

WIND AND SOLAR ASSESSMENTS

Summary

The National Energy Policy (2009 – 2030) has established renewable energy targets of 12.5% by 2015 and 20% by 2030. The Petroleum Corporation of Jamaica (PCJ), the implementing arm of the Ministry of Energy and Mining (MEM), in collaboration with its subsidiary the Wigton Windfarm Ltd. and the University of the West Indies (UWI) have embarked on a Wind and Solar Development Program. The Program is partly funded by a US\$750,000 grant from the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB).

Under the Program, twenty (20) potential land-based wind sites will be assessed to determine their resource potentials. These wind sites were identified from a low resolution wind survey of the island that identified areas as having good wind regimes. An assessment and improvement of the reactive power system of the Wigton Windfarm will also be carried out. A feasibility study for a 1 MW grid-connected solar farm in Portmore will also be completed. The solar feasibility study will seek to determine the technical, economic and policy feasibility of constructing and operating such a system.

MEM has also disseminated the draft “National Renewable Energy Policy 2009 – 2030...Creating a sustainable Future”. Both policies are designed to work towards the overall goal of Jamaica’s attaining developed country status by 2030ⁱ, and are available on the Ministry’s website at www.mem.gov.jm.

Highlights – Wind & Solar

- Assessment of 20 potential wind sites.
- Improvement of WWFL’s reactive power profile.
- Feasibility study for a 1 MW solar farm in Portmore.
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PCJ’s Centre of Excellence for Renewable Energy (CERE) was established in November, 2006. The mandate is to ensure the diversification of Jamaica’s energy mix, by securing renewable energy investments.

ⁱ Planning Institute of Jamaica, “Vision 2030 Jamaica National Development Plan: Planning for a Secure and Prosperous Future”

