

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 24, 2026

The Honorable Chris Wright
Secretary
U.S. Department of Energy
1000 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20585

Dear Secretary Wright:

We write to request your immediate support in addressing Puerto Rico's near-term generation needs following the cancellation of a major temporary-generation contract. The need is particularly urgent as Puerto Rico enters the late-summer period, when electricity demand remains high. In September 2024, LUMA was forecasting daily peak demand at roughly 3,000 MW, including approximately 3,100 MW on September 5 and 2,975 MW on September 9. In September 2025, actual peak demand reached approximately 3,091 MW.¹ These recent figures underscore that Puerto Rico enters September with substantial generation needs. We need to identify and coordinate every viable step that can help maintain sufficient generation and reduce the risk of additional outages over the next several months.

On August 17, 2026, the Financial Oversight and Management Board revoked its approval of the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority's \$5.9 billion temporary-generation contract with Power Expectations, LLC, Enchanted Rock, LLC, and Reyes Contractor, LLC, and directed the Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority (PREPA) to terminate the agreement. The contract was intended to provide up to 400 megawatts (MW) of additional generation and arose from an anticipated generation shortfall of approximately 700 to 850 MW.² The circumstances surrounding that procurement, including allegations concerning the unauthorized use of a company's name and signature, require a thorough investigation, and we intend to pursue appropriate congressional oversight.³

But that investigation does not change Puerto Rico's immediate need for electricity.

While the Power Expectations project was not yet operational, its collapse nevertheless removes one of the principal plans that had been identified to increase generation capacity while Puerto Rico's existing system is already operating with dangerously limited reserves.⁴

Puerto Rico's generation needs have long required bipartisan cooperation. That cooperation includes a June 2025 bipartisan letter pressing federal and Puerto Rico officials to explain the rejection of proposed temporary-

¹LUMA Energy, *Daily Generation Availability Report*, September 5, 2024, reporting anticipated peak demand of approximately 3,100 MW, <https://lumapr.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/20240905-Daily-Availability-Report.pdf>; LUMA Energy, *Daily Generation Availability Report*, September 9, 2024, reporting anticipated peak demand of approximately 2,975 MW, <https://lumapr.com/wp-content/uploads/2024/09/20240909-Daily-Availability-Report.pdf>; LUMA Energy, *Monthly Generation Performance Report — September 2025*, reporting maximum peak demand of approximately 3,091 MW, <https://lumapr.com/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/2025.09-September-Generation-Performance-Report.pdf>.

²Financial Oversight and Management Board for Puerto Rico, letter from Robert F. Mujica, Jr., Executive Director, to Gov. Jenniffer A. González Colón et al., "Re: Temporary Emergency Generation Contract – Power Expectations, LLC; Enchanted Rock, LLC; and Reyes Contractor, LLC," August 17, 2026, 1–2.

³*Ibid.*, 2–4 & app. A § 3.

⁴U.S. Department of Energy, *Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority Order No. 202-25-1E Regarding Specified Generation Resources*, Order No. 202-25-1E, August 7, 2026, 1–2, <https://www.energy.gov/documents/doe-order-no-202-25-1e>.

generation barges and identify options to address the Island's projected capacity shortfall, signed by then-Chairman of the House Committee on Homeland Security Mark E. Green.⁵ We appreciate DOE's continued engagement on this issue and hope to build on that same bipartisan approach now.

Your department has already recognized the urgency of this situation. On August 7, you renewed Department of Energy (DOE) Order No. 202-25-1E under section 202(c) of the Federal Power Act through November 7, 2026. In doing so, you determined that an emergency continues to exist in Puerto Rico because of shortages of electric energy and generating facilities. DOE further found that Puerto Rico continues to experience unstable reserve capacity and widespread blackouts, that several recent load-shedding events affected at least 50,000 customers, that forced outages remain high, and that delays in repairing conventional generation have contributed to severely inadequate capacity reserves.⁶

As you know, section 202(c) gives the Secretary of Energy substantial authority during an electricity emergency to require generation, delivery, interchange, or transmission of electric energy when necessary to meet the emergency and serve the public interest. Your current Puerto Rico order requires PREPA and its agents to operate specified generation resources whenever necessary to maintain grid reliability.⁷

The continued use of this emergency authority is important. But the repeated load-shedding events of recent weeks make clear that the immediate task is to identify and execute the additional steps needed to prevent more outages. As Puerto Rico enters a high-demand period and plans for the months ahead, DOE should use its emergency authority, convening role, and technical expertise to help Puerto Rico bring every feasible megawatt online as quickly as possible and establish a reliable near-term operating plan.

For that reason, we respectfully request DOE take the following actions:

1. **Convene an emergency reliability meeting with PREPA, LUMA Energy, Genera PR, the Puerto Rico Energy Bureau, and the Government of Puerto Rico's energy leadership.**

GAO recently found that roles and responsibilities among the entities involved in Puerto Rico's grid recovery were not fully documented and that no formal coordination mechanism existed among all relevant federal and Puerto Rico entities. GAO specifically recommended that DOE establish such a mechanism, and DOE agreed.⁸ This meeting should establish clear responsibility for coordinating the immediate response and inform one consolidated reliability plan for the next three months.

2. **Lead immediate implementation of operations in Puerto Rico by providing a 90-Day Reliability Action Plan for local agencies to follow.**

⁵Pablo José Hernández Rivera and Mark E. Green, letter to Adm. Kevin E. Lunday et al. regarding proposed temporary power generation barges in Puerto Rico, June 2, 2025, <https://hernandez.house.gov/sites/evo-subsites/hernandez.house.gov/files/evo-media-document/250529-letter-to-coast-guard-re-barges-in-puerto-rico-2.pdf>.

⁶U.S. Department of Energy, *Puerto Rico Electric Power Authority Order No. 202-25-1E Regarding Specified Generation Resources*, Order No. 202-25-1E, August 7, 2026, 1-2, <https://www.energy.gov/documents/doe-order-no-202-25-1e>.

⁷16 U.S.C. § 824a(c)(1); U.S. Department of Energy, Order No. 202-25-1E, 3.

⁸U.S. Government Accountability Office, *Puerto Rico Grid Recovery: Limited Progress Toward Stability and Opportunities Exist to Improve Federal Assistance*, GAO-26-107772, June 2026, "What GAO Found" & Recommendations 4-5, <https://www.gao.gov/products/gao-26-107772>. GAO found that objectives, roles, and responsibilities of key entities were not fully documented and that a formal coordination mechanism including all relevant Puerto Rico and federal entities did not exist; DOE agreed with GAO's recommendations.

The plan would ideally cover September through at least November 30 and identify forecasted peak demand, dependable generation and operating reserves; unavailable or derated units and their expected return dates; additional resources that can become available during that period; and contingencies if anticipated resources are delayed or another major unit fails. The plan should include near-term milestones so Puerto Rico can assess what additional capacity can realistically be available by early, mid-, and late September and throughout October and November.

3. Use Order No. 202-25-1E to its fullest extent and take any additional emergency action necessary to reduce the risk of further load shedding.

DOE has used section 202(c) elsewhere this year to direct the dispatch of specified generating units, keep units available for reliability, authorize generation at maximum output, and permit the use of backup generation during acute shortages.⁹ We ask you to identify whether comparable steps could make additional resources available in Puerto Rico and, where they can materially improve reliability, take that action immediately.

4. Deploy DOE technical personnel and emergency-response expertise to Puerto Rico to identify additional generation that can be recovered in the near term.

CESER leads DOE's coordinated response to energy-sector disruptions and is specifically equipped to support restoration, coordinate resources, address regulatory barriers, and provide technical expertise.¹⁰ DOE has used that capability in Puerto Rico before: after Hurricane María, it deployed a responder and seven Power Marketing Administration subject-matter experts to support restoration planning, cost estimates, validation, and quality assurance.¹¹ DOE and six national laboratories have also continued providing technical assistance to Puerto Rico since 2017.¹² We ask that you use that existing capability now to conduct a unit-by-unit assessment of additional MW that can return within 7, 14, and 30 days and identify any obstacle DOE can help remove.

We recognize that DOE cannot repair every generating unit by federal order, nor should DOE replace the responsibilities of Puerto Rico's grid operator, generation operator, regulator, or government. But Congress has provided the Secretary of Energy emergency authority for precisely those circumstances in which shortages of electricity or generating capacity threaten the public interest. You have already determined that those circumstances exist in Puerto Rico.¹³

The question now is what more can be done before another generation shortage results in avoidable outages.

We appreciate your decision to extend DOE's emergency orders for Puerto Rico and your Department's continued engagement with the Island's electric system. We are asking you now to build on those actions by bringing the relevant entities together, determining what additional capacity can actually be made available in the coming days

⁹U.S. Department of Energy, "2026 DOE 202(c) Orders," <https://www.energy.gov/ceser/2026-doe-202c-orders>. See, e.g., DOE Order Nos. 202-26-32 and 202-26-35 (dispatch of specified units), 202-26-28 and 202-26-26 (units kept available for operation), 202-26-34 (maximum generation output), and 202-26-23 and 202-26-33/33A (backup generation).

¹⁰U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Cybersecurity, Energy Security, and Emergency Response, "Emergency Response," <https://www.energy.gov/ceser/emergency-response>.

¹¹U.S. Department of Energy, Testimony of Bruce J. Walker, Assistant Secretary, Office of Electricity Delivery and Energy Reliability, before the U.S. Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources, November 14, 2017, <https://www.energy.gov/congressional/articles/senate-energy-and-natural-resources-committee-november-14-2017>.

¹²U.S. Department of Energy, Office of Electricity, "Puerto Rico," <https://www.energy.gov/oe/puerto-rico>.

¹³16 U.S.C. § 824a(c)(1); U.S. Department of Energy, Order No. 202-25-1E, 1–3.

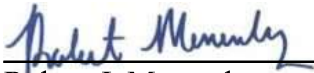
and weeks, using DOE's existing emergency authority to its fullest extent and supplementing it where necessary, and putting federal technical expertise directly to work on the problem.

Our offices are prepared to work with you immediately, including on any congressional action that DOE identifies as necessary to address the emergency.

Sincerely,



Pablo José Hernández
Member of Congress



Robert J. Menendez
Member of Congress



Sean Casten
Member of Congress



James C. Moylan
Member of Congress