

Byrne, Michael

From: Long, Brock
Sent: Thu 5/31/2018 12:24 AM (GMT-00:00)
To: Tribble, Ahsha; Byrne, Michael
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: RE: Closing the loop on call from Lt Gov Luis Rivera-Marin (PR)

Copy! Thank you for running this to ground.

Sent from my iFEMA mobile device.

From: Tribble, Ahsha
Sent: Wednesday, May 30, 2018 8:11:37 PM
To: Long, Brock; Byrne, Michael
Subject: Closing the loop on call from Lt Gov Luis Rivera-Marin (PR)

Good afternoon,

I had a one-on-one phone call at 8AM this morning with the Lt Gov, and in-person meeting at 4PM with the Lt Gov, Walter Higgins (PREPA CEO), Mark Merritt, Jan Maduro (COR3), Todd Filsinger, and a few staff.

BLUF: The Lt Gov now has all of the fact presented with everyone hearing the same message. PREPA has only executed one of three selected contracts under it RFP to Cobra, which continues to be the only tool in the toolbox. Due to optics (and Whitefish) and the upcoming hurricane season, the Lt Gov wants more than one contractor on the ground. However, it took 4 months to award a single contract. During that time, progress on restoration continues and we don't have as much work as we once had when the RFP was announced. To retain contractors on the ground they really need some shovel ready permanent work projects, and that was the direction from the Lt Gov. Mr. Higgins (PREPA) acknowledged PREPA's deficiencies and took lead to move on contracts and get permanent work assigned.

Here is the much longer version, but provides context:

- Progress is made everyday on emergency work and the number of crews needed is shrinking not growing. The amount of work needed to energize customers and stabilize the grid is in concentrated areas and more crews will not fix that. The right crews and equipment will.
- On May 18, Governor asked for existing resources to stay on the ground from USACE.
- Cobra is the only prime contractor on the ground with a signed contract that has been shared with FEMA. (The RFP process started in early February; three contractors were selected in

March; only Cobra was signed yesterday (5/29). MasTec is expected this week. It has taken four months and only one award has been completed to date. This is the core of the issue.)

- Bird was working under USACE and is now a subcontractor to Cobra. No mobilization costs required for equipment as it was already here. They will work up to 90 days or until their assigned work is complete. This solution, presented by Ottmar Chavez (Commonwealth), addressed the Governor's request; however the optics are bad because it looks like one contractor got all of the work when in fact, it is two — Bird and Cobra. Walt stated that the Governor did us a favor by pushing us in this direction because it minimized the gap on the ground between USACE demob and the execution of the contracts/mobilization; yet this decision upset their plans for the new potential contractors.)

- MasTec has a pending contract, but no equipment on the ground (float time is 2-4 weeks depending on barge schedule and weather). Original intent was to have MasTec get some of the emergency work, but since the contract is still not signed to date and there are no resources on the ground, Bird Electric is now doing that work. MasTec will have a signed contract soon and PREPA assured them that they will get permanent work once scoped by PREPA.

- Foreman (the contractor making the most noise), does NOT have a contract with PREPA yet. That contract still has several hurdles to clear before it comes forward to FEMA for review. We also do not know their rate structure yet, so we have to manage expectations on timing of execution. However they took a risk and refused the demob costs under USACE and left their equipment on island before executing a contract with PREPA. Now they are upset because they don't have a contract, assigned work or a demob plan. So they are going to continue to push hard to get some immediate work.

- We are nearing the end of emergency work. We will have about 1900 linemen by Saturday working the last mile. That pretty much saturates the remaining areas to work safely. We expect completion of that work in 75-90 days barring no major issues.

- Finally, we have been asking PREPA for some early permanent work projects that will serve to stabilize the grid and serve as the foundation for the larger 428 project. This will help them take advantage on contractors that are already on the ground and remove mob costs from the projects. To date, we only have Vieques and Culebra at FEMA's urging due to the other projects we are starting on Vieques.

- Lt Gov's message was to get more contractors on the island and **GET MOVING ON PERMANENT WORK PLANNING!** There is a legitimate fear from all sides that Cobra is assigned too much work. However, Cobra is still the only tool in the toolbox today and emergency work must continue. This was not the intent, but where we are until PREPA executes other contracts.

The Lt Governor was thankful for the meeting, but in my perspective disappointed that the earlier information he received did not match what was stated in the meeting. To Walter Higgin's credit, he took the blame for the delays and poor execution of contracts and will press the team hard to move forward. The Lt Governor will stay engaged going forward.

Let me know if you have any questions.

Thanks,
AT

Sent from my iFEMA mobile device.