

OUR gives JPS 30 days for details on island-wide black-out

KINGSTON, Jamaica; 2016 August 31): The Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS) is to provide a detailed report to the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) on the island-wide black-out by 2016 September 27. As stipulated in the Electricity Act, 2015, JPS is obliged to provide such a report to the OUR within thirty (30) days of the date of restoration of power.

The OUR is to indicate to JPS the critical data and other necessary information which should be included in the detailed report on the incident. At the meeting between the OUR and JPS held on Tuesday to discuss JPS's preliminary report, the implications of the power outage and the way forward, the regulatory body expressed disappointment with the island-wide power outage, the frequency of such events, and the negative impact on JPS customers.

The OUR urged the JPS to be thorough and rigorous in its investigation and analysis of the incident and requested that they outline corrective measures to safeguard against recurrences. JPS has agreed to be guided by the position outlined by the regulator regarding the conduct of its investigation.

Deputy Director General of the OUR, Hopeton Heron says, "Once we have received all the required information from the JPS, the OUR is committed to completing its review of the information as well as its own investigation of the outage, within thirty (30) days. We recognise the significant impact that this island wide outage has had on customers and so we are committed to exerting all efforts to ensure that we quickly and efficiently do our own analysis and make our recommendations."

He says the OUR will be insisting on the conduct of a thorough review of the electricity system including their approach to grid planning, design, installation, operation and maintenance.

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BACKGROUND: On Saturday, 2016 August 27 the island suffered an island-wide black-out which lasted for several hours. The JPS submitted a preliminary report to the OUR, as requested, on Monday, 2016 August 29.

That report confirmed that a procedural error caused a total system black-out on the JPS transmission system at approximately 5:45 p.m.

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