

Electricity Grid Codes are now ready

(Kingston, Jamaica, 2017 January 17): There is now regulation governing the guiding principles, operational standards and established procedures for handling the generation, transmission, distribution, supply and despatch of electricity across the nation.

The regulation adopts five (5) Grid Codes which are Generation, Transmission, Distribution, Supply and Despatch Codes, and have been finalised in a document developed by the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR), in conjunction with the Caribbean Clean Energy Program (CARCEP) – an agency of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). These codes supersede all existing codes pertaining to the electricity sector.

The codes, which were finalised in August 2016, have been developed in parallel, and are designed to be used in conjunction with each other.

They are designed to provide a comprehensive framework for the development, maintenance and operation of an efficient, safe, reliable electricity system, and are consistent with international best practices and address specific needs of the electricity grid and users. They also prohibit discrimination among users of the electricity grid.

A copy of **Jamaica Electricity Sector Book of Codes** can be found on the OUR's website: www.our.org.jm

-30-

BACKGROUND:

Section 47 of the Electricity Act requires that OUR, with the approval of the Minister with responsibility for energy, prepare and promulgate the Codes within twelve months after August 27, 2015.

The Codes are defined in section 2 of the Electricity Act as the Generation Code, Transmission Code, Distribution Code, Supply Code and Despatch Code. The Codes are to provide general direction to electricity sector licensees and the Despatch Code, in particular, must contain a process for OUR investigation of any significant power outage.

The Electricity Act further provides that a breach of the Codes by a licensee constitutes a breach of the electricity licence held by the licensee. Also, any breach of the Codes by a licensee or a Self-Generator who is not a licensee, shall constitute an offence under the Electricity Act. The OUR through the consultative process with electricity sector stakeholders must review the Codes at least every three years and publish same.

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