



Your Ref :

Our Ref :

POR/6/1

8th June, 2009

Mrs. Clara R. Bell
Legal Officer
Bahamas Electricity Corporation
P. O. Box N-7509
Nassau, Bahamas

Dear Mrs. Bell,

16/09 - B.E.C. (ABACO POWER EXPANSION PROGRAM)
FUEL DOCK CONSTRUCTION - ABACO

Further to your application on the above captioned.

Please be advised that at a meeting of the Docks Committee held on May 27th, 2009, your request was favourably considered for the construction a fuel dock and subsequently agreed to by the Minister of The Environment.

You may now procure the necessary permit for commencement of this project, as work should begin within six months from the date of this letter.

Yours sincerely,

Captain Anthony J. Allens
Port Controller

AJA/bt

cc: Mr. Cyril Roker – Deputy Port Controller – Abaco
Administrator – Marsh Harbour

18 June, 2009
CJR

Port Department

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Nassau

The Bahamas

April 1, 2009 Editorial

Preserving Our Heritage

Many elements of Abaco's heritage are waiting for recognition, accessibility and promotion. There are five or more sawmill sites of which Wilson City is the best known. It has the largest number of foundations and remnants of industrial debris. It is easily accessible by the recently bulldozed road BEC constructed for its anticipated Bunker C fuel depot on the coast. In the rush to access the coastal site, we understand that the BEC bulldozer destroyed some of the original remnants of the 1910 sawmill era.

The Abaco coppice and pine forest hold many secrets, some of which are known to a few hardy souls that explore these hidden treasures. A pineapple processing facility from the early 1800s was recently excavated on Green Turtle Cay. Remnants of a sisal mill remain south of Blackwood. Elements of other sisal mills remain on Guana Cay and Hope Town. Little Abaco has the ruins of a sisal plantation with walls standing beside a huge blue hole. It is about an hour's walk through the woods to reach it.

The recent crocodile and tortoise skeletons discovered in one of Abaco's blue holes has brought Abaco much attention by the scientific community. All of these historical and archaeological sites should be appreciated and maintained. We need to take pride in Abaco's heritage and learn more of our past. The work at Hole-in-the-Wall is a great project that will hopefully encourage the interest and preservation of other sites, not as exciting and alluring but important also. Our children need to learn about the past and realize that the past is part of us. The physical reminders along with stories need to be protected for posterity. Besides enriching our lives, historical sites can be a draw for many of our visitors who want to see glimpses of the past of Abaco.

May 1, 2009 Response

BEC is sensitive to historical sites

Dear Editor,

I would like to point out an error made in your editorial entitled Preserving Our Heritage in the April 1st issue. Referring to the new road in the Wilson City area pushed for BEC, you say "In the rush to access the coastal site, we understand that the BEC bulldozer destroyed some of the original remnants of the 1910 Sawmill era." This is not accurate. BEC hired our firm to supervise the work and one of their first instructions to us was to make sure that none of the archeological sites in the area were damaged. There was no "rush" to do anything – we (along with BEC) met with representatives of Friends of the Environment and discussed the proposed new road. We were very careful in choosing where the road went, and it did not encroach onto the original site. As you point out, now for the first time, interested persons can reach Wilson City by driving and perhaps more people will get to see our heritage. BEC has expressed interest in doing more to preserve the site as well.

Victor Patterson
Lucayan Surveying