



Press Statement

ERB Grounds BP Tanker Fleet

21st January 2009

The Energy Regulation Board (ERB) has with immediate effect directed BP Zambia Plc to cease the use of its entire tanker fleet for the transportation of petroleum products due to failure to renew its licence to transport petroleum products which expired on 25th August 2008.

The ERB directive was issued after a hearing held on 16th January 2009, when BP Zambia Plc failed to justify why it was operating a tanker fleet without a licence duly issued by the ERB. At the same hearing, BP also failed to justify why it had used an unlicensed tanker that was involved in an accident on 3rd December 2008 on the Kitwe – Chingola Road.

It is a requirement that all tankers used for the transportation of petroleum products be certified to do so by the Zambia Bureau of Standards (ZABS), Zambia Weights and Measures (ZWMA) and ERB on an annual basis and that all transporters be in possession of a valid licence issued by the ERB.

BP Zambia Plc's licence to transport petroleum products expired on 25th August 2008 and no application for renewal had been lodged by BP before the expiry of their licence. As such BP had until 19th January 2008 been operating its tanker fleet illegally.

The ERB directive means that BP Zambia Plc will not be able to use its tanker fleet to transport petroleum products until its new licence application to transport petroleum products is approved by the ERB. During the intervening period, BP may use other licenced transporters to transport its petroleum products.

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