

THE



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Chalillo Receives Environmental Clearance

But the Fight is not over - states Matola

The National Environmental Appraisal Committee (NEAC) announced this week that after several months of "diligently review" of the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) on the Macal River Upstream Storage Facility (MRUSF), it was decided to grant environmental clearance for the project to proceed. The NEAC pronounced it's satisfied that the benefits of the MRUSF project outweigh the environmental costs and that "most adverse effects can be mitigated and/or managed through the implementation of a sound environmental compliance plan".

The conditional of the clearance is the development and signing of the Environmental Compliance Plan (ECP), incorporating the mitigation measures identified in the EIA in addition to those recommended during the evaluation process. NEAC specifies the detailed mitigation measures, time and budget associated with their implementation.

NEAC also promises public hearings where information presented in the EIA and the decision made by NEAC, including the conditions upon which clearance is being granted, will be made available to the general public. But this says Ms Matola of CONGO not good enough. As public hearings

should be before not after the decision. The fight against Chalillo is now taken to Canada and despite BEL's assurance that the project commences in January of 2002, "it is not over until its over".

Cogeneration from Bagasse

In the meantime BSI and BEL say Chalillo and Cogeneration from Bagasse will compliment each other, that both are required in the short term, as two sources to supply the additional power

But the upgrading of the Tower Hill Factory and the building of the Cogeneration Plant will require a significant investment of money, expertise and equipment, which are not readily available in Belize. Therefore, BSI plans to seek foreign investors with co-

BTL New Rate Package

BTL has announced its new rate package which will take effect December 1st 2001.

Rates for the Belize City area will be increased while rates for calling the districts and long distance calls have been reduced. The reduction also extends to Cellular and Internet rates.

Rates paid for services will also be increased, this includes line installation, telephone set rental and line access and maintenance.

generation expertise to complete the project. Initiations between the Independent Power Producer and BEL have commenced to finalize the Power Purchase Agreement for the supply of power year-to-year to the national grid.

Belize Audubon Society Position on Chalillo

The Belize Audubon Society (BAS) say it conditionally accepts the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) for the Macal River Upstream Storage Facility (MRUSF). BAS was part of the team of technical experts who analysed in depth each section of the EIA and are satisfied that its initial concerns have been addressed sufficiently to support environmental clearance.

However, BAS still considers that the consultation process was not extensive enough as it was largely restricted to the Cayo district, and is in support of public hearings countrywide.

Fair a Success

The Chinese Food and Crafts Fair a tremendous success yielding BZ\$8,000.00, of which \$6,000.00 will benefit the victims of the Hurricane Iris through Belize Red Cross and \$2,000.00 will be donated to the Police Trust Fund.

