



NEPR

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VIA EMAIL comentarios@jrsp.pr.gov

Mr. Edison Avilés-Deliz
Chairman
Puerto Rico Energy Bureau
World Plaza Building
268 Ave. Muñoz Rivera
Nivel Plaza Suite 202
Hato Rey, PR 00918

RE: SESA Request for PREB Authorization for LUMA to move forward with Energy Efficiency and Demand Response programs (NEPR-MI-2020-0001)

Comes now, the Puerto Rico Solar Energy Industries Association Corp., d/b/a/ Solar and Energy Storage Association of Puerto Rico (hereinafter, "SESA") the non-for-profit association that represents Puerto Rico's solar and energy storage industries. SESA advocates for solar and storage technologies as a central solution to the energy needs of Puerto Rico, promotes public policy that benefits the growth of these industries, brings awareness and understanding of these technologies to both government policymakers and the public, and facilitates collectively beneficial collaboration between industry and other energy stakeholders.

We write today in response to the Energy Bureau order issued earlier today, suspending indefinitely the implementation of the Energy Efficiency and Demand Response program that was previously schedule to move forward tomorrow, July 1st 2023. Here is an unofficial English translation of the relevant text from today's order:

"According to the LUMA Motion of June 29, through the letter dated June 28, 2023, signed by engineer Francisco Berríos Portela, Assistant Secretary of Energy Affairs, the Government of Puerto Rico is managing the \$20,538,083 required for energy efficiency programs and demand response for FY24 from funds not related to the electricity rate. Therefore, since there is a high probability that the expenses

associated with these programs will be covered by funds not associated to the rate, the Energy Bureau DETERMINES to suspend the EE Charge for the month of July 2023.”

We urgently request the Energy Bureau to authorize LUMA's Energy Efficiency and Demand Response program today for its scheduled start tomorrow, July 1st, 2023. The Puerto Rico Financial Oversight and Management Board has approved a combined PREPA and LUM budget for FY 2023/24, including a \$20 million allocation for these programs.

Given the 75,000 homes already equipped with batteries for the Emergency Demand Response program – and the ability of such systems to participate in a program that could prevent blackouts from happening on the island - it's crucial to avoid delay. Any postponement could dampen Demand Response Aggregators' confidence in the initiative's viability and inflate their risk perception.

We advocate for seamless collaboration between LUMA, the Puerto Rico government, and other stakeholders to ensure the program commences as planned. We, therefore, call on the Energy Bureau to issue an order today, affirming the Emergency Battery Demand Response Program's launch for tomorrow.

SESA values the opportunity to contribute to this case and looks forward to further participation.

Cordially,

[signed]

PJ Wilson
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