## Office of Utilities Regulation

## DIRECTIVE

DIRECTIVE TO JAMAICA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY LIMITED REGARDING THE RESTORATION OF DAMAGED NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE DUE TO THE PASSAGE OF HURRICANE BERYL



2024 JULY 31

#### DOCUMENT TITLE AND APPROVAL PAGE

DOCUMENT NUMBER: 2024/ELE/018/DIR.001

#### 2. DOCUMENT TITLE:

DIRECTIVE TO JAMAICA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY LIMITED (JPS) REGARDING THE RESTORATION OF DAMAGED NETWORK INFRASTRUCTURE DUE TO THE PASSAGE OF HURRICANE BERYL

#### 3. PURPOSE OF DOCUMENT

To direct the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS) to restore damaged network infrastructure due to the passage of Hurricane Beryl in accordance with its Restoration Schedule, and in any event, achieve 100% restoration of electricity to consumers throughout the island of Jamaica by 2024 August 12.

#### 4. ANTECEDENT PUBLICATIONS

Publication Number	Publication Title	Publication Date
8		

#### 5. Approval

This document is approved by the Office of Utilities Regulation and the decisions therein become effective on 2024 July 31.

On behalf of the Office:

Ansord E. Hewitt Director-General

2024 July 31

# OFFICE OF UTILITIES REGULATION DIRECTIVE

#### 2024/ELE/018/DIR.001

(Issued pursuant to Section 4 of the Office of Utilities Regulation Act AND Section 5 of the Electricity Act, 2015)

IN THE MATTER OF:

THE RESTORATION WORKS BEING UNDERTAKEN BY JAMAICA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY LIMITED DUE TO THE PASSAGE OF HURRICANE BERYL

AND

THE OFFICE OF UTILITIES REGULATION ACT

AND

THE ELECTRICITY ACT, 2015

AND

THE ELECTRICITY LICENCE, 2016

TO: JAMAICA PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY LIMITED

#### WHEREAS:

A. Pursuant to Condition 2(3) of the Electricity Licence, 2016, (Licence) the Jamaica Public Service Company Limited (JPS/Licensee) shall "provide an adequate, safe and efficient service based on modern standards, to all parts of the Island of

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Jamaica at reasonable rates so as to meet the demands of the Island and to contribute to economic development".

- B. Condition 6(4) of the Licence requires that the Licensee shall maintain and repair relevant assets throughout the term of the Licence in accordance with good industry practice so as to enable it to meet its obligations under the Licence.
- C. Pursuant to section 4(d) of the Electricity Act, 2015 (Electricity Act), the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR/Office) is responsible for the regulation of the electricity sector generally.
- D. Pursuant to section 5 of the Electricity Act, the OUR, where it considers it necessary, may give directions to any licensee with a view to ensuring that the needs of consumers are met. Section 5 of the Electricity Act provides as follows:

"The Office may, where it considers necessary, give directions to any licensee or specified organization with a view to ensuring that –

- (a) the needs of the consumers of the services provided by the licensee or specified organization are met...":
- E. Similarly, pursuant to section 4(2)(a) of the Office of Utilities Regulation Act (OUR Act), the OUR, where it considers it necessary, may give directions to any licensee with a view to ensuring that the needs of consumers are met. Section 4(2)(a) of the OUR Act provides as follows:

"The Office may, where it considers necessary, give directions to any licensee or specified organization with a view to ensuring that –

- (a) the needs of the consumers of the services provided by the licensee or specified organization are met...":
- F. Additionally, section 4(3)(b), of the OUR Act empowers the OUR to take measures as it considers necessary or desirable to protect the interests of consumers in relation to the supply of a prescribed utility service. Section 4(3) (b) states:
  - "(3) In the performance of its functions under this Act the Office shall undertake such measures as it considers necessary or desirable to: –

- (b) protect the interests of consumers in relation to the supply of a prescribed utility service..."
- G. On 2024 July 3, Hurricane Beryl, a category 4 hurricane, passed just offshore the south coast of Jamaica bringing high winds, significant rainfall, flooding, and lightning, that caused landslides and downed trees, which led to significant damage to the JPS transmission and distribution network infrastructure. The damage included but is not limited to dislodged poles (with and without transformers), broken conductors, and cross-arms, streetlights and the failure and mal-functioning of various equipment and devices on the network used in the delivery, monitoring and control of electricity service.
- H. The most severely impacted parishes were those closest to the northern eyewall of Hurricane Beryl, that is, St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, parts of Manchester, Clarendon and Eastern and Western Hanover. The severity and extent of the damage to JPS's electrical infrastructure disrupted supply to customers throughout the island with varying degrees with the most extensive damage occurring in the referenced parishes. The unavailability of electricity supply has impaired the availability of water supply and telecommunications services throughout the island and has impaired the operations of critical facilities such as hospitals, schools, police stations and water irrigation services.
- In the aftermath of Hurricane Beryl, JPS embarked on its emergency response and recovery capabilities to return the country to normal operations. The company conducted its preliminary assessment and gave indicative timelines for the restoration of electricity to the affected areas. Subsequently, JPS conducted its detailed assessments and at various intervals, has given timelines for completion of restoration of the affected areas.
- J. JPS's restoration process has been under constant regulatory monitoring. The OUR has had several meetings with the JPS to address certain developments and issues in the system restoration process, including the pace of restoration. The OUR has also conveyed to JPS that in accordance with its licence obligations, all diligence should be employed to expedite restoration.

- K. JPS, having commenced restoration efforts, has made significant progress to restore electricity utilizing its own resources, including the use of local contractors procured before Hurricane Beryl and in the wake thereof. However, in light of the impetus to restore electricity service and to enhance its labour resource capabilities, JPS augmented its own resources with additional local contractors and linemen from regional utility companies, sourced through Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation (CARILEC). In addition, JPS has indicated that its labour resource pool will be increased due to the engagement of teams from TCI Fortis, Bermuda, and Manitoba Hydro Electric, Canada through a mutual assistance programme and it is actively pursuing other options.
  - L. JPS has also indicated that its capability analysis shows that equipment inventory to effect restoration is adequate.
- M. The OUR is cognizant that the speedy restoration of electricity after a natural disaster is a complex task, and a safe and efficient restoration requires significant logistical expertise, skilled trained and certified workers particularly linemen, and specialized equipment. The OUR, having met with JPS and assessed the situation relative to the needs of customers and consumers, is mindful of the increasing hardship being faced by customers and consumers who are without electricity services, that includes the other utility services, which are dependent on the availability of electricity for an extended period and the continuation thereof.
- N. JPS, has committed to the restoration of priority areas identified by the National Water Commission, such that water can be restored to communities. Further, according to the Hurricane Beryl Restoration Update dated 2024 July 30, as of 2024 July 29, having achieved 96.9% restoration of its customers as set out in Appendix A, JPS has indicated that it will restore the supply of electricity to the remaining customers in accordance with the Restoration Schedule set out herein at Appendix B, and, in any event the restoration of all outstanding customers throughout the island, subject to the inaccessibility issues faced in the areas specified as Exceptions in the slides included in Appendix B (i.e. specified areas/locations in Kingston & St. Andrew, St. James, St. Ann and Hanover) no later than 2024 August 12.

O. The OUR, having received JPS's restoration updates, has reviewed and interrogated the Restoration Schedule in the context of the assurances given by JPS regarding its labour resource pool and availability of the required equipment. The OUR is also satisfied that at this point enough time has elapsed for JPS to have full grasp of the extent and nature of the damage and disruption to its network, the available resources and the practicable timeline for restoration. As the regulator for the electricity sector generally and JPS being a regulated entity, the OUR is mindful of JPS's obligations to take steps to ensure the reliability, adequacy, safety and efficiency of the service that it provides to the public. The OUR is also mindful of JPS's obligation to repair its network to enable it to meet its obligations under the Licence and to restore power within the shortest practicable time to meet the needs of the consumers. Further, the OUR is cognizant of its obligation to protect the interests of consumers of electricity.

The Office **HEREBY DIRECTS** that JPS **REPAIR** its damaged network infrastructure due to the passage of Hurricane Beryl in accordance with its Restoration Schedule set out in **Appendix B** to **RESTORE** power to its customers, who are currently without electricity and, in any event, **ACHIEVE** 100% restoration of electricity to consumers throughout the island of Jamaica, subject to the inaccessibility issues faced in the areas specified as Exceptions in the slides included in **Appendix B**, **by 2024 August 12**.

**TAKE NOTICE** that failure by JPS to comply with this Directive within the time specified herein, will render it liable to enforcement action pursuant to section 9 of the OUR Act.

**AND TAKE FURTHER NOTICE** that this Directive becomes effective on the 31st day of July 2024.

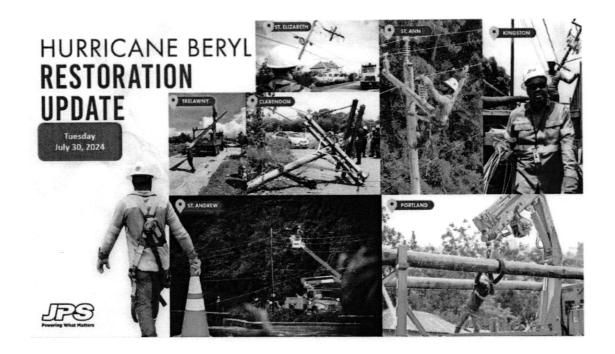
BY ORDER OF THE OFFICE OF UTILITIES REGULATION

Ansord E. Hewitt Director-General

2024 July 31

### APPENDIX A

### Customers Restored as at 2024 July 29



## Recovering from Beryl | Customers Restored as of July 29th

#### Pewering What Matters

Parish	Customer Base Parish Distribution	Restoration Status		
		29-Jul-24 (11:00pm)	29-Jul-24 (11:00pm)	29-Jul-24 (11:00pm)
		With Supply	Percentage of customers with supply	Unrestored
Clarendon	47392	46375	97.85%	1017
Hanover	11860	10728	90.46%	1132
KSAN	96303	96283	99.98%	20
KSAS	74620	74620	100.00%	0
Manchester	44015	42836	97.32%	1179
Portland	25491	24907	97.71%	584
Portmore	50803	50803	100.00%	0
St. Ann	50701	50604	99.81%	97
St. Catherine	88626	88352	99.69%	274
St. Elizabeth	37796	23479	62.12%	14317
St. James	50347	50141	99.59%	206
St. Mary	40664	40079	98.56%	585
St. Thomas	21666	21666	100.00%	0
Trelawny	25402	24080	94.80%	1322
Westmoreland	26801	26020	97.09%	781
TOTAL	692,489	670,573	96.9%	21,514

To be updated @ 8:30am July 31, to account for works done on July 30, 2024



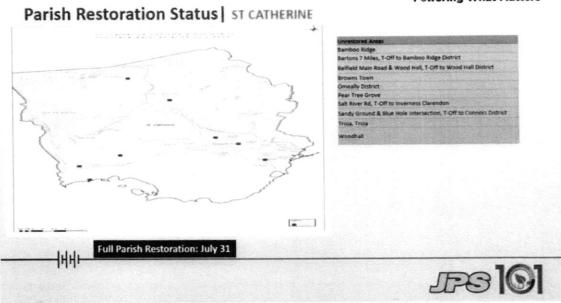


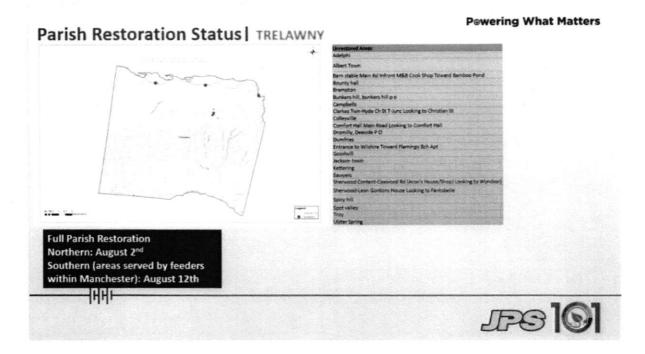
### APPENDIX B

#### Restoration Schedule

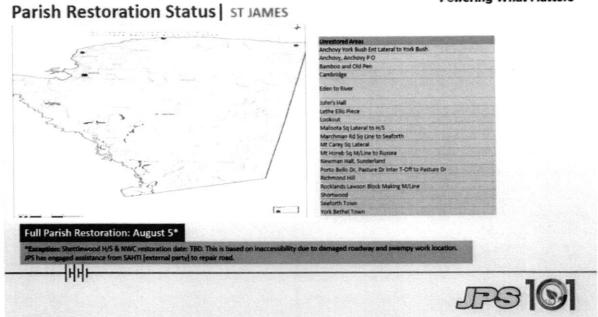
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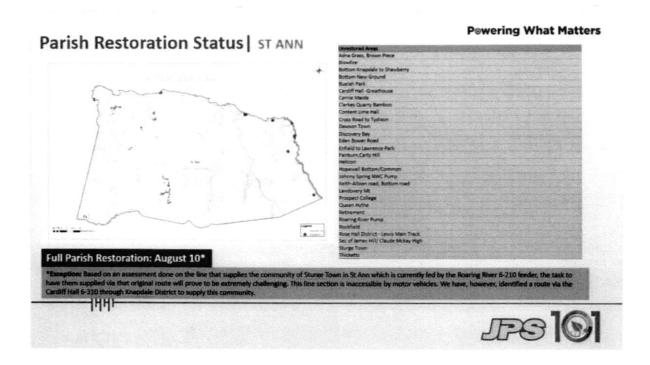
#### Powering What Matters





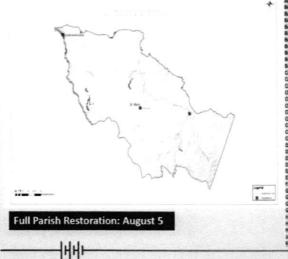
#### **Pewering What Matters**





## Parish Restoration Status | ST MARY

#### **Powering What Matters**



Albien Microtrain Road
Rapande Spring
Banara Surly, Commel
Banara Surly, Commel
Banara Surly, Commel
Bernier Town Spawe
Bei Hill
Beshop Mountain
Bonny Gate Road
Bramere Hall Road
Bramere Hall Road
Burthan Hill
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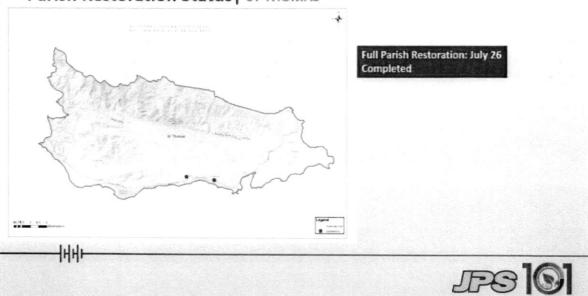
Investigated Areas

Investigated Sparker Screen Farm on graded the End 
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foreign and to the 
south of 
south

JPS 101

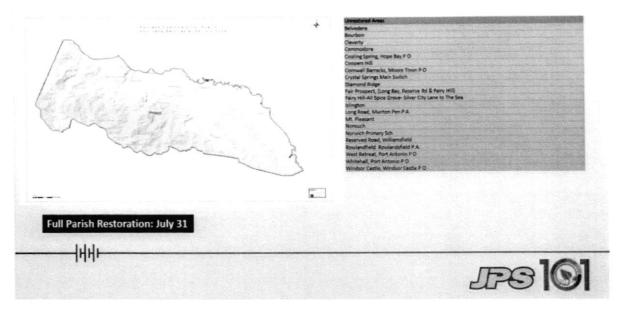
## Parish Restoration Status | ST THOMAS

#### Powering What Matters



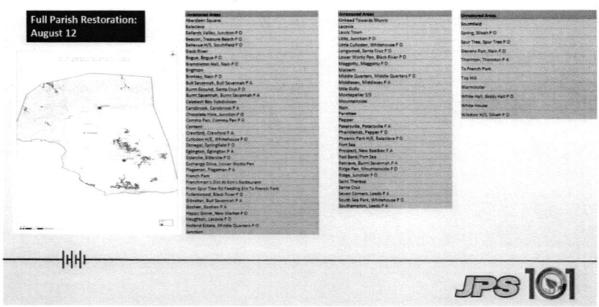
#### Powering What Matters

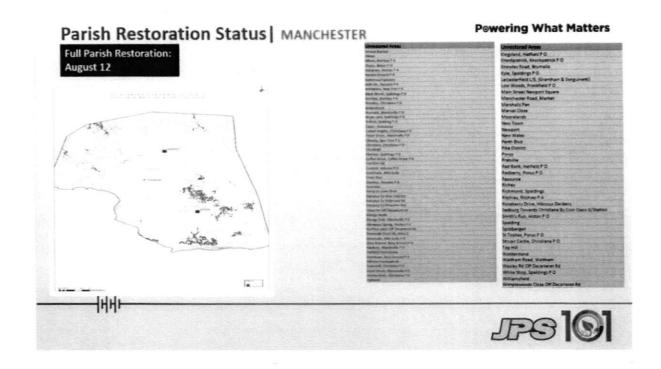
## Parish Restoration Status | PORTLAND

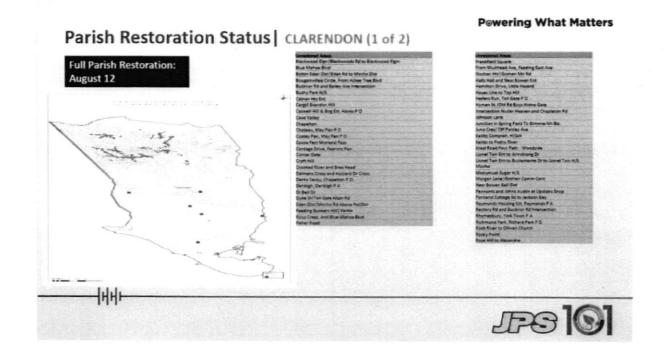


## Parish Restoration Status | ST ELIZABETH

#### Powering What Matters

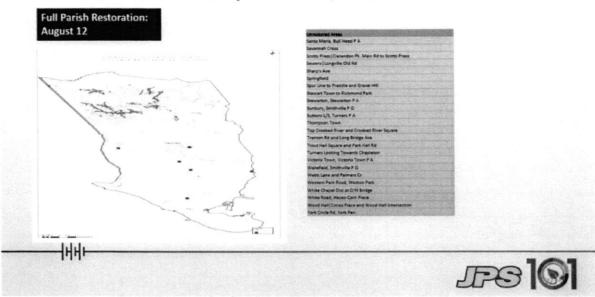


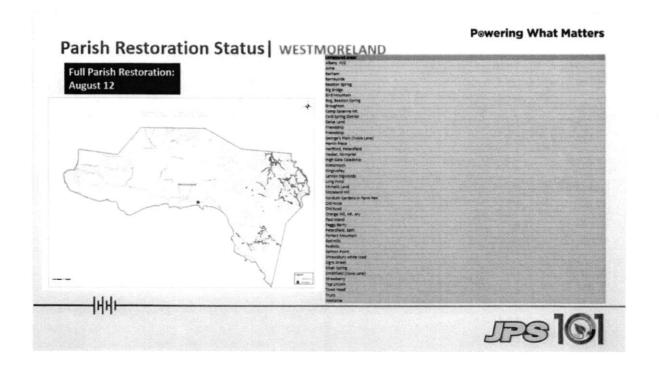




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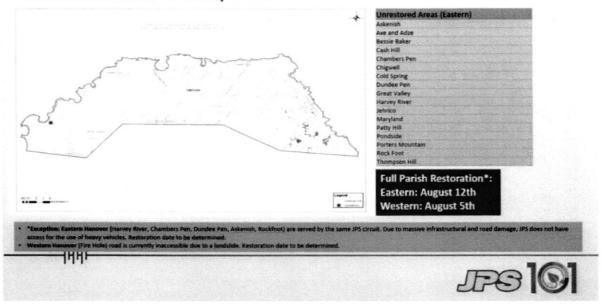
## Parish Restoration Status | CLARENDON (2 of 2)





#### **Pewering What Matters**

## Parish Restoration Status | HANOVER



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