



November 20, 2017

Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica de Puerto Rico Puerto Rico Energy Commission
Att.: Lcdo, Javier Morales Tañón
P.O. Box 363928
Correo General
San Juan, PR 0093-3928

Comments Re: Case No: CEPR-IN-2017-0002

Dear Javier Morales Tañón:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit comments to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico's Energy Commission investigation regarding the State of Puerto Rico's electric system repair and reconfiguration following Hurricane María.

Over the last ten years we have seen that devastation from the many severe natural disasters has impacted low-income communities disproportionately and is a stark reminder for so many climate-vulnerable communities of the importance of having a safe place to call home. These disasters call attention to the fact that people of least economic means also face the greatest challenges to adapting and thriving amid the effects of the climate crisis.

We know, power loss can devastate low income communities and interfere with the habitability of homes and the sustainability and resilience of communities. Given the challenges facing Puerto Rico's current power generation and distribution grid, Enterprise supports the research and development of alternative and sustainable innovative energy technologies in the reconstruction of the island following Hurricane Maria. Investing in climate—smart electrical grids that can sustain impacts from storms and other weather-related shocks will save recovery costs and reduce long-term risk to properties while creating positive co-benefits for affordable housing owners and their communities.

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc. is a non-profit with a 34-year track record of service as a trusted advisor to government agencies, the financial industry, philanthropy, community-based organizations, and fellow nonprofits. We have a firm investment in, and a commitment to, ensuring that climate vulnerable homes and communities can

withstand the impacts of flooding and other extreme weather events. We make grants, finance development, and build and manage affordable housing, while shaping new strategies, solutions and policy. Enterprise has been a pioneer in promoting green building for the affordable housing and is a strong proponent of non-traditional energy generation and distribution. Our Enterprise Green Communities Certification is a leading standard for greening affordable housing, and we encourage the adoption of and implementation of renewable energy resources in the homes built.

Enterprise works across the nation to innovate solutions to challenges facing low income communities across the nation in housing and community development. Over the years, we have supported many community based renewable energy and energy efficiency projects in many of the communities we serve. We believe it is best practice to design and construct an Energy Grid that can sustain a variety of climate shocks and still maintain safe, healthy and habitable homes. Through our work in this space we would advise that the team executing this work, consider some of the following questions:

- Will the energy project be sponsored by a single large institutional host that can own manage the installation?
- Is the project designed to benefit the wider community? If so, has it engaged effectively with community members and other key economic partners? How will the project ensure the community receives the intended benefit? Does the project anticipate and address operational challenges?
- Does this project have unique features that make it hard to duplicate? Does it expose policy, market, or technology questions that, if addressed, will remove barriers to other projects?

Here are a few program highlights on how we have worked to bridge and connect renewable energy to affordable housing.

Denver Housing Authority, Colorado

Enterprise is currently investing \$2.5 million in a solar installation that will power 500 homes in the Denver Housing Authority's portfolio. The two-megawatt plant will be the first community solar installation owned by a public housing authority in the U.S. The facility in Aurora, Colo. will cost an estimated \$3.9 million to develop and is slated to come online in February 2018. The power generated will be distributed to Denver Housing Authority properties by Xcel Energy.

New York City Housing Authority, NY

Through a partnership with academic and research institutions, Enterprise created a screening tool to assist the New York City Housing Authority vet the integration of micro-grid technology into their portfolio. The screening package consisted of an advisory committee, a series of case studies and a toolkit screening tool. We would be happy to share some of our lessons learned with the commission.

We appreciate that the Commission recognizes the challenges of investing in conventional grid infrastructure and applaud the Commission's interest in exploring new and improved options for envisioning power generation and distribution.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments and recommendations and let us know if you have any questions regarding this input.

Enterprise Community Partners, Inc.