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21 December 2010

Att: Chief Antilles Regulatory Section
US Army Corps of Engineers
Jacksonville District
400 Fernandez Juncos Avenue
San Juan, Puerto Rico 00901-3299

US ARMY CORPS
OF ENGINEERS
2010 DEC 31 A 7 35
ANTILLES REGULATORY SECTION

Dear US Army Corps of Engineers,

I am writing to you as a very concerned citizen from Puerto Rico to express my position **against** the construction of the gas duct or *Gasoducto (Via Verde)* by the present government.

My opinion in this matter is based on the information I have learned from ecologists, geologist, engineers, specialized in soil mechanics and hydrology and other scientists. I have listened to the Casa Pueblo group, Ing. Efrain Rivera, Prof. Molinelli, Dr. Pedro Jimenez and Dr. Carla Restrepo from the University of Puerto Rico, among others.

The above-mentioned have given ample scientific evidence of the threat of this project to human and animal life and to the Karso area where there are sinkholes and a delicate ecosystem. Learned opinion that has also been expressed by the federal agency that protects wild life.

It has been demonstrated that the design of this project is flawed and is doomed to fail due, among other reasons, to the complicated and variable geological landscape of the region. The proposed duct design is not safe in case of earthquakes and tsunamis; also the variable heights in the mountainous central region can have an impact in the duct joints. None of the engineers of the agency of *Autoridad de Energía Eléctrica* have proven without doubt that the gas duct is safe and that there is no danger particularly in the areas where it passes through the Río Grande de Arecibo, Río Grande de Manatí, El Indio and Cibuco River. The *Autoridad* has been advertising this project on the radio, television and written press with false statements and spending thousands of taxpayer's dollars. Puerto Ricans don't know exactly what this project is going to cost in the long run because the *Autoridad* has change the numbers several times. Besides, with the flawed design, the change orders are going to skyrocket and the debt incurred will weight on the country for decades to come.

I respectfully urge you to read and consider the educated opinions of the professionals I mentioned above and not to construct this duct that many people in Puerto Rico reject. If federal agencies like yours placed life and security above the personal and financial interest of a group of government officials and private individuals interested in its investment, it will not go forward with this project.

Respectfully,

Ingrid María Jiménez Martínez, Ph. D.
Professor

University of Puerto Rico