WASHINGTON -- The Office of the Comptroller of the Currency today issued a proclamation allowing national bank offices affected by the major power outages affecting the northern United States to close at their discretion.

In issuing the proclamation, Comptroller of the Currency John D. Hawke, Jr. said he expects that only those bank offices directly affected by the power outages will close. Those offices should make every effort to reopen as quickly as possible to address the banking needs of their customers, he added.