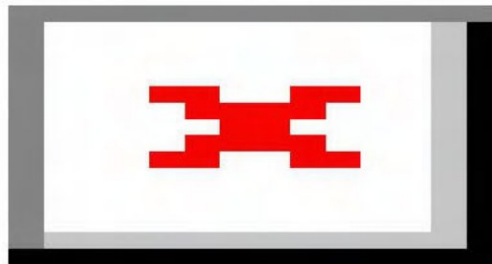


From: Dietderich, Ben
Sent: Fri, 16 May 2025 16:38:58 +0000
To: Thomas Catenacci
Subject: EMBARGOED//ENERGY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY ACTIONS TO PROVIDE OVERDUE RELIEF TO PUERTO RICO POWER GRID (Preview)

Very strictly embargoed/close hold please.



Press Release
For Immediate Release
May 16, 2025

Contact: doenews@hq.doe.gov

**ENERGY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY ACTIONS TO
PROVIDE OVERDUE RELIEF TO PUERTO RICO POWER GRID**

WASHINGTON—The Department of Energy (DOE) today announced new emergency actions to provide urgent and immediate assistance to the American citizens of Puerto Rico and strengthen the island's failing power system. Just one month after Puerto Rico's most recent island-wide blackout, U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright is issuing two emergency orders authorized by the Federal Power Act Section 202(c) to address critical grid security issues and improve grid resiliency. These orders, issued by the Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response (CESER), in accordance with President Trump's [Executive Order: Declaring a National Energy Emergency](#), will unlock emergency protocols and empower Puerto

Rico's government to address immediate problems plaguing the already fragile grid system and prevent further widespread outages ahead of peak summer demand season.

In addition to issuing the emergency orders, DOE's Grid Deployment Office (GDO) will review the \$365 million in funding from the Puerto Rico Energy Resilience Fund (PR-ERF) to ensure all DOE assistance is used to support practical fixes to Puerto Rico's grid and benefits all residents of Puerto Rico.

"Access to energy is essential for all modern life, yet the current energy emergency jeopardizes Puerto Ricans' access to basic necessities. This system is unsustainable, and our fellow citizens should not be forced to suffer the constant instability and dangerous consequences of an unreliable power grid," said **U.S. Secretary of Energy Chris Wright**. "With President Trump's leadership, we are prioritizing immediate and comprehensive actions that will mitigate the greatest threats to the grid and benefit a vastly larger portion of the population, including critical facilities like hospitals and community centers."

"I thank President Trump and Secretary Wright for their leadership and commitment to address once and for all Puerto Rico's energy emergency. This Administration clearly understands the urgency of the crisis and is utilizing available, existing emergency authorities to put words into action. With today's Section 202(c) orders, we will have the necessary flexibilities to begin stabilizing our power grid infrastructure and ensure an affordable, secure, and reliable supply of energy for all of Puerto Rico's 3.2 million Americans," said **Puerto Rico Governor Jenniffer González-Colón**. "Energy is essential for both the well-being of our citizens and the island's economic development, particularly as we seek to attract investment and support the Administration's re-shoring initiatives. I look forward to continuing our partnership, because when Puerto Rico thrives, America thrives."

Puerto Rico's electrical grid is facing an energy crisis, with insufficient reserve capacity and recent system-wide blackouts demonstrating its fragility and vulnerability. As Puerto Rico approaches the start of both the summer and hurricane season, challenges around balancing energy supply and demand, along with emergency preparedness, become paramount. Emergency protocols are necessary to address these issues and prevent further widespread outages.

The first emergency order directs the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) to dispatch generation units necessary to expand baseload generation for the island and maintain grid reliability, closing the gap in generation shortfall. The second order directs PREPA to perform vegetation management activities – the clearing of overgrown brush, trees, and vines that present

risk of shortages and fire. This vegetation clearing to re-establish a right-of-way will help ensure operational availability of the Specified Transmission Facilities.

These emergency activities have been carefully coordinated with the Puerto Rican energy industry, FEMA, HUD, and DOE power experts to streamline efforts and ensure maximum effectiveness. Both Puerto Rico Governor Jenniffer González-Colón and Energy Czar of Puerto Rico Josué A. Colón-Ortiz have expressed strong support for these emergency activities. DOE is continuing to work closely with the Governor and all stakeholders to address Puerto Rico's energy challenges. These collaborative efforts will continue to create a more secure and reliable energy future for all Puerto Ricans.

[Learn more about the Federal Power Act section 202 \(c\).](#)

###

This email was sent to emery.washington@hq.doe.gov
U.S. Department of Energy, 1000 Independence Ave SW, Washington, DC 20585, USA
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Best regards,

Emery Washington

Deputy Press Secretary

Office of Public Affairs

MOBILE (b) (6)

From: Dietderich, Ben <ben.dietderich@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 12:02 PM
To: Washington, Emery <emery.washington@hq.doe.gov>; Woods, Andrea <andrea.woods@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Tinari, Olivia <olivia.tinari@hq.doe.gov>; Wood, Sarah <sarah.wood2@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: RE: APPROVAL//TEST: ENERGY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY ACTIONS TO PROVIDE OVERDUE RELIEF TO PUERTO RICO POWER GRID (Preview)

Can we say WASHINGTON—to make it aligned with our other releases?

From: Washington, Emery <emery.washington@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 11:19 AM
To: Woods, Andrea <andrea.woods@hq.doe.gov>; Dietderich, Ben <ben.dietderich@hq.doe.gov>
Cc: Tinari, Olivia <olivia.tinari@hq.doe.gov>; Wood, Sarah <sarah.wood2@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: APPROVAL//TEST: ENERGY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY ACTIONS TO PROVIDE OVERDUE RELIEF TO PUERTO RICO POWER GRID (Preview)

Here is the PR release test!

Best regards,

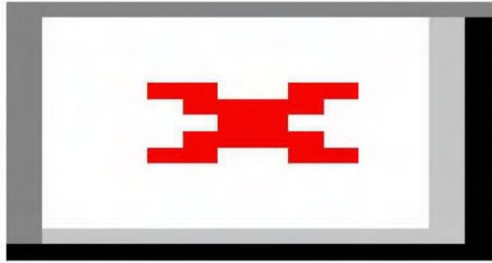
Emery Washington

Deputy Press Secretary

Office of Public Affairs

MOBILE (b) (6)

From: DOE Press Office <doenews@hq.doe.gov>
Sent: Friday, May 16, 2025 11:16 AM
To: Washington, Emery <emery.washington@hq.doe.gov>
Subject: ENERGY DEPARTMENT ANNOUNCES EMERGENCY ACTIONS TO PROVIDE OVERDUE RELIEF TO PUERTO RICO POWER GRID (Preview)



Press Release

For Immediate Release

May 16, 2025

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