



PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
2750 Monroe Blvd.
Audubon, PA 19403

Michael E. Bryson
Senior Vice President, Operations
Michael.Bryson@pjm.com
(610) 666-4659

January 26, 2026

Via email (AskCR@hq.doe.gov)

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

Re: Request for Emergency Order Under Federal Power Act, Section 202(c)

Dear Secretary Wright:

In response to your letter of January 22, 2026,¹ PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (“PJM”) respectfully requests that you issue an order under section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act authorizing PJM in collaboration with its Transmission Owners to direct the deployment of customer-owned backup generation facilities if needed to avoid or mitigate an Energy Emergency Alert (“EEA”) level 3 during the current extreme winter weather event designated Winter Storm Fern and accompanied by extreme cold temperatures and wind chills currently affecting some of all of the states within PJM’s region. In a separate application relating to Winter Storm Fern, PJM already sought relief relating to the PJM generation fleet pursuant to section 202(c), that the Department of Energy (“Department”) granted on January 25, 2026.² In light of present and anticipated circumstances, the Department directed in that order, among other things, that “[i]n 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, [the Secretary of Energy] direct[s] PJM to dispatch such unit or units and to order their operation only as needed to maintain reliability.”³

PJM is the regional transmission organization designated by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to manage the real-time operation and future planning of the bulk power system that serves more than 67 million customers in all or part of 13 states and the District of Columbia. Under the framework established by the North American Electric Reliability

¹ Letter from Secretary of Energy Chris Wright to Reliability Coordinators and Balancing Authorities (Jan. 22, 2026), <https://www.energy.gov/documents/leveraging-backup-generation-facilities-during-energy-emergencies>.

² Department of Energy, Order No. 202-26-2 (Jan. 25, 2026).

³ *Id.* at Ordering Paragraph A.

Corporation (“NERC”), PJM also serves as the Reliability Coordinator and Balancing Authority for its region and is, therefore, responsible for overseeing the dispatch of generation to meet system demand at all times within the limits of the transmission system. In these roles, PJM also directs actions that may be needed to avoid and mitigate emergency conditions that may arise from time to time.

Beginning today, Monday, January 26, 2026, and extending over the next several days, Winter Storm Fern is bringing extremely cold temperatures and significant ice accumulations to much of the eastern United States, including in much of PJM’s region. This severely cold weather is expected to last through at least Sunday, February 1, 2026. PJM’s forecasts indicate a projected demand of approximately 138,000 MW during Monday’s evening peak, and of approximately 147,000 MW during Tuesday morning’s peak. PJM projects peak demands for several straight days of more than 140,000 MW, presenting stress conditions, including a potential new winter peak in the PJM region. This extreme level of demand coupled with stresses on fuel availability raise a significant risk of emergency conditions that could jeopardize electric reliability and public safety.

Allowing PJM in collaboration with Transmission Owners to direct customers with backup generation facilities to rely on power generated by those facilities rather than grid power under conditions of energy scarcity could help the RTO avoid residential load shed at EEA level 3. PJM notes that you issued an order permitting the Electric Reliability Council of Texas (“ERCOT”) to dispatch such generation under similar circumstances.⁴

PJM requests that you issue an order, effective today, January 26, 2026, authorizing PJM in collaboration with its Transmission Owners to direct data center customers specifically identified by the Department as having backup generation facilities available pursuant to a Section 202(c) Order to use those backup generation facilities instead of grid power during an EEA event. PJM in collaboration with the Transmission Owners would be authorized to issue such direction only after PJM has already deployed all available reliability tools—except for frequency responsive services and voltage reduction action—but before any firm load interruption.

PJM further requests that consistent with the provisions of Section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act, your order allow such use of backup generation notwithstanding any applicable environmental limitations under federal or state law. PJM requests that such order be entered as soon as possible today, January 26, 2026, and remain effective through 11:59 p.m. Eastern Standard Time on January 31, 2026.

⁴ See Amended Order No. 202-26-01A (Jan. 25, 2026), <https://www.energy.gov/documents/amended-order-no-202-26-01a>.

The Honorable Chris Wright
January 26, 2026
Page 3

PJM appreciates your consideration of this request. Please do not hesitate to contact me or my staff if you require any additional information to act on this request.

Respectfully submitted,

/s/ Michael E. Bryson

Michael E. Bryson
Senior Vice President, Operations
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.

Cc:

Craig Glazer
Vice President – Federal Government Policy
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
1200 G Street, N.W.
Suite 600
Washington, DC 20005
(202) 423-4743
craig.glazer@pjm.com

Christopher O’Hara
Senior Vice President, General Counsel, Secretary
& Chief Compliance Officer
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
2750 Monroe Blvd
Audubon, PA 19403-2497
(610) 635-3433
christopher.ohara@pjm.com

Mark J. Stanisz
Associate General Counsel
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
2750 Monroe Blvd
Audubon, PA 19403-2497
(516) 987-2021
mark.stanisz@pjm.com

The Honorable Chris Wright

January 26, 2026

Page 4

Erin Lai
Senior Counsel
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
2750 Monroe Blvd
Audubon, PA 19403-2497
(610) 666-4345
erin.lai@pjm.com

Arleigh P. Helper
Senior Counsel
PJM Interconnection, L.L.C.
2750 Monroe Blvd
Audubon, PA 19403-2497
(610) 666-4370
arleigh.helper@pjm.com