

Dear Reader

After a short break we have resume the deliverance of our monthly Newsletter. This issue will issue News from the Dominica Electricity Services Ltd, Caribbean Utility Company Ltd., and The Trinidad & Tobago Electricity Commission. Should you wish to contribute to this publication or to showcase your company's accomplishments events etc. you can do so by sending articles to fgonzague@carilec.org



CARILEC CONFERENCES THE 2006 ENGINEERS CONFERENCE

was held at the Hilton Trinidad Conference Centre from 24th – 26th July. Under the theme; "Deregulation and the Future of the Electric Utility Industry in the Caribbean"

The Conference was Co-hosted by the Trinidad & Tobago Electricity Commission (T&TEC). The team of T&TEC has always gone out of their way to ensure that CARILEC events are grand and memorable.

This year there were no exception, one hundred and fifty five persons attended the conference including twenty nine vendors displaying their products. The exhibitors included twelve (12) Associate Members and seventeen (17) Non-members.

The Keynote speaker was Dennis Pantin, Chairman of the Regulated Industries Commission and the RIC Executive Director.



The 2006 IS, CUSTOMER SERVICE & FINANCE MANGERS CONFERENCE

was held at the Sonesta Maho Beach Resort, & Casino in St. Maarten from the 21st-22nd September. Under the theme Synergy: Bridging the Gap Between IS, Customer Service and Finance to Enhance Efficiency and Effectiveness in the Organization."

This years Conference was Co-hosted by NVGEBE whose teamwork and dedication contributed to a well received and smooth flowing conference.

The conference showed signs of development with an increase in the number of participants and exhibitors. Thirty three persons attended the conference and the following companies exhibited; Itron, Advanced Utilities Systems, Split Rock Consulting, Milsoft Utility Solutions, Petelco and SPL.

The event included a cocktail, Opening Ceremony, Conference Sessions, a cruise on the lagoon, dinner at the Rancho's and finally an island tour which ended with shopping in St. Petersburg.

TRAINING SESSIONS

CARILEC conducted eleven training courses in the Month of September. These courses were hosted and supported by the Electric Utilities in Barbados, Nevis, Dominica, Tortola, British Virgin Islands, Grenada and St Lucia. One of the highlights of the month was a Caribbean Wind Energy Symposium which was held at the St. Lucian by Rex Resort, Reduit Beach from September 26 to 28, 2006. This symposium was organized as part of a Caribbean Wind Energy Initiative which was launched with co-financing from the Partnership Dialogue Facility (PDF) of the European Union Energy Initiative (EU EI) and from the German Government through its Technical Cooperation Agency (GTZ) in support of the development of wind energy projects in the Caribbean Region. The symposium was an attempt to share experiences, join forces and establish partnerships with utilities, experienced wind farm developers and operators and to develop policy frameworks to promote wind energy.

The symposium was declared open by the Minister of Physical Planning, Environment and Housing - the Honourable Ferguson John. During the symposium, energy experts from Europe, Central America, Caribbean Utilities, government agencies, and private institutions discussed the options and challenges for the utilization of wind energy in the Caribbean. It was established that wind energy is a very important renewable energy option for the Caribbean region to reduce the dependency on imported fossil fuels and to diversify the national energy mix. Discussions focused on technical requirements, policy framework conditions, project implementation, and approaches to financing wind power projects. Among the major challenges identified by Caribbean Utilities were capacity building and training, empirical approach to site selection, hurricane conditions, exposure to corrosive sea wind conditions; and the availability of

sufficient land with good wind conditions given smallness of size and other competing interests for land use for economic development.

A series of follow-up activities are planned to promote the implementation of renewable energy projects including wind energy projects.
Rufina Frederick



NEW APPOINTMENTS

Peter Williams, Managing Director, Barbados Light and Power Company Limited (1st July 2006) Mark King, Chief Operating Officer, Barbados Light & Power Company Limited (1st October 2006) Anthon Casperson, Chief Financial Officer, Aqualectra Richard Hew, President and CEO, Caribbean Utilities Company. Damian Obiglio, President & CEO, Jamaica Public Service Company Limited

NEW MEMBERS IN CARILEC

The Demerara Power Company Limited
Approved by the Board 5th May 2006

The Demerara Power Company Limited, with Wartsila as its major shareholder was incorporated on the 28th February 1994. The private corporation has a current staff compliment of fifty six (56) employees. The company is principally engaged in the operations and maintenance of Power Plants.

CUC EXPLAINS THURSDAY NIGHT'S WIDESPREAD POWER OUTAGES

Shortly after 7:00 pm on Thursday, 28th September, for approximately two and half hours, service to electricity consumers across the island were affected during an extraordinary lightning storm, which caused a system under frequency as a result of multiple strikes in various locations.

According to CUC engineers, the system under frequency protection system was activated, which is a normal occurrence during such storms as the protective devices in the Company's substations operates to stabilise the system by tripping distribution circuits to protect critical equipment and preserve the integrity of the network. Other protective devices at the power plant caused the shut down of some generating units when the circuits were tripped to prevent an island-wide blackout.

Service was restored to the majority of customers affected by the tripping of the distribution circuits by 8:30 pm while it took a bit longer to carry out repairs in some areas.

All CUC poles and hardware are grounded by a wire, which runs along the length of the pole and wraps around the bottom. CUC and Government's Electrical Code require customers to have a ground rod (a steel rod) installed at their service entrance (outside the building). The integrity of this ground rod should be maintained and can be evaluated by a qualified electrician. This rod provides protection but due to the potential of lightning there is never any guarantee.

A surge protector, which is much more sensitive, should be installed to protect critical equipment and large appliances. It is also recommended that customers utilize UPS systems (Uninterruptible Power Supply or battery power) to protect critical equipment such as computers and commercial brands are available locally.

"In our opinion, lightning storms have been more significant this year and this is based on the number of calls from customers reporting strikes in their areas. However, while the magnitude of the storm we experienced last night was not a common occurrence, our system withstood the effects very well and we were able to carry out restoration of service in a timely manner. We had a significant number of blown fuses and some transformers were damaged and required replacement," remarked Caren Thompson, Manager Corporate Communications.
Caren Thompson
Caribbean Utilities Company Ltd.



DOMINICA ELECTRICITY SERVICES LTD.

In July 2006, DOMLEC launched its online Bill Balance (<http://eaccount.domlec.dm>) called the E-Account. Customers can now view their electricity bill balances online and save them from having to call the Customer Service section. For a customer to be able to view their balances online, they must register and choose their own username and password. There is a different type of registration for customers with multiple accounts. The online Bill Balance was developed in house within the IT Department and was considered to be a major achievement. As a result of this in-house development of the E-Account, DOMLEC achieved major costs savings as a considerable amount was asked to develop this product using outside resources.

Carl Maynard
Dominica Electricity Ltd.

THE TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION

T&TEC is progressing steadily with the Prime Minister's National Street Lighting Programme. T&TEC, through its Street Lighting Implementation Unit (SLIU) was mandated to install 82,000 new street lights, and to upgrade 36,000 existing lamps from 70 W to 150 W. The 2-year Programme would run from December 2005 to 2007.

At the launch of the programme in December 2005, T&TEC's Chairman, Devanand Ramlal, highlighted the benefits of this island-wide illumination project. A major benefit of the programme is the elevation of the nation's street lighting system to international standards. On completion, the programme will effectively double the number of street lights throughout the twin-island republic. This immense initiative is targeted for completion by year ending 2007. As at end of September, 2006 a total of 69,000 streetlights were installed.

A crowning milestone of this programme was the recent lighting of the prominent Mon Repos Roundabout in South Trinidad, which took place on September 14. The Prime Minister of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago, the Honourable Patrick Manning, threw the switch, lighting 184 x 250 W and 5 x 600 W luminaries. In addition to illuminating the Mon Repos roundabout, these fixtures provide lighting solution for the San Fernando Bypass, from the Cross Crossing Interchange to Point-a-Pierre Roundabout, a distance of approximately 15 km.

The innovative architectural type lighting design incorporates 24 installations of twin 250W Neos lanterns mounted on sexton brackets and galvanized lighting columns, strategically positioned around the Mon Repos Roundabout. This architectural lighting solution is the first of its kind in Trinidad and Tobago meeting International Lighting Standards in Europe.

T&TEC RESPONDS TO EARTHQUAKE

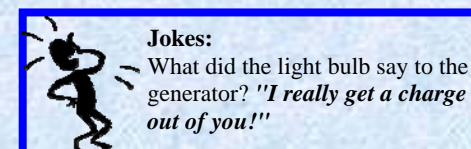
On September 29, 2006 an earthquake measuring 5.8 on the Richter scale rocked Trinidad and Tobago at approximately 9:08 a.m. The quake, the most intense to hit the island in the last five decades, resulted in the interruption of the supply of electricity to customers in the North Western end of Trinidad as well as along the East-West corridor. The electricity supply to Tobago was also disrupted.

T&TEC's General Manager, Mr. Indarjit Singh confirmed that the outages were largely due to the tripping of six of PowerGen's generating units. Five of the units were located at the Pt. Lisas Power Station and one at the Port of Spain Power Station.. T&TEC's engineers and technicians were able to restore the supply to the affected areas by 2:00 p.m. of the same day.

All employees were evacuated from the Commission's buildings to allow the Safety Teams to inspect the buildings for damage following the earthquake.

The earthquake was felt in neighbouring Grenada and Venezuela.

Annette Alexander-Andrews
T&TEC



Jokes:
What did the light bulb say to the generator? "I really get a charge out of you!"