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Link to article: <https://www.npr.org/2017/11/16/564439127/when-will-power-come-back-to-puerto-rico-depends-who-you-ask>

## News Story Data Sheet

**Title of article:** “When Will Power Come Back To Puerto Rico? Depends Who You Ask”

**Type of article:** Puerto Rico, Weather, Hurricane Maria

**Date of publication:** Nov. 16, 2017

**Name of publishing body:** National Public Radio, NPR

**Brief description of publishing body:** “NPR is a mission-driven, multimedia news organization and radio program producer. It is a network with a strong base of member stations and supporters nationwide. NPR employees are innovators and developers — exploring new ways to serve the public via digital platforms and improved technologies. NPR is also the leading membership and representation organization for public radio.” (from <https://www.npr.org/about-npr/192827079/overview-and-history>)

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**Claim:** Power is still out in much of Puerto Rico as a result of damage from September’s Hurricane Maria. The process of restoring power is being led by two organizations, the Army Corps of Engineers and Puerto Rico’s electric company PERLA. Both organizations have different estimates for when power will be fully restored.

**Core factual information:**

- Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico in September
- Restoration efforts got power back to 50% of the island earlier this week, but then a major line failed and left only 22% of the island with power
- There are two major groups working to restore power: the federal Army Corps of Engineers (several hundred contractors working), headed on the island by Jose Sanchez, and Puerto Rico’s own electric company, PREPA (2,000 people working).
- Power is supplied by major transmission lines from power factories, to neighborhood distribution lines.
- The neighborhood distribution lines are largely repaired, but the major transmission lines aren’t
- The Department of Energy had 60,000 workers from hundreds of public and private electric companies working to restore power in Florida after Hurricane Irma.
- Power is restored first to hospitals and “critical industries”
- Sanchez thinks 95% of the island should have power back by the end of February.
- PREPA predicts 95% of the power will be back by mid-December.
- Sonnen, a German company, installed five solar-powered washing machines for the people of La Perla
- There is a push to move to solar, micro-grids

**Sources, support:**

- Image of repair work, with identifying caption
- Statistics from the governor
- Eric Elder, Army reservist
- Jose Sanchez, leading Army Corps of Engineers in Puerto Rico
- Image of Sanchez, with repair truck
- Florida facts from previous NPR report
- PREPA info from Sanchez – reliable?
- Official PREPA release, mid-Dec date
- Human interest, closer look: La Perla picture and ID
- Adam Gentner, with Sonnen – washing machines, micro-grids
- Wilfredo Lopez and Lucy Pacheco Rivera – locals in La Perla, attitudes and feelings

**Tone:** **Informative** (factual information, statistics, projections); **guarded but hopeful** (Sanchez' predictions, news of the hard work people are doing, Gentner's economic optimism RE micro-grids); **frustrated** (interviews at the end with residents).

**Notes on style:** At 1400 words, this article is short-medium in length. Average paragraph length is 70 words. Vocabulary used is high-school appropriate, with words like "monumental," "battalion," "topography," and "resiliency" providing complexity and richness. There are several interviews with different people, some professional and jargon-filled, others very man-on-the-street and relatable. The pictures included in the article put faces to names, help visualize the task at hand, and show the beauty of Puerto Rico.

**Intended audience:** People in the US affected by the recent hurricanes (this is especially interesting for Americans not living in Puerto Rico – the comparison to the Florida recovery efforts, for example, provide a stark contrast); people interested in the role Puerto Rico plays as a US territory; people who want to know more about the impacts of this year's tropical storm season; people interested in alternative energy proposals (and the negatives that seem to precede these proposals).

**Analysis (bias, effectiveness):** This article relies on interview from one side of the two-part effort to restore power in Puerto Rico – it would be more effective if the article included an interview from an official at PREPA. Also, there is mention of the Florida recovery effort, with worker numbers almost 30x higher than Puerto Rico, but does not provide adequate explanation for that difference. The inclusion of pro-solar Sonnen provides only one alternative source of energy – are there other sources?