

December 15, 2022



UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
National Institute of Standards and Technology
Gaithersburg, Maryland 20899-

Secretary Eileen Vélez Vega
Floor 17 Sanchez Vilella Building
Avenida José de Diego
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00907

Dear Secretary Vélez Vega,

I am following up on our recent meeting to provide information about our team's planned interviews related to Puerto Rico's transportation infrastructure. As we discussed, the National Institute of Standards and Technology (NIST), a bureau within the U.S. Department of Commerce, is requesting the cooperation of personnel of the Puerto Rico Department of Transportation and Public Works (DTOP) as well as local transportation officials for a NIST study and technical investigation of the impacts of Hurricane Maria on Puerto Rico. Our goal is to consider and recommend improvements in building codes, standards, and practices to make communities in Puerto Rico and across the United States more resilient to hurricanes and other disasters. Information is available at: <https://www.nist.gov/topics/disaster-failure-studies/hurricane-maria>.

The Horsley Witten Group, Inc., an environmental engineering and planning firm, along with Eastern Research Group, Issues & Answers, and Albizu University in Puerto Rico, are assisting NIST with its infrastructure study under the authority of the National Windstorm Impact Reduction Act (Public Law 114-52). The Horsley Witten team will interview appropriate staff in DTOP and other agencies to provide information related to Puerto Rico's infrastructure, including transportation before, during, and after Hurricane Maria. Dr. Domingo J. Marqués the point of contact for the Horsley Witten team and can be reached at dmarques@albizu.edu or 787-725-6500, ext. 1999.

NIST intends to publish its findings and recommendations from this study and technical investigation. Appropriate measures will be taken to ensure that security-sensitive, proprietary, or personally identifiable information is not shared. NIST will ensure that you are provided with the results of its study.

DTOP already has provided NIST with helpful information. Your staff's continued assistance, including by identifying potential staff to be interviewed, will be most appreciated and would advance NIST's efforts to improve public safety and resilience. As you have suggested, our team will continue to work directly with Lynnette Alicea Leon on your staff.

Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns. We look forward to working together.

NIST



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Sincerely,

Maria K. Dillard

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cc:

Dr. Ken Harrison, NIST Hurricane Maria Program, Project Leader
Dr. Domingo Marqués, Horsley Witten Team member, Albizu University