



OFFICE OF UTILITIES REGULATION

Regulating Utilities for the Benefit of All

OUR moves to assess Net Billing Programme

(KINGSTON, Jamaica; May 22, 2015): The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) is moving to assess the implementation of the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited's (JPS) Net Billing Programme. The two (2) year pilot programme was extended last May, as the system peak demand threshold was not met.

The OUR began a review of the pilot programme on January 1, 2015 with technical assistance from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID). As part of its support, USAID contracted National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), a national laboratory of the U.S. Department of Energy's (DOE's), Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, to undertake the work.

A review workshop, to be attended by the major stakeholders, will be held next week. The workshop will provide the opportunity for further discussions on the Net Billing Programme and to present the findings of the review and the recommendations.

Following a meeting with JPS yesterday, the OUR advised that after next week's workshop, a timetable will be prepared and published regarding the completion of the review and the recommencement of acceptance of new applications for the pilot programme. The resumption of the Net Billing Programme will be informed by the results of the review.

In the meantime, JPS said that it would continue to process and interconnect existing applications. As at March 2015, 351 applications were received, 311 of which have been granted licences.

BACKGROUND

Net Billing allows customers of the JPS, who own renewable energy generators, such as wind turbines and photovoltaic (solar) systems and who generate electricity for personal use, to sell excess energy to JPS at the short run variable "avoided cost" prices set by the OUR. The Net Billing policy which is outlined in the ***"JPS Standard Offer for the Purchase of As-Available Intermittent Energy from Renewable Energy Facilities up to 100kW Revised Determination Notice"***, stipulates that provision be made for small commercial and residential electricity generation installations with renewable energy sources capacity up to 10kW for residential customers and up to 100kW for small commercial customers.

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