



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Order No. 202-26-14

Pursuant to the authority vested in the Secretary of Energy by section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act (FPA),¹ and section 301(b) of the Department of Energy (DOE) Organization Act,² and for the reasons set forth below, I hereby determine that a statutory emergency exists within the Lakeland Electric service area due to a shortage of electric energy, a shortage of facilities for the generation of electric energy, and other causes. Issuance of this Order will meet the emergency and serve the public interest.

Emergency Situation

On January 31, 2026, the City of Lakeland, Florida (Lakeland), on behalf of its municipal electric utility, Lakeland Electric, filed a *Request for Emergency Order Under Section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act* (Application) with DOE.³ Lakeland Electric indicated that “[f]orecasts indicate an additional round of extreme cold will impact Central Florida beginning January 30, 2026, with sustained below-normal temperatures expected into the following week.” Lakeland states that it “anticipates customer demand may approach or exceed historical peak levels beginning Sunday, February 1, 2026, and continuing thereafter.”⁴

Request for Order

Lakeland requests that the Secretary issue an order effective immediately and through February 6, 2026, at 10:00 AM EST, the expected period to address high load related to prolonged cold weather conditions, authorizing Lakeland Electric to “temporarily operate City-owned electric generating units” and “direct the operation of City-owned backup generation at water, wastewater, and other non-essential municipal facilities,” notwithstanding applicable emissions or other permit limitations.⁵ According to Lakeland, “the immediate threat to public

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c).

² 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b).

³ Application at 1.

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ *Id.* at 2. As it pertains to City-owned backup generation, Lakeland specifies the following limitations under existing permits: emissions, run-hour, and maintenance. *Id.*

health and safety posed by widespread electric outages during prolonged extreme cold conditions outweighs the limited, temporary exceedances that would be authorized under this request.”⁶

The generating units, including City-owned backup generation resources, to which this Order applies (Specified Resources) are listed in Exhibit A of the Application for the Order 202-26-14, as described below.

ORDER

FPA section 202(c)(1) provides that whenever the Secretary of Energy determines “that an emergency exists by reason of a sudden increase in the demand for electric energy, or a shortage of electric energy or of facilities for the generation or transmission of electric energy,” then the Secretary has the authority “to require by order . . . such generation, delivery, interchange, or transmission of electric energy as in [his] judgment will best meet the emergency and serve the public interest.”⁷ This statutory language constitutes a specific grant of authority to the Secretary to authorize the operation of generation, delivery, and transmission resources that the Secretary has determined will best meet an emergency.

Given the emergency caused by the expected load stress, the responsibility of Lakeland Electric to ensure maximum reliability on its system, and the ability of Lakeland Electric to identify and dispatch generation necessary to meet load requirements, I have determined that, under the conditions specified below, additional dispatch of the Specified Resources is necessary to best meet the emergency and serve the public interest for purposes of FPA section 202(c). This determination is based on the expected load stress, shortage of electric energy, shortage of facilities for the generation of electric energy, and other causes from Winter Storm Fern and the prolonged cold weather that followed. The potential loss of power to homes and local businesses in the areas that may be affected by curtailments or outages presents a risk to public health and safety.

Consistent with the anticipated circumstances, this Order is limited to the period of time that the significant winter weather event is expected to impact the Lakeland Electric service area. Because the additional generation may result in a conflict with environmental standards and requirements, I am authorizing only the necessary additional generation under the conditions contained in this Order, with reporting requirements as described below.

FPA section 202(c)(2) requires the Secretary of Energy to ensure that any 202(c) order that may result in a conflict with a requirement of any environmental law be limited to the “hours necessary to meet the emergency and serve the public interest, and, to the maximum extent practicable,” be consistent with any applicable environmental law, and minimize any adverse environmental impacts. Lakeland anticipates that this Order may result in exceedance of air

⁶ *Id.*

⁷ Although the text of FPA section 202(c) grants this authority to “the Commission,” section 301(b) of the Department of Energy Organization Act transferred this authority to the Secretary of the Department of Energy. *See* 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b).

emissions, environmental permits, or other permit limitations.⁸ To minimize adverse environmental impacts, this Order limits operation of dispatched units to the times and within the parameters determined by Lakeland Electric for reliability purposes.

Based on my determination of an emergency set forth above, I hereby order:

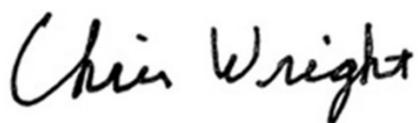
- A. In the event that Lakeland Electric determines that generation from the Specified Resources is necessary to meet the electricity demand that Lakeland Electric anticipates in its service area, I direct Lakeland Electric to dispatch such unit or units and to order their operation only as needed to maintain reliability. Specified Resources are those generating units set forth in Exhibit A to Lakeland Electric's Application for the order (i.e., Order 202-26-14 Resource List), subject to updates directed here and as described in paragraph D, which DOE shall post on www.energy.gov.
- B. To minimize adverse environmental impacts, this Order limits operation of dispatched units to the times and within the parameters determined by Lakeland Electric for maintaining grid reliability and, to the maximum extent practicable, is consistent with any applicable environmental law. Lakeland Electric shall provide a daily notification to DOE (via AskCR@hq.doe.gov) reporting each generating unit that has been designated to use the allowance and operated in reliance on the allowances contained in this Order.
- C. All operation of the Specified Resources must comply with applicable environmental requirements, including, but not limited to, monitoring, reporting, and recordkeeping requirements, to the maximum extent feasible while operating consistent with the emergency conditions.
- D. In the event that Lakeland Electric identifies additional generation units that it deems necessary to maintain the reliability of the power grid, Lakeland Electric shall provide prompt written notice to DOE at AskCR@hq.doe.gov with the name and location of those units that Lakeland Electric has identified. Any such additional generation unit shall be deemed a Specified Resource for the purpose of this Order for the hours prior to the required written notice to DOE updating Exhibit A of the Application. Lakeland Electric may dispatch any such additional generation unit, provided that if the DOE notifies Lakeland Electric that it does not approve of such generation unit being designated as a Specified Resource, such generation unit shall not constitute a Specified Resource upon notification from DOE.
- E. Lakeland Electric shall also provide such additional information regarding the environmental impacts of this Order and its compliance with the conditions of this Order, in each case as requested by DOE from time to time.

⁸ Application at 1-2.

F. This Order shall not preclude the need for the Specified Resources to comply with applicable state, local, or Federal law or regulations following the expiration of this Order.

G. This Order shall be effective upon its issuance, and shall expire at 10:00 AM EST on February 6, 2026, with the exception of the above reporting requirements and compliance obligations, as applicable. Extension of this Order, should it be needed, must be requested before this Order expires.

Issued in Washington, D.C. at 11:03 PM EST on this 31st day of January 2026.



Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy

cc: **FERC Commissioners**
Chairman Laura V. Swett
Commissioner David Rosner
Commissioner Lindsay S. See
Commissioner Judy W. Chang
Commissioner David A. LaCerte

State Commissioners
See Attachment A

Attachment A: State Contact Information

State	Office	Officials
		Gabriella Passidomo Smith (Chairman)
FL	Florida Public Service Commission	Gary F. Clark
		Mike A. La Rosa
		Ana Ortega
		Bobby Payne