations have proven to make its electrical grid more reliable for residents in Belize City.

BEL thanks customers for bearing with the Company for the duration of these significant works while our teams exemplified our Values: *Reliability, Integrity, Teamwork, Respect and Passion for Excellence.*



Relocation of transmission structures on Lake Independence Boulevard



Maintenance of Magazine Rd Substation



Upgrade of high voltage power lines

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