



# BELIZE ELECTRICITY LIMITED

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*Sunday, March 22, 2015*

## **BEL Restores Power Supply following System Failure Responsible for Power Interruptions in a Major Portion of the Country**

Belize Electricity Limited (BEL) has restored power supply to the areas across the country, which experienced power interruptions earlier today, due to a system failure on the national grid.

In preparation for scheduled maintenance works in Ladyville this morning, a system failure was experienced at 8:40 a.m., which resulted in a power interruption to the entire Belize, Cayo, Stann Creek and Toledo Districts. At that time, only the Corozal District, Orange Walk District and San Pedro Town were connected to Mexico's Comisión Federal de Electricidad (CFE), which was undergoing scheduled maintenance on its system. The portion of the country, which experienced the power interruption, was being supplied by local generation.

BEL is still investigating the cause of the system failure.

Within an hour, BEL was able to restore power supply to a portion of the country using only the Gas Turbine at Westlake, since the other local generating plants experienced technical difficulties during the restoration. It was determined that only two of the three hydro plants at BECOL could be made available; further difficulties were also experienced in receiving power supply from BAPCOL. This caused a delay in full power restoration. The local generating plants were eventually brought back at 10:20 a.m. and restoration of power to the remaining areas was completed by 11:44 a.m., except for a small portion of the Corozal District, for which restoration is underway.

BEL apologizes to customers for the various periods of power interruptions experienced this morning and will provide an update regarding the cause of this morning's system failure.

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