

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

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND COMMERCE

2125 RAYBURN HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING  
WASHINGTON, DC 20515-6115

Majority (202) 225-2927  
Minority (202) 225-3641

December 12, 2017

Mr. Peter Lopez  
Regional Administrator  
Region 2  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.  
Washington, DC 20460

Dear Mr. Lopez:

Thank you for appearing before the Subcommittee on Environment on Tuesday, November 14, 2017, to testify at the hearing entitled "Response and Recovery to Environmental Concerns from the 2017 Hurricane Season."

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. The format of your responses to these questions should be as follows: (1) the name of the Member whose question you are addressing, (2) the complete text of the question you are addressing in bold, and (3) your answer to that question in plain text.

To facilitate the printing of the hearing record, please respond to these questions with a transmittal letter by the close of business on Wednesday, January 3, 2017. Your responses should be mailed to Allie Bury, Legislative Clerk, Committee on Energy and Commerce, 2125 Rayburn House Office Building, Washington, DC 20515 and e-mailed in Word format to [Allie.Bury@mail.house.gov](mailto:Allie.Bury@mail.house.gov).

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

Sincerely,



John Shimkus  
Chairman  
Subcommittee on Environment

cc: The Honorable Paul Tonko, Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Environment

Attachment

**Attachment—Additional Questions for the Record**

**The Honorable John Shimkus**

1. Mr. Lopez, how does the financial condition of the Puerto Rico Aqueduct and Sewer Authority effect its ability to use Drinking Water Revolving fund monies to address Safe Drinking Water Act compliance needs? Do you have suggestions for fiscally prudent ways to address this matter?
2. Mr. Lopez, as I understand it, the Disaster Declarations for Texas, Florida, and the US Virgin Islands are Category A-F. In Puerto Rico, the disaster declaration came out last week and I understand that the designation was moved to Category A-G, including the permanent repair of publicly owned water treatment and delivery systems and sewage collection and treatment facilities.
  - a. Did EPA have any role in finally getting this declaration moved from temporary work to permanent repair work?
  - b. Do you know why Puerto Rico went so long being relegated to only temporary aid?
3. Mr. Lopez, what about superfund sites, oils sites, and chemical facilities on the US Virgin Islands – have they been evaluated?
  - a. If so, what was the result of the evaluation and is there any follow up required?
4. Mr. Lopez, what is the Agency doing about hazardous waste, household hazardous waste, and medical waste that has found its way into the landfills in Puerto Rico?
  - a. Has EPA been working with Puerto Rico Environmental Quality Board to look at the landfills – both before and after the hurricanes?
5. Mr. Lopez, has EPA conducted air quality assessments in the impacted areas?
  - a. If so, when and how many?
  - b. What have the results of those assessments been, generally?
6. Mr. Lopez, what is the status of the wastewater treatment plants in Puerto Rico and the US Virgin Islands?
  - a. Your written testimony notes that of the 800 pump stations in Puerto Rico, “about” 106 are overflowing sewage due to lack of power, malfunctioning generators or damage – what is the Agency doing about it?

- b. Your written testimony also notes that “many” of the wastewater plants on St. Thomas, St. Croix, and St. John are operating, though some plants and pump stations are damaged or blocked by storm debris – what is EPA doing about that?
- c. What is the impact of this sewage on source water for drinking water or, as Mrs. Rodriguez testifies on the next panel, backup into peoples’ showers and sinks?

**The Honorable Diana DeGette**

1. Mr. Glenn testified that Region 4 took several steps to prepare for its response before Hurricane Irma made landfall. Before Hurricane Irma hit Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands did leaders in Region 2:
  - a. Increase staffing in the Regional Emergency Operations Center?
  - b. Deploy On-Scene Coordinators to an on-site Emergency Operations Center?
  - c. Provide a Region 2 liaison to the FEMA Regional Coordination Center?
  - d. Did Region 4 take any of the above actions before Hurricane Maria?
2. Mr. Glenn testified that Region 4 deployed numerous senior regional leaders, including the regional administrator, to the impacted region before Hurricane Irma made landfall in Florida.
  - a. Did Region 2 deploy EPA senior regional leaders to Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands to coordinate with local officials before Hurricane Irma made landfall?
  - b. How many senior leaders were deployed previous to the Hurricane Irma’s landfall?
  - c. Who was the most senior official who was pre-deployed?
  - d. Please answer the questions above for the period before Hurricane Maria made landfall.
3. Mr. Glenn testified that on September 12, two days after Irma made landfall in Florida, Region 4 had 12 Field Hazard Assessment Teams conducting targeted facility assessment support at chemical and oil storage facilities.
  - a. How many Field Hazard Assessment Teams were operational in Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands two days after Irma made landfall?
  - b. How about two days after Maria made landfall?

- c. When were the first Field Hazard Assessment Teams operational?
  - d. How many teams were there at that time?
4. Mr. Glenn testified that on September 12, two days after Irma made landfall in Florida, Region 4 had six teams making boots-on-the-ground assessments of Superfund sites.
- a. How many teams did Region 2 have making boots-on-the-ground assessments of Superfund sites two days after Irma made landfall?
  - b. How about two days after Maria made landfall?
  - c. When were the first Superfund site assessments made?
  - d. How many teams were there at that time?