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CARILEC Marks its 15th Year

Dear Reader:

Let me first take this opportunity to again thank you for your support not only during the past year but more importantly as the Organization celebrates its 15th year of operation.

As far back as 1992 when the first strategic plan was drawn up for the Organization a comment was made which still holds true today: "As a regional organization CARILEC has achieved more than most, a significant factor is that the members are comprised of committed utility executives who have taken a steady course approach to the development of CARILEC".

Several activities have been planned throughout the year to commemorate the achievements of the Secretariat and those pioneers who conceptualized the formation of such a unique grouping. The entire programme of activities can be viewed by visiting our website at: www.carilec.org

Offices Of The Secretariat To Be Re-located

At the 56th Meeting of the Board of Directors, approval was given to acquire a permanent home for conducting the operations of the Secretariat. The Formal Opening of this facility will form part of the 15th Anniversary Celebrations. To solidify this foundation a Headquarters Agreement has been drawn up and will be signed with the Government of Saint Lucia.

CARILEC Honours Retiring Directors

On the evening of Friday 6th February, 2004 retiring directors Joel Huggins former General Manager of St. Vincent Electricity Services Ltd. and Bernard Theobalds former Managing Director of St. Lucia Electricity Services Ltd. were honoured at a special Dinner marking the sterling contribution and achievements of these two stalwarts (1989-2003). The guests included: **Dr. The Honourable Kenny D. Anthony, Prime Minister of Saint Lucia who delivered a few remarks on behalf of the Government and People of Saint Lucia**. Also in attendance were Byron Blake, Deputy Director General/CARICOM, Chairman Lynn Young and Directors Jossy Lacle, Thornley Myers, Andrew Gittens, Trevor Louisy, Steven Martina and Associate Director Alternate Roel Verlaan. Other persons associated with the retirees and the energy sector was also invited.

First Ever Annual Magazine Published

The Secretariat is presently completing the mailing of its first ever Annual Magazine/2003 titled AGLOW, the acronym AGLOW reflects the Organization's role in: **Assisting in Giving Light to Our World**. The Secretariat also unveils its new Logo in this issue of the magazine. This initiative forms part of the whole re-branding and resurgence of the Organization. We look forward to your comments and invite contributions to the next issue that will highlight activities of the 15th Anniversary Celebrations.

New Membership Categories and Dues

The Board of Directors has approved a new structure of Fees and Dues for Full Members based on annual sales. This new Fees structure will not only encourage membership by utilities with low sales volumes but also enable smaller utilities to benefit from the expertise resident amongst our members as well as affording them avenues for interaction provided at our various conferences and on-line forums. Further details will be communicated to the individual members.

Honorary Membership Approved

Retired Directors and CEOs of CARILEC Member Utilities will have the distinction of Honorary Membership in the Organization. The Secretariat and the wider CARILEC community acknowledge their contribution over the years.

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ARTICLES

*Feasibility Study
of the Eastern
Caribbean Gas
Pipeline Project
Launched.*
12-13 Feb 2004
Trinidad

*Opportunity to
Develop
Renewable
Energy Project
Analysis Capacity*
24-26 Feb 2004
Barbados

*Pre-Paid Metering
Symposium*
8 February 2004
Dominica

Eastern Caribbean Gas Pipeline Project Launched in Trinidad

The Eastern Caribbean Gas Pipeline (ECP) is a project designed to deliver about 100 million cubic feet of gas per day from Trinidad & Tobago gas fields to the islands of the Eastern Caribbean terminating in Guadeloupe. The project was initiated and is being marketed and promoted by the Intra- Caribbean Gas Pipeline Company (ICGPC). The National Gas Corporation of Trinidad & Tobago, Guardian Holdings Company Limited (GHL) and the AIC Financial Group Limited has agreed to collaborate with the ICGPC to further develop the project over the next three (3) years.

To confirm the project's technical and economic viability, the principals engaged DORIS Inc. a deep-water engineering company, to conduct a full-scale feasibility study over the period February-May 2004. In an effort to sensitize key senior technocrats in electricity companies and in those Government Ministries which may be required to enact enabling legislation, the ICGPC held a workshop from 12-13th February 2004 at the Trinidad Hilton to launch the feasibility study.

The workshop provided a forum to discuss the critical technical, economic and security parameters which impinge on the success of the project. Participants were also taken on a field trip to offshore gas production and transmission facilities and gas-fired electricity generation.

Member utilities represented at the workshop were BLPC, LUCELEC, VINLEC, DOMLEC and GRENLEC. The Executive Director also attended on behalf of the Secretariat.

Opportunity to Develop RE Project Analysis Capacity

CARILEC was fortunate to be represented at a three-day Renewable Energy Project Analysis Training workshop last week in Barbados hosted by the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities and sponsored by USAID, the British High Commission and Natural Resources of Canada. According to our Training Manager, the workshop was a fitting introduction to the use of a very powerful software developed by the Canadian Government with the blessing of NASA, the World Bank and UNEP to enable planners, decision makers and industry professionals to better analyse the technical and financial viability of possible Renewable Energy projects. RET Screen (as the software is called), is a case-study based software which is used to undertake pre-feasibility assessment of RE projects. The software is attractive given its free availability on CD ROM and over the internet.

The Workshop was attended by Government Ministry officials, private industry, public utilities and private consultants from Belize, Saint Lucia, Dominica, Grenada, Antigua and Barbados. Participants were taken on a field tour of RE Projects in Barbados, which included a visit to the Ministry of Agriculture ice making project using a photovoltaic system.

Representatives from two (2) member utilities were in attendance viz. Dominica Electricity Services Ltd., and Barbados Light & Power Company Ltd. There is a dire need to develop renewable energy technology capacity among the membership to effectively appraise RE project proposals. To this end the Training Manager has initiated discussions with the training providers to conduct a special workshop for CARILEC within the next 2-3 months.

Dominica Electricity Services Ltd., introduces Self-Managed Meters

The Tennessee Valley Infrastructure Group (TVIG) and The Dominica Electricity Services Ltd. (DOMLEC) recently held a one (1) day Symposium on Pre-paid Metering. Pay-As-You-Go-Meters have been installed in Dominica as a pilot project and will soon be introduced to the country at large.

The Meters allow users to monitor and take control of the energy used, hence the preferred name – Self-Managed Meters. Installation of meters began in October 2003 and today new customers are being connected on a request basis.

The 2003 CEO Symposium was the forum at which the two (2) representatives Rick Ector (TVIG) and Murray Rogers (DOMLEC) first discussed the idea. Shortly thereafter, DOMLEC' and TVIG officials held further discussions and were soon on their way to start the project.

Both TVIG and DOMLEC are members of CARILEC and we are pleased to have facilitated such a strategic move for DOMLEC. The one-day Symposium was attended by representatives of Belize Electricity Limited (BEL), Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPSCO) and the Grenada Electricity Services Ltd. (GRENLEC). Cheryl Hosier, Business Development Manager for CARILEC was also in attendance.

Aqualectra is the only other member utility that has introduced pre-paid metering.

TRAINING COURSES TO BE CONDUCTED IN APRIL

Achieving Extraordinary Customer Service
13-14 April /Grenada

Achieving Extraordinary Customer Service
15-16 April /Grenada

Disaster Management Workshop
21-23 April/Grenada

Grounding and Bonding
29-30 April/Antigua

CONFERENCES

Energy Policy
5&6 April/ Saint Lucia

Electricity Stakeholders
26&27 April/
Saint Lucia



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SECRETARIAT VISITS



Team from British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation Visit the offices of the CARILEC Secretariat
Right to Left: **Leroy A.E. Abraham**, General Manager
Margaret Penn, Chairman of the Board of Directors
Troy Christopher, Board Member

On Friday February 27, 2004 the Offices of the CARILEC Secretariat was visited by a very distinguished contingent from BVIEC. General Manager, Leroy Abraham was accompanied by Ms. Margaret Penn, Chairman of the Board as well as Board Member Troy Christopher. The recently appointed board members took this opportunity to familiarize themselves with the workings of the Secretariat as well as obtain information particularly as it related to training opportunities for BVIEC. They were particularly interested in interactive type CD/Video conferencing type training. The Board members also expressed an interest in the work being undertaken by the Secretariat in the area of corporate governance.

New Captains at the Helm

The Secretariat takes this opportunity to welcome the following new Utility Captains, who took up the helm with effect from January 2004. You can be assured of the support of the entire CARILEC community.

Trevor Louisy	Managing Director	St. Lucia Electricity Services
Thornley Myers	General Manager	St. Vincent Electricity Services
John Channer	Chief Engineer & Manager	St. Kitts Electricity Department
David Dunbar	President & CEO	Grand Bahama Power Company
Kevin Basden	General Manager	Bahamas Electricity Corporation

New Members welcomed on Board

Roatan Electric Company , S.A. DE C.V. (RECO)

STATUS: Full Member (January 2004)

CORE BUSINESS: RECO is the sole generator and distributor of electric energy on the island of Roatan, the largest of the Honduras Bay Islands.

Cox Industries Inc

STATUS: Associate Member (January 2004)

CORE BUSINESS: Production and Distribution of treated wood products.

Delta Petroleum Caribbean Ltd.

STATUS: Associate Member (January 2004)

CORE BUSINESS: Marketing and Sales of Petroleum products in the Eastern Caribbean.

ESSO Standard Oil S.A. Ltd.

STATUS: Associate Member (February 2004)

CORE BUSINESS: Marketing of Petroleum products

KPMG HOLDINGS C.V.

STATUS: Associate Member (February 2004)

CORE BUSINESS: KPMG is primarily engaged in providing the following services: Accounting, Financial, Business, Legal & Tax Advisory, Security & Risk Management.

MEMBER INITIATED SURVEYS

During the past three (3) months individual members have called upon the Secretariat to conduct four (4) surveys on their behalf. These are as follows:

Accounting Treatment for Consumer Financed Extensions (December 2003)

The Secretariat conducted a survey on behalf of LUCELEC to determine the "Accounting Treatment for Consumer Financed Extensions" by other member utilities. Contributors – LUCELEC, PowerGen, BVIEC, Provo Power, VINLEC, GP&L & BEL.

Right of Way (February 2004)

At the instance of LUCELEC, the Secretariat conducted a survey of existing policies/guidelines of member utilities on the acquisition of "Right of Ways", commonly known as "Wayleaves" for constructing and maintaining external infrastructure. The results of the survey will be used by LUCELEC to develop its own "wayleaves" policies/guidelines. Contributors were Aqualectra, BL&P, CUC and JPSCO.

Pole Rental Rates (February 2004)

Belize Electricity Ltd. (BEL) is in the process of negotiating rental rates for the use of electric utility poles by telephone and cable companies. At the instance of BEL, the Secretariat conducted a survey of the rates charged by other member utilities. Contributors were Utila, Aqualectra, Grenlec, Nevlec, BEL and PowerGen.

Pension Funds Trust Deed (March 2004)

British Virgin Islands Electricity Corporation (BVIEC) is in the process of establishing a Pension Scheme for employees. The utility requested the assistance of the Secretariat in gathering information on the legislative provisions in the government Electricity Supply Acts of other members and on the structure of the Pension Scheme Trust Deed. Contributors were BL&P, BEL and CUC.

Benchmark Study in Progress

The Benchmark Study currently underway is nearing completion. May 2004 has been targeted for Presentation of the interim report. Seventeen (17) member utilities are currently taking part in this Study viz: [Anguilla Electricity Company](#), [Antigua Public Utilities Authority](#), [Aqualectra](#), [Bahamas Electricity Corporation](#), [Barbados Light and Power](#), [Belize Electricity Ltd.](#), [Caribbean Utilities Company](#), [Dominica Electricity Services Ltd.](#), [Grenada Electricity Services Ltd.](#), [Jamaica Public Service Company](#); [Nevis Electricity Company Ltd.](#) [N.V.ELMAR-Aruba](#), [N.V. GEBE](#), [Saint Lucia Electricity Services Ltd.](#), [St. Vincent Electricity Services Ltd](#), [WEB Aruba N.V.](#) and [WEB Bonaire N.V.](#) Questionnaires were circulated and have been returned to the consultants, who are now analyzing and coordinating the data.

2003 Tariff Survey

The collection of data for the compilation of the 2003 Tariff Survey is currently in progress. We solicit your corporation in ensuring that the requested information is available on a timely basis. Several improvements have been effected to the report, which now contains more analysis and explanatory notes. **Be reminded also that Copies of the 2002 Survey are Available for Sale.**

Time to Register ...

ENERGY POLICY CONFERENCE: "Towards an Integrated Energy Policy: Facing Challenges and Securing Commitment". **Target Grouping:** Policy Makers & Energy Industry Professionals . **DATES:** **5&6 April 2004**, Bay Gardens Hotel, Saint Lucia.

ENERGY STAKEHOLDERS CONFERENCE: **Target Grouping:** Electrical Inspectors, Contractors, Electricians, Electrical Engineers, Consultants and officials from the Bureaus of Standards. **DATES:** **26&27 April 2004**, Bay Gardens Hotel, Saint Lucia.

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