

Byrne, Michael

From: Tribble, Ahsha
Sent: Wed 5/16/2018 1:43 AM (GMT-00:00)
To: Omar Marrero; mmerritt@dcmcpartners.com ; Todd Filsinger; Noel Zamot; csobrinno ; janmaduro; Walter Higgins; ernesto
Cc: Torres, Carlos; Harich, Christopher; Tribble, Ahsha; Byrne, Michael
Bcc:
Subject: Major Transparency Issues - Need resources on the ground for PREPA

Good evening,

I just completed a very distributing UCG meeting at PREPA, and we need to get to the bottom of the issues around transparency in the procurement process within PREPA.

In early Feb 2018, PREPA began an RFP process to select contractors to complete the emergency work and begin permanent work. In late March, two contractors were selected, and to date those contracts have not been awarded. On Friday, May 18, the USACE mission assignment will end and its contractor, PowerSecure will demobilize. The intent was to have contractors on island under the new contract to fill any void.

On May 18, we will have a deficit in crews as contracts are not in place to get the lights on for people that have not had power for 7+ months! Somewhere between Filsinger Energy, PREPA legal, PREPA Board, OCPC, and FOMB we have a problem and individually no one can explain the issue. FEMA Counsel has reviewed draft contracts and given the guidance needed to proceed. FEMA Counsel has been asked the same questions repeatedly and answered them the same way. FEMA Public Assistance has drafted project worksheets, discussed with FEMA HQ, and have prepared all documentation we can until these contracts are executed. Even still, nearly four months later, we have nothing. Furthermore, we do not have adequate answers for the Mayors around the status of crews in their area. FEMA continues to take the hits for this, but this is NOT a FEMA problem. This is a transparency problem within PREPA. Depending on who you ask, you get a different answer or no answer. Citizens need power, and we are sitting on contracts to get the work done.

Here is where we are today:

- On March 23, PREPA asked for additional resources, and Cobra agreed to source 300 resources under the following conditions: (1) catch up on payments and (2) award the RFP and/or (3) complete Amendment #6 to increase the cap as their burn rate would increase. None of these happened to date. This week, Cobra agreed to bring in an additional 100 lineman into the Utuado area given the criticality of the situation. They will arrive in the next 14 days. However, these crews are arriving under their emergency contract, not the RFP award. As such, Cobra will hit its contract ceiling within a month, meaning they will run out of money without the RFP award. We were told last week by Filsinger Energy that their contract was in FOMB. We found out today that it was never submitted to FOMB. Filsinger just got the contract to OCPC. OCPC is awaiting questions to be answered from Filsinger since Friday. And so we wait.
- Another contractor, which was selected under the RFP, has had equipment staged for over

a month in Jacksonville. Their contract is at FOMB, but there are still questions to be answered. What has been going on between March when they were selected and now? The contract has not been awarded yet and so we wait. There are 300 resources that could have been on the island by now. Instead we need to explain to Mayors and citizens that we do not have an answer.

To date, there has not been a single RFP awarded out of PREPA in 7 months. The process is broken. We cannot get an answer as to when these contracts will be awarded. We do not even know what needs to be fixed to move the process along. FEMA is accountable to the Governor and the Commonwealth, and we are at a loss in terms of how to help.

As a secondary problem, we had a decision made for Vieques and Culebra, a very sensitive issue due to a serious stability issue on the island and Congressional pressure. FEMA Counsel reviewed the process with the Commonwealth and PREPA/Filsinger/Legal, and today PREPA is asking the same questions we answered over and over again! We have a wonderful opportunity to do a demonstration project on these islands to prove that the Commonwealth and PREPA are capable of delivering a modern, standardized system that focuses on the customer. Well, today that is in jeopardy.

Personally, I have taken a lot of shots in this process, but I keep these issues close and work them internally. I want what is best for Puerto Rico, and have spent 7+ months on this island to make it happen in spite of this process. I have finally hit that point where I believe we are inept or we need to begin an investigation as to determine sabotage.

I am appealing to this group to get together, be transparent, and tell us how/where we can work together to get additional resources on the ground and begin to rebuild a power grid deserved by the people of Puerto Rico. It is unacceptable that the emergency work has slowed due to contracting and lack of decision making. I am asking for help to get this back on track quickly, and I want everyone to hear the same thing at the same time to determine a solution.

Thank you,
Ahsha

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