



**FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION**

Monday 20<sup>th</sup> March, 2017

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**Island wide Outage- March 19<sup>th</sup>, 2017**

The Antigua Public Utilities Authority wishes to apologize to its customers for the total system collapse of the Power Grid that occurred at 9:56 PM on March 19, 2017.

The 50MW Plant at Antigua Power Company (APC) lost control air pressure, resulting in the suppression of fuel to the two gen-sets (#5 and #6) that were on line at the Plant. As a result gen-sets #5 and #6 tripped off line. These two sets were carrying 25.7MW of the total 41.5MW of generation on the grid at the time. There was a series of automatic Feeder load shedding to compensate for the loss of generation. But due to the fact that the system had lost 62% of the total generation, the load shedding did not prevent the system from collapsing. Consequently all the other gen-sets connected to the grid at the time tripped, which led to the collapse of the system.

The technicians at APC quickly commenced the restoration of power at the 50MW Plant. At 10:29 PM two sets (the #6 and #7) at APC were put on line and the closing of Feeders commenced. A total of 15 of the 24 Feeders were connected soon after. The APC technicians then concentrated their efforts at the Blackpine Power Plant, and the #4 unit at the Plant was put on line at 12:14 AM. Two other units at that Plant were subsequently put on line, which facilitated the closing of all the remaining Feeders on the grid. The power system was fully restored at 12:28AM on March 20, 2017.

APUA regrets the inconvenience caused due to the total blackout and we will be working closely with the APC to prevent any reoccurrence of this total system collapse.

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