

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 17, 2025

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

Dear Secretary Wright:

We write to express deep concern regarding the abrupt termination of federal employees at the Power Marketing Administrations (PMAs)—Bonneville Power Administration, Southeastern Power Administration, Southwestern Power Administration, and Western Area Power Administration. Operating at no expense to federal taxpayers, the PMAs provide affordable, reliable power to public utility districts and cooperatives at cost-based rates, playing a key role in supporting our nation's energy security. The PMAs' ability to remain a cornerstone of our nation's energy system depends on maintaining adequate staffing levels—particularly for grid reliability, energy distribution, and infrastructure maintenance. These indiscriminate layoffs threaten to disrupt core operations, drive up energy costs, cause service interruptions, and compromise long-term grid stability.

To assess the full impact of these workforce reductions and to ensure the PMAs can continue fulfilling their statutory obligations, we request responses to the following questions no later than Friday, February 21, 2025:

- How many probationary employees were terminated at each PMA, and what roles did they serve?
- How many employees have resigned at each PMA and what roles did they serve?
- Following these workforce reductions, how many positions are currently vacant at each PMA compared to the start of this calendar year, and how many of these positions does the Department anticipate refilling?
- What is the anticipated attrition rate for current employees over the next year?
- How will recent terminations, resignations, and retirements affect PMA operations?
- What measures are being taken to mitigate potential risks to grid reliability, energy distribution, potential energy rate increases, and service delivery disruptions for customers as a result of these workforce reductions?
- Will these workforce reductions interrupt, suspend, or result in the cancellation of any planned grid modernization, transmission upgrades, or other critical infrastructure projects?

The PMAs play an essential role in providing reliable, affordable energy to millions of Americans. Any disruption to their operations could greatly impact energy security and affordability nationwide. Given their importance, we urge your immediate attention to this matter and look forward to your timely response.

Sincerely,



Jared Huffman
Ranking Member
House Committee on Natural Resources



Frank Pallone, Jr.
Ranking Member
House Committee on Energy and Commerce



Val Hoyle
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries
House Committee on Natural Resources



Kathy Castor
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Energy
House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Cc:

John Hairston, Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration
Virgil Hobbs, Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Southeastern Power Administration
Tracey LeBeau, Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Western Area Power Administration
Mike Wech, Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Southwestern Power Administration