

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OUR's Statement on Bidding Process for Procurement for Base-load
Generating Capacity**

(KINGSTON, Jamaica; September 12, 2013): The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) is committed to conducting rigorous and thorough analysis and due diligence to ensure that the best decision is made regarding all the projects it undertakes.

The Office notes recent feedback in a media statement delivered publicly by one of the members of the consortium which tendered a proposal for the procurement of base load generating capacity to the national grid. The Statement pointed to the several extensions to deadlines given and the timeliness of the process.

The OUR reiterates that at every relevant point in this procurement process it has diligently sought to maintain the integrity and transparency of the process. The Office of the Contractor General has been monitoring the process, the OUR has sought advice from the National Contracts Commission when necessary and has also made every effort to keep both the public and the bidders abreast and well informed of every development regarding the bidding process.

Between February 2013 and September 2013, there have been several correspondences on the matter including press releases as well as letters to bidders. In addition, the OUR published a full page statement in both daily newspapers on August 4, 2013 detailing the process to date.

OUR 's Statement on Bidding Process... (cont'd)


As indicated previously, at this stage of the process, the additional time required to request vital information, receive responses and resolve legal issues, has impacted the timeline for the completion of the evaluation of the proposals received. The evaluation exercise is being carried out by external consultants and it is international practice in procurement processes to seek clarifications where appropriate and it is also provided for in the Instructions For Final Proposals.

The OUR as a statutory body continues to be guided by the following considerations in making decisions regarding the procurement process: The imperative to reduce the real cost of electricity to Jamaican consumers; the need to secure capacity in the shortest possible time; and ensuring that the procurement process is conducted fairly and equitably whilst maintaining our commitment to integrity and transparency.

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Contact:

Elizabeth Bennett Marsh

 Public Education Specialist
Office of Utilities Regulation
36 Trafalgar Road
3rd Floor PCJ Resource Center
Kingston 10
Phone: 968-6053-4 / Fax: 929-3635
Mobile: 322-7539

email: ebennett@our.org.jm
website: www.our.org.jm