Greetings
Commissioning of JPS 24.5MW Energy Storage Facility
Ansord Hewitt, Director General, OUR
2019 December 11

Minister Fayval Williams, (JPS Chairman if present), Mr Emanuel DaRosa, ladies and gentlemen. Good morning.

Not to tell tales out of school but I am supposed to be on vacation this week. It is therefore an indication of the measure of the importance that the OUR places on this development that I have made myself available for its commissioning. My presence here is both to express commendation at its completion and a measure of relief, since truth be told, we have been expecting it at least since July of this year. That said, I believe that development such as this one can only augur well for the electricity sector.

For it is no secret that the increased levels of variable renewable energy penetration in the system, while most desirable and commendable, poses challenges to the grid in controlling system frequency within the prescribed limit guidelines under normal and contingency conditions. Indeed, the OUR is cognizant that if the National Energy Policy's target for renewable energy resources in the energy mix is to be satisfactorily achieved, solutions have to be developed to accommodate higher levels of renewable energy penetration while preserving grid stability.

Presently there is a total of 158.3 MW of variable renewable energy generating plants on JPS's grid, comprising 101.3MW of wind power and 57 MW of solar. This includes the addition of the 37 MW solar farm in Paradise, Westmoreland which was commissioned in October (two months ago).

Given this reality, the necessity for the kind of innovative solutions that this 24.5 MW hybrid energy storage facility comprising 21 MW of battery storage system and 3.5 MW of flywheel represent, is impatient of debate.

The OUR therefore lauds JPS's initiative in making this proposal and with due deference to modesty, our own sensible pragmatic approach in approving it. It was and remains our view based on our technical analysis that it should:

(1) reduce the extent of frequency excursions, as well as the incidents of unwanted tripping,
(2) provide a stable operating grid, and
(3) increase the ability of the grid to accommodate higher levels of renewable energy resources without the operations issues being encountered.

JPS in turn has indicated the following benefits of the storage facility:

1) Improve system stability;
2) Prevent load shedding caused by a combination of renewable ramping and loss of generation;
3) Resolve the increased number of frequency violations due to the variability of renewable energy generation;
4) Exercise due diligence in addressing all factors that can impact the successful implementation of even higher penetration of renewable energy in Jamaica.

We intend to hold them to all of these expectations.

All of that said the OUR welcomes this commissioning. We also take the opportunity to underscore our openness to consider similar as well as other diverse solutions.

Emanuel, please accept our best wishes for the successful and beneficial operation of the facility.

In keeping with the spirt of the season, we also extend or warmest wishes to all here present.

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