



WATTS HAPPENING

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO ELECTRICITY COMMISSION
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VISION - Powering the nation
into the next generation.

MISSION - To deliver
world-class electricity service,
through engaged and
empowered employees, using
clean, sustainable energy,
technologically advanced
systems and a highly reliable,
safe and modern electrical grid.

- Rousillac bypass work earns praise
- Central "levels up" on hotline work
- T&TEC flies the red, white and black for Independence



Show up and show off

The words “show off”, while typically carrying negative connotations, do have some positive aspects; the notion of displaying your work proudly. During the 2021 Engineering Conference Chief Technical Officer, Chrisalston Belle, said that the event was partly to provide a platform for engineers to “show off” their work. This was not a vainglorious exercise, but was intended to highlight the talent and successes of employees in the Division.

The period July to September provided us with some events that, similarly, served as a platform for staff to “show off”. Of particular note was

the rigorous work required to create an emergency bypass for the damaged Union-Gandhi transmission tower at Rousillac, even as the team was already well advanced with planning for construction of the additional Union-Gandhi 220 kV circuit, as well as the higher level of hotline work done by Distribution Central to relocate over 300 metres of high voltage lines. Not every single story ends up in print, and these two projects are just examples of the high level of technical work being done across the Commission.

Of course, while engineering unpins our bread and butter, other aspects of our service

inspire employees similarly. Such as the work of the IS and Commercial Departments to improve our direct customer service, with upgrades to the Customer Information System (CIS) and Customer Web Access (CWA) and, as evidenced from the continuous feedback from satisfied customers.

These stories are a timely reminder for all of us to continue to show up and show off!

COVER - The hotline crew from Distribution Central crew cut a striking picture while conducting line diversion works along Siskin Boulevard, Edinburgh 500, Chaguanas (see pages 4 & 18).

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Drone footage captured by Richard Singh, showing tower 68 after the failure caused by the land slippage.

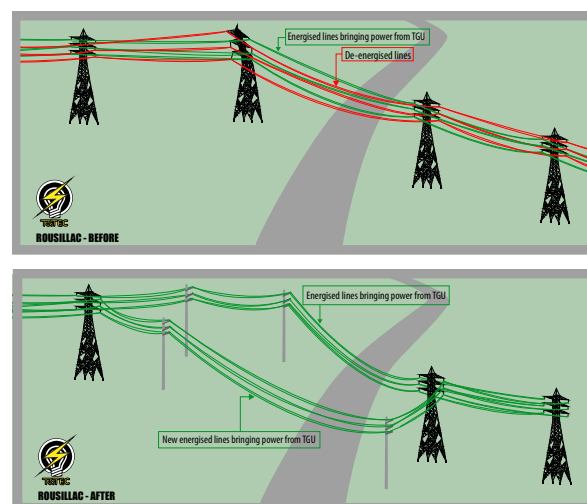
Rousillac bypass work earns praise

"I wish to place on record the Commission's appreciation for your stellar attitude and teamwork in resolving the dire situation in Rousillac over the period August 16th 2022 to August 21st, which allowed us to keep customers on supply while conducting major repairs to the Union Estate/Gandhi Village 220kV circuits."

This was the opening remark of a letter of commendation from the Chief Technical Officer to employees who were involved in the emergency project to bypass the section of the Union – Gandhi Village 220 kV double circuit tower line following a weather event.

The large number of outages on the evening of August 16 was the first indication that something was amiss. By the time the dramatic images of a broken T&TEC transmission tower became viral, it confirmed that the situation was serious, and it was left to the combined efforts of several departments to resolve it.

It unfolded the day before, with a land slip south of Tower 68 of the Union – Gandhi Village 220 kV double circuit tower line. The team at Transmission Maintenance was among the first responders on site, and a plan was immediately developed, should the tower fail. The next day, when the worst-case happened, approximately 30% of customers were affected by the subsequent outage. Power was restored



within six hours, with additional generation from PowerGen and Contour Global Trinity Power added to the available power from Trinidad Generation Unlimited on the other half of the said circuit. The plan, to construct a bypass 220 kV overhead line, was then set in motion.

While customers had a stable supply of electricity, work had to proceed quickly to forestall any complications with further land slippage.

Then Acting Manager, Transmission Maintenance Department Vishwanath Maharaj, said the project involved installing eleven 27-meter poles, one hundred and thirty-two 220 kV insulators and stringing 4.05 km of conductor. This allowed

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Central "levels up" on hotline work

What does it take for a Hotline Linesman to strap up every day and put his hand on infrastructure carrying 12,000 volts of electricity? For the uninitiated it sounds scary, but after years of experience Senior Supervisor Anil Harrilal is pragmatic, "we are conditioned to immediately go into focus" and do the job, he said simply. This does not diminish the danger of hotline work however and Mr Harrilal made it clear that "your frame of mind must be sound".

While hotline (aka live-line) work is commonplace in T&TEC, a recent series of projects that required the relocation of over 300 metres of high voltage lines over approximately 40 feet created a stir in the Central Area. Typically, relocating a live line is done at distances less than five feet.

The job sites were visually impressive - two or three aerial lift trucks positioned with booms extended and buckets outfitted with jib and wire holders; linesmen in the buckets protected from head to toe by helmet, insulated gloves and shoulder-length sleeves. Before even getting into the bucket they must intimately know, check and test all tools and equipment. In the air, each movement is slow and calculated. The sweltering heat is made worse by the rubber insulated gear, but the Commission's Heat Stress Policy

mandates breaks to cool down if the Linesman is becoming overheated.

Detailed planning and full compliance with the Commission's 12 kV live-line safety rules are critical for the degree of accuracy needed for such jobs. The projects were completed in July and August. Project Lead, Overhead Lines Maintenance Engineer Stephen La Guerre and Senior Supervisor, Mr. Harrilal, who spearheaded execution, conducted site visits with the respective crews days in advance to determine each person's role and function. With some locations requiring three aerial lift trucks, arrangements were also made with the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service to manage the vehicular traffic. Mr. Harrilal also explained that unlike a standard short distance hotline relocation, these jobs had further considerations like the exact positioning of vehicles, ensuring that wires didn't shake too much while moving, splicing wires and then moving them over the further distance.

Four of the jobs - Egypt Trace, Endeavour; Edinburgh 500, Chaguanas; Hassarath Road, Cunupia and Balmain, Couva - were undertaken to improve public safety by extending the

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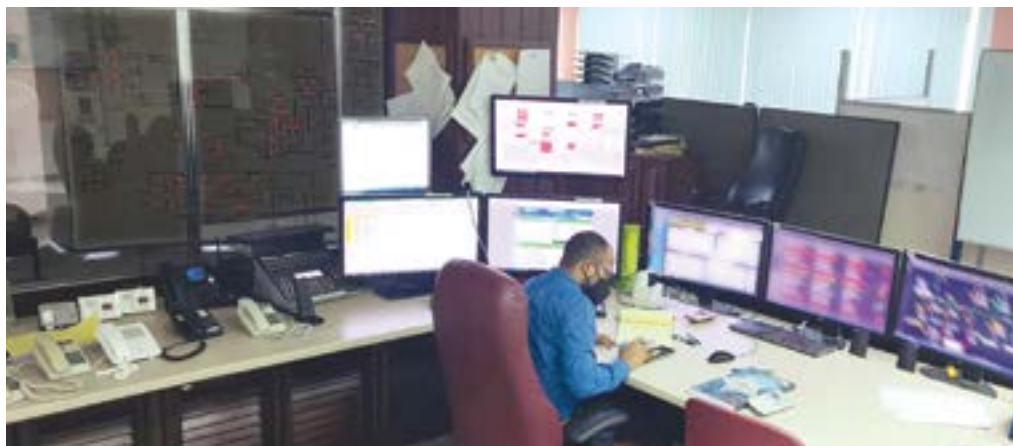
(From left to right) Hotline Supervisor, Raymond Ramlal; Driver - Aerial Lift Truck, Noel Bascombe; Linesman 'A' Hotline, Dwayne Peters and Linesman 'B' Hotline, Afraz Ali.



(From left to right) Hotline Supervisor, Wilfred Babb; Linesman 'A' Hotline, Sheldon Joseph; Driver - Aerial Lift Truck, Kent Subero; Linesman 'B' Hotline, Darryl Ganga; Linesman 'A' Hotline, Mahendra Sankar; Driver - Aerial Lift Truck, Sherwin Steve Francis; and Hotline Supervisor, Karan Ramjewan.



Control room workers back together in one space



An employee reviews some documents at his work station in the Control Room.

Control Room employees who operated from its back-up location during the pandemic have returned to base with their colleagues at Mt. Hope. The employees – six Control Operators on shift and on occasion, one Control Operator – worked remotely from a Back-Up Control Room at a secure location, and moved back to the main Control Room in June after pandemic restrictions were relaxed.

The decision to split the shift control operations, with Shift Control Engineers working at the Control Room and Operators at the back-up location, was taken to minimise any fallout from a possible COVID-19 outbreak within the department. The seven employees took up duties for two periods during

peak waves of the pandemic – August 2020 to October 2020 and May 2021 to May 2022. According to John Colthrust, Manager, System Control and Generation Interface, the Back-Up Control Room is a long-established arrangement as part of the Commission's business continuity planning. "Before the pandemic there had been a system of twice annual drills on the transfer of system control operations," he said. After some reconfiguration and welfare upgrades (kitchenette, storage, etc.) the space was made ready for "extended continuous occupation".

The Back-Up Control Room required one person per shift which, Mr. Colthrust explained, presented some challenges for communication between

the Engineer and Operator. Using Microsoft Teams to discuss decisions and actions in a time sensitive situation, such as requesting additional generation or disconnecting a circuit, made operations much more difficult and prone to errors, "and therefore far more stressful," he said. Effective communication was further hampered by "the [absence of] visual cues...body language, facial expression and, to some extent, vocal intonation, and the inability to simultaneously view physical documents." These shortcomings were especially noted during the island wide blackout on February 16, when the Operator on duty felt "cut-out of the restoration effort." Despite the challenges, the experience demonstrated the Department's readiness to handle emergencies and it remains fully functional and able to facilitate full system operations in such events.

For now, the Operators are "overjoyed" to return to normal operations and once again safely interact with their Control Room colleagues.



Customers in north Tobago see improved supply

The project to re-engineer and upgrade the Northside 12 kV feeder in Tobago was completed on 8 May, increasing the reliability of the electricity supply to almost 5000 customers from Runnemede to Campbleton, Charlotteville.

The project involved relocating a 21-kilometre section of the Northside 12 kV feeder out of the Scarborough Substation which, at approximately 45 km, is the longest in Trinidad and Tobago. The feeder was initially designed and constructed with numerous sections from ridge to ridge, through the forest. The system's performance deteriorated significantly due to age, corrosion and thick vegetation, causing consumers to experience periodic outages and voltage fluctuations.

The redesign brought the entire feeder along the roadway, utilising a combined total of approximately 35 km of bare and fully insulated high voltage, bundled conductors. The entire feeder is now longer than when it ran ridge to ridge.

The higher capacity conductors will accommodate the growing load in villages such as Castara, a burgeoning and thriving tourism hotspot. It also improves the network's reliability and stability, allowing faster response and restoration times. Additionally, crews can now more easily access the line, facilitating inspections and maintenance along the routes and accommodating the rise in the number of direct connections to new consumers. Another advantage of this project is that it has a lower

environmental impact, reducing line clearing requirements.

Completion of the project, which started in 2014, was delayed in part due to issues with the supply of materials and labour. Area Manager Kendel Francis, expressed congratulations to the teams who worked on the project over the period, in particular, those who saw it to fruition: Assistant Area Manager and Project Manager, Narendra Biptah; Technical Assistant I, Ricardo Dillah; Engineer II Adrian Warren; Senior Supervisors, Vaughn Aberdeen and Paul Dempster; Project and Construction Supervisor, Curtson Thomas and crew; Cable Supervisor, Stefan Quashie and crew; Overhead lines Maintenance Crew Supervisor, Terry Phillip and crew; and Lift Truck and Borer Operator, Mckoy Murray.

Upgraded service centre for Marabella

The recent relocation of T&TEC's Marabella Service Centre was warmly welcomed by its employees and customers. The Centre was previously situated at #13-15 Premier Street, Marabella, for over 20 years but officially opened for business on July 4 at #197 Southern Main Road, Marabella.

Head Office's Commercial Officer, Brian Bachoo, told Watts Happening that although the primary reason for the transfer was the need for a more spacious location, the move also "provides more visibility to T&TEC because we are now in the main area."

Furthermore, Mr. Bachoo stated that the reception to the renovated Marabella Centre

has been favourable. He described employees as happy and open to the move along with the customers, as the new location is more convenient, where "customers, especially those who walk to the Centre, have easier access to the building."

Aside from the significantly greater capacity now enabled, Mr. Bachoo also highlighted that the infrastructure's amenities are "much more modern and up-to-date, as is the office design."



Engineering 101

Class is in session! Welcome to ENG. 101, where we simplify the electricity-related topics that make us non-engineers go "Eh?!"

We start our series with a burning question - How is natural gas converted to electricity?

We know that approximately 7% of the country's natural gas supply is used for power generation, i.e. is burned as fuel to generate electricity. But how is this done?

1 A gas (combustion) turbine is connected to a generator. A turbine is an engine (similar to an aircraft jet engine), that uses pressurised gas to spin and generate electricity.



2 The natural gas is mixed with a pressurized stream of air and burned as it flows through the turbine. The air, now hot, is allowed to expand, causing the shaft of the turbine to spin. This shaft, in turn, spins the generator.



3 In the generator, magnets spinning past wires create an electrical current. Transformers boost the voltage for transmission over the electricity grid's high voltage power lines.

4 There are two power plant setups using gas turbines: simple cycle, the type described so far, and combined cycle. A combined cycle gas plant is a simple cycle plant that has an added steam turbine, with its own connected generator. These are more efficient as the hot exhaust from the simple cycle section is used to boil water to make steam which turns the steam turbine and its generator (more power for no added fuel - talk about extreme recycling!)



T&TEC has two combined-cycle plants among its Independent Power Producers – PowerGen's 234 MW combined-cycle plant in Penal and Trinidad Generation Unlimited's (TGU) 720 MW Combined Cycle Plant, commissioned in December 2012. With TGU's introduction, there was a noticeable reduction in carbon emissions as a result of greater fuel efficiencies. Our planet certainly appreciates this! Now you know!

T&TEC sensitises public institutions on energy conservation

Under its strategic objectives, T&TEC supports a green environment through clean, sustainable energy and the reduction of energy consumption, to preserve our natural gas reserves. In this regard, additional steps have been initiated through an exercise to improve energy conservation and energy efficiency at government-owned buildings.

The initiative, to sensitise ministries and state entities on the importance of energy conservation and the use of energy efficient fixtures and equipment to improve efficiency, is being managed by a team of engineers from the System Planning and Research Department, led by Manager, Trevor Babwah. Discussions and site visits were held with officials from the different entities to observe their operations and make recommendations.

During the period December 2021 to February 2022, the T&TEC team conducted assessments at the Water and Sewerage Authority (WASA), St. Joseph and the Inland Revenue Division (IRD), Government Campus Plaza. The team looked at critical aspects of conservation, like regulating air conditioning, quantity and type of lighting, appliances, computers and various equipment. Both WASA and the IRD have already implemented several energy conservation initiatives, however, T&TEC made recommendations for further improvement, including a 100% change out of fluorescent lighting fixtures to LEDs and turning off their central air conditioning units and chiller systems one hour earlier.

Calculations showed that for the larger building, these simple changes could result in an annual savings of approximately \$130,000. These actions, if replicated across all properties, would have a significant cumulative benefit. The team concluded that if these practices are

mirrored throughout all WASA's properties and all four buildings of the Government Campus Plaza, "the cumulative effect could result in significant savings and reduction in the quantity of natural gas used to provide supply to these entities."

Apart from switching to LEDs and turning off the AC units earlier, some other T&TEC recommendations included:

- Turning off the office lighting and shutting down all computers at the end of the workday.
- Adjusting the building's AC thermostat, by setting it upwards one to two degrees.
- Installing vacancy/occupancy sensors in washrooms, kitchens, etc., to activate lighting only when needed.
- Routinely check for leaks to ensure water pumps do not run continuously.
- Sensitising all building occupants on the conservation recommendations.



Subsequent to the meetings with WASA and the IRD, online discussions were held with other state enterprises, including the Eric Williams Medical Sciences Complex, Housing Development Corporation, Trinidad and Tobago Prison Services, Heritage Petroleum, Ministry of Sport and Community Development and the Ministry of Education (Learning Resource Centre and District Office, San Fernando), with a view to reducing energy consumption and operating costs.

Technological upgrades to improve customer service

With additional features for customers and greater functionality for employees, the recent upgrade to the Banner Customer Information System (CIS) and Customer Web Access (CWA) not only improves the system's efficiency, it enhances the overall customer service experience. Combined efforts between the Information Systems (IS) and Commercial Departments were behind this latest initiative, which was necessary to improve customer services, both online and in-person, and the timeliness of monthly processing and reporting.

The upgrades, which went live on May 26, fall in line with T&TEC's strategic objective to implement "appropriate IT solutions" to achieve success, and call upon another objective – to develop "multi-skilled...self-motivated and productive" employees of the two Departments.

According to Technical Lead, René Labban, the IS Department was tasked with improving the "security posture" of the Banner application, allowing it to fully utilise available security enhancements. "We have



Sub-Section Leader, Commercial, Riselle Rochard, leads her colleagues in functional testing and training of the new system.

now moved to more current hardware technology, which is faster and cheaper to maintain," he said. Employee sign-in protocols have been simplified, while allowing IS to better manage security. The CIS can also now be opened in more browsers, in addition to Internet Explorer. The upgrade also includes enhancements to the Customer Web Access portal, which is now mobile-responsive, so accessing the site on mobile devices is more user friendly.

The Commercial team applied functional value – testing and training – which were vital to ensure that customers and employees reap the benefits of the upgrade. "[Our role

was] to conduct testing of all screens, processes and reports within the Banner application, training for all Commercial employees...and prepare documentation for user procedures," explained Functional Lead for the project, Marc Nunes. Apart from better access to the CWA on mobile devices, customers are now able to add additional email addresses for their e-bill notifications, "[where] the older version was only able to accommodate one e-mail address." They can also personally update their credit card information in the application.

Employees who use Banner can enjoy additional features

like the ability to sort, filter and export data to a PDF or Microsoft Excel document, view a graphical image of a customer's historical billing and consumption data, create 'favourites' or shortcut icons to their most frequently used screens, and access customer data easily using the new Account Focus function.

With the dynamic nature of technology, the upgrades to the Banner CIS and CWA demonstrate the ability and synergy of the two teams to respond to the evolving needs of internal



A screen shot of the Banner interface, showing the new Account Focus function to better access customer data.

users and customers. The project team was led by Commercial Manager, Rodney Latchman, and included employees from IS Software Services, System Administration, and the Commercial Department.

Rousillac bypass work earns praise *continued from page 3*

them "to bypass the section of the Union – Gandhi Village 220 kV double circuit tower line between Towers 66 and 70." By Sunday August 21, the transmission line was completed and the Union – Gandhi Village #1 220 kV circuit was taken out of service to continue the restoration works. The ill-fated Tower 68 was safely taken down the next day.

Mr. Maharaj credits the overhead lines team from the Transmission Maintenance Department, together with their counterparts from Distributions Central and South, for their commitment in constructing the bypass line within five days. Support was also received from external contractors. "Engineers, Senior Supervisors, and crews ... showed a high level of commitment in working towards restoring the 220 kV overhead line circuit," and "a high level of skill" was exhibited by the Linesmen who constructed the bypass 220 kV transmission pole line during rainy conditions, in muddy terrain. He said the latter was notable as

this was the first pole line constructed in the Commission at that voltage, using 220 kV tension insulators. Such a project, it was noted, would normally be completed using foreign-based contractors.

The Union – Gandhi Village #1 220 kV circuit was returned to service on August 25. Towers 68 and 69 are scheduled to be replaced by the Transmission Development and Engineering Services Department as part of the larger, ongoing project to construct the Union/ Gandhi 220 kV circuit.

Mr. Maharaj also commended the other key Departments involved, including Facilities, System Control and Generation Interface, Procurement and Supplies, Security, Health, Safety and the Environment, System Planning and Research Department and Protection and SCADA. Special mention was made of their Area Administrative Officer, Michelle Cooper and Allison Oliver (then acting), for the assistance provided to workers on the field.

60 years on, T&TEC continues to fly the red, white and black



As Trinidad and Tobago marked 60 years of independence, T&TEC joined with the rest of the country to display national pride in a manner befitting the splendour of its diamond jubilee celebration.

The customary decorating of T&TEC's buildings in national colours heralded the celebratory months of August and September and on T&TEC's social media pages and website, Independence-themed advertisements and content depicted its role in powering the nation "from 1946, through independence and a new millennium."

Among the content were short videos of employees narrating historical tidbits to highlight some of T&TEC's achievements since 1962. These were particularly well received by the online public, as the seven employees shared that they were each born in "the same year of our nation's independence." The willing volunteers recounted some little known milestones, such as T&TEC's role in the creation of the National Gas Company; the difference between PowerGen and T&TEC; and who formed the T&TEC Cadet Platoon.

The Commission also featured in a historical video feature, a collaboration with the

Ministry of Public Utilities, which showcased T&TEC's contribution to national growth and development over the 60 years. This included the industrial boom of the 1970s, generation and transmission of power to Tobago and initiatives undertaken in collaboration with the MPU, such as rural electrification, house wiring and public lighting. T&TEC's role in the future of electricity and renewable energy was also highlighted.

After a two-year hiatus, the Commission's road race also returned, in commemoration of the jubilee celebration. 60,000 Miles to Independence was opened to the public as a virtual event and generated fun rivalry among staff (see page 14).



Photo captures behind-the-scenes action during the shooting of the Ministry of Public Utilities' independence video featuring T&TEC.

On the cultural front, T&TEC Tropical Angel Harps Steel Orchestra (TAHSO) hosted a six-part free community concert series, which started on August 13 and continues until the end of November. The series sought to reintroduce the band to its neighbouring communities and inject positivity into its homebase of Enterprise. Pan Trinbago President,

Beverly Ramsey-Moore, noted at the formal opening that "pan is the community's soul". She stressed that "within this space [pan yard] there is no violence" and encouraged parents to take up the opportunity for their children to join the

band. In addition to learning to play pan, children are exposed to support through vacation camps, learning competitions and mentorship throughout the year; activities that are expected to restart with the lifting of Covid-19 social restrictions, said Band Manager, Clarry Benn.

In support of a historic independence theatrical production, T&TEC was a sponsor of the play, "For the Love of Liberty," staged by the National Library and Information System Authority, NALIS. The play re-enacts some of the events leading

up to August 31 and according to NALIS, "will serve to inform and educate all our citizens about the significance of gaining independence." It ran on September 27 and 28 at the National Academy for the Performing Arts and was written by poet and award-winning playwright, Pearl Eintou Springer.

Gail Lewis-Britto, Customer Services Officer

Did you know that in 1962 T&TEC recorded its 100,000th customer? It also marked 10 years of electricity in Tobago.

1962 also saw T&TEC moved from under the Ministry of Industry, Commerce, Tourism and External Communications to the Ministry of Public Utilities. The Honourable Kamaluddin Mohammed was its first Minister.



Nerina Garcia-Ramsammy, IT Support Supervisor

Did you know that T&TEC once operated one of the longest alternating current undersea cables in the world?

In 1965 Trinidad delivered electricity to Tobago for the first time via a new 23-mile submarine cable from Toco to Milford Bay. This was done because it cost much less to generate power in Trinidad and transmit to Tobago.

The 3.1 megawatt Power Station in Tobago was converted to a standby facility.



Clint Pamphile, Meter Reader

Remember the PowerGen B Power Station on Wrightson Road, which was shut down in 2016?

In 1966, that power station was commissioned under T&TEC by Prime



Minister Dr. the Hon. Eric Williams, "to provide a basis for an industrial economy and for the highest possible standard of living for the citizens of Trinidad and Tobago."

This power station was crucial to the development of the country and was an important city landmark.

Garth Garraway, Industrial Relations Manager

Did you know that the NGC was created mainly to provide gas to T&TEC for generating electricity?

In 1975 the National Gas Company of Trinidad and Tobago began operations, following the Government's take-over of T&TEC's gas pipelines. T&TEC's then Gas Engineer Knollys Ahloy became NGC's first manager.

Before NGC, the Penal power plant received gas from the United British Oilfields of Trinidad Limited, making T&TEC one of the first to buy gas for commercial use.



Did you know that in 1967, T&TEC formed a cadet unit, with apprentices of its Trade School?

It comprised Unit Commander, Mr. Martin Francis, Adult Warrant Officer, Mr. Stephenson Sargeant, and 25 cadets. The cadets participated and gained top marks in local and overseas exchange programmes, rifle shooting

continued

competitions and the annual Duke of Edinburgh Awards Scheme.

While the platoon is long disbanded, physical training remains a core component of T&TEC's craft training programme today.

Larry Pinheiro, Systems Analyst III

Did you know that T&TEC was the first local organisation to introduce computerisation of its operations?

In 1963, T&TEC installed the first mainframe computer in industry in the country, making T&TEC pioneers of the use of electronic data processing equipment. The IBM machine was used to store data on customer accounts, process bills and even resolve engineering problems.



Stephen Dedier, Senior Supervisor

Did you know that T&TEC has provided over 400 recreation grounds with lights?

In 2005 the national street lighting programme was launched under Prime



Minister, the Hon. Patrick Manning, to provide full illumination of highways and major roadways.

In 2008 the programme was expanded to include recreation grounds and other public spaces.

Wayne Chuckaree, Maintenance Technician I

Do you know the difference between T&TEC and PowerGen?

In 1994 T&TEC, which was responsible for generating, transmitting and distributing electricity, was restructured. Its generation assets were divested to form the Power Generation Company of Trinidad and Tobago (PowerGen). PowerGen now generates electricity for T&TEC, which T&TEC transmits and distributes to all customers.

Some of T&TEC's workers were transferred to continue running the power stations under the new company.



Ready for D Road

In-house competition saw positive emotions running high as employees challenged their colleagues to daily long-distance runs and teams marked their rivals early, as T&TEC's 60,000 Miles to Independence' virtual Road Race kicked off on August 27.

In commemoration of the nation's 60 years of independence, and having lost two years of in-person activities due to the pandemic, T&TEC held the first of its kind event from August to

October. The virtual race invited all citizens to run or walk a minimum of six miles to receive a commemorative medal and achieve a national goal of 60,000 miles. However, the action did not stop there. Individuals and teams also competed for one top category prize for the most miles clocked.

Response to the event was overwhelming, with almost 600 registered participants



comprising individual runners and over thirty registered teams. Internally, office banter amplified, and the leader board soon became hot with persons documenting their achieved miles daily, and after-work sessions became literal clockwork. Participation in the event created an energised environment, leading persons to adjust their daily exercise routine to incorporate morning, lunch time and extended after work hours for walking. All in the name of making those miles to beat their competition.

Two “Red Short Pants” pop-up runs were held to accommodate smaller groups of persons who wished for a traditional race experience. Stephon Felmine (“the alphabet guy”) created a buzz online when he went live via Facebook while hosting the first event at the Queens Park Savannah. For the curious, the red shorts were meant to display national pride, but to also pay homage to a long-time T&TEC runner.



GM, Kelvin Ramsook, in his trademark red shorts, the inspiration for the pop-up races.



Winners row for the first Red Short Pants pop-up event on September 15 at the Queen’s Park Savannah. Employees Kenwyn Hernandez (2nd from left) who placed 3rd overall and Jon Mahabir (right) were among the top T&TEC finishers. They are joined by external participants (from l-r), E Ramirez-Jacob, R. Manswell, S. Mahabir, J. Lynch and C. Goodial.

Of note was the increased physical activity among employees, which effected a positive and more active lifestyle change. This real goal made all participants winners. Congratulations to all!

#ttcvirtualrace #ttecindependencerace
#60milestoindependence

Journeys to redemption

Vacation trainee, Chloe Tenia, a budding spoken-word artiste penned a piece on emancipation, inspired by the growing, general embrace of African culture, particularly in fashion.

Emancipation

Journeys to redemption; a celebration of a proclamation.

Bearing in mind the atrocities that have atrophied our authentic, Afro-centric identity.

An identity that cannot be contained reaffirms the ancestors' courage and creativity.

The recognition of our forefathers' ingenuity is our nativity,

But the rebirth of *these* festivities rejects the passivity that was passed on, inculcated and indoctrinated.

Beliefs near-stripped away with every cracked whip; new ones acculturated.

Intrinsic beliefs fostering an entrenched connection among mind, body, and soul, almost eradicated but,

A compelling force of attraction solely awakened by the beating of drums and the bold hues and patterns of traditional garments remains, echoing the sentiments of previous generations.

It is with great veneration that we should commemorate this occasion; the rejuvenation of African culture is a proud display of liberation.

Such a legacy, especially presently, is seen as we majestically model kaftans, dashikis and geles,

Showing the multitude of ways that we wear our pride, resurrecting from an attempted cultural genocide.



Chloe Tenia, as she performed her piece.

Such an identity should not be merely commercialised. It should collectively connect us with one another,

Together in love and power, as sisters and brothers.

But by the dawn of the 2nd, when all celebrations end and the 'appreciation' is gone,

Will we continue to let "baigans be bygones" and simply carry on?

Drink water and mind our business, turning a blind eye to a system that keeps our people behind?

Business as usual in a system so dysfunctional, where social institutions that are rooted in alienation and discrimination, with unjust justice systems continue to oppress, distress and divide?

Although the ancestors — these revolutionaries — were tortured and slain, their revolution can never be buried.

We are the beneficiaries of a culture so magnificent and it is ours to maintain.

Founded upon their blood, tears and sweat, the significance of Emancipation is a phenomenon that we must

Never forget.



(Scan here to see Chloe perform her piece)



Head Office employees



J'leise Orr of Distribution Tobago, in a relaxed jumpsuit and matching headwrap.



Employees from Distribution North



Employees from Distribution Tobago



Subsection Leader, Technical Division, Khadjah Antoine, in a contemporary, formal dress in African print.



Distribution East employees

LED bulb distribution expanded



T&TEC continues to facilitate the distribution of government-issued LED bulbs, with a new phase recently approved by the Ministry of Public Utilities. Now, residential customers are entitled to eight bulbs and a new category of recipients has been added.

The bulb distribution programme started in September 2020, targeting only domestic customers, however it has now been expanded to children's homes, homes for the aged and other live-in facilities for the socially disadvantaged. During the

months of June and July, LEDs were issued by Distribution Area crews, who changed out existing incandescent or compact fluorescent bulbs in 29 residential facilities across the country. Approximately 1000 LED bulbs were supplied.

In September, a second tranche of distribution was opened to customers who already collected their four LEDs. They were invited to collect an additional four bulbs.

The Commission is also in discussion with the Solid Waste Management Company Limited to collaborate on sustainability initiatives where citizens would be further educated on energy efficiency and more bulbs would be distributed.



Crew Supervisor, Terrance Sahatoo and Substation Trainee, Matthew Gopaul (on ladder) install LED bulbs at the Dar ul Amaan Children's Home, Freeport and the Darul Hannan Residential Care Facility, Longdenville.

Central "levels up" on hotline work

continued from page 4

clearance of existing high voltage and low voltage conductors from customers' properties.

According to Mr La Guerre, potentially "dangerous situations," were corrected by installing 12-metre poles and rerouting a total of over 300 metres per phase of three phase conductors. The fifth job, a new connection at Munroe Road, Cunupia, involved repositioning the conductors onto a new 12-metre pole framed with an extension arm, to "maintain acceptable clearance of the conductors from the ground."

Mr. La Guerre explained that the Area's increased use of live line techniques, "where safe and practical," for jobs that would have customarily been done under cold-line conditions, ensures that customers remain on supply. "This is in keeping with the Division's goal of improving the quality and reliability of the electricity supply to customers," he said. Over 4000 customers experienced minimal, if any, disruption to their electricity supply, for the jobs which, had they been performed as cold-line, would have resulted in interruptions lasting up to six hours.



(Scan here to see some video of the men at work)

Cleophas Seaforth – A Tobagonian Treasure

If you are an avid reader of the Watts Happening magazine, the name 'Cleophas Seaforth' may seem familiar. The April – June 2021, 75th Anniversary special highlighted several of his accomplishments, along with the fact that he was, at the time, the oldest surviving pensioner at the Commission.

Sadly, Mr. Seaforth died on June 28, 2022, at 98 years old, but his legacy is illuminating.

According to the eulogy read at his funeral, Mr. Seaforth aka Mr. Wong was born and raised in the village of Parlatuvier. He contracted Tapeworm Infection (TA) at the age of eight, which prevented him from attending school. However, he resiliently pursued his goals of attaining a better life and making a name for himself. Eventually, he obtained a position as magician Willy Wong's assistant, which is how he became fondly known as "Mr. Wong". When T&TEC arrived in Tobago in 1952, he had been working at the telephone

company, but eagerly grasped the opportunity to become a labourer for the company, which made him the second Tobagonian to be hired by T&TEC.

The strenuous job entailed digging five and sometimes eight holes to install streetlight poles; it was that, coupled with his diligence and assiduity, that warranted him the label of a "work jumbie". Such qualities were seen during electricity restoration efforts after Hurricane Flora in 1963 when, alongside his colleagues, Mr. Seaforth completed two weeks' worth of work in a record three days. Afterwards, he was promoted from Linesman Foreman to Crew Foreman.

However, amid all his achievements, his career pinnacled in the 1970s, when he dispersed a crowd of employees from the Oilfield Workers' Trade Union (OWTU) who had been on strike, prompting them to return to work. Then Superintendent Neil Mc Connie, the Engineer and Senior Foreman,



recognised this action and granted Mr. Seaforth a promotion to his final position of Senior Foreman.

After 30 steadfast years of service to the company, Mr. Seaforth retired in 1980. Since then, he followed other ventures, such as becoming an entrepreneur and building a "mini Village" on Wilson Road in Tobago, where he owned several rental units, all of which he used his salary and income from private electrical jobs to build.

Undoubtedly, Mr. Seaforth's contribution to the Commission has significantly shaped its development. His dedication to the company and to his faith has set the example for those in his lifetime and those to come after.

Gone but not forgotten



The T&TEC family mourns the loss of four employees in recent months.

Eric Headley, a Senior Analyst in the Information Systems (IS) Department, died on Saturday, July 9.

Fifty-five-year-old Eric began working at T&TEC in March 1996 on contract as a Systems Analyst III and became permanent in 2000. During his 22-year career in IS, he attained various promotions before his last position as Senior Analyst in 2009.

Acting Manager, Information Systems, Audra Ramsook described Mr. Headley as a “pillar” of the Department, adding that “his eccentric

brilliance, coupled with his passion [for keeping] abreast of technology, made him the in-house IT advisor both within the Department and the broader T&TEC family.”



According to his friend and colleague Dexter Mc Intosh, Systems Administrator I, Eric was also known as a very meticulous worker who “remained calm under the most intense of situations.”



Terrence Torres, Estate Constable, Distribution South, died on Friday, August 12, at 56 years of age. Constable Torres joined T&TEC in 1993 as an Estate Constable Recruit and was made permanent in the

position in 1998, after which he fulfilled a 24-year career at the Commission.

Inspector Operations – South, Seepersad Roopnarine, who shared a longstanding working relationship with Mr. Torres, described him as a

“very helpful” employee, who “while militant in his approach to work, still had time for a joke and more light-hearted moments.”

Corporal Rudolph Hazard, a colleague and batchmate of Mr. Torres, said that his passing is a great loss to T&TEC, and celebrated his commitment and passion [for] his job. “He loved T&TEC and, in particular, police work. His wealth of knowledge and Union experience favoured him among many colleagues who sought his advice.”

Terrence was laid to rest on Thursday, August 18th, 2022 at the Marabella Public Cemetery, Southern Main Road, Marabella.

Andrea Des Vignes, a Subsection Leader in the Commercial Department - Distribution Tobago, died on Thursday, August 18.

Forty-nine-year-old Andrea began working at the Commission in 2004 as a Temporary Clerk III and spent 19 years at Distribution Tobago. She gained several promotions until her last as Subsection Leader.

Then acting Commercial Manager, Brian Bachoo, described Ms. Des Vignes as very hard-working and customer oriented. "She was a good one... always willing to share her knowledge with others and go the extra mile. She also had T&TEC's interest at heart and was supportive of management."

Subsection Leader, Elizabeth Matthews, labelled her colleague as a "rainbow" and a joy to be

around. "She was very serious about her job and had an eye for finding ways to make the work easier." Ms. Matthews also noted that Ms. Des Vignes was equally as serious about play. She fondly

remembered moments participating with her colleague and friend in talent-sharing and sports day.

Andrea's funeral service was held on Friday September 2, 2022 at the Victory Outreach Church, Sangster's Hill Road, Scarborough, Tobago.



Andy Eustache, a Temporary helper - Distribution North, died on Thursday, September 22.

Mr. Eustache, who was 42 years old, began working at T&TEC in

2017 at the Port of Spain Training Facility. He was transferred in January 2018 to Distribution North, where he was a driver in the Cable Section, and remained until his passing.

Acting Field Controller, Ancil Callender, described Andy as a "beautiful soul" with a

"depth of character, unwavering love for family, faith in God and willingness to live peacefully with all."

Oumardath Maharaj, Acting Senior Cable Supervisor, the last person to speak to Mr. Eustache, said that "if there was a template for a model employee, Andy was it. He will be missed."

Kwamy Attzs, Cable Jointer 'B', regarded Mr. Eustache as a father figure and said he was "always there to lift our spirits and offer advice, a prayer and a good laugh."

May they continue to rest in peace.

Employee update

Appointments, Promotions, Re-designations and Departures

APPOINTMENT

NAME

Jovan Abraham

POSITION

Head Security

AREA/DEPARTMENT

Security – Head Office

PROMOTIONS

NAME

Abigail Joachim
Anita John
Arlene Maxime
Ayanna Clarke
Beverly Joseph
Charles Edwards
Christopher Laldeo
Colette Daly
Colin Harold
Daaron Khan
Daniel Lively
David Barran
David Emery
David Hoseinee
Dayanand Seebaran
Derek Gomez
Garnesh Ramnarine
Hayden Modeste
Ishwar Balgobin
Jenel Benjamin-Grant
Jerry Robinson
Jevon Straker
Joel Richardson
Junior Bitan
Junior Cova
Kedar Mark
Melissa Guevara
Neal Joseph
Nsilo John
Osei Grey
Rachael-Ann Cave-Jagoo
Rajesh Neebar
Satayash Ramgoolam
Sean James
Sekon Alves
Shawn Phillip
Tarun Ramlal
Terrance Moore
Timothy Jeffrey
Trevis Tobas
Wahid Abdool

POSITION

HR Specialist II
Clerk I
Costing Supervisor
Administrative Assistant III
H.S.E Inspector
Dr – Lr. Ldr./Lift Comb.
Snr. Supervisor Trans. & Dist.
H.S.E Inspector
Drawing Office Supervisor
Crew Supervisor
Hotline Supervisor
Substation Supervisor
Snr. Supervisor Trans. & Dist.
Senior Instructor
Crew Supervisor
Crew Supervisor
Snr. Supervisor Trans. & Dist.
Crew Supervisor
Snr. Supervisor Trans. & Dist.
Clerk I
Mechanic 'B'
Linesman 'B'
Mechanic 'A'
Driver – Class 5 Vehicle
Crew Supervisor
Snr. Supervisor Trans. & Dist.
Admin Assistant II
Jointer 'B'
Supplies Clerk
Subsection Leader
Clerk I
Driver – Aerial Lift Truck
Crew Supervisor
Linesman 'A' (Hotline)
Snr. Supervisor Trans. & Dist.
Linesman 'A' (Hotline)
Snr. Supervisor Trans. & Dist.
Snr. Supervisor Trans. & Dist.
HSE Co-ordinator III
Jointer 'B'
HR Officer II – Tech. Training

AREA/DEPARTMENT

Human Resources Department
Distribution Central
Chief Accountant
Corporate Secretary
Health, Safety & Environment
Distribution East
Distribution South
Health, Safety & Environment
Engineering Controller
Transmission Maintenance
Distribution North
Distribution Central
Distribution East
Human Resources Department
Distribution Central
Distribution Central
Transmission Maintenance
Distribution South
Distribution East
Distribution Central
Distribution East
Public Lighting
Distribution East
Distribution East
Distribution South
Distribution East
Operations Division
Transmission Maintenance
Supplies
Chief Accountant
Technical Division
Transmission Maintenance
Distribution South
Distribution East
Distribution Central
Distribution East
Distribution South
Distribution Central
Health, Safety & Environment
Transmission Maintenance
Human Resources Department

Employee update

Appointments, Promotions, Re-designations and Departures

RE-DESIGNATIONS

NAME	POSITION	AREA/DEPARTMENT
Hugh Springer	Transport Labourer II	Distribution East
Leisel Brathwaite-Sealy	Stock Control Supervisor	Supplies

DEPARTURES

NAME	POSITION	AREA/DEPARTMENT
Carlton Gill	Crew Supervisor	Distribution Central
Clive Scantlebury	Snr. Supervisor Trans. & Dist.	Distribution North
Dana Ragoo	Clerk I	Business Development & Admin.
Dennis Samm	Driver – Aerial Lift Truck	Distribution South
Francis Mc Donald	Driver – Aerial Lift Truck	Transmission Maintenance
Gabriel Homer	Estate Constable	Security – Mt. Hope
Gillian Reid	Stores Assistant	Supplies
Gregory Haynes	Estate Constable	Security – Distribution Central
Jerome Bhola	Line Clearer Supervisor (T)	Distribution East
Joseph Lindsay	Meter Reader	Commercial - North
Karryl Jeffrey-Redhead	Stenotypist	Technical Division
Kerri Ann Mohammed	Clerk II	Commercial - Central
Kevin Ameeralli	Clerk II	Chief Accountant
Krista Mohamed	Clerk II	Commercial - Central
Leisha Dhoray	Systems Analyst I	Information Systems
Purdy Gouveia	Technical Assistant II	System Planning and Research
Ravi Shukla	Engineering Controller	Engineering Controller
Raymond Dhoray	Hotline Supervisor	Distribution East
Renaïs Charran	Technical Assistant I	Protection & SCADA
Richard Sebright	Crew Supervisor	Distribution North
Shawn Campbell	Crew Supervisor	Distribution Tobago

Aspiring Linesman



He is already his father's namesake, but young Adrian Nedd aspires to take the imitation further by following in his father's career path.

Six-year-old Adrian is a student of the Scarborough Roman Catholic Primary School. For his school's annual career day on July 4, he chose to dress like his Dad, Adrian, a Linesman 'A' of Distribution Tobago. Little Adrian's dream is to become a T&TEC Linesman just like his dad, as he sees his dad as hard working and dedicated.

Clearly, the senior Adrian is not only a proud father; the Area's Best Performing Employee (Field) 2021 is also an exemplary role model.

To the two Adrians, keep on shining!





Curry Duck cook out in South

With duck seasoned, watering mouths, and ravenous appetites, the atmosphere was heavy with excitement at Distribution South's Inter-Department Curry Duck Cookout competition on Saturday July 9 at Hillpiece Recreational Ground, Palmiste. After two years of no social activities due to Covid-19 restrictions, the intermittent showers could not dampen spirits and all departments, and their crews were present and ready to "bubble" from 11 a.m.

However, amid the togetherness and camaraderie, the employees could not contain their competitiveness to walk away with the new "Richard Sitahal Challenge Trophy." With DJ Sammy Sounds – Crew Supervisor, Samraj Ramdath – blasting 'Time to Light the Fire and Bhuje the Massala', the cooking started at 2 p.m. While the teams worked, comedian Andrew Friday entertained the crowd with

impressions and performed a set that received hearty cackles and guffaws. Tassa group, Surya Starz, added to the energy with their spirited performances. Senior Corporate Communications Assistant, Lester Lal, expressed pleasure at seeing staff "co-mingle, socialise and meet and greet", during the event. He said that reception of the event was overwhelming, and that teams "really came out in their numbers, [as each had] more than 20 participants." Team members and attendees described the event as successful, with several participants and attendees already asking about the next event.

The volunteer judging team was led by Lester Lal, Lex Tom, Linesman B, and the event's co-ordinators. It also comprised former Member of the Commission, Solange De Souza; President of the Caldrac Sports Club, Anil Kamal; Chefs

Roger Saint Leon and Marlon Persad; and Comedian, Andrew Friday. Anil Harrilal, Senior Supervisor, was the Master of Ceremonies. During judging, they were accompanied by Chief Technical Officer, Chrisalston Belle, Chief Human Resources Officer, Jacqueline Cheesman, and Area Manager, Ashmeed Ali.

The memorable event was co-ordinated by Ria Ali, Wendy Beepath, Nataki Antoine, Kayar Bannister, Haile Nelson, Lex Tom, Cordero Gould, Premdath Persad, Kwesi Blackburn, Lester Lara Lal, Raiz Mohammed, Anil Harrilal, Jason Ramsingh and Lester Lal.

At last, the anticipated results were released as follows:

1st - Commercial Conductors Commercial Department	Best Named Team - Ducking 319, Field Office
2nd - Duck Power Administration/UT/Planning/GIS	Best Duck - Commercial Conductors, Commercial Department
3rd - Duck Station Crew Substation Section	Best Dhal - Duck Station Crew, Substation Section
4th - Rio Ducktors Rio Claro Depot	Best Murtani - Power Source, Emergency/ Telecom
5th - Duck & Run Engineering/Senior Supervisors/Engineers	Best Dressed Tent - Duck Power, Administration/ UT/Planning/GIS
	Best Supportive Crew - Rio Ducktors, Rio Claro Depot



Fun page

Solve the word scramble below with answers found within these pages!

Theme: Flooding and Landslides.

- | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|
| 1. pwoertorfa _____ | 9. tnoeoctueicrl _____ |
| 2. iosl sreiono _____ | 10. cdnuocrot _____ |
| 3. umtrse intpo _____ | 11. saepc _____ |
| 4. eucavtea _____ | 12. esnrorsdpe _____ |
| 5. rhigeh drnogu _____ | 13. acpishly rganed _____ |
| 6. sderbi _____ | 14. eratl _____ |
| 7. wproe nsiel _____ | 15. nnaboad _____ |
| 8. enoeetlhp seplo _____ | 16. rcehbeda _____ |

Watty says



Flood and landslide safety

It should be no shock that we are in the hurricane season, which is from June to November every year with the peak being from August to November. This is a time when flooding and landslides are prevalent, but the season need not be stressful once you prepare for any eventuality.

Here are some tips to amp up your protection to avoid physical danger:



- Prioritise your life first in the event of danger; furniture and other items are replaceable. Also, keep important documents (birth certificates, ID cards, medical documents etc) easily accessible and in waterproof covering. If you must evacuate your home, use the main breaker switch to turn off any electrical connections/outlets that can get breached by water. Do not walk through moving flood waters, as there is a high risk of drowning during flash floods. It only takes six inches of moving water to knock someone off their feet!
- Do not drive into flooded areas. If you must do so and floodwaters are rising around the car, abandon it and seek refuge on the roof.
- During heavy rainfall, if you find yourself in low-lying areas prone to flooding, such as ditches or underpasses, move to higher ground.
- Elevate electrical items likely to be affected by water (e.g., washing machines) to avoid



damage. Caution! Do not handle electrical items if plugged in and you are standing in water or the ground is wet. You can receive severe shock or electrocution since water is a conductor for electricity.



- When outdoors, stay away from fallen poles or power lines, as they may be live and still conducting electricity. Power lines can also electrically charge flood waters.

Landslides:

- Be aware of imminent landslide signs that indicate moving debris, such as the sound of cracking trees or boulders knocking together. Evacuate immediately and move to higher ground.
- Stay awake and alert; listen to updates from local news on battery-powered radios and follow instructions from emergency responders.
- Never cross a road or bridge with debris, mud or water flowing/approaching, as it may be too late to escape safely.





Customer commendations

The following are excerpts of letters, emails and messages that have been received over the last three months. Correspondence may have been edited for length or clarity.

Sent via Facebook

July 1, 2022

I must fully commend the workmanship of the workers at T&TEC. Power was restored in Tobago within an hour and 20 minutes of it being gone. I was fully prepared to head to work with an un-ironed uniform in the morning. You guys are truly the real MVPs of this storm. Kudos to your disaster management team and all the workers who left their families at home to ensure that the nation at least has light during this natural disaster. Medals for you all. I hope your Christmas bonuses will be tall.

Shenell David

July 19, 2022

Attention: Murvie Charles

On behalf of IRP Fire & Safety Limited we would like to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude for the prompt response and weekend work carried out to restore power to our building on Saturday 16th – Sunday 17th July 2022. We would like to make special mention of Mr. Barry Fairchild and his crew on truck TDJ 8462 for their dedication and hard work over the weekend.

Glen Thompson
CEO

Sent via Facebook

August 4, 2022

I want to once again commend the Tobago T&TEC team that very swiftly restored power in an area

of Canaan. Good service to paying customers must always be acknowledged. Thank you, team.

That said, why these outages in recent weeks in our area?

Tai Fernandez Toledo

** Editor's note - Ms. Toledo was advised about a faulty feeder in her area on which 50% repairs had been completed at the time of her writing.*

August 16, 2022

I would like to offer my sincere thanks for having light pole 81 at 109 Calcutta Road #1, Mc Bean Village, Couva, repaired so efficiently. A contractor came to my home after calling for directions and quickly resolved the issue. I did not get their name nor the license plate of their vehicle but they were polite and very thorough. Much thanks for your assistance.

Regards,
Fariza Mohammed.

August 17, 2022

I would like to extend my appreciation and gratitude to you and your team for your swift response, concerning two streetlight repairs at Construction Avenue, Enterprise. Thank you for your service in this matter, for the [faulty] lights were attracting burglars and [the area] was becoming extremely dangerous to the

residents.

I truly do appreciate the efforts and assistance you have rendered to me throughout the many times I have contacted you.

Thank you for your continued assistance.

Whitney Stevenson-Hamlet
Councillor

September 24, 2022

I wish to extend our thanks to the staff at TTEC. On Saturday morning 24 September, we placed a call to request assistance on a line that was hanging low from our house to the street, on Belmont Circular Road.

The assistance from the CSR on the telephone as well as the responding crew was nothing but professional. We as customers must commend the staff at TTEC on their professionalism and continued hard work in national service to the citizenry.

Thank you for your prompt response.

Brett Cassim
Managing Director
Metropolitan Book Suppliers Ltd.
Trinidad and Tobago

1. Waterproof
2. Soil erosion
3. Muster point
4. Evacuate
5. Higher ground
6. Debris
7. Power lines
8. Telephone poles
9. Electrocutation
10. Conductor
11. Escape
12. Responders
13. Physical danger
14. Alert
15. Abandon
16. Breached

Word scramble answers:



3 Tonnes of garbage collected at Manzanilla beach



After losing two years of participation in events due to the COVID-19 pandemic, T&TEC employees returned to the coast of Manzanilla on September 17 to fulfill one of its Core Values - a Green Environment.

One hundred and seventy-three volunteers came out, comprising T&TEC staff and their families, including trainees from the El Socorro Training Facility and the TATECO Youth Congress, and representatives from the Electrical Association for Women (EAW). Multiple teams worked in stride for over four hours to rid the coastline of a whopping 6,682 pounds of garbage consisting of plastics, furniture, clothing, tyres, glass bottles, and some unusual items such as a kettle, PVC Ceiling, lightbulbs, and a 70 pound clamp claw.

The usual items such as plastic bottles, styrofoam pieces and cigarette butts were hauled from the shoreline in heaps totaling 170 bags of garbage.



In Tobago, a smaller group of employees and their families joined with the contingent from the Tobago House of Assembly to clean the Petit Trou Beach in Lambeau. They too removed bags of plastics, glass and styrofoam; even a discarded stovetop was among their haul of garbage.

Ocean Conservancy, the non-profit organisation guiding the International Coastal Cleanup (ICC) effort, has indicated that plastics continue to be a major issue globally. As such, a call for action was made to reduce waste at home by practicing the following: saying no thanks to straws, re-using cutlery, using eco-friendly wrappers, and being creative! Try up-cycling projects at home.

This year, T&TEC'S contingent of volunteers practiced conservation habits and reused previously issued Commission t-shirts and re-usable water bottles as an eco-friendly tactic. The ICC event is hosted annually and T&TEC's participation has grown throughout the years. Moving towards a greener environment is our responsibility, and T&TEC continues to do its part in effecting this change. *#SeatheChange*