



Fw: Associated Press request about natural gas pipeline
Elias Rodriguez to: Brenda Reyes, Jose Font

04/26/2011 01:26 PM

Please share the statement with this reporter once it has been finalized.

Elias Rodriguez, M.P.A.
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----- Forwarded by Elias Rodriguez/R2/USEPA/US on 04/26/2011 01:25 PM -----

From: Mary Mears/R2/USEPA/US
To: Elias Rodriguez/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/26/2011 01:01 PM
Subject: Fw: Associated Press request about natural gas pipeline

Hi Elias:

Something must be prompting renewed interest. I think this is the same issue that the other reporter called about. Can you also get back to Danica?

Mary Mears
Chief, Public Outreach Branch, U.S. EPA Region 2
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----- Forwarded by Mary Mears/R2/USEPA/US on 04/26/2011 01:01 PM -----

From: "Coto, Danica" <DCoto@ap.org>
To: Mary Mears/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/26/2011 11:19 AM
Subject: RE: Associated Press request about natural gas pipeline

Hi Mary,

It's Dánica with the AP. I hope you're doing well.

I'm still working on the pipeline story and looking for a response today regarding this letter:
<http://www.scribd.com/doc/53946910/Corps-Response-EPA-Letter-13-April-2011>

Can you help?

Thanks much.

Best,
Dánica

From: Mears.Mary@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Mears.Mary@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:31 PM
To: Coto, Danica
Subject: RE: Associated Press request about natural gas pipeline

No deadline, but EPA is saying PREPA can't move forward without submitting it for our review and approval.

Off the record (because I don't want to speak for PREPA) my understanding is that they are working on it and we don't anticipate this being a problem.

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From: "Coto, Danica" <DCoto@ap.org>
To: Mary Mears/R2/USEPA/US@EPA
Date: 04/05/2011 02:24 PM
Subject: RE: Associated Press request about natural gas pipeline

Hi Mary,
Thanks much for attaching the letter and the additional information.
There is no deadline attached to the mitigation plan, correct?

From: Mears.Mary@epamail.epa.gov [mailto:Mears.Mary@epamail.epa.gov]
Sent: Tuesday, April 05, 2011 3:16 PM
To: Coto, Danica

Subject: Re: Associated Press request about natural gas pipeline

Hi Danica:

I am attaching the letter that details EPA's comments to the US Army Corps of Engineers. Feel free also to quote from my summary below.

As you can see, we are giving conditional approval to the project. This means that EPA believes that, while the further information that we were given does answer many of our concerns, PREPA still needs to provide us some more information before moving forward.

The elements are discussed in detail, but one key item is the mitigation plan to offset unavoidable impacts to aquatic lands, such as wetlands. This is discussed in some detail at the bottom of page two and the top of page 3. EPA believes that a detailed plan to mitigate impacts to water resources must be reviewed and accepted by the Corps and EPA before the project can move forward.

We are also strongly recommending that PREPA be required to have an independent geologist to ensure that they are doing everything they can to minimize the impacts to the sensitive Karst areas.

In short, EPA believes that this project has the potential to improve air quality, but it must be done in an environmentally protective way.

Mary Mears

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