

Fortis Company Wins Environmental Award for Hydro Development

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Newfoundland Power, a wholly owned subsidiary of Fortis Inc., the company that also owns the majority of shares in Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), has been selected to receive the Association of Professional Engineers and Geoscientists of Newfoundland (APEGN) Environmental Award for 2000.

Newfoundland Power was selected for the award because of its environmental achievements in the development of its newest hydroelectric plant.

Newfoundland Power's Rose Blanche hydroelectric plant, which is located on the island's southwest coast near Port Aux Basques, was constructed over a 16-month period. The \$14 million development, of which more than \$1 million was dedicated to environmental enhancements, has successfully reduced greenhouse gas emissions by displacing 38,000 barrels of oil annually, improved the natural environment of the Rose Blanche area, and improved water flow management of the Rose Blanche River.

"BEL is proud that its sister company has been named the recipient of this prestigious environmental award," says Lynn Young, CEO, BEL. "We believe that Newfoundland Power's experience and knowledge in hydro development can help our company as it explores the potential for hydroelectric generation in Belize and

strives to achieve a higher standard of environmental management."

Newfoundland Power has considerable expertise in the development of small hydroelectric generating developments. The company has 23 hydroelectric stations and has been operating generation facilities for more than 100 years. In addition, Newfoundland Power is currently in the final stages of registering its generation operations with internationally recognized environmental standards through ISO 14001.

"Newfoundland Power is recognized as a leader that provides power in an environmentally responsible manner," says Young. "We are very excited to be associated with a company with such an impressive record. We look forward to working with Newfoundland Power's experts to assist in elevating BEL's environmental management systems to world class standards, particularly as we explore hydroelectric generating potential in Belize."

John Evans, Vice President of Engineering and Energy Supply for Newfoundland Power says his company is very proud that their environmental efforts have been recognized by engineers outside the company. However, he is even more excited that his team of engineers will be working with BEL on hydroelectric prospects in Belize.

"At Newfoundland Power we insist that all our project developments be efficient and environmentally sustainable," explains Evans. "BEL expressed a desire to tap into our expertise to explore the hydroelectric generating development potential in Belize. As a result, we have been down to Belize and the prospects look promising."

"You can be assured that as a subsidiary of Fortis, any such development by BEL would be required to meet high standards of efficiency and environmental sustainability," says Evans.

The environmental award will be presented to Newfoundland Power at APEGN's Annual General Meeting and Technical Conference in Newfoundland on October 28, 2000.