

COMMONWEALTH OF PUERTO RICO  
PUERTO RICO ENERGY COMMISSION



**IN RE:** STAYING OF PROCEEDINGS AND  
TEMPORARY ELECTRONIC FILING  
REQUIREMENTS

**CASE NO.:** CEPR-MI-2017-0007

**SUBJECT:** Resolution and Order staying  
all adjudicative proceedings and terms  
before the Commission.

**RESOLUTION AND ORDER**

On September 17, 2017, the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Ricardo A. Rosselló Nevares, issued Executive Order OE-2017-047 declaring a state of emergency, in response to the imminent passage of Hurricane María.<sup>1</sup> Accordingly, on September 18, 2017, the Puerto Rico Energy Commission (“Commission”) issued an Order establishing temporary instructions for the filing of documents on September 18, 2017, to suspend the terms of ongoing proceedings and to suspend the filing of documents starting on September 19, 2017.<sup>2</sup>

On September 20, 2017, Hurricane María, a category 4 hurricane in the Saffir-Simpson Hurricane Scale, made landfall in Puerto Rico, causing significant devastation throughout Puerto Rico and severely damaging the Island’s infrastructure, leaving virtually all of its inhabitants without essential utility services. While reconnaissance and evaluation efforts are still underway and a detailed report of the extent of the damages is not available, the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (“PREPA”) estimates that only 5% of its customers have electric service and 80% of its transmission and distribution system has suffered significant damage.<sup>3</sup>

While the Commission has partially resumed its operations on September 26, 2017, the continuous state of emergency, as affirmed by the Governor through subsequent Executive Orders,<sup>4</sup> prevents the Commission from establishing normal operations. Accordingly, the Commission hereby **STAYS** all adjudicative proceedings still pending before the Commission and their corresponding terms, while the state of emergency remains in effect or until normal operations are resumed at the

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<sup>1</sup> Executive Order, OE-2017-047 of September 17, 2017, Executive Order of the Governor of Puerto Rico, Hon. Ricardo Roselló Nevarez declaring an emergency state due to the impeding hurricane María and activating the National Guard to provide assistance during the emergency.

<sup>2</sup> Commission’s Order CEPR-MI-2017-0006 of September 18, 2017.

<sup>3</sup> See PREPA’s Motions filed on September 30, 2017 on dockets CEPR-AP-2015-0001 (motion amended on October 2, 2017) and CEPR-AP-2015-0002.

<sup>4</sup> See, for example, Executive Order OE-2017-053.



Commission. Once normal operations are established or once the Governor declares that the emergency has ceased, the Commission will notify all parties of any changes in their pending proceedings and the lifting of the aforementioned stay.

During the following days, the Commission will establish the appropriate regulatory and procedural steps necessary to normalize the Commission's operations in order to adequately respond to the current state of emergency. The Commission will notify such determinations promptly.

### **Commission's Clerk Office**

The Commission's Clerk Office will be temporarily relocated to the seventh floor of the Seaborne Plaza, 268 Avenida Muñoz Rivera, Suite 704, San Juan, Puerto Rico. Hours of operations will be from 8:30am – 5:00pm, Monday through Friday. In order to access the temporary location in the seventh floor, every person **must** present a photo identification at the security post.

All parties of active cases must be advised that any document filed in an active docket during the stay period, **will be considered filed on the first day that normal operations are resumed**, as determined by the Commission through Resolution or by the Governor of Puerto Rico through Executive Order.

### *Electronic Filing*

Due to the state of emergency, the Commission has determined to allow electronic filing of documents until normal operations are resumed and the emergency is over. In the event a party determines to file documents electronically, it must comply with all the following directives. Failure to comply with all directives will result in rejection of the filing.


1. Electronic filings must be sent to [secretaria@energia.pr.gov](mailto:secretaria@energia.pr.gov).
2. All documents **must** be sent in **searchable PDF format**.
3. With the purpose of easing the filing process, due to the nature of the emergency and the access limitations to the Commission's Clerk Office, the Commission has determined to exempt all parties during the emergency period from the requirement of physically signing documents. The party's authorized representative may use electronic signatures when filing electronically (e.g. /s/Authorize Representative). This exemption only applies to documents filed electronically.
4. All documents shall be sent to all parties in the case, via the email on record of the authorized representatives, and to the Commission's Clerk via the email indicated above.
5. Parties that meet all above requirements will not need to file physical copies of documents filed electronically during the emergency period once normal operations are resumed.



For the benefit of all parties involved, the Commission publishes this Resolution and Order in both the Spanish and English languages. Should any discrepancy arise between these two versions, the provisions of the Spanish version shall prevail.

Be it notified and published.


  
Ángel R. Rivera de la Cruz  
Associate Commissioner

  
José H. Román Morales  
Associate Commissioner  
Interim Chairman

**CERTIFICATION**

I hereby certify that the majority of the members of the Puerto Rico Energy Commission has so agreed on October 5, 2017.

For the record, I sign this in San Juan, Puerto Rico, today, October 5, 2017.

  
María del Mar Cintrón Alvarado  
Clerk