

# Chalillo:

## The Way To Go



Belize City, Wednesday April 4, 2001.

The frequent blackouts being experienced by Belizeans nationwide in the last few weeks have once again brought to the fore the urgency of getting the Chalillo Dam project on line. BEL's CEO Lynn Young in a candid interview on LOVE FM's morning radio talk show on Wednesday morning pulled no punches in making it clear that with Chalillo on line, Belize would not be experiencing the current blackouts. The daily blackouts are caused by Belize's dependence on a supply of electricity from the Merida III line in

Mexico. The Merida III is kaput, not generating any juice, therefore the Mexicans are presently not in a position to provide Belize with any power.

Young, ordinarily a very calm, cool, composed and quiet individual, took-off the gloves and blasted certain groups and individuals who he described as standing in the way of Chalillo. Certain extremely focal expatriates have made Chalillo their personal crusade and whose opposition to Chalillo seems based more on self-interest than on fact. While BEL and the GOB

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remain committed to ensuring that all required Environmental Impact Assessments are carried out prior to project implementation, for some obsessed naysayers no amount of environmental studies is enough. They have a preconceived notion that Chalillo is evil and refuse to countenance any data that refutes their 'damn the dam' mindset. It is abundantly clear that Belize must secure its own source of energy supply and reduce our dependence on the ever increasing costs of oil-based energy.

Despite the naysayers who keep inventing one smoke-screen theory after another in their fixated agenda to turn the Belizean people against Chalillo, it is clear that consumers have had enough of that kind of 'cry-wolf' interference from outside forces with their own fantasy program. The reality is experts have long established that Chalillo is the way to go and now the evidence is in, there's no turning back. **Chalillo makes good economic sense, good energy sense, and good environmental sense.**

The alternative to cheap, renewable

hydropower like that which Chalillo will provide is more blackouts and higher electricity costs. The GOB and BEI find both blackouts and higher rates totally unacceptable alternatives. The commitment is strong, the science is good and the economics are right. Now is the time to move forward with Chalillo for the good of Belize and all Belizeans.

As for the small coterie of vocal expatriates, why don't they direct their environmental righteous indignation to the U.S. President, George W. Bush's refusal to sign the Kyoto Protocol. That protocol is an important environmental agreement among wealthy, 'First World' countries like the European Union, Japan and hopefully in time, the United States to clear up the atmosphere before the atmosphere becomes so polluted that life as we know it will no longer exist. Polluted atmosphere contributes to global warming and cancer, so why don't the environmental sensitive crew direct their poison pens and over-heated rhetoric to getting George W. to sign that very valuable Kyoto Protocol and stop meddling in the betterment of Belize and Belizeans?



*An aerial view of where the Chalillo Dam is planned to be built*

~~FR~~ WED, 11 APRIL 2PM Dennis  
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