



January 30, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy
United States Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585-1000

Dear Secretary Wright:

Subject: Request for Emergency Order Under Section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act

Pursuant to Section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act (“FPA”) and the regulations promulgated thereunder by the Department of Energy (“Department” or “DOE”), Homestead Public Services (HPS) Energy, respectfully requests that the Secretary of Energy (“Secretary”) find that an emergency exists within the HPS/Energy service territory that requires intervention by the Secretary, in the form of a Section 202(c) emergency order, to preserve the reliability of the bulk electric power system. HPS/Energy respectfully requests that the Secretary issue an order immediately, effective January 30, 2026, authorizing certain electric generating units located within the HPS/Energy service territory to operate up to their maximum generation output levels under the limited circumstances described in this letter, notwithstanding air emissions or other permit limitations. HPS/Energy further requests that the order remain effective through 10:00AM Eastern Standard Time (EST) on February 3, 2026. HPS/Energy is requesting the Department issue an order for this duration with this limiting condition because HPS/Energy anticipated unusually high load forecasts during this time due to extreme cold weather conditions for South Florida during this time period.

Background

On Friday, January 23 and continuing into Monday, January 26, 2026, a significant winter weather event known as Winter Storm Fern brought heavy snow, sleet, and

freezing rain, as well as dangerously cold temperatures and wind chills to multiple states, ranging from the southern plains to the eastern United States. As the storm drifted across the East Coast, more Arctica air moved in behind the storm, prolonging the bitter cold, icy conditions for several days. To date, Winter Storm Fern has caused or threatens to cause severe and widespread impacts across multiple regions of the United States, including extreme cold temperatures, freezing precipitation, high winds, disruptions to electric generation and transmission systems, natural gas supply constraints, and increased demand for electric and water services. On January 31, and February 1, 2026, and the following week, another round of extreme cold is forecasted to impact the southeast, including Peninsular Florida and South Florida for the entirety of the HPS/Energy service territory. As such, customer demand is projected to exceed record-breaking thresholds for HPS/Energy on Sunday, February 1, 2026, and which may continue throughout the following week.

While the majority of generating units in the HPS/Energy service territory are expected to continue to function adequately under these stressed conditions, some units will be limited in providing the generation needed by the system conditions and limitations in their environmental permits. As a result, HPS/Energy is concerned that under these conditions the system may not have sufficient generation available to meet this unusually high demand and may be forced to curtail load in order to maintain security and reliability of the grid.

When needed during an emergency, HPS/Energy takes extensive conservation measures in an effort to reduce load so that the supply of power continues to be sufficient to meet system demand and reserve requirements. Specifically, HPS/Energy issues public conservation appeals encouraging customers to reduce usage and curtails all recallable energy sales. In addition to the conservation measures, HPS/Energy also exhausts its ability to obtain more power through other means, including committing all available generation resources, implementing emergency ratings output, as well as purchasing external capacity where available and deliverable. As a result of these efforts, for Winter Storm Fern, HPS/Energy expects to reduce demand by more than approximately 2 MW and has secured an additional 2 MW of available capacity and energy. HPS/Energy will continue to pursue more capacity as available.

Subject to the exceptions requested herein, HPS/Energy commits to continuing to take such actions, including utilizing other supply resources, before operating any

units or calling on any generator to operate any units in a manner that will result in a conflict with a requirement of any federal, state, or local environmental statute or regulation, including requirements in permits issued pursuant to such laws or regulations. Even with the requested order, however, it is possible that HPS/Energy will have no choice but to curtail firm load to ensure system reliability.

Relief Requested

HPS/Energy may have to limit some generating units in its service territory due to emissions, effluent, and other limits established by federal and state environmental and other laws and permits.

Because the full and unrestricted output from all of the generating units in the HPS/Energy service territory would help to reduce the need for any firm load shedding that may be required during this extreme cold weather event, HPS/Energy seeks an immediate order from the Department authorizing the provision of additional energy from all of the HPS/Energy generating units, as well as any other available generating units, regardless of emissions or other permit limitations.

To minimize adverse environmental impacts as set forth herein, this order would limit operation of dispatched units to the times and within the parameters determined by HPS/Energy as necessary for grid reliability to avoid adverse health and safety impacts to customers from shedding firm customer load. Consistent with good utility practices, HPS/Energy shall exhaust all reasonably and practically available resources, including available imports, and identified behind-the-meter generation resources selected to minimize an increase in emissions to the extent that such resources provide support to maintain grid reliability prior to dispatching the generation resources at levels in violation of environmental laws.

HPS/Energy requests this order because it is committed to public health and safety, takes its compliance obligations seriously, and understands the importance of the environmental permit requirements that are at issue. In this case, the risk of power outages in extremely cold temperatures is a more imminent and prominent threat to the communities in the HPS/Energy service territory than the temporary exceedances of those permit limits that would be allowed under the order. Authorizing the

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generation resources to operate notwithstanding permit and other limitations may reduce the likelihood that HPS/Energy will need to curtail load.

This request is narrowly tailored to allow only the exceedances that are necessary to ensure reliability during the limited timeframe of this request. Limiting the requested allowance to situations described above will ensure that the operation of the generating units in excess of environmental permit limits will be a last resort to maintain grid stability (including, as a last resort before declaring an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) 3), thus minimizing any environmental impact to the greatest degree possible.

HPS/Energy greatly appreciates the Department of Energy's expedited consideration of this request and commits to respond to any requests for additional information on an expedited basis. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any questions or require additional information in order to act on this request.

Respectfully Submitted,

Homestead Public Services/Energy
City of Homestead, FL

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Barbara Quinones". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Barbara Quinones
Director, HPS/Energy