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California ISO adopts new grid emergency notifications

Move will improve communication across the West during tight conditions

FOLSOM, Calif. – The California Independent System Operator (ISO) moved over to the Energy Emergency Alert (EEA) notifications on May 1, 2022, to establish seamless communications with industry partners during tight power supply conditions.

The EEA system was developed by the North American Electric Reliability Corp. (NERC) to inform stakeholders and the public about possible energy deficiencies, and is used by other power grids and providers across the West. The ISO has discontinued its current Alerts, Warnings, and Emergency (AWE) designations.

The ISO's alignment with NERC's notifications will enhance communication among RC West entities and other balancing authorities in the Western interconnection that also use the alert designations.

The ISO has been using its AWE designations since 1998. Before the rotating power outages of August 2020, an emergency hadn't been declared since 2006, so there was no urgent need to update the notifications to the EEA protocols. During the outages, however, the ISO recognized that matching designations with NERC's would eliminate the need to compare the different definitions and action steps of an emergency and streamline communications.

The EEA definitions are:

- EEA Watch: Analysis shows all available resources are committed or forecasted to be in use, and energy deficiencies are expected. Market participants are encouraged to offer supplemental energy. This notice can be issued the day before the projected shortfall or if a sudden event occurs.
- EEA 1: Real-time analysis shows all resources are in use or committed for use, creating a deficiency in energy. Market participants are encouraged to offer supplemental energy and ancillary service bids. Consumers are encouraged to conserve energy.
- EEA 2: ISO requests emergency energy from all resources and has activated its emergency demand response program. Consumers are urged to conserve energy to help preserve grid reliability.

- EEA 3: ISO is unable to meet minimum Contingency Reserve requirements and controlled power curtailments are imminent or in progress according to each utility's emergency plan. Maximum conservation by consumers requested.

The Flex Alert, Restricted Maintenance Operations, and Transmission Emergency notifications have not changed, and the ISO will continue to use those notifications when necessary.

To learn more about EEA designations, view our [EEA training video](#), or the [Emergency Notifications fact sheet](#).

Emergency notifications are displayed on [Today's Outlook](#) on www.caiso.com and the ISO Today mobile app, in the "Alerts" and "Grid status" sections. Following the switchover, users need to update the mobile app for the EEA notifications to populate correctly when issued. Visit the Apple app store or Google Play to download the updated app.

The new designations are part of the ISO's preparations for summer 2022, including today's launch of the refreshed [News webpage](#), which will house links and resources to keep the public up-to-date on power grid and market conditions.

The ISO's Summer 2022 section on the News page will include:

- The 2022 Summer Loads and Resources Assessment, an annual analysis of energy supply and demand from June 1 through Sept. 30;
- The System Conditions Bulletin, giving real-time updates during stressed grid conditions;
- Summer market performance reports;
- California Legislative and Governor's Office activities and reports; and
- Fact sheets on a range of subjects, including Flex Alerts, gross and net loads peaks, energy reserve requirements, resource adequacy, emergency notifications, and rotating power outages.

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The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is a nonprofit public benefit corporation dedicated, with its partners, to continuous improvement and secure operation of a reliable grid operated for the benefit of consumers. It provides comprehensive grid planning, open and nondiscriminatory access to one of the largest networks of high-voltage transmission power lines in the world, and operates a \$9 billion competitive electricity market. Recognizing

the importance of the global climate challenge, the ISO is at the forefront of integrating renewable power and advanced technologies that will help provide a sustainable energy future efficiently and cleanly.

The Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) is a real-time wholesale energy trading market that enables participants anywhere in the West to buy and sell energy when needed. The WEIM Governing Body is the governing authority designed by regional stakeholders and has shared authority with the ISO Board of Governors to resolve rules specific to participation in the WEIM.