



GIBRALTAR ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY
Gibelec House - North Mole Road - Gibraltar

PRESS RELEASE

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The Gibraltar Electricity Authority regrets any inconvenience caused as the result of the power failure which affected the whole of Gibraltar. At 14.28 hrs Gibraltar suffered a total black out, due to a cable fault on the outgoing cable box of feeder S 68 at Waterport Power Station that supplies Western Arm. The fault caused both Waterport and OESCO power stations generating sets to trip on earth fault.

Isolation of the fault and restoration of supply was initially not possible because the cable fault had blown out part of the switchgear rear panel causing combustible material in the vicinity to be ignited. This smoke filled the High Voltage Switch room under the Control Room.

At approximately 15.20 hrs the fire was put under control by the Gibraltar Fire Brigade who also assisted with the ventilation of the switch room in order to allow GEA staff to start the repair work.

Due the damage caused to the switchgear panels Waterport Power station was totally out of action. Once OESCO was able to restart their engines power was restored to most of South district at around 1600 hrs.

GEA engineers managed to isolate one of the main switchboard panels which was not damaged by the smoke and additional consumers were provided with power at 1700 hrs. Work to restore the second panel which suffered the main smoke damage took about 2 hours until approximately 18.40 hrs when the remaining consumers were provided with electrical power.