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Gobierno local y agencias federales firman acuerdo para garantizar desarrollo de red energética resiliente

(2 de febrero de 2022- Washington D.C.) El gobernador, Pedro R. Pierluisi, firmó un acuerdo de entendimiento (MOU, por sus siglas en inglés) entre el Gobierno de Puerto Rico y agencias del gobierno federal para el desarrollo de una red de energía resiliente, sostenible y equitativa, que garantice que Puerto Rico cuente con las herramientas y los recursos necesarios para capitalizar la oportunidad de una mejor reconstrucción.

La firma del acuerdo se llevó a cabo en el Departamento de Energía federal (DOE, por sus siglas en inglés) en Washington D.C. con la presencia de la secretaria del DOE, Jennifer Granholm; la secretaria del Departamento de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano federal (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés), Marcia Fudge y el secretario del Departamento de Seguridad Nacional (DHS, por sus siglas en inglés), Alejandro Mayorkas.

“Nuestro compromiso es y continuará siendo lograr una infraestructura de energía eléctrica que brinde un servicio confiable a toda nuestra gente. Mi administración va a concentrarse en que la transformación energética de Puerto Rico avance a un ritmo ágil, como nuestra gente espera. Me aseguraré de que todos los fondos federales asignados a Puerto Rico para la reconstrucción de la red eléctrica se utilicen de manera eficiente y efectiva. Agradezco a la administración Biden por hacerse disponible para este acuerdo que nos brindará ayuda para lograr nuestro objetivo principal, que es transformar nuestro sistema energético en uno más resiliente, confiable, asequible y limpio. Agradezco a los secretarios Granholm, Fudge y Mayorkas por ser parte de este memorando de entendimiento con el gobierno de Puerto Rico. Esta asistencia será clave para la transformación del sistema eléctrico de nuestra isla”, sostuvo el gobernador.

Tras el paso de los huracanes Irma y María en el 2017, el gobierno federal asignó sobre \$12 mil millones en fondos de FEMA y el Departamento federal de Vivienda y Desarrollo Urbano (HUD, por sus siglas en inglés), destinados específicamente para el sector de energía.

Como parte del MOU, el Gobierno de Puerto Rico, el DOE, el DHS y FEMA se comprometen, entre otras cosas, a aprovechar la experiencia y las capacidades de todas las agencias para identificar oportunidades a corto y mediano plazo que garanticen que los esfuerzos de recuperación estén alineados —o puedan apoyar— los objetivos de energía limpia a largo plazo.

Por otra parte, el DHS y FEMA continuarán trabajando con el Gobierno de Puerto Rico para maximizar la flexibilidad de los fondos, lo que puede incluir la capacidad de buscar recursos de energía renovable, el desarrollo de planes que aborden riesgos a largo plazo y la promoción de la resiliencia. Ambas agencias deberán garantizar que todos los proyectos de recuperación de FEMA sean técnicamente viables, a un costo razonable y que estén alineados con las leyes y regulaciones locales.

Además, el DOE utilizará los recursos de los laboratorios nacionales —mediante su acuerdo interagencial con FEMA— para apoyar y aumentar las actividades operacionales y de planificación.

Por medio de este acuerdo interagencial, el DOE también llevará a cabo y presentará estudios para evaluar escenarios y vías para cumplir con las metas de energía renovable de Puerto Rico.

El MOU entra en vigor a partir de la fecha de su firma y permanecerá vigente hasta que se termine por mutuo acuerdo de las partes, o por cualquier parte, con 60 días de notificación por escrito a las otras partes.

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2022 Actions Include Taking Ongoing Projects to Construction Phase, Investments in Grid Reliability, a Roadmap for 100% Clean, Affordable and Reliable Power Across Puerto Rico

WASHINGTON D.C. — The U.S. Department of Energy (DOE) today joined the Departments of Homeland Security (DHS) and Housing and Urban Development (HUD), and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to launch a new effort to accelerate work to strengthen the island’s grid resilience and advance new initiatives to enhance Puerto Rico’s energy future. The parties executed a [Memorandum of Understanding \(MOU\)](#) that enhances collaboration among federal agencies and the Commonwealth, and kickstarts the [PR100 Study](#). The PR100 Study is a community-driven and locally tailored roadmap to help Puerto Rico meet its target of 100% renewable electricity, improve power sector resiliency, and increase access to more affordable energy and cleaner air. Dozens of grid modernization projects will start construction this year, and Puerto Rico’s utility will sign contracts for at least 2 GW of renewable energy and 1 GW of energy storage projects. The Biden-Harris Administration remains committed to helping states and territories reach their clean power targets to move the nation closer to achieving President Biden’s 2050 goal of a net-zero carbon economy.

“The Biden-Harris Administration is helping Puerto Rico strengthen the island’s resilience, and in the process unlock its potential for cheap and abundant renewable energy,” said **Secretary of Energy Jennifer M. Granholm**. “Today’s commitments and the launch of the PR100 Study show that 2022 will be a year of action to modernize Puerto Rico’s grid and increase energy resilience as we accelerate our work with Puerto Rico to execute data-driven, community-tailored pathways towards 100% clean electricity. DOE is proud to partner with Governor Pierluisi to help deliver a more reliable grid, good-paying jobs, lower utility bills, and healthier air to the more than 3 million American citizens living in Puerto Rico.”

“As Puerto Rico continues to rebuild and recover, we will work with our interagency partners to help create a more sustainable future and ensure communities have access to affordable energy and cleaner air,” said **Homeland Secretary Alejandro N. Mayorkas**. “This administration is making unprecedented investments in communities to help them adapt and become more resilient, and we will continue to provide the necessary resources to achieve these goals.”

“Since day one of the Biden-Harris Administration, HUD has prioritized the recovery and resilience needs of Puerto Rico and we are pleased to join in this

collaboration with our federal partners at DOE, DHS, and FEMA and with the government of Puerto Rico,” said **Housing and Urban Development Secretary Marcia L. Fudge**. “Together, we will improve the reliability and resilience of Puerto Rico’s electrical system and help the island meet its renewable energy targets in a way that couples shorter-term recovery goals with forward-looking mitigation against natural disasters and the already evident impacts of a changing climate. As this MOU makes clear, the risks of climate change and the unprecedented federal investments provide an opportunity to improve the lives of individuals and communities across the nation through increased resilience and equity.”

“One of my top priorities as Governor of Puerto Rico since I took office has been to ensure that Puerto Rico’s energy transformation moves forward at a steady and reliable pace. I will make sure that every federal fund appropriated to Puerto Rico and allocated for the reconstruction of the power grid is used efficiently and effectively,” said **Puerto Rico Governor Pedro Pierluisi**. “I thank the Biden Administration for partnering with us to help us achieve our main goal: transforming our energy system into a more resilient, reliable, affordable and clean one. Thank you, Secretaries Granholm, Fudge, Mayorkas and Administrator Criswell for entering this Memorandum of Understanding with my Administration. Your assistance will help ensure we keep moving forward in the transformation of the Island's electrical system.”

From emergency restoration to planning for the long-term recovery of Puerto Rico’s energy sector, DOE, DHS through FEMA, and HUD have been providing hands-on technical assistance to help Puerto Rico plan and prepare to execute over \$12 billion in Federal recovery and grid modernization funds, efforts that are delivering concrete change in 2022:

- **First FEMA Permanent Work Projects Will Begin Construction** – FEMA, the Central Office for Recovery, Reconstruction and Resilience (COR3), the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA), and LUMA Energy have established working groups and collaboration processes to reconstruct the island’s electric grid. It is expected that at least 138 projects will be under construction bidding or have begun initial construction activities, including island-wide substation repairs, the replacement of thousands of streetlights across five municipalities, and the creation of an early warning system to improve dam safety.
- **Clean Energy Projects Will Move Toward Construction** – To achieve its clean energy goals, Puerto Rico is procuring 3750 MW of renewable energy and 1500 MW of energy

storage, enough clean energy to power over 1 million homes. Over the last year, DOE has provided technical assistance to the Government of Puerto Rico to align the procurement process with global best practices and ensure access to capital to ultimately lower electricity costs for ratepayers who currently pay twice the national average. PREPA is currently in final negotiations of the first tranche of proposed projects: 844 MW of renewable energy, 220 MW of energy storage, and two Virtual Power Plants.

- **Implementation of \$1.9 billion in HUD grant funding for electrical power system improvements and enhancements** – In 2022, the Puerto Rico Department of Housing (PRDOH) will implement an action plan to enhance electrical system reliability and resilience. Puerto Rico’s proposed plan includes the development of both small and large microgrids. The action plan, funded through HUD’s Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) disaster recovery program and developed with assistance from DOE, focuses on community investments for vulnerable populations and low-and moderate -income households.
- **Emergency Preparedness Tool Will Launch Ahead of the 2022 Hurricane Season** – DOE and the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory (PNNL) are developing a tool that will combine detailed models of the Puerto Rico electric system with hurricane forecasting to help the Government of Puerto Rico better prepare in the days leading up to a hurricane in order to accelerate the immediate response and save lives. This tool is being developed specifically for Puerto Rico in close partnership with the utility.

As dozens of new energy recovery projects move rapidly towards construction, DOE is leveraging the world-class expertise and advanced modeling capabilities of its National Labs with the launch of the Puerto Rico Grid Resilience and Transition to 100% Renewable Energy (PR100) Study, designed to ensure that funded energy recovery actions align with Puerto Rico energy policy and resilience needs, are coordinated across sectors, and align with industry best practices. Led by the National Renewable Energy Laboratory (NREL), the study will connect local decisionmakers and communities with tools, training, and analytical support to enable planning and operation of the Commonwealth’s power grid with greater resilience against disruption as it moves toward its 100% renewable energy goal.

Specifically, the PR100 Study will:

- **Engage stakeholders and assess climate risks through the lens of energy justice** – Extensive community engagement will inform the development of scenarios that reflect local perspectives and priorities to meet the Commonwealth’s goal of 100% renewable energy by 2050. Energy justice considerations and climate risk assessments will be incorporated into the study’s modeling efforts.
- **Assess the full potential of renewable energy** – Generation of high-quality input data such as resource potential, detailed demand projections, and distributed energy resource adoption will inform scenario generation and modeling.
- **Model clean energy scenarios** – Based on stakeholder input and data, the research team will select detailed feasible pathways to 100% renewable energy, and then model their potential to meet resilience, reliability, affordability, and safety objectives.
- **Analyze system reliability, resilience, and economic impact** – Analysis of the implications of 100% renewable electricity on the power system and associated economic and workforce development will be evaluated and incorporated into the final deliverables.

The PR100 Study is funded by FEMA through an interagency agreement with DOE's Office of Electricity to support recovery efforts in Puerto Rico's energy sector leveraging the expertise and capabilities of the National Laboratories including Argonne, Lawrence Berkeley, NREL, Oak Ridge, PNNL, and Sandia. The PR100 Study is modeled after the Los Angeles “100% Renewable Energy Study” (LA100), which evaluated a wide range of future scenarios to help Los Angeles understand options for and implications of meeting its renewable energy goals. Study results showed that meeting Los Angeles’ goal of reliable, 100% renewable electricity by 2045—or even 2035—is achievable, and will provide benefits related to air quality, greenhouse gas emissions, and public health if coupled with electrification of other sectors.

“Working in collaboration with a local advisory stakeholder group and led by the DOE's National Renewable Energy Lab, the Los Angeles 100% Renewable Energy Study (LA100) was an unprecedented, independent effort that confirmed LA can reliably achieve a 100% carbon-free grid,” said **Reiko Kerr, Los Angeles Department of Water and Power Senior Assistant General**

Manager of Power System Engineering and Technical Services. “We are very proud that our partnership with DOE has helped create a model that other communities can replicate for their path to a 100% renewable and decarbonized energy future.”

DOE will hold a **public informational webinar on February 16 at 12:00 PM A.T.** to offer additional details. Visit <https://www.energy.gov/oe/launch-event-puerto-rico-grid-resilience-and-transition-100-renewable-energy-study-pr100> to learn more and register for the event.

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