



NEWS RELEASE

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CALIFORNIA ISO REPORTS SEAMLESS SWITCH TO 2000 *Lights Stay On During Uneventful Computer Rollover*

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) steered the second largest network of transmission systems in the country into 2000 without incident. Control room operations also glided into return-to-business-hours today, Monday, January 3, 2000 without a stumble.

"We worked hard to make sure the Year 2000 computer rollover was uneventful," said California ISO Chief Information Officer Dennis Fishback. "Preparations paid off and we are pleased to report an extremely successful non-event, meaning the lights stayed on and the electricity industry in California rolled right into 2000 without a hitch".

The California ISO spent more than 10,000 employee hours testing computer systems to ensure Y2K readiness. Some fixes were needed, but they were mainly cosmetic. Eight major upgrades helped prepare the California ISO-grid for the transition.

"We also noted that consumers appeared to maintain their confidence in the power grid. The demand for electricity was in line with our predictions, with no indications that a lot of customers were intentionally going "off grid" (using backup generators) or turning off power due to fears of Y2K problems", said Fishback.

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Y2K ISO-2-2-2

The peak demand on the ISO grid was 29,673 megawatts New Year's Eve, slightly higher than forecasted. The California ISO estimates power consumption based on historical data and conducted a public awareness campaign beginning in the fall that asked electric customers to avoid sudden changes in power use (electric systems work best when the flow of electricity is steady).

The California ISO is chartered by the state to manage the flow of electricity along the long-distance, high-voltage power lines that make up the bulk of the state's transmission systems. The not-for-profit public benefit corporation assumed the responsibility in March 1998 when California opened its energy markets to competition and required investor-owned utilities turn their transmission systems over to the California ISO. The ISO's job is to ensure equal access to the state's "electron highway" through competitive markets that safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity.

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