

Congress of the United States
House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2018

The Honorable William B. "Brock" Long
Administrator
Federal Emergency Management Agency
500 C St SW
Washington, DC 20024-2523

Dear Administrator Long:

We are writing to object to the Federal Emergency Management Agency's (FEMA) decision to end the United States Army Corps of Engineers' (USACE) mission assignment for power line restoration work in Puerto Rico. As you are aware, Puerto Rico is still recovering from the catastrophic damage that resulted from Hurricane Maria, and we are deeply concerned that you pulled out before the mission was complete.

On April 18, 2018, we wrote urging you to extend USACE's critical power restoration work in Puerto Rico. You replied that this work is a priority for FEMA. However, on May 17 you announced FEMA would no longer perform line restoration work in Puerto Rico, instead leaving the work in the hands of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA).

FEMA's decision to scale back the Federal presence in Puerto Rico is troubling given that approximately 10,000 Americans still lack power, eight months after the storm.¹

Further, FEMA announced it would not extend USACE's mission assignment the day before the mission assignment expired. Such a last-minute decision offered little time for a thorough analysis of the implications of the termination. In fact, FEMA has not provided sufficient information about PREPA's capacity to take on this work and only after declining to extend USACE's mission assignment is FEMA now requesting that PREPA specify how it will provide for current and future temporary power needs. Such a plan should have been in place and considered before ending USACE's mission assignment. Further, FEMA has not provided information on how the transition from USACE to PREPA would take place, or what measures have been taken to ensure a seamless transition.

With the 2018 hurricane season now underway, Puerto Rico's electric grid remains vulnerable to future weather events, as evidenced by recurring blackouts on the island.² Given our ongoing

¹ Rivera, Yalixa and Levin, Jonathan. "Puerto Rico Asks Buyers of Rickety Power System to Rewrite Rules." Bloomberg. Jun. 11, 2018. Accessed Jun. 11, 2018 <https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2018-06-11/puerto-rico-asks-buyers-of-rickety-power-system-to-rewrite-rules>.

² Park, Madison. "Widespread Power Outage Persists in Puerto Rico." CNN. April 19, 2018. Accessed May 23, 2018. <https://www.cnn.com/2018/04/19/us/puerto-rico-power-outage/index.html>.

concerns about Puerto Rico's recovery efforts, we request a response to the following questions by June 27, 2018:

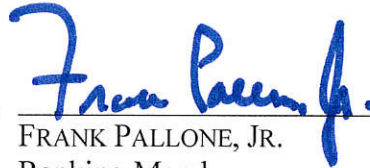
1. On May 17, 2018, a letter from FEMA Federal Coordinating Officer Michael Byrne to Omar J. Marrero, executive director of the Puerto Rico Public-Private Partnerships Authority, stated that "PREPA is in the process of procuring a logistics management team and will transition with USACE to the new team." Please explain what the transition will entail. What steps will FEMA and USACE take to ensure that there is sufficient material available on island in preparation for the 2018 hurricane season?
2. In the May 17 letter, FEMA requests that PREPA "provide a plan describing how PREPA will support current and future temporary power needs."
 - a. How does FEMA define "temporary power needs?"
 - b. Does this plan apply to the placement of temporary generators, or does it consider broader service challenges affecting PREPA?
 - c. Will this plan incorporate a strategy to restore power to the remaining citizens that are still without power?
 - d. Please provide copies of all plans PREPA has submitted to FEMA pursuant to the May 17 letter that describe PREPA's plans to support current and future power needs.
3. Per the May 17 letter, FEMA approved extending USACE's mission for emergency power by continuing to lease, operate and maintain three "mega generators" until PREPA purchases the generators.
 - a. How much of Puerto Rico's electricity demand can these generators deliver?
 - b. Did PREPA request to purchase these generators, or how was the agreement determined?
 - c. What is the projected remaining life of these generators?
 - d. Please explain the terms and cost details of the leasing and operation and maintenance agreement, and the purchase agreement.
 - e. Please explain the process in place to ensure there are an adequate number of trained workers to operate and maintain the units once USACE transitions the generators to PREPA.
 - f. How will the expenses from the generators affect the Federal funding available to PREPA for permanent work or long-term remediation of the electric power system?
 - g. Once the generators purchase is complete, the lease and maintenance will terminate. What are the plans for maintaining the generators after the maintenance period is over? What is the transition plan from sale to equipment release?

Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,



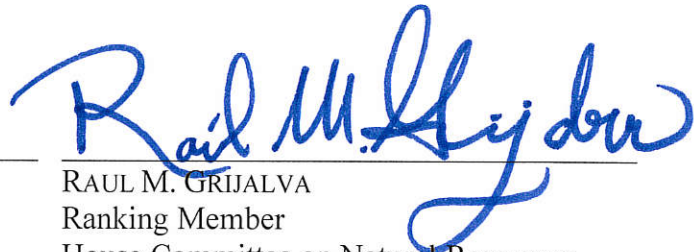
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Ranking Member
House Committee on Transportation and
Infrastructure



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