



Jamaica Energy Partners

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February 11, 2010

Mr. Peter Knight
Chief Executive Officer
National Environment & Planning Agency
10-11 Caledonia Avenue
Kingston 5

Dear Mr. Knight,

**RE: RESPONSES TO QUESTIONS RAISED CONCERNING
JEP'S WEST KINGSTON POWER PLANT PROJECT
ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

Please see responses below to the concerns raised about the captioned project:

1. How will the Power generated from the facility be added to the grid?

As outlined in the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) document, "The facility will interconnect with the JPSCo. transmission grid by modifying the existing 69kV transmission line between Hunt's Bay and Rockfort Substations. A substation will be built at the new site and the referenced transmission line will be split in two giving the new site two connections into the transmission grid."

Please refer to Section "3.2.1 Technical Overview" on Pg. 15 -16 which speaks to the issue of interconnection with the grid.

2. Is the layout of the power generation facility as proposed the best orientation to reduce the noise level? Could the buildings onsite be used as a sound barrier between the Power Plant and the Charles Chinloy School and other such institutions in the vicinity? Could a concrete wall around the facility be also used as a sound barrier?

Yes. The layout of the power generation facility as proposed is the best orientation to reduce noise.

Noise modeling was done using SoundPlan 6.5 noise modeling software. It was calibrated using the manufacturing noise guarantee and various layout options including concrete walls of varying heights. The model also took into consideration the buildings onsite. As indicated in the EIA, the layout selected based on this noise modeling exercise will not result in a significant increase in the noise climate of the area.

The nature of the noise emitted (low frequency which has long wavelengths) reduces the feasibility of using concrete walls as a sound barrier unless the wall was constructed exceedingly high due to the long wavelength (approx. 27.2 m). Therefore in addition to a moderately high wall, JEP will employ the noise reduction techniques as outlined in Section 8.1.3.3. on pg. 263 of the EIA to the tune of approximately US\$743,905.36.

3. Has a decision been reached on the means by which oil will be received from PETROJAM?

Oil will be received by a direct pipeline from Petrojam. Trucking will also be used as an alternate method to avoid disruptions to fuel supply when fuel transfer by pipeline is not possible (e.g. where maintenance is being carried out on the pipes / pumps).

4. It may be necessary to notify the community when land clearance has started as the contaminated soil may produce an odor nuisance. Has this been considered?

Yes. This has been considered and will be done. JEP is very proactive and has had discussions with the Member of Parliament, the Mayor and senior community members and has actively engaged the community from the early stages of the Project.

5. Response to the Jamaica Environment Trust questions:

- i. With respect to the question of demand side management. While this is an important issue, it is not an alternative that is within JEP's scope since JEP's only customer is JPS and this project is being pursued in response to a request for proposal to meet existing energy needs.*
- ii. With reference to comments related to particulate matter. It was stated that a study was conducted "Urban Air Quality & Human Health in Latin America & the Caribbean – date?" which indicates background levels of Particulate Matter (PM) for Kingston was $69 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$. It is not clear where in Kingston these samples were collected, for how long and by whom etc., but the average of the PM 10 values that JEP has been monitoring continuously between November 1, 2009 and January 31, 2010 is $25.09 \mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ and the air dispersion model conducted by the experts have indicated that Particulate Matter is not likely to result in NEPA's Standards (which are consistent with internationally recognized & accepted standards) being exceeded.*



Since it was assumed that the standards established by NEPA and other internationally recognized environmental organizations such as the USEPA would have taken the potential health impacts based on these ambient air quality standards into consideration, the use of filters is not considered to be necessary due to the low levels of particulate matter generated by these engines (the exhaust emitted from the stacks for the existing engines at Old Harbour Bay is almost invisible). Furthermore, using these filters will result in the creation of other environmental issues (such as the disposal of filters and associated wastes).

Additionally, a Health Impact Assessment is being conducted which should address this concern. The field work and focus groups meeting have been completed and analysis and write up of the data is presently being conducted.

This study is expected to be completed by March 2010.

Yours sincerely
JAMAICA ENERGY PARTNERS



Wayne McKenzie
General Manager