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Biologist Antonio Ríos eyed as new SWMA director

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Biologist Antonio Ríos appeared at press time late Monday as the leading contender to take over the helm of the Solid Waste Management Authority (SWMA) from Luis Bernal, an agency source said.

The official announcement could take place this week.

Ríos, who has more than 22 years of experience at the SWMA, is an expert in solid-waste management and served as special aide to Bernal

during his nine-month tenure at the SWMA.

Bernal, who directed both the SWMA and the Energy Affairs Administration, is leaving the SWMA to focus solely on the latter position as requested by Gov. Luis Fortuño last week.

“Our government needs a leader with Bernal’s experience to work exclusively with the Energy Affairs Administration to guarantee that the island makes the most of the federal funds that will flow into our economy for the first time,” Fortuño said in a statement, referring to energy funds assigned to Puerto Rico under the federal American Recovery & Reinvestment Act. ■

José Alegría has left Liberty Cablevision of Puerto Rico after 10 years presiding over the company, CARIBBEAN BUSINESS has learned.

Alegría’s former administrative assistant confirmed that her former boss resigned some 30 days ago although no reason has been given.

In the meantime, the post remains vacant. Company CFO Peter Mauricio is currently acting as interim company president until the vacancy is filled.

Many attribute to Alegría the transformation of Liberty Cablevision of Puerto Rico into the cable powerhouse it is today. The company offers services to the eastern, central and northern areas of Puerto Rico. ■