



# OFFICE OF UTILITIES REGULATION

3<sup>rd</sup> Floor, P.C.J. Resource Centre, 36 Trafalgar Road, Kingston 10, Jamaica, W.I.  
Tel: (876) 968-6053, 968-6057, Fax: (876) 929-3635, Toll Free: 1 - 888-991-2209

November 1, 2007

TO: ALL NEWS EDITORS

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

“NWC applies to OUR for a tariff review”

The National Water Commission (NWC) has applied to the Office of Utilities Regulation for a tariff review.

The application which was submitted on October 19, 2007 seeks a forty four percent increase in rates.

NWC's tariff was last reviewed in 2003 at which time the utility company had requested just under a fifty percent increase in rates. OUR approved an approximately twenty six percent increase, which became effective on January 1, 2004 and was to have remained in effect for three years, ending December 31, 2006.

Earlier this year NWC wrote to OUR requesting an extension of the 2004/2006 tariff.

The Office granted the extension to the end of this calendar year.

OUR will be organizing public consultations across the country in an effort to secure consumer participation in the regulatory process and decision making.

- more -

These consultations are designed to allow NWC to explain to the public the need for a revision of the rates and to enable the Office to hear questions, comments and feed back from consumers.

These consultations have traditionally yielded valuable information on quality of service standards, perceived levels of efficiency and other dimensions to the utility service thus allowing the Office to analyze representations made by the Commission.

It is only at a tariff review that there is an opportunity for the Office to revisit standards of service and quality of service issues. This review will also address recent calls for the inclusion of wrongful disconnection as a Guaranteed Standard.

As soon as the OUR is satisfied that it has sufficient information to review the tariff, details of the NWC application and a schedule of consultations will be published.

**= end=**

**Contact: David Geddes**  
**Director, Consumer & Public Affairs**  
**322-7181**  
**361-0957**