Mary C. Zapata-Acosta

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Senior-Level Electrical Engineer

Eager to support technical-services initiatives for your organization

PROFESSIONAL PROFILE

- Senior-level electrical engineer professional with electric power and energy government experience and proven track record of applying appropriate and practical technology that meet business needs.
- Motivated achiever with demonstrable ability to recommend enhancements to business processes.
- Outstanding manager and executive who coordinates and leads communications, information, and highly skilled professionals to meet business needs and evaluate progress while assuring smooth, efficient projects and activities.
- Strong interpersonal, written, and verbal communicator who can deliver effective presentations, consult on technology projects, and maintain collaborative relationships.
- Exceptional problem-solver with keen ability to resolve technical issues, provide for system enhancements, analyze/define business processes for improvement, define, design, develop, and implement highly successful engineering solutions.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

- Power system analysis and studies
- Electrical transmission and distribution standards
- Development of technical regulations and processes
- New technology evaluation to enhance efficiency
- RFI, RFQ, RFP, and public bid processes
- Supervision of engineering professionals
- Familiarity with NEC, NESC, IEEE, and ANSI codes
- Business process enhancement recommendations
- Requirements analysis
- Design and technology specifications
- Training facilitator
- Leadership of special projects
- Revision of Legislature bills
- Technical and administrative documentation
- Executive leadership of an electric and water utility, including direct management of planning, regulatory, operational, and grants management areas.

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

January 19, 2025 – September 4, 2026 Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) *Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer* San Juan, PR

- As General Manager of PREPA, in general charge of PREPA's activities, officers, agents, employees, and properties including its service providers and other contractors, and is responsible for advancing the mission and modeling the values of PREPA as defined by its Governing Board, directing the implementation of the policies and decisions of the Board, as well as PREPA's internal operations.
- Responsible, among others, of:
  - PREPA's water assets operations, maintenance and federally funded projects, including hydroelectric power plants, irrigation systems, dams, and reservoirs.
  - Management and oversight of federal funds, including funds managed by private operators.
  - Regulatory compliance, including, without limitation, the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), Department of Energy (DOE), Puerto Rico Energy Bureau (PREB), and Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA).
  - PREPA's financial statements audits, including all state and federal funds managed by PREPA and the private operators.

April 3, 2024 – November 30, 2024 Professional Engineering Services San Juan, PR

Design Manager Contract with VIG Engineers, PSC

- Electrical design of the Switchgears Rehabilitation Project at the Fajardo Wastewater Treatment Plant of the Puerto Rico Aqueducts and Sewers Authority (PRASA).
- Among the design tasks, prepared electrical substation plans, diagrams, and schematics. In addition, provided consultation on power system and developed analysis, calculations, and evaluations related to the electrical design and proposed substation improvements.

October 16, 2021 – July 8, 2023 Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) San Juan, PR

Deputy Executive Director of Operations

- Technical and Administrative Supervision of the:
  - Generation Directorate (Power Plant Divisions, Hidro-Gas Division, Generation Budget Department, Power Plants Electrical Maintenance Department, Engineering and Technical Services Division, and the Division of Irrigation, Dams and Reservoirs).
  - Environmental Protection Division.
  - Disaster Funds Management Office (DFMO).
  - Project Management Office (PMO).
  - Information and Operational Technology (IT/OT) Office.
- Among others, supervises the development of generating units' repair projects and the reconstruction of water supply systems and is responsible for federal funds management, regulatory affairs (PREB, EPA, FEMA, etc.), environmental protection, renewable energy projects, contracts management, and information and operational technology. In addition, provides technical support to PREPA's Finance Directorate in matters of the Fiscal Oversight and Management Board (FOMB) and in the development and administration of budgets for capital and operational improvements of the generation and water systems.

May 10, 2021 – October 14, 2021 LUMA Energy San Juan, PR

Manager - Protection, Automation, and Control, Asset Management

- Management of the Protection, Automation, and Control office.
- Supervision of protection and control engineers and automation engineers and specialists.
- In charge of short circuit and protection coordination studies conducted on Puerto Rico's transmission and distribution systems.
- Technical support for the areas of asset management, engineering, maintenance, and operations.
- Development and revision of protection, automation, and control standards and criteria.
- Review of protection design plans and protection settings of private load and generation projects.

October 7, 2019 – August 27, 2020 Condominium La Sierra del Monte San Juan, PR

Self Employed

This was volunteer work done for the residential condominium where I live. The work mainly consisted of providing engineering consulting services to the Board of Directors and the Administration of the condominium. Among others, I prepared specifications and reviewed proposals and contracts for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of different elements of the buildings, in addition to the installation of a standby generator and surveillance cameras.

1990 – 2019 Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) San Juan, PR

April 17, 2017 – April 20, 2019 Planning and Research Division

Head of the Planning and Research Division

- Technical and Administrative Supervision of the Departments of:
  - Transmission and Distribution Planning.
  - Rates and Tariffs Studies, Projections & Statistics, Capital Improvement Program, and Engineering Systems.
  - Generation Planning and Renewables Projects Management.

- Among others, in charge of performing technical studies, including power system, projections and econometric simulations, required for PREPA's restructuring and fiscal plan, the Integrated Resources Plan, billing adjustment factors calculations, and Implementation of Permanent Rate, in addition to responding the requests from the Legislature and the Puerto Rico and PREB.

Sep. 4, 2012 – July 13, 2014, Sep. 27, 2015 – April 16, 2017 Protection Studies Department

Senior Supervisor Engineer, Interim Superintendent

- Short circuit studies of PREPA's generation, transmission, and distribution systems, using CAPE software.
- Protection coordination studies of generators, transmission lines, substation transformers, and distribution feeders.
- Selection of fuses and settings of protection relays, voltage regulators controls, and power transformers No-Load Taps.
- Review of protection design plans and protection settings of private renewable projects.
- Review of protection settings of private projects to be connected to PREPA's electrical system.
- Management of the Department and supervision of protection engineers.

July 14, 2014 – Sep. 26, 2015 Planning and Research Division

Acting Head of the Planning and Research Division

- Technical and Administrative Supervision of the Departments of:
  - Transmission and Distribution Planning
  - Rates and Tariffs Studies, Projections & Statistics, Capital Improvement Program, and Engineering Systems.
  - Generation Planning and Renewables Projects Management.
- In charge of performing all technical studies required for PREPA's restructuring and answering the requests from the PREB, including power system, projections and econometric simulations and studies, such as:
  - PREPA's Integrated Resources Plan of 2015.
  - First stages of the Rate Case Study.
  - PREB's regulation for the contribution in lieu of taxes or CILT (*Reglamento sobre la Contribución en Lugar de Impuestos*).

Jan. 25, 2009 – Sep. 3, 2012 Generation and Transmission & Distribution Directorates

Executive Advisor

- Assessment, analysis, preparation, and coordination of reports regarding the generation, transmission, and distribution systems.
- Part of the team for the evaluation of natural gas proposals presented to PREPA.
- Evaluation of Puerto Rico's Legislature bills regarding PREPA's operations and electrical and energy issues in Puerto Rico.
- Coordination of technical training, such as linemen certification program.
- Liaison with public and private entities regarding PREPA's operations.

Oct. 28, 2007 – Jan. 24, 2009 Electrical Substations Maintenance Subdivision

Principal Supervisor Engineer

- Preparation and revision of specifications of power transformers and breakers.
- Substations materials and equipment requisitions and management of testing equipment contracts.
- Updating of PREPA's power transformers and breakers database.

May 16, 1999 – October 27, 2007 Electrical Distribution Division

Principal Supervisor Engineer, Interim Distribution Engineering Superintendent, Norms and Procedures Superintendent, and Electrical Engineer Supervisor II - Distribution System

- Evaluation of private electrical construction projects and review and endorsement of the electrical design plans of those projects.

- Revision and development of electrical equipment specifications including, among others, distribution transformers, distribution switchgear, lightning arresters, insulators, and poles.
- Development and review of electrical construction standards, norms, regulations, and procedures for Puerto Rico's transmission and distribution systems including, among others, PREPA's Easements Regulation, Overhead Electrical Distribution Standard, Underground Electrical Distribution Standard, Vegetation Management Procedure, Electrical Infrastructure and System Policies, and Technical Statements.
- Consultation regarding the National Electrical Code and the National Electrical Safety Code.
- Instructor for PREPA's courses of Synchronous Generator and Power System Stability, Distribution System, Electricity Basics, Overcurrent Protection for the Distribution System, Public Illumination Manual, Overhead Distribution System Manual, and Transformers and Machines Theory Review for the NCEES (National Council of Examiners for Engineering and Surveying) exam.
- Active member of PREPA's Specifications Committee.

August 8, 1990 – May 15, 1999 Planning and Research Division – Distribution Department

Electrical Engineer Supervisor I, II and III - Planning

- Distribution system load flow studies, voltage regulation and power factor analysis in distribution systems.
- Planning of PREPA's distribution system for identifying improvements such as new substations or feeders, voltage conversion, and capacity increase of existing substations and feeders.
- Electrical distribution system's equipment evaluation, including protection equipment, electrical parameters monitors, and distribution automation technologies.
- Lead of PREPA's Distribution Automation Pilot Project and Electronically Controlled Distribution Line Reclosers Evaluation Project.
- Active member of PREPA's Specifications Committee.

EDUCATION AND PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS

- Education:
  - Bachelor in Science of Electrical Engineering, Power System, *Cum Laude*, 1990, Puerto Rico University - Mayagüez Campus, Mayagüez, PR
  - Additional courses in power system stability and protection coordination from Puerto Rico University - Mayagüez Campus, Mayagüez, PR, and Puerto Rico Polytechnic University, Hato Rey, PR
  - PREPA's courses in administrative and supervision skills

- Licensure and associations:
  - Puerto Rico Professional Engineer License Number 11553
  - Professional College of Engineers and Land Surveyors of Puerto Rico