



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 29, 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 Extension of Existing Emergency Orders Issued Pursuant to Federal Power Act, Section 202(c)

Dear Secretary Wright:

In response to forecasts of continuing extreme adverse weather conditions and the threats that extended cold poses to the reliability of the interstate bulk power system in its region, PJM Interconnection, L.L.C. (“PJM”) respectfully requests that the Department of Energy (“Department”) issue an extension of its prior Orders issued pursuant to section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act. Those orders authorize PJM to take measures to protect the reliability of the transmission grid during the protracted period of extremely cold weather affecting its region. For the following reasons, PJM requests that the Department extend the authority granted in those orders through 11:59 P.M. EST on Monday, February 2, 2026.

In recent days, PJM applied for orders allowing it to dispatch generation to meet the spike in electricity demand brought on by Winter Storm Fern and protracted freezing temperatures in its region. In response, the Department of Energy (“Department”) issued two orders, Nos. 202-26-2 and 202-26-6 (the “Orders”), respectively authorizing PJM to dispatch generation assets that otherwise faced operating limitations¹ and, 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 3.²

In light of present and anticipated circumstances, the Department directed in Order 202-26-2, among other things, that “[i]n the event that PJM determines that generation from the

¹ Department of Energy, Order No. 202-26-2 (Jan. 25, 2026).

² Department of Energy, Order No. 202-26-6 (Jan. 26, 2026).

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 The Department further directed in Order 202-26-6 that from “January 26, 2026, PJM, in collaboration with its Transmission Owners, is authorized to direct backup generation resources at data centers (including, but not limited to, hyperscaler facilities), and at other large load industrial and commercial customer sites (whether auxiliary, standby, directly-connected, battery storage or other, and whether synchronized or not to the bulk power system), to operate as a last resort before declaring an Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) 3 (i.e., before firm load interruption) or during an EEA 3.”⁴

The authority the Department granted to PJM in the Orders currently is set to expire at 11:59 P.M. EST on January 31, 2026.⁵ Each of the Orders provides that extensions, should they be needed, “must be requested before this Order expires.”⁶

Because extreme cold temperatures are forecast to persist throughout PJM’s region through February 2, 2026, PJM respectfully requests that the Department extend the authority it granted to PJM in the Orders until 11:59 P.M. on February 2, 2026. PJM’s load forecasts indicate a projected demand of approximately 130,395 MW during the evening peak on Sunday, February 1. PJM projects that the evening peak on Monday, February 2, will be 130,370 MW. These peak demands come after several straight days of below-freezing weather: Monday, February 2, will represent the 11th straight day of below-freezing temperatures in PJM’s region. This extended period of cold weather has presented—and will continue to present—significant ongoing stress conditions. The extreme level of electricity demand PJM projects coupled with stresses on fuel inventories, natural gas availability and physical infrastructure raises a significant risk of emergency conditions that could jeopardize electric reliability and public safety.

For all these reasons, PJM respectfully requests that the Department issue an Order extending the date of its prior Orders as soon as reasonably possible. PJM requests that such Order extend the authority granted in Order No. 202-26-2 and Order No. 202-26-6 through February 2, 2026, at 11:59 P.M., to allow PJM to maintain the reliability of the bulk electric system in its region during this ongoing cold-weather event.

³ Order No. 202-26-2 at Ordering Paragraph A.

⁴ Order No. 202-26-6 at Ordering Paragraph A.

⁵ Order No. 202-26-2 at Ordering Paragraph G; Order No. 202-26-6 at Ordering Paragraph J.

⁶ Order No. 202-26-2 at Ordering Paragraph G; Order No. 202-26-6 at Ordering Paragraph J.

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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

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