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Statement by
Hon. Robert Pickersgill, M.P.
Minister of Water, Land, Environment & Climate Change
Regarding Noxious Fumes

On Wednesday November 14, 2012, I issued a statement on the noxious fumes pollution incident which was being investigated by the National Environment and Planning Agency (NEPA).

Following an in depth investigation including environmental assessments, NEPA has reported that it has tracked the source of the pollution incident to the PETROJAM Refinery on Marcus Garvey Drive.

You will recall that PETROJAM was one of the first locations visited based on the tracking of the odour and telephone calls by the citizens.

PETROJAM is now confirming that the facility experienced operational issues that resulted in the release of a petroleum based product into the environment.

I have instructed NEPA to immediately investigate the reasons why PETROJAM failed to report the pollution incident which is a requirement in keeping with its environmental permit.

This has caused NEPA to incur expenses unnecessarily and to inconvenience members of the public including the closure of some schools. This will of course trigger a strong enforcement action and the public can be assured that cases of pollution incidents will always be quickly investigated.

I wish to apologise to members of the public who were inconvenienced and congratulate NEPA on the speedy manner in which it was able to establish the source of this pollution.

Robert D. Pickersgill

Minister

November 16, 2012