



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Order No. 202-26-2

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 PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (PJM) service territory 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 24, 2026, PJM, the Regional Transmission Organization (RTO) for 65 million people in 13 states³ and the District of Columbia, filed a *Request for Emergency Order Under Federal Power Act, Section 202(c)* (Application) with DOE.⁴ PJM has indicated that it anticipates “extraordinary system conditions” due to an extended period of frigid weather across the entire PJM Region as a result of Winter Storm Fern, including record high load forecasts constituting “an unprecedented winter streak in PJM.”⁵ As of the time of filing its Application, PJM has observed generation outages trending up to 20,000 MW.⁶ According to PJM, it has been notified by multiple generation owners that some of their generating units are currently limited in their power output due to emissions, effluent, fuel shortages, and other limits established by environmental permits and state requirements, or that, due to continuing cold weather conditions, may become subject to such operational limitations.⁷ As a result, PJM states

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c).

² 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b).

³ The 13 states are Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Kentucky, Maryland, Michigan, New Jersey, North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

⁴ Application at 2.

⁵ *Id.* at 1-2.

⁶ *Id.* at 2.

⁷ *Id.* at 2-3.

that it may not have sufficient generation available to meet this unusually high demand and may have to curtail load in order to maintain security and reliability of the grid.⁸

Description of Mitigation Measures

In anticipation of this emergency, PJM explains that it has been working with affected utilities and generators to secure adequate supply to meet expected energy and reserve requirements and otherwise coordinating with its states and members.⁹ PJM states that it already issued a Cold Weather Alert, a Maintenance Outage Recall, and a Cold Weather Advisory.¹⁰ PJM adds that it also declared Conservative Operations.¹¹

Request for Order

PJM requests that the Secretary issue an order effective through January 31, 2026, the expected period to address high load related to Winter Storm Fern, authorizing “the provision of additional energy from the [Specified Resources], as well as any other generating units that PJM may deem necessary to operate in excess of [operational limits, permit restrictions, and other causes] in order to maintain the reliability of the power grid” in the PJM service territory.¹² The generating units (Specified Resources) that this Order pertains to are listed on the Exhibit A to the Application for the instant Order 202-26-2, 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 its judgment will best meet the emergency and serve the public interest.”¹³ 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.

⁸ *Id.* at 2-3.

⁹ *Id.* at 1.

¹⁰ *Id.*

¹¹ *Id.*

¹² *Id.* at 3.

¹³ 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).

Given the emergency caused by the expected load stress, the responsibility of PJM to ensure maximum reliability on its system, and the ability of PJM 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 by Winter Storm Fern and its aftermath, and the potential loss of power to homes and local businesses in the areas that may be affected by curtailments or outages, presenting a risk to public health and safety.

In line with the anticipated circumstances, this Order is limited to the period of time that Winter Storm Fern is expected to impact the PJM service territory. Because the additional generation may result in a conflict with environmental standards and requirements, I am authorizing only the necessary additional generation on 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. PJM anticipates that this Order may result in exceedance of permit restrictions on sulfur dioxide, nitrogen oxide, mercury, carbon monoxide, wastewater release, and other air pollutants (including ammonia) or other limitations, such as fuel throughput and fuel shortages.¹⁴ To minimize adverse environmental impacts, this Order limits operation of dispatched units to the times and within the parameters determined by PJM for reliability purposes.

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

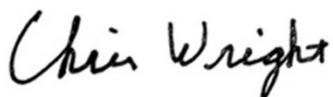
- A. In the event that PJM determines that generation from the Specified Resources is necessary to meet the electricity demand that PJM anticipates in its service territory, I direct PJM to dispatch such unit or units and to order their operation only as needed to maintain reliability. Specified Resources are those generating units set forth in Exhibit A to their Application for the instant order (i.e., Order 202-26-2 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 PJM for maintaining grid reliability and to the maximum extent practicable is consistent with any applicable environmental law. PJM shall provide a daily notification to DOE (via

¹⁴ *Id.*

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 Resource 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. This Order does not provide relief from any obligation to pay fees or purchase offsets or allowances for emissions that occur during the emergency condition or to use other geographic or temporal flexibilities available to generators.
- D. In the event that PJM identifies additional generation units that it deems necessary to maintain the reliability of the power grid, PJM shall provide prompt written notice to DOE at AskCR@hq.doe.gov with the name and location of those units that PJM has identified. 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, and PJM may dispatch such additional generation units, provided that if the DOE notifies PJM 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. PJM 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.
- 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 11:59PM EST on January 31, 2026, with the exception of the reporting requirements in paragraph D and applicable compliance obligations in paragraph E. Renewal of this Order, should it be needed, must be requested before this Order expires.

Issued in Washington, D.C. at 1:25 AM EST on this 25th 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

The table below provides contact information for state commissioners within the NERC Reliability Coordinator.

State	Office	Name
DC	Public Service Commission of the District of Columbia	Emile C. Thompson
		Ted Trabue
		Richard A. Beverly
DE	Delaware Public Service Commission	Dallas Winslow
		Harold Gray
		Joann T. Conaway
		Mike Karia
		Kim F. Drexler
IL	Illinois Commerce Commission	Douglas P. Scott
		Stacey Paradis
		Michael T. Carrigan
		Conrad R. Reddick
		Ann McCabe
IN	Indiana Utility Regulatory Commission	Andy Zay
		Bob Deig
		Anthony Swinger
		David Veleta
		David E. Ziegner
KY	Kentucky Public Service Commission	Angie C. Hatton
		Mary Pat Regan
		Andrew W. Wood
MD	Maryland Public Service Commission	Frederick H. Hoover, Jr.
		Bonnie A. Suchman
		Kumar P. Barve
		Odogwu Obi Linton
		Ryan C. 'Chuck' McLean
MI	Michigan Public Service Commission	Daniel C. Scripps
		Katherine L. Peretick
		Shaquila Myers
NJ	New Jersey Board of Public Utilities	Christine Guhl-Sadovy
		Michael Bange
		Dr. Zenon Christodoulou
NC	North Carolina Utilities Commission	Donald Van der Vaart
		William M Brawley
		Floyd B. McKissick Jr.

State	Office	Name
OH	Public Utilities Commission of Ohio	Tommy Tucker
		Jenifer French
		Lawrence K. Friedeman
		Daniel R. Conway
		John D. Williams
		Dennis P. Deters
PA	Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission	Stephen M. DeFrank
		Ralph V. Yanora
		Kimberly M. Barrow
		Kathryn L. Zerfuss
		John F. Coleman, Jr.
TN	Tennessee Public Utility Commission	David Jones
		Clay R. Good
		John Hie
		Kenneth C. Hill
		David Crowell
		Robin L. Morrison
VA	Virginia State Corporation Commission	Herbert H. Hilliard
		Samuel T. Towell
		Kelsey Bagot
WV	Public Service Commission of West Virginia	Jehmal Hudson
		Charlotte R. Lane
		Renee Lerrick
		William B. Raney