

POWER TO THE PEOPLE

"Respect for Man,
Bird & Tree
Makes for a Happy Life"
— Maya Saying

The MACAL

Bringing Power to the People

For many centuries humans have evolved and improved our standard of living and quality of life by good husbandry of power. The use of the wheel and fire changed the era in which it began.

Power has always been the main concern of civilization. Every community that controlled power moved ahead of the others, giving its citizens more options.

People improved their health and accumulated more wealth with the harnessing of cheaper sources of power.

The more power they had, the less resources they wasted and the greater the amount of people who enjoyed the finished products of the great industrialization of Europe and North America.

Power has been the deciding factor for factor for who have and those who do not have.

Global warming has showed us that not all uses of power are good. High dangerous emissions coming from petrol-based machines have wrecked havoc on the skies and the protective layers over the earth. All responsible government should seek to protect our great earth and do the best it can to lessen the impact of global warming.

Also true is that oil is not as plentiful as wind or water. Even countries blessed with an abundance of oil and natural gas such as Canada went ahead and built La Grand Complex starting in 1971 and still under construction embracing 68,000 square miles of Northern Quebec, an area as large as Belize. The plan was to divert several rivers into La Grande River with nine dams.

The Macal River is not as mighty as La Grande River in Canada but it is still important to Belizeans. Its steady flow can produce an average of 162 giga watt-hours of energy, reducing the cost of electricity, allowing many little villages to have access to light and energy to improve their lives.

Bottom line to the people is lower cost. The Chalillo Dam to be built on the Macal will lower energy and bring in new villages into the grid. It will allow us to be more competitive in our prices, thereby letting our exports earn foreign exchange instead of forcing Belize into paying large sums of money to import energy from Mexico and oil from the USA. At issue is whether small vested interest groups will try to side tract benefits from reaching the people. The critical issue is saving the environment while giving more power to the people. All this at a lower cost.

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