

Order No. 202-25-2A

On May 16, 2025, the U.S. Department of Energy (DOE or Department) issued Order No. 202-25-2 under section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act (FPA)¹. That order authorized the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA), or its agents, to perform vegetation management, under certain circumstances, and only for a 90-day period. Order No. 202-25-2 expires at 11:59 PM on August 14, 2025, by its own terms and by statute²³. Pursuant to 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c), the Department issues emergency orders either upon its own motion or upon request. This Order and Order No. 202-25-2 are issued upon the Department's own motion.

Emergency Situation

Decades of deferred maintenance, insufficient investment, the bankruptcy of the system owner and operator, and devastating hurricanes and earthquakes have significantly deteriorated the Puerto Rican electrical grid, leading to recovery 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 potential renewals of emergency orders for successive periods until such time as the emergency no longer exists.

As stated in Order No. 202-25-2, LUMA estimates the benefit of a full vegetation clearing of the 115KV and 230KV transmission right of way could lead to a total reduction of over 80% of events or over 1.76 million customer interruptions (CI) avoided and over 1.2 billion customer minutes of interruption (CMI) avoided. The totality of these benefits would be realized after the full clearing is completed.⁴

The risk of adverse events remains high due to slow progress in clearing overgrown vegetation. On July 28, 2025, LUMA reported to DOE that from May 16, 2025, through July 28, 2025, 38 miles have been cleared. LUMA estimates that segments identified in the Priority Vegetation Stabilization Plan may be completed from August 2025 through June 2026, but are subject to delays caused by funding authorizations, contract disputes, and weather, and most importantly, environmental permitting review requirements. As such, Puerto Rico experiences severe inadequate transmission line ratings.

While vegetation clearing is a key first step for improving operational availability of transmission facilities, so too must degraded transmission assets be repaired or replaced.

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c)

² 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c)(4)(A)

³ The private operations of (a) the transmission and distribution infrastructure; and (b) the legacy generation assets are both agents of PREPA under the corresponding Operation & Maintenance Agreements each signed with the government of Puerto Rico in 2020 and 2023, respectively.

⁴ Technical information provided by LUMA to DOE via email on May 14, 2025.

The damage from earthquakes, landslides, Fiona, and Ernesto disasters continue to compound grid fragility.⁵ Falling behind on the vegetation clearing program has accelerated the need to perform the other emergency improvements necessary to address the poor quality metrics⁶ (voltage and frequency regulation), affecting not only residential customers, but also industry, commerce, telecommunications, healthcare, public safety and other essential critical services. Accelerated asset management is needed to increase transmission facility availability, address derating and oscillations of the lines, and decrease the likelihood of unplanned failures to electricity delivery.

I have determined that an emergency continues to exist in Puerto Rico due to a shortage of electric energy, a shortage of facilities for the transmission of electric energy, and other causes, and that issuance of this Order will meet the emergency and serve the public interest.

I have imposed limitations on operations outlined in this Order to ensure, to the maximum extent practicable, consistency with applicable environmental laws and regulations, and the reporting requirements for operations ensure transparency of implementation. Accordingly, I hereby issue Order No. 202-25-2A to perform vegetation management at the Specified Transmission Facilities, as described in Order No. 202-25-2, with modifications as explained below, for an additional 90-day period to expire on November 12, 2025.

Pursuant to the Federal Power Act (FPA) section 202(c)(4)(B), the Department has consulted with the primary Federal agencies with expertise in the environmental interest protected by the laws or regulations that may conflict with this Order. Accordingly, these agencies did not submit conditions for inclusion in this Order to minimize any adverse environmental impacts to the extent practicable.

ORDER

As I have determined that an emergency exists in Puerto Rico, I hereby order:

- Beginning on August 15, 2025, and continuing through November 12, 2025, PREPA, or its agents, is directed to perform vegetation management, including vegetation clearing to re-establish a right-of-way, and asset management,

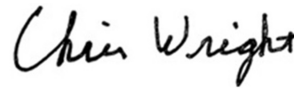
⁵Technical information provided by LUMA to DOE via email on April 15, 2025.

⁶A. Nassif, “Managing distribution resources: the LUMA perspective” (23PESGM4426), IEEE PES General Meeting 2023.

including component refurbishment and replacement, to ensure operational availability of the Specified Transmission Facilities.

- Every two weeks, LUMA shall report all dates between August 15, 2025 and November 12, 2025 on which vegetation management has been performed at Specified Transmission Facilities, beginning on Wednesday, August 27, 2025 through November 12, 2025 to DOE (via AskCR@hq.doe.gov). Each biweekly report shall continue to provide complete information using the DOE 202(c) Reporting Templates submitted to LUMA and PREPA on July 8, 2025.
- The Specified Transmission Resources list has been expanded to include new 38kV sections which have been identified by DOE analysis as critical for improving system stability, as well as the original Specified Transmission Resources in Order No. 202-25-2. The additional facilities are described in the attachment “Order No. 202-25-2A Specified Transmission Resources.” Covered resources are limited to only the facilities necessary to meet the emergency and serve the public interest, and, to the maximum extent practicable, is consistent with any applicable Federal, State, or local environmental law or regulation and minimizes any adverse environmental impacts.

Issued in Washington, D.C. at 9:25am Eastern Daylight Time on this 14th day of August 2025.



Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy

Attachment:

Order No. 202-25-2A Additional Specified Transmission Resources

Order No. 202-25-2A Additional Specified Transmission Resource

Transmission Facilities	
Voltage (kV)	Line Identification
38	2200
38	3100
38	3000
38	3700
38	0100
38	2700
38	2100
38	0200
38	5600
38	6500
38	4800
38	1600
38	2500
38	1200
38	5400
38	5300
38	3800
38	2000
38	4000
38	0800