

November 6<sup>th</sup> 2009

**BARBADOS LIGHT & POWER COMPANY LIMITED  
RATE APPLICATION HEARING**

Mr. Chairman and Commissioners  
Fair Trading Commission



I hereby present my written closing statement.

BL&P is a monopoly as the sole supplier of electricity in Barbados, contrary to the various spins by their expert witnesses contradicting it.

It is like a cork (dollar) in water, it can not sink due to government guaranties and prudent management assuring shareholders a good return on their investment especially in today's economical climate.

I am very disappointed and disillusioned with BL&P that they have not 10 years ago aggressively invested in alternate power supplies i.e. wind power, especially since they consider themselves progressive now wanting to think 20 years ahead.

Some small countries today derive 18 to 20% of their total electrical consumption from wind power.

I question the necessity of installation of new diesel generators, which makes us vulnerable to the world markets oil prices.

I found Mr. Best statement in regards to cutting cost very unconvincing; he stated there was no cost cutting possible. I find it extremely hard to believe, that in a big company like BL&P there is no waste, which can be eliminated.

Mr. Camfields testimony was too close to the chest, a spin of what BL&P had paid him to present.

BL&P's missed opportunity for collecting Pole revenue seems very callous, brushing of a million plus in income as not worth collecting, it sure would have offset some rate increase.

Reading the transcript of Dr. Roland Clarke's closing remarks, I concede with his assessment that BL&P is its' own identity and their rate of return on investment should not be based on foreign data. Many Barbadian businesses would be happy with BL&P's rate of return.

I have a few suggestions for you to consider.

1. Small Domestic consumers (little poor old ladies) will barely be below 100KWH if they have a small fridge, as Mr. Worme admitted, so I recommend that the min. bar for domestic users be raised from 100 KWH to 200KWH.



2. High Demand metering is an unfair concept for small business only consuming small amounts of KW per month, but reaches the pick load once in awhile, and then have to pay the High demand charges for the next 11 months, my recommendation is that the high demand rate should only be charges for the month in which it has been reached.
3. There is also the issue of replacing the tag on the meter in order to set back the high demand to Zero, which in some instances has not been done for months, making it impossible to see when the 11 months are up. I recommend that the Tag number gets recoded on the monthly bill to guaranty it is replaced or that it states on the bill what the actual High Demand for that month is.

In closing I like to suggest that if BL&P is granted a rate increase, it be a small increase and that it does not take effect before the Barbados economy picks up, hopefully in 18 months, to lessen the impact on consumers, whom have already been hit with higher water rates, land tax increases, higher food prices as well as unemployment.

There should be a set time line for the life of the agreement now being reached between FTC and BL&P with a window for re-visiting procedures if the need arises, without having to have a full hearing which currently can only be instigated by BL&P.

I thank the Fair Trading Commission for allowing me to participate in this hearing.

Sincerely,



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