



GIBRALTAR ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY
Gibelec House - North Mole Road - Gibraltar

PR: 218/208

Date: 29 September 2008

PRESS RELEASE

The Gibraltar Electricity Authority regrets any inconvenience caused as the result of the power failure which affected the whole of Gibraltar. At 08.30 hrs on Saturday 27 September 2008 Gibraltar suffered a total black out, due to a fault on the High Voltage distribution cable that runs from Orange Bastion Distribution Centre to Cornwall's Lane Substation.

During the night one of the electrical service pits had become flooded due to the heavy rainfall experienced. This caused one of the High Voltage cable to become totally submerged in water. GEA investigation suggests that the cable outer insulation sheath was probably slightly damaged causing water to permeate into the conductors which eventually led to a short circuit. This electrical fault caused both Waterport and OESCO power stations generating sets to trip on falling frequency.

Once the fault was identified and isolated at around 1000 hrs GEA engineers were able to start restoring power supplies. All consumers had their power restored by 10.20 hrs with exception of consumers fed from in Cornwall's Lane and Moorish Castle Substations. On restoring this Substation GEA engineers experienced overloading problems on the Network which caused various Districts to trip. The overload problems were resolved and full power was restored to the last consumers at approximately 11.20 hrs.