

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

COMMITTEES:
COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND
TRANSPORTATION
FOREIGN RELATIONS
SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE
SMALL BUSINESS AND
ENTREPRENEURSHIP

July 23, 2014

The Honorable Cheryl A. LaFleur
Acting Chairman
Federal Energy Regulatory Commission
888 First Street, NE
Washington, DC 20426

Dear Chairman LaFleur:

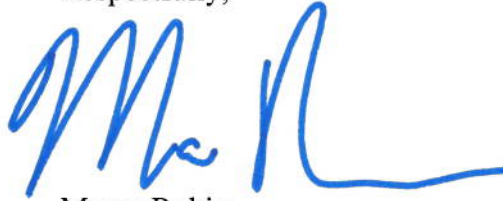
As you know, on May 2, 2014, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) issued a Notice of Schedule for Environmental Review for the Aguirre Offshore Gasport Project (Aguirre) in the municipality of Salinas, Puerto Rico. Aguirre is being developed in cooperation with the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) for the purpose of converting the Aguirre Power Plant from petroleum only to a dual-fuel generation facility. The project will provide more than 150,000 cubic meters of liquid natural gas storage capacity and deliver up to 500 million cubic feet per day of natural gas to the Aguirre Power Complex.

According to the Energy Information Administration, the average cost of electricity in Puerto Rico is more than twice the United States' national average, prohibitive to the island's economic development. Puerto Rico's reliance on petroleum for electricity generation contributes to these high prices. The Aguirre project, by facilitating PREPA's transition to currently lower-cost natural gas, will reduce electricity costs for businesses and consumers and provide direct and indirect benefits to Puerto Rico's economy. The project will also dramatically transform the energy profile of Puerto Rico, creating a more diverse portfolio while also providing environmental benefits to the Commonwealth.

While I appreciate the efforts of FERC's staff and other federal and local agencies in moving the Aguirre project through the FERC approval process, I am concerned by the December 19, 2014 date for the final Environmental Impact Statement. It is my understanding that another 90 days is given for final federal review. These dates will further delay this project, which is nearly six months behind schedule already.

Therefore, given the environmental and economic importance of a diverse energy portfolio to the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, I am respectfully writing to ask that your agency review the project as expeditiously as possible to prevent any ongoing or future delays. While I recognize the many important tasks before your agency, given the unique nature of Puerto Rico, projects important to its people deserve prioritization. Thank you for your consideration of my request.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Marco Rubio', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Marco Rubio
U.S. Senator