



press release

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

Governor of Puerto Rico and FEMA Announce Strategy to Stabilize the Electrical System

November 15, 2022 – The president and the federal coordinator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA), Nancy Casper, announced the steps to follow to increase the generation capacity and improve the transmission and distribution system of the electrical network. The announcement comes after the Governor of Puerto Rico, Pedro R. Pierluisi, requested FEMA's intervention to stabilize the island's energy system.

The proposals of the Puerto Rico Power System Stabilization Task Force, created by FEMA at the request of the governor, include installing temporary generation by means of generating barges and high-capacity portable generators that will be established on the Island for up to one year. In fact, FEMA already has specific units identified and is taking steps to contract and mobilize them to Puerto Rico, which can take between one and six months. Additionally, FEMA is carrying out essential work in an expeditious manner in the existing generating plants that allow the reincorporation of units that are not working at capacity or that are out of service. Likewise, execute key and fast works in the power grid, such as the replacement of high voltage switches and the repair of transformers, among others.

The Puerto Rico Power System Stabilization Task Force includes: FEMA, the U.S. Department of Energy, the U.S. Corps of Engineers, and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

"This assistance would be in addition to the funds that we already have assigned to the power grid and their priority is to provide stability in the shortest time possible and thus be able to repair the system prior to the next hurricane season. Also, the aid considers and respects the Integrated Resource Plan and the renewable energy goals of our energy public policy. The temporary increase in generation will also allow work and improvements to be carried out in the generating units that we are using today and that we cannot turn off to make repairs, since we do not have enough generating capacity," said Governor Pierluisi accompanied by the Executive Director of the Central Office for Recovery, Reconstruction and Resiliency (COR3), Manuel Laboy and the Governor's Deputy Chief of Staff for Energy Affairs, Francisco Berrios Portela.

The governor explained that federal resources will be used to expedite work such as deploying equipment, providing engineering services, expediting permits and purchasing processes. All the work that FEMA and its teams will be carrying out will be coordinated with the local component of the energy system so that the works are carried out in a systematic way.

For her part, the federal coordinator of FEMA commented that the special team for the stabilization of the electrical system “has developed strategies that will allow Puerto Rico to continue to repair and rebuild following Hurricane Fiona’s impact. The work will enable the people of Puerto Rico to keep their lights on, grow the economy, and be in a more resilient position during the next hurricane season. We are focused on this collaboration between FEMA, our federal partners and the Government of Puerto Rico to achieve our end goal of a stable power system”.

In regard to that, Pierluisi indicated that, with the collaboration of FEMA and all energy components, “we will be able to focus all efforts on advancing the transformation and modernization of the electrical system without further weakening it. This way, our Island will have a stable service while the long-term work is done.”

As part of the work carried out, members of the Puerto Rico Power System Stabilization Task Force (FEMA, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE), the United States Army Corps of Engineers and EPA) completed 35 technical evaluations in the main generation facilities of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) as well as in transmission centers and key substations managed by LUMA Energy.

After the passage of Hurricane Fiona in September of this year, the component of the federal government visited the Island headed by President Biden himself, FEMA administrator, Deanne Criswell, and the secretary of the DOE, Jennifer Granholm. As a matter of fact, at the beginning of this month, Pierluisi and Granholm announced that in order to guarantee transparency in the energy transformation process, the link www.energy.pr.gov was enabled, in which it will be possible to access information on energy public policy in Puerto Rico, ongoing projects, sources of financing, among other available information.

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