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BORDER SECURITY, AND INTERNATIONAL LAW

April 6, 2011

Lieutenant General Robert L. Van Antwerp
U.S. Army Chief of Engineers and Commanding General of the US Army Corps Engineers (USACE).
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (CECS-C)
Government Accountability Office Building
441 G Street, NW, Attn: CECS-C
Washington, DC 20314

Dear Lieutenant General Van Antwerp:

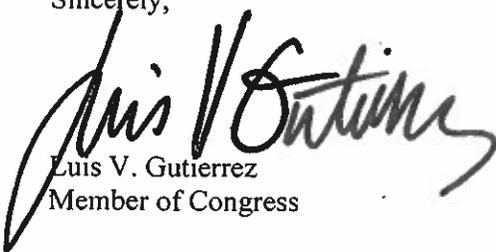
I am writing this letter to request the full disclosure of all documents, under the Freedom of Information Act, relating to a proposed natural gas pipeline in Puerto Rico currently awaiting approval from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE). The Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) is requesting a Section 404 permit (No. SAJ- 2010-02881 (IP-EWG)) under the Clean Water Act to construct a trans-Island natural gas pipeline, known as "Vía Verde" or "Gasoducto," which would span over 92 miles and cross hundreds of sensitive ecosystems. Serious concerns have been raised regarding the environmental impact of this project by both the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service (F & W) and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). The project was held in abeyance on December 22, 2010 by the USACE, but is now undergoing further evaluation and a final decision is expected soon.

For this reason, I am requesting a full disclosure of all documents and communication related to this project including but not limited to meetings, conversations, phone calls, and emails between the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or any of its dependencies, employees, contractors or consultants, and representatives from the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, Gulf Interstate Engineering, the Government of Puerto Rico, or any other organization, government agency or person, including but not limited to government contractors, lobbyists and consultants in the previous 18 months regarding any aspect of the "Vía Verde" or "Gasoducto" project.

Finally, I am requesting copies of all documents, all raw data and reports, all letters and emails related to the "Vía Verde" or "Gasoducto" created by or submitted to the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, or any of its dependencies, employees, contractors or consultants.

I ask that you consider this request on an expedited basis. If you have any further questions please contact Angel Padilla in my office at 202-225-8203. Thank you for your prompt attention to this matter.

Sincerely,


Luis V. Gutierrez
Member of Congress