

GOVERNMENT OF PUERTO RICO  
*Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority*

SAN JUAN, PUERTO RICO



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February 14, 2011

Arch. Miguel Bonini  
Archeologist  
State Historic & Preservation Office  
PO Box 9066581  
San Juan, PR 00906-6581

US ARMY CORPS  
OF ENGINEERS  
2011 FEB 23 A 10:34  
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SECTION

Dear archeologist Bonini:

**Re: Vía Verde Project**  
**Case # SAJ-2010-02881 (IP-EWG)**

We make reference to your recent conversation held in your office with archaeologist Marisol Rodríguez, consultant for Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA). This conversation covered the issues discussed during the February 1 interagency meeting at the United States Corps of Engineers (USACE). As agreed upon, a copy of the Vía Verde route and alignment was provided via e-mail to Mr. Eduardo Cancio in a *.shp* file format. Also, another copy of the *.shp* file will be submitted in the forthcoming days, including the route alignment as described in the approved Final Environmental Impact Statement (DIA-F, in Spanish), as requested.

Please note that the information provided during your meeting to Mrs. Rodríguez, will be compared against the *.shp* file containing the State Historic & Preservation Office (SHPO) data made available to the government agencies in the past. As it was explained to you by archaeologist Rodríguez, PREPA used this official information together with the one available at the Puerto Rican Culture Institute (PRCI) to assist us in the Phase 1A investigation recently completed. Special precaution was taken, since it was understood that this information is not totally accurate. For this reason, PREPA's archeologists complemented that data with the traditional collection of information available in the SHPO and PRCI archives.

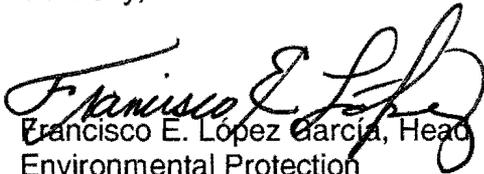
Moreover, all information available at the moment Phase 1A for Vía Verde study was undertaken, was utilized and mentioned in the report included in the DIA-F, filed before the Environmental Quality Board. This is the case, for example, of the Paso del Indio site that has a large file, but said information is not plotted in the area maps. Another example is the Río Tallaboa site that has not been incorporated to the SHPO digital maps.

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Other challenges addressed were the cases of sites that have different names or locations in SHPO's or PRCI's files. The information related with those sites was included in the different maps provided in the Phase IA report filed as part of the DIA-F. One of these cases is the prehistoric site discovered during the construction of a bridge in the Río Cocal area. In some files, the information available is presented under the name Río Cocal and in others as Punta Coroso. Further investigation of the information available in the agencies allowed us to clarify that this site was of the Punta Coroso, impacted during the bridge construction. Some sites are only mentioned in a general way within the Phase 1A report, in order to keep the attention in the sites that have a direct relation with the project. We will be reviewing the information to be provided by you to make sure that all the sites included in the SHPO archives and located along the route are considered.

Thank you for your valuable cooperation, particularly understanding that additional information will be provided that was not previously available to the investigators. If you have any questions regarding this matter, please contact Mr. Edwin F. Báez Santiago, Manager, Environmental Projects and Licensing Department, at (787) 521-4969.

Cordially,

  
Francisco E. López García, Head  
Environmental Protection  
and Quality Assurance Division

c Mr. Edgar García, Corps of Engineers  
Arch. Carlos Rubio, Director of SHPO