



Department of Energy
Washington, DC 20585

Order No. 202-25-2B

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 transmission of electric energy, and other causes, and that issuance of this Order will meet the emergency and serve the public interest.

Order Nos. 202-25-2 and 202-25-2A

Order No. 202-25-2, issued pursuant to FPA section 202(c) on May 16, 2025, required vegetation management to be performed on the Specified Transmission Facilities, as described in the attachment "Order No. 202-25-2 Specified Transmission Resources" to ensure their operational availability. I determined that an emergency existed in Puerto Rico and that the Order was necessary to best meet the emergency 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 ensure the operational availability of transmission facilities to meet load requirements. I noted, among other items, that the threat posed to system reliability by overgrown vegetation, noting that transmission lines were being operated with up to 70% derating to avoid failures from sagging due to vegetation. I also pointed out that vegetation control on the transmission and distribution system right-of-way is one of the main causes of power failures. Order No. 202-25-2 expired on August 14, 2025. That same day, I issued Order No. 202-25-2A, again pursuant to FPA section 202(c). In Order No. 202-25-2A, I determined that the emergency conditions described in Order No. 202-25-2 were still present. At the time that I issued Order No. 202-25-2, only 38 miles of transmission lines had been cleared of vegetation from May 16, 2025, to July 28, 2025. Further, in Order No. 202-25-2, I directed PREPA and its agents to perform vegetation management and asset management to ensure operational availability of the Specified Transmission Facilities, and I increased the number of Specified Transmission Facilities to include 38kV transmission lines as described in the attachment "Order No. 202-25-2A Additional Specified Transmission Resources."

Continuing Emergency Conditions

The emergency conditions that led to the issuance of Orders Nos. 202-25-2 and 202-25-2A 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

¹ 16 U.S.C. § 824a(c).

² 42 U.S.C. § 7151(b).

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 of additional emergency orders for successive periods until such time as the emergency conditions are no longer present.

The risk of adverse events remains high due to slow progress in clearing overgrown vegetation. On October 21, 2025, it was reported to DOE that from July 28, 2025, through October 21, 2025, only 82 miles had been cleared of vegetation. Critical segments in the Priority Vegetation Stabilization Plan have been identified, but vegetation management efforts in these areas are subject to numerous delays caused by funding authorizations, contract disputes, weather, and environmental permitting review requirements. As such, Puerto Rico continues to experience severely inadequate transmission line ratings and a high number of transmission disruptions.

Estimates indicate that the full vegetation clearing of the 115KV and 230KV transmission right of way could lead to a total reduction of over 80% of adverse events. This would translate to over 1.76 million customer interruptions avoided and over 1.2 billion customer minutes of interruption avoided. The totality of these benefits would be realized after the vegetation management is completed.³

While vegetation management is a key first step for improving operational availability of transmission facilities, the repair or replacement of degraded transmission assets is also necessary. Delays in the vegetation management program have accelerated the need to perform other emergency improvements necessary to address the poor-quality metrics of voltage and frequency regulation,⁴ which threatens public safety, healthcare, residential customers, industry, commerce, telecommunications, and other essential critical services. Accelerated asset management is therefore needed to increase transmission facility availability, address derating and oscillations of the lines, and decrease the likelihood of unplanned failures to electricity transmission.

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 with the implementation of the directives contained within this Order. Accordingly, I hereby issue Order No. 202-25-2B to permit vegetation management at the Specified Transmission Facilities, as described in Order Nos. 202-25-2 and 202-25-2A, and asset management to ensure operational availability of the Specified Transmission Facilities, for an additional 90-day period to expire at 11:59 PM EST on February 10, 2026.

³ Technical information provided by LUMA to DOE via email on May 14, 2025.

⁴ A. Nassif, "Managing distribution resources: the LUMA perspective" (23PESGM4426), IEEE PES General Meeting 2023.

Pursuant to section 202(c)(4)(B) of the FPA, the Department has consulted with the primary Federal agencies with expertise in the environmental interests protected by laws or regulations that may conflict with this Order. These agencies 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,” 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.”⁵ This statutory language constitutes a specific grant of authority to the Secretary to require vegetation management and asset management to ensure operational availability of the Specified Transmission Facilities when the Secretary has determined that such operation will best meet an emergency.

As described above, the emergency conditions supporting the issuance of Order Nos. 202-25-2 and 202-25-2A continue. This could lead to the potential loss of power to 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 ensure the operational availability of transmission facilities to meet load requirements, I have determined that, under the conditions specified below, the operational availability of the Specified Transmission Facilities, as described in Order Nos. 202-25-2 and 202-25-2A, 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 transmission 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 perform vegetation management and asset management to ensure operational availability of the Specified Transmission Facilities under the specified circumstances:

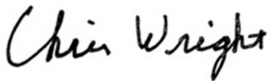
- A. Beginning 00:00 AM EST on November 13, 2025, and continuing to 11:59 PM EST on February 10, 2026, PREPA, and its agents, are directed to perform vegetation management, including vegetation clearing to re-establish a right-of-way, and asset management, including component refurbishment and replacement, to ensure operational availability of the Specified Transmission Facilities. Covered resources are limited to only the facilities necessary to meet the emergency and serve the public interest, and, to the maximum extent practicable, are consistent with any

⁵ 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).

applicable Federal, State, or local environmental law or regulation and minimize any adverse environmental impacts.

- B. By February 10, 2026, PREPA and its agents are directed to perform vegetation management consistent with good utility practice for at least 400 total miles, consisting of 38 kV, 115 kV, and 230kV right of ways and on the covered lines.
- C. By December 29, 2025, PREPA and its agents are directed to perform vegetation management consistent with good utility practice for at least 130 of the 400 total miles specified above, consisting of 38 kV, 115 kV, and 230kV right of ways and to include lines, towers and any supporting facilities of 38 kV, 115 kV, and 230kV transmission system.
- D. If PREPA and its agents are unable to comply with the request to clear at least 130 miles by December 29, 2025, PREPA and its agents are directed to provide the Department of Energy (DOE) (via AskCR@hq.doe.gov) with a report concerning the measures it has taken and is planning to take to ensure that at least 130 miles are cleared as soon as possible. PREPA and its agents shall also provide such additional information regarding its compliance with the conditions of this Order, in each case as requested by DOE from time to time.
- E. Every two weeks, PREPA and its agents shall report all dates between November 13, 2025, and February 10, 2026, on which vegetation management has been performed at the Specified Transmission Facilities beginning on November 13, 2025, through February 10, 2026, 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 PREPA and its agents on July 8, 2025.

Issued in Washington, D.C. at 5:36pm Eastern Standard Time on this 12th day of November 2025.



Chris Wright
Secretary of Energy