

OUR asks JPS for Information on January Power Outages

(KINGSTON, Jamaica; 2017 January 31): The Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS) is to provide a detailed report to the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) by 2017 February 14 on the power outages on 2017 January 9 which affected thousands of its customers.

As stipulated in the Electricity Act, 2015, JPS is obliged to deliver this report to the OUR within thirty (30) days of the date of restoration of power.

In its preliminary report to the OUR, JPS stated that on 2017 January 9, a cold front resulted in extremely windy conditions which caused an increase in power outages on its grid. While the majority of the interruptions were within the Corporate Area, JPS reported that 33,374 of its approximately 600,000 customers were affected across all parishes.

JPS stated that its restoration efforts were hampered in some sections within the Corporate Area due to repeat outages as a result of the persistent weather system with unpredictable wind patterns.

Among other information, JPS is expected to provide:

- The specific areas of the island that were affected;
- The specific electrical equipment, apparatus and circuits that were impacted;
- The magnitude of demand that was disconnected in each case;
- The specific times and sequence of events that related to the outages;
- The number of customers affected in each case;
- The nature of the outages and the attributable circumstances;
- The operating state of the network prior to the outages and preparedness of JPS at the time to deal with the prevailing conditions;
- Specific details on the restoration activities;
- Strategies to minimise the recurrence of outages of a similar nature.