



OFFICE OF UTILITIES REGULATION

Regulating Utilities for the Benefit of All

Media Release

OUR to start Public Consultations on NWC's rate review

(KINGSTON, Jamaica: May 1, 2013) The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) is to start its public consultations on the National Water Commission's request for a rate review. The consultations will begin on Monday, May 6, 2013 in Portmore, St. Catherine.

As part of its deliberations, the OUR will be seeking feedback from members of the public through "town hall type" meetings which will take place across the island between May 6 and May 30, 2013, under the theme ***"Your Feedback will have an Impact"***. (See full schedule attached)

The NWC will make presentations at these meetings, and field questions from members of the audience, on its application.

The OUR is also encouraging consumers to participate by emailing their comments to sharewithus@our.org.jm, sending letters to the Director of Consumer and Public Affairs, OUR, 3rd Floor PCJ Building, 36 Trafalgar Road, Kingston 10, and posting their views on the OUR's Facebook page. The NWC's 2013-2018 tariff application can be viewed on the OUR's website at www.our.org.jm.

Background

The NWC last received a 23% increase in its rates based on an OUR Determination, in April 2008. This was 21-percentage points less than the 44% rate hike in billed revenues that it had requested.


The NWC applied to the OUR on April 12, 2013 for an adjustment to its existing rates as outlined in the National Water Commission Determination Notice of 2008-2013. It is seeking a 19% increase in rates, in addition to other adjustments. In its application, the water utility outlined that its tariff submission is based mainly on the Commission's efforts to expand and improve potable water and sewerage services. The Commission argues that this expansion and improvement needs to be supported by a rate regime which allows it to attract financing for its programs and projects.

The OUR's role is to facilitate the participation of consumers in the process via the consultations and will review the submission within 90 days.

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