



***GIBRALTAR ELECTRICITY AUTHORITY***

***PRESS RELEASE***

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**Phase overload causes power problem at St Michael's Cave**

At approximately 21.20 hrs on Saturday, the incoming yellow phase was lost at St Michael's Cave. This was due to the yellow phase having been overloaded and blowing the 80 amps protection fuse in the isolator switch at Spy Glass switch room which is controlled by SERCO.

It is obvious that there has been a considerable lack of investment in the electrical infrastructure which supplies the cave and that this is a problem that the new Government has now inherited.

The incoming fuses at St Michael's Cave were checked and found to be functional. Additional checks by GEA engineers indicated that the fault was in the supply that is fed from Spyglass substation Low Voltage switch room, which is operated and maintained by SERCO. At this stage the fault could have been an overload, a cable fault or the switchgear (as it turned out to be).

The SERCO duty engineer was called out and at approximately 22.30 hrs, accompanied by the GEA duty engineer, managed to access the Spyglass switch room. GEA and SERCO engineers determined that the yellow phase fuse had blown. They then replaced the fuse and closed the fused switch to re-energise the supply to the Cave. However, despite replacing the fuse the supply to the Cave was not restored. The fuses were rechecked and found to be in working order. After further checks, it was established that the fused switch had failed and could not be repaired. In order to restore the three phase supply a decision was taken to reconfigure the three phase and connect the cables directly to the busbar by-passing the faulty fused switch.

Power was restored at 23.10 and the show continued at 23.15 hrs.