



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STAGE ONE ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY ISSUED BY CALIFORNIA ISO Cold Weather + Low Imports + Plant Outages = Slim Operating Reserves

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) announced a Stage One Electrical Emergency effective 7:00 a.m. today, Wednesday, November 15, 2000, due to an anticipated shortfall of operating reserves. The California ISO is issuing an immediate appeal for energy conservation to help meet a forecasted peak power demand of 33,600 megawatts today at approximately 6:00 p.m. The Stage One Emergency is in effect through 9:00 p.m. A large generator that tripped off line early this morning contributed to the initiation of a Stage One Emergency.

Operating reserves were already forecasted to be narrow today because of an early cold snap that is causing a rise in heating demand this week. Meanwhile, many power plant owners scheduled major maintenance projects on generators this month. Nearly 12,000 megawatts of planned and unplanned plant outages are reducing resources. In addition, the amount of power expected to be imported from the Northwest was cut by a third today because the power was needed in Washington and Oregon—states also suffering from cold fall weather.

Stage One of the state's Electrical Emergency Plan is initiated to advise the public of potential power shortages and to ask all customers to conserve electricity to ensure there will be enough power to meet future demand. The request for demand reduction is not intended to disrupt employment or curtail industrial production or commerce. However, if the conservation measures are insufficient in lowering the demand for power, load management programs that implement voluntary curtailments of power are probable.

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A Stage One Emergency takes effect when electricity operating reserves fall below seven percent. A Stage Two is declared when reserves drop below five percent. At this level, large commercial customers that have signed up to voluntarily curtail power during high demand days will be asked to do so.

If an operating reserve shortfall of less than one-and-a-half percent is unavoidable, Stage Three is initiated. Involuntary curtailments of service to customers including “rotating blackouts” are possible during this emergency declaration. The California ISO’s Electrical Emergency Plan (EEP) is part of the state’s enhanced reliability standards enacted by landmark legislation Assembly Bill 1890 that led to the restructuring of California’s electricity industry.

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 California’s transmission system. The not-for-profit public-benefit corporation assumed the responsibility in March 1998 when California opened its energy markets to competition and the state’s investor-owned utilities turned their private transmission power lines over to the ISO to manage. The mission of the California ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity, facilitate markets and ensure equal access to a vast 12,500 circuit miles of “electron highway”.

Continuously updated information about the California ISO control area’s electricity supply and the current demand on the power grid is available on the web at www.caiso.com.

Other helpful contacts:

Pacific Gas and Electric	415/973-5930
Southern California Edison	626/302-2255
San Diego Gas and Electric	877/866-2066

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