

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

OUR MONITORING JPS'S WIDESPREAD OUTAGE

(KINGSTON, Jamaica; 2019 November 05): The Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) is aware that the Jamaica Public Service Company Ltd. (JPS) is carrying out load shedding which has impacted a wide cross section of customers in Kingston and St. Andrew, St. Catherine, Manchester, St. Elizabeth, Westmoreland, St. James and St. Ann.

The utility company has indicated that it might need to shed about 72MW or 10% of system generation during the peak evening hours, and has informed the OUR that they are working with their larger customers to reduce demand and are encouraging other customers to conserve. JPS's public communication points to "the unexpected unavailability of some generating units belonging to JPS and Independent Power Producers (IPPs)" as the reason for load shedding.

The OUR will be asking JPS to submit a preliminary report by tomorrow. This will be a precursor to a more detailed one which JPS is obliged to provide to the OUR within thirty days of restoration of power, as is stipulated in the Electricity Act, 2015.

The OUR will also be asking the electricity company about the likelihood of the continuation of the outage as well as any mitigating measures they will implement.

The OUR will provide a more detailed update once we have further information.

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