



Department of Energy

Washington, DC 20585

Order No. 202–25–1C

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 Organization Act,² and for the reasons set forth below, I hereby determine that an emergency continues to exist in Puerto Rico due to a shortage of electric energy, a shortage of facilities for the generation of electric energy, and other causes, and that issuance of this Order will meet the emergency and serve the public interest.

BACKGROUND

Order No. 202–25–1, issued pursuant to FPA section 202(c) on May 16, 2025, required additional dispatch of the Specified Generation Resources, as described in the attachment “Order No. 202–25–1 Specified Generation Resources.” I determined that an emergency existed in Puerto Rico and that Order No. 202–25–1 was necessary to best meet emergency conditions and serve the public interest given the emergency nature of the expected load stress, the responsibility of Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) to ensure maximum reliability on its system, and the ability of PREPA to identify and dispatch generation necessary to meet load requirements.³ Order No. 202–25–1 expired on August 14, 2025; that same day, I issued Order No. 202–25–1A pursuant to FPA section 202(c). Order No. 202–25–1A expired on November 12, 2025; that same day, I issued Order No. 202–25–1B, pursuant to FPA section 202(c). In Order Nos. 202–25–1A and 202–25–1B, I determined that continued dispatch of the Specified Generation Resources was necessary, finding that the emergency conditions described in Order No. 202–25–1 were still present. I noted that the number and frequency of forced outages remained high, adversely affecting grid operations and delaying much needed planned maintenance outages.⁴

CONTINUING EMERGENCY CONDITIONS

The emergency conditions that necessitated the issuance of Order Nos. 202–25–1, 202–25–1A, and 202–25–1B continue. Puerto Rico’s electrical grid is facing an energy crisis, given unstable reserve capacity and widespread blackouts. Factors contributing to this state include decades of deferred maintenance, the bankruptcy of the system owner and operator, as well as devastating hurricanes and earthquakes. These factors have combined to significantly deteriorate the Puerto Rican electrical grid, resulting in repair times that take years rather than months.

Given the extended nature of the emergency, I will continue to assess the state of the Puerto Rican electrical grid for the potential for additional emergency orders for successive periods until such time as the emergency conditions are no longer present.

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c).

² 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b).

³ *Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority*, Order No. 202–25–1, at 2 (May 16, 2025).

⁴ *See Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority*, Order No. 202–25–1A, at 1 (Aug. 14, 2025).

See also Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority, Order No. 202–25–1B, at 1 (Nov. 12, 2025).

As the island continues to repair critical infrastructure and prepares for peak demand season this summer, the number and frequency of forced outages remain high. While progress has been made, many of the conventional generation units are still being repaired. However, these repairs are subject to numerous delays attributable to funding authorizations, contract disputes, and supply chain challenges. This situation causes severely inadequate capacity reserves, which threaten public safety, healthcare, residential customers, industry, commerce, telecommunications, and other essential critical services.

As outlined in this order, I have imposed operational limitations to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, adherence to applicable environmental laws and regulations. I have also imposed reporting requirements to ensure transparency and timely implementation of the directives contained within this Order. As the emergency conditions continue to exist, I hereby issue Order No. 202–25–1C to permit operation of Specified Generation Resources, as described in Order Nos. 202–25–1, 202-25-1A, and 202-25-1B, with modifications as explained below, for an additional 90–day period to expire at 11:59 PM EST on May 11, 2026.

Pursuant to FPA section 202(c)(4)(B),⁵ the Department of Energy has consulted with the primary Federal agency with expertise in the environmental interests protected by laws or regulations that may conflict with this Order. That agency did not submit conditions for inclusion in this Order.

ORDER

FPA section 202(c)(1) provides that whenever the Secretary of the Department 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 . . . or other causes,” 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.”⁶ This statutory language constitutes a specific grant of authority to the Secretary to require the operation of the Specified Generation Resources when the Secretary has determined that such operation will best meet an emergency.

Such is the case here. As described above, the emergency conditions supporting the issuance of Order Nos. 202–25–1, 202–25–1A, and 202–25–1B continue. If the Specified Generation Resources are not available to operate, this could result in the loss of power, affecting public safety, healthcare, residential customers, industry, commerce, telecommunications, and other essential critical services. Given the emergency nature of the expected load stress, the responsibility of PREPA and its agents to ensure maximum reliability on the system, and the ability of PREPA and its agents to identify and dispatch generation necessary to meet load

⁵ 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c)(4)(B).

⁶ 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c)(1). 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.

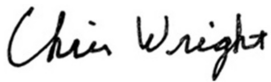
See 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b).

requirements, I have determined that, under the conditions specified below, additional dispatch of the Specified Generation Resources is necessary to best meet the emergency and serve the public interest for the purposes of FPA section 202(c). This determination is based on the expected electricity demand, the shortage of electric energy, the shortage of facilities for the generation of electric energy, and other causes.

Based on my determination that an emergency continues to exist in Puerto Rico, I hereby order PREPA and its agents to operate the Specified Generation Resources under the specified circumstances:

- A. Beginning at 11:59 PM EST on February 10, 2026, and continuing to 11:59 PM EST on May 11, 2026, in the event that a specified resource is necessary to maintain grid reliability, PREPA and its agents must operate the Specified Generation Resources as needed to prevent reliability issues.
- B. To minimize adverse environmental impacts, this Order limits operation of dispatched units to the times and within the parameters determined by PREPA and its agents, as needed for maintaining grid reliability.
- C. Every two weeks, PREPA and its agents shall report all dates between February 11, 2026, and May 11, 2026, on which the Specified Generation Resources are operating to the Department of Energy (via AskCR@hq.doe.gov). Each biweekly report shall continue to provide complete information using the Department of Energy 202(c) Reporting Templates submitted to PREPA and its agents on July 8, 2025.

Issued in Washington, D.C. at 5:30 PM Eastern Standard Time on this 10th day of February 2026.



Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy