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# United States Senate

COMMITTEE ON  
HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6250

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October 27, 2017

The Honorable John Roth  
Inspector General  
U.S. Department of Homeland Security  
245 Murray Drive SW, Building 410  
Washington, DC 20528

Dear Inspector General Roth:

We understand that you are currently reviewing the contract between the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) and Whitefish Energy Holdings, LLC. We write to ask that you specifically determine whether costs incurred by PREPA under this contract may be eligible expenses under FEMA's Public Assistance Program. In the wake of extensive storm damage or a disaster, states and municipalities normally contact a "mutual aid network" that can quickly mobilize thousands of workers to help with electric grid repairs. Reportedly, PREPA never took this step and entered into a \$300 million contract with Whitefish Energy.<sup>1</sup> We ask that you report on your determination as soon as possible.

If you have any questions, please ask your staff to contact Michael Lueptow of Chairman Johnson's staff at 202-224-4751 and Claudine Brenner with Senator McCaskill's staff at 202-224-2627. Thank you for your prompt response to this request.

Sincerely,



Ron Johnson  
Chairman



Claire McCaskill  
Ranking Member

cc: The Honorable Elaine Duke  
Acting Secretary  
Department of Homeland Security

The Honorable Brock Long  
Administrator  
Federal Emergency Management Agency

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<sup>1</sup> Steven Mufson, Jack Gillum, Aaron Davis, and Arelis Hernandez, *Small Montana firm lands Puerto Rico's biggest contract to get the power back on*, Wash. Post (Oct. 23, 2017).