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REMAINS IN EFFECT

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Website: www.our.org.jm

JPS to submit revised back billing policy to the regulator

The Jamaica Public Service is to submit a revised back-billing policy to the Office by this Friday December 23 for its review and approval. This follows the Directive issued to the Company on November 25, 2011 to implement the revised back-billing policy.

The OUR has also directed that within five (5) calendar days of receipt of the Office's approval, the JPS must issue the amended back billing policy and related issues such as a Code of Practice and make them publicly available.

These are among a raft of items contained in the Directive which was issued to give effect to recommendations contained in the Report entitled: "INVESTIGATION OF THE JAMAICA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY LTD (JPS) BILLING AND METERING SYSTEM FOR ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION" which was done by a team led by independent consultant J. Paul Morgan.

The Directive also instructs that effective December 5, 2011 all new accounts (including those where a meter is already installed) should have the meter checked and, if necessary, a new meter installed on the premises prior to activation of the said new account. Under such circumstances, JPS shall not back-bill the customer beyond the point of commencement of the new account.

OUR awards right to construct modern power plant



Jamaica is expected to have a new power generating facility by mid 2014 following the decision by the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) to award the Jamaica Public Service Company the right to construct a 360MW Combined Cycle modern plant.

The plant which is part of the project to supply up to 480 MW of new generating capacity for the country, will be one of the largest private sector investments to be made in Jamaica to modernise and upgrade the electricity sector.

This new base-load capacity is intended for the displacement of approximately 292 MW of aged plants with the remainder to provide for load growth.

STAKEHOLDERS' MEETINGS



L-R Deputy Director General Maurice Charvis, Director General Ahmad Zia Mian, President of IABC Caribbean Yvonne Grinam-Nicholson, President of the Press Association of Jamaica (PAJ) Jenni Campbell, President of the Public Relations Society of Jamaica (PRSJ) Delmares Whyte and Director of Consumer and Public Affairs at the OUR Michael Bryce.



L-R Deputy Director General Hopeton Heron, Mayor of May Pen Milton Brown, Portmore's Mayor Keith Hinds, Director General Ahmad Zia Mian, MegaMart's CEO Gassan Azan and Deputy Director General at Maurice Charvis.



L-R Director General Ahmad Zia Mian engages in conversation with the Director General of the Planning Institute of Jamaica (PIOJ) Dr Gladstone Hutchinson and the Director General of the Statistical Institute of Jamaica (STATIN) Ms Sonia Jackson.

OUTREACH



Public Affairs Coordinator Collette Goode speaks with a visitor to the OUR booth at the Montego Bay Community College Fair.



Students engaging in discussion with OUR's Public Affairs Coordinator Collette Goode at the OUR booth at Green Expo held earlier this year. The Office of Utilities Regulation took the award for the most environmentally friendly booth at Green Expo.

The following licences have been issued on the recommendation of the Office of Utilities Regulation

TELECOMMUNICATIONS

Licencee	Service Type
Village Resorts Ltd	Int'l Voice and Data Services
Logic One Ltd	Internet Service Provider
1 Force Communication	Int'l Voice Service Provider
S&B Communications Ltd	Int'l Voice Service, Internet Service Provider

ELECTRICITY

Licencee	Service Type
Wigton Windfarm Ltd	18MW (Renewable Source)

WATER

Licencee	Service Area
Rose Hall Development Ltd	Rose Hall and environs, St. James
Waterwheel Estate Ltd.	Ferris, Whitehouse and environs, Westmoreland

Highlights from 9th annual conference of the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators (OOCUR) held in Christ Church Barbados in November



Director Consumer and Public Affairs Michael Bryce interviews President of the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC) in the United States Tony Clark during the 9th annual OOCUR Conference.



OUR Director General Ahmad Zia Mian seated at the head of the table presides over his final General Assembly and Council meetings in Barbados as Chairman of the Organisation of Caribbean Utility Regulators. Mr Mian demitted office last month having served two consecutive terms as Chairman of the regional grouping. Beside him is OOCUR's acting Secretary General Mr. Justice Prem Persaud from Guyana. Mr Mian was succeeded as Chairman by Wayne Aranha of the Utilities Regulation and Competition Authority (URCA) in the Bahamas. The 10th OOCUR conference will be held in the Bahamas in November 2012.



Regulatory Analyst Winston Robotham who made a presentation at the conference and Public Affairs Coordinator Collette Goode observe the opening proceedings of the 9th annual OOCUR Conference while Deputy Director General Hopeton Heron tries to capture the moment.



Deputy Director General Hopeton Heron recently led a team from the OUR on visit to the JPS System Control facility. The team comprised members from the Information Technology Division, the Consumer and Public Affairs Division, the Regulation and Policy Division as well as the Office of the General Counsel. A JPS Systems Controller (seated) explains the operations of the company's dispatch control facility.

The visit to observe the dispatch of electricity generating units was in preparation for the commissioning of a system monitoring facility at the Office of Utilities Regulation. The implementation of the online system will ensure that the regulator has real time access to enable closer monitoring of the merit order dispatch of generating units.

A merit order dispatch is designed to ensure that the most efficient and cost effective generating units are dispatched first before resorting to less efficient and more costly units.

Regulating Utilities for the Benefit of All