

MARIA C. BERIO



Dear Hiring Committee,


As a C-level executive and a proven track record in strategic and performance-focused corporate management within the energy sector, I am confident in my ability to provide visionary leadership and drive transformative change.

My career has been marked by a series of impactful roles, which have equipped me with a wide-ranging skill set and an in-depth understanding of the transformation of the energy sector. During my tenure as the Chief Corporate Services Officer at LUMA Energy, LLC, I had the privilege of leading a multi-disciplinary team responsible for critical corporate functions in a public and private partnership that will transform the electrical grid. Furthermore, my role as President and General Manager at AES Puerto Rico allowed me to oversee the strategic planning and execution of short and long-term goals including the business transformation from thermal to renewable generation, demonstrating my commitment to renewable energy and sustainable practices.

My international experience managing cross-functional teams and developing public and private partnerships, especially during my time at AES Panama, has equipped me with a global perspective and the ability to navigate diverse markets and regulatory landscapes effectively. I have a proven track record of sourcing and negotiating power purchase agreements and spearheading innovative projects, such as the commercialization of Central America's first natural gas terminal facility.

Throughout my career, I have consistently demonstrated a comprehensive understanding of public utilities, electrical markets, and renewable energy. My unwavering commitment to transparency and accountability aligns with my belief in the importance of fostering trust within both internal and external stakeholder relationships. I have a strong history of growing and inspiring teams, fostering a culture of excellence, and championing renewable energy initiatives.

My academic background, including two degrees from Vermont Law School in law and environmental law and public policy and certifications from the Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government - Executive Education in Public Financial Management and Driving Government Performance Programs, further underlines my dedication to sustainability and my ability to blend legal and policy expertise with practical leadership in the energy sector.

Thank you for considering my application. I welcome the opportunity to discuss my skills and experiences in more detail. 

Sincerely,

Maria Berio

MARIA C. BERIO



C-level executive with private and public sector experience, proven track record in strategic and performance-focused corporate management, electrical energy markets, renewable energy, public and private partnerships, large scale infrastructure projects, legal and regulatory compliance, public policy, community engagement and stakeholder relations. International experience managing cross functional and multi-disciplinary teams. Board leadership and governance.

EDUCATION

Masters in Environmental Law and Policy, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont

Juris Doctor, Vermont Law School, South Royalton, Vermont

Bachelor in Science in **Environmental Science, cum laude**, University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras, Puerto Rico

CERTIFICATIONS

Certified Project Management Professional (PMP) No. 1528089 – Project Management Institute

Public Financial Management
Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Executive Education

Driving Government Performance Program
Harvard University, John F. Kennedy School of Government, Executive Education

Certificate in Carbon Finance, University of Toronto, Center for the Environment, Ontario, Canada

AREAS OF EXPERTISE

Energy and Environment

- Renewable Energy Projects Origination and Pre-Construction
- Renewable Generation and T&D Operations
- Start-Ups and M&As
- Power Purchase Agreements Negotiation and Management
- Large Scale Procurement and Contracts
- Federally Funded Programs
- Program and Project Management
- LNG Downstream Markets
- Emergency Response
- Legal and Regulatory Frameworks
- Public Policy – Energy Markets
- Environmental, Social and Governance Programs – Community Partnerships
- Customer experience interfaces

Public and Private Partnerships

- Sourcing and Negotiations
- Stakeholder Relations
- Internal & External Communications

PROFESSIONAL EXPERIENCE

Chief Corporate Services Officer

LUMA Energy, LLC / 2020 –2023

An ATCO and Quanta Services joint venture focused on the operation, maintenance and transformation of the electrical transmission and distribution systems in Puerto Rico.

- Member of the transition team facilitating the operational shift from a government owned and managed utility to a public and private partnership with a private operator start-up company.
- Recruited, built the capacity of, and mentored a multidisciplinary leadership team while implementing policies, procedures, business plans and operational budgets for performance optimization across the following departments: Procurement and Contracts, Legal, Compliance, Internal Audit, Physical Security, External Affairs, Communications and Community Partnerships.
- Identified, managed, and mitigated transactional and operational risks in close collaboration with the CEO.
- Implemented communications platforms and multimedia campaigns to improve customer experience and brand awareness.
- Member of the Crisis Management Committee for Emergency Response.
- Managed corporate governance operations and administration for the Board of Directors.

President, General Manager/ Market Business Leader

AES Puerto Rico / 2018 – 2020

Subsidiary of The AES Corporation, a Fortune 200 company that generates and distributes electrical power.

- Responsible for the strategic planning and the execution of the company's short- and long-term goals as well as financial performance.
- Served as President and Director of Clean Flexible Energy, LLC focused on the origination of utility and commercial scale renewable energy projects.
- Vice President of AES Ilumina, LLC a grid connected photovoltaic power system.

Head of Power Marketing & Origination for Panama and Central America, Commercial Director

AES Panama, Panama City, Republic of Panama / 2015 – 2018

- Sourced and negotiated power purchase agreements. Developed a diversified portfolio of industrial and commercial clients to support business development growth in natural gas and renewable energy.
- Led the commercialization project of the first natural gas terminal facility in Central America. Established a network of clients and/or partners for the creation of a downstream market while managing the due diligence efforts with various companies and establishing the frameworks for transactional agreements.

Executive Vice President, Administration, Operations and Comptrollership

Government Development Bank for Puerto Rico/2013 – 2015

Bank, fiscal agent and financial advisor for the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico and its instrumentalities.

- Responsible for the operations the following departments: Banking Services, Comptrollership, Accounting and Finance, Human Resources and Labor Relations, Administrative Services and Security, Organization and Procedures, Information and Operational Technology Systems.
- Member of the Investment, Asset Liability Management and Risk Committee and Vice President of the Property Acquisition, Administration and Disposition Committee.

AREAS OF EXPERTISE CONT.

Federal Funds Management

- Administration
- Compliance
- Internal Audits

Corporate Management

- P&L Responsibility, Financial Management, Budgets
- Board Leadership and Governance
- Business Development
- Crisis Management
- Integrated Sustainability and Social Responsibility
- Recruitment, Workforce Augmentation, Optimization and Development
- Collective Bargaining Agreements
- KPIs and Data Driven Strategies
- Artificial Intelligence Process Optimization
- International Executive Experience

EMERGENCY TRAINING

ICS-100: Incident Command System (ICS)

ICS-200: ICS for Single Resources and Initial Action Incidents

ICS-300: Intermediate ICS for Expanding Incidents

ICS-400: Advanced ICS for Command and General Staff

IS-700: National Incident Management System

IS-800: National Response Framework

LANGUAGES

Native Proficiency in English and Spanish

NGO BOARDS

Board Member, Washington Workshops Foundation 2011-Present.

Trustee and Executive Committee Member, Puerto Rico Arts Museum, 2013-2015.

ACADEMIA

Adjunct Professor in Project Management

University of Puerto Rico, Rio Piedras School of Architecture, Graduate Program 2014-2015, 2015-2016 (*Ad Honorem*)

PUBLICATION

Co-Author & Editor, **Puerto Rico Environmental Law Handbook, Third Edition**, State Environmental Law, Government Institutes, Rockville, Maryland, 2003

- Monthly reporting to the Board of Directors on the Bank's Profit and Loss Statement, Balance Sheet and Financial Statements.
- Administered the bank's operational budget, including multimillion-dollar loan disbursements and debt payments.
- Managed direct negotiation of Collective Bargaining Agreements.
- Stakeholder engagement with the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico Legislature, government agencies, mayors, rating agencies and other stakeholders.
- Managed as Executive Director of the Puerto Rico Development Fund initiatives to expand the financing sources available for the development of Puerto Rico's private sector.
- Served as Executive Director of the José M. Berrocal Institute for Economics and Finance.

Vice President Corporate Development (January - December 2012), Senior Program and Project Manager, Director of Administration and Compliance

CSA Group, Inc. San Juan, PR / 2009 – 2012

Full-Service Project Delivery and Program Management Company Serving the United States, Latin America, and Caribbean Region.

- Supported the company's business strategies by developing new private client relationships and services in the United States and international markets.
- Founded the Compliance Division, focused on assisting clients with the compliance responsibilities set forth in federal grant awards. Managed multi-discipline teams in the areas of state and federal regulatory compliance, funding opportunities, grant writing, project financial controls, risk management, community outreach and communications.
- Served as Senior Program and Project Manager and Subject Matter Expert in the area of environmental regulations and sustainable development for complex infrastructure projects including renewable energy (wind and solar) and waste management for various national and international clients including the International Olympic Committee, Deloitte & Touche LLP and Hugo Neu.

Investment Manager & International Deal Team Member

Cherokee Investment Partners, Raleigh, NC and London, England / 2005 – 2009

Private Equity Fund Specializing in Acquisition, Remediation and Redevelopment of Brownfields.

- Specialized in deal origination and structuring of major real estate investments for brownfield sites in the United States, Puerto Rico and Spain.
- Established the Puerto Rico operations and managed all legal and regulatory affairs of prospective investments.
- Achieved consensus among stakeholders to forge public and private partnerships while negotiating exclusivity and due diligence agreements of multi-million-dollar investments.
- Directed consulting teams in project master planning, including public financing, permitting, entitlement approvals, economic and market studies, land planning, sustainability, infrastructure assessments, and site remediation.
- Designed metrics for evaluation of prospective investments and existing assets as a key member of the enterprise sustainability task force. Facilitated business development in Spain, Italy, France and England as a member of the international deal team based in London, England.

Other Professional Experience

Executive Director, Caribbean Environment & Development Institute, San Juan, PR, 2004–2005.

Associate Member, Corporate and Environmental Practice Group, Fiddler González & Rodríguez Law Firm, San Juan, PR, 2003–2005.

Legal Intern – Semester in Practice 2021, Environment & Natural Resources Division, Environmental Enforcement Section, U.S Department of Justice, Washington, D.C.