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FRANK PALLONE, JR., NEW JERSEY  
RANKING MEMBER

ONE HUNDRED FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

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May 10, 2018

Mr. Jeffrey Byard  
Associate Administrator  
Office of Response and Recovery  
Federal Emergency Management Agency  
500 C Street, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20472

Dear Mr. Byard:

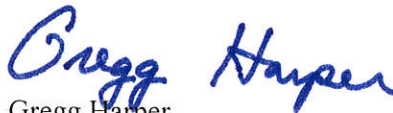
Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations on April 11, 2018, to testify at the hearing entitled "Update on the Restoration of Puerto Rico's Electric Infrastructure."

Pursuant to the Rules of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, the hearing record remains open for ten business days to permit Members to submit additional questions for the record, which are attached.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Thursday, May 24, 2018. Your responses should be mailed to Ali Fulling, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to [Ali.Fulling@mail.house.gov](mailto:Ali.Fulling@mail.house.gov).

Thank you again for your time and effort preparing and delivering testimony before the Subcommittee.

Sincerely,



Gregg Harper  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

cc: The Honorable Diana DeGette, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations

Attachment

## Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record

### The Honorable Frank Pallone, Jr.

1. How fragile is Puerto Rico's grid right now, as we head into another hurricane season and following the island-wide blackout which occurred the week of April 15th?
2. Please describe how the devastation to the island caused by Hurricanes Irma and Maria compares to the impact of hurricanes that made landfall in years past?
3. What lessons did FEMA learn in responding to back-to-back hurricanes, and is the Agency better prepared to respond to a possible similarly timed series of storms this hurricane season?
4. What are the challenges to fully restoring power to the Caguas region?
5. How is FEMA preparing for preparing for upcoming storms? For example, is the Agency leading trainings and exercises, or will emergency generators be left on the island in the event that Puerto Rico experiences similar power outages?
6. In light of the all-island power outage which occurred the week of April 15<sup>th</sup>, will FEMA extend USACE's mission assignment until the grid is more stable?
7. How would you describe the work done by FEMA-contracted entities on Puerto Rico's electric grid?
8. There have been contradictory press reports on whether FEMA will be reimbursing the Whitefish contract to restore power to the Island. Will the Agency reimburse it?
9. There are a number of contracts awarded by FEMA with obligated funds that have not been completed, or are seriously delayed in performance. These include, but are not limited to: Tribute Contracting, Filcor, Inc., and Master Group. Does the Agency plan to de-obligate or disburse the remaining funds?
10. Based on the recovery process so far and the proximity of hurricane season, is it your belief that the Stafford Act should be amended to increase the cost share to 100 percent of long-term permanent recovery projects in Puerto Rico?
11. How could policymakers redesign and rebuild Puerto Rico's energy grid in a way that would minimize the obstacles FEMA faced post-Maria in providing efficient and effective emergency management services?
12. Has your Agency worked with community leaders to engage them in the rebuilding process? If so, please indicate which ones.
13. How many FEMA officials were in Puerto Rico prior to Hurricane Maria making landfall?