

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**OUR AND INTEGRITY COMMISSION SIGN JOINT STATEMENT ENDING 2016 LAWSUIT AGAINST
OCG**

(KINGSTON; Jamaica: 2018 May 08): The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) and the Integrity Commission have signed a Joint Statement ending a 2016 Supreme Court suit filed by the OUR against the Office of the Contractor General (OCG) regarding its findings on the process used by the OUR to review proposals for the supply of 360 megawatts of power to the national grid in 2013.

Subsequent to the filing of the court action, “The parties have been in discussion and have now resolved certain misunderstandings...accordingly, (they) have mutually agreed that there is no further need for the Court’s intervention, or for either party to incur further litigation expense...” said the parties in the Joint Statement released under the signatures of Ansord Hewitt, Director General of the OUR and Dirk Harrison (former Contractor General), on behalf of the Integrity Commission. The OCG has been subsumed into the Integrity Commission pursuant to sections 1 and 5 of the Integrity Commission Act, 2017.

The OUR has agreed to withdraw its claim with each party bearing their own costs, and a Notice of Discontinuance has since been filed.

The entities affirmed that, “both being statutory bodies each with responsibilities for regulatory monitoring and compliance are committed to continuing collaboration in keeping with their mandate in order to ensure best practices and the observance of good governance for the national good and to optimize outcomes, as they each perform their particular statutory obligations.”

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In 2013 September, the Contractor General issued a Report regarding a Special Investigation of the process utilised by the OUR in reviewing proposals submitted to the OUR for increasing/replacing electricity generating capacity to satisfy Jamaica's energy needs. The Report, entitled "Report of Special Investigation: Right to Supply 360 Megawatts of Power to the National Grid, Office of Utilities Regulation, Ministry of Science, Technology, Energy and Mining" ("Contractor General's Report"), contained findings which were critical of the process utilised by the OUR. The OUR disagreed with the findings and conclusions and on 2013 September 27, issued a response entitled "Response to Office of Contractor General's Report of Special Investigation on the Right to Supply 360 MW of Power to the National Grid" ("OUR's Response to the Report") and subsequently sought the intervention of the Court

The Joint Statement, which will be posted on their websites, explained that "the parties have accepted that neither had, "any bad intention or malice in issuing the Contractor General's Report, the OUR's Response to the Report or in filing the suit in court. Further, neither party had any intention to sully or cause damage to the other party's organizational reputation."

Please visit the www.our.org.jm for the Joint Statement.

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