

Governor signs Executive Order to expedite the installation of solar energy generation and storage systems

The Order promotes clean energy generation by the private sector

On October 16th, 2017, Governor Ricardo Rosselló Nevares signed OE-2017-64, Executive Order to Energize Residences with Installed Photovoltaic Generation Systems and Batteries, and to Accelerate the Recovery of the Puerto Rico Electricity System After Hurricane María (the "Order").

In order to operate, most photovoltaic cell systems ("solar systems"), need either energy storage capabilities or to be interconnected to a traditional utility, such as the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority ("PREPA"). Hurricane María impacted over 80% of PREPA's transmission and distribution infrastructure, preventing most existing solar systems from operating. The Order waives the procedural requirements that apply to existing and newly constructed solar systems that want to be modified to include energy storage systems in order to operate immediately, and to be interconnected once the grid is rebuilt. The Order also prohibits additional PREPA charges.

The Order divides solar systems in three types: residential systems already interconnected before Hurricane María ("Group 1"), residential systems already constructed but not interconnected ("Group 2"), and residential and commercial systems to be constructed while the Order is in effect ("Group 3"). In order to enjoy the benefits of the Order, all solar systems must: (i) comply with the technical requirements of current interconnection regulations, (ii) include an energy storage system, (iii) include a manual switch that prohibits the system from transferring energy to PREPA's infrastructure while it is being repaired, and (iv) be certified by a licensed electrician or a certified electrical engineer.

Group 3 systems must additionally limit the energy they export to PREPA's grid to an amount not exceeding 10% of the nominal capacity of the solar system.



Any Group 3 system that exports energy must also be able to be monitored every four seconds and be operated remotely by PREPA.

In addition, the Order directs PREPA to provide net metering equipment needed to interconnect Group 2 systems within 30 days after it is requested. It also provides that existing solar systems without batteries will be interconnected once PREPA restores power.

The Order has the potential of benefiting thousands of businesses and families that already have solar systems, as well as anyone who wants to transition to clean energy generation and energy storage.

You may contact the attorneys at Vidal, Nieves & Bauzá should you have any questions regarding the Order, or need support with respect to any requirement to take advantage of its benefits.

Pedro I. Vidal-Cordero
pvidal@vnblegal.com • 787.413.8883

Pedro J. Nieves-Miranda
pnieves@vnblegal.com • 787.413.8881

Arline V. Bauzá-Figueroa
abauza@vnblegal.com • 787.413.8884

Cristina E. Moscoso-D'Abate
cmoscoso@vnblegal.com • 787.625.0882

Joserrolando Emmanuelli
jemmanuelli@vnblegal.com • 787.413.8880

Vidal, Nieves & Bauzá
info@vnblegal.com

T. +1 787.413.8880
F. +1 787.625.0889

P.O. Box 366219 San Juan, Puerto Rico 00936-6219
B7 Tabonuco Street, Suite 1108, Guaynabo, Puerto Rico 00968

www.vnblegal.com



[linkedin.com/company/vnblegal](https://www.linkedin.com/company/vnblegal)



[Facebook.com/vnblegal](https://www.facebook.com/vnblegal)



[Twitter.com/@vnblegal](https://twitter.com/vnblegal)