

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

January 14, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

I am writing regarding recent reports that the Department of Energy (DOE) will be potentially funding the development of a natural gas pipeline connecting the San Juan and Palo Seco electric plants in Puerto Rico.¹ In the spirit of transparency, I request clarification on DOE's role in this project.

DOE has been deeply involved in matters related to Puerto Rico's energy system, including actions to maintain grid reliability and operational oversight. In May 2025, the Department issued emergency orders under the Federal Power Act directing the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) to dispatch generation units and perform vegetation management along transmission lines to reduce outages and strengthen the grid.² These actions reflect DOE's direct engagement with the island's electric infrastructure and its ongoing role in ensuring system stability. Considering DOE's extensive involvement, the Department should be able to specify the source and authority for any support provided for this pipeline.

Please indicate whether any DOE funds, programs, or other forms of support are being used to advance the reported San Juan–Palo Seco gas pipeline or related infrastructure. If the Department is indeed funding or will be funding this project, please provide the appropriation authority under which it is being supported. Clear and accurate information on DOE's involvement is essential for public oversight and to ensure that federal engagement in Puerto Rico's energy infrastructure is transparent and accountable.

Detailed information regarding DOE's participation in this project will allow Congress to evaluate compliance with applicable statutes and appropriations law, and to assess the alignment of federal engagement with established energy policy objectives.

I look forward to your prompt response and to receiving the requested clarification regarding DOE's role and authority in this matter.

Sincerely,



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress

¹ [A gas pipeline from San Juan to Palo Seco is on its way with the help of the federal government - El Nuevo Día.](#)

² [Energy Department Strengthens Puerto Rico's Energy Grid with Renewed Orders | Department of Energy.](#)