

Ministry Paper 76 /2020

Office of Utilities Regulation Annual Report for the year ending 31st March 2020.

The attention of the Honourable House is invited to the 2019/2020 Annual Performance Report and the Audited Financial Statements of the Office of Utilities Regulation (OUR) which are hereby presented in accordance with the requirements of Section 13 of the OUR Act.

It is the opinion of BDO Jamaica, in its independent report, that proper accounting records were kept and the financial statements, which are in agreement therewith, gave the information required by the Office of Utilities Regulation Act, in the manner required.

The OUR oversaw the updating and expansion of the fixed cost models for both active and passive network infrastructure in the telecommunications sector. Under new arrangements to be proposed, service providers will be required in the 2020/2021 fiscal year to provide clear and current information regarding applicable prices and tariffs to their bundled and unbundled customers, define all applicable taxes, describe services and ensure that there is a break-out of charges for access usage.

Automation, using smart meters and smart sensors was introduced as part of the JPS's digitization process. These technologies have enabled the utility to capture data that can contribute to the enhancement of services provided to customers. The OUR approved a proposal by the Jamaica Public Service (JPS) for the installation of a hybrid energy storage system (HESS) at the Hunts Bay Power Station, the first of its type in the Caribbean.

An Interim Determination Notice was published in December 2019 for the National Water Commission (NWC) which has until the end of 2021 to make a full application for a tariff review. Residential and commercial customers, including schools and condominiums have seen an average of a 4% rise in water rates since the issuance of the Notice.

The Honourable House is asked to note the foregoing.



Andrew Holness

Prime Minister

5th October, 2020