

Media Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OUR sets up Internal Team for JPS Blackout investigation

(KINGSTON, Jamaica; 2026 June 12): Following Jamaica Public Service Company Limited's (JPS) submission of its preliminary report on the islandwide blackout on Friday, 2026 June 5, the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) has established a special internal team. The team's focus is to provide direction to JPS, undertake necessary preparations, and review the final report to determine its validity, the relevance of JPS's recommendations, and the actions specified by JPS that are to follow.

The team is authorised to provide the OUR with advice on the necessary resources, including the engagement of any external expertise to ensure a thorough and comprehensive examination of the blackout incident, to make its own recommendations and to identify the requisite regulatory actions to be taken.

The OUR, in reviewing and assessing the initial findings of the JPS Report, wishes to make it clear that since the report is at best a preliminary incident report with limited attention to root cause, no conclusions, recommendations, or concrete regulatory enforcement actions can flow from it.

The Director-General, Ansord E. Hewitt pointed out that, "The preliminary report, however is a helpful signpost to alert the OUR to immediate post-restoration concerns, and to enable the regulator to give further directions to JPS as to the expected scope and the critical inputs that must be addressed in JPS's investigation and reflected in the final detailed report, which is due within thirty (30) days of the full restoration of electricity."

In the preliminary report, JPS gave assurances that its immediate review and the operational measures taken following the outage do not indicate any immediate or ongoing concerns for grid stability.

According to JPS, the incident was preceded by multiple faults on critical transmission infrastructure in the Corporate Area during a period of heavy rain and lightning. JPS has also indicated that its initial investigations suggest a possible misoperation of the primary protection scheme associated with the Hunts Bay - Rockfort 69kV line. It said these factors collectively contributed to prolonged fault conditions, cascading generator trips, and ultimately system-wide instability and shutdown.

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QUALITY POLICY STATEMENT

OUR RULES: The management and staff of the OUR are committed to Regulating Utility services in accordance with our Legislative powers and to the Enhancement of customer Satisfaction through continual improvement of our quality management system.

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