



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STAGE ONE ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY ISSUED FOR FOURTH DAY THIS WEEK Energy Conservation throughout the State is Encouraged

(Folsom, CA) An anticipated shortfall of operating reserves has forced the California Independent System Operator (California ISO) to issue a Stage One Electrical Emergency effective 4:00 p.m. today, Thursday, November 16, 2000. Statewide energy conservation is urged to help meet the forecasted peak power demand of 32,400 megawatts expected at approximately 6:00 p.m. The Stage One Emergency, and the call for conservation measures, is in effect until 10:00 p.m. this evening.

Unseasonably cold weather continues to produce a high demand for energy during a month when several power plant owners are completing major maintenance projects on generators. Nearly 12,000 megawatts of generation, a combination of scheduled and unplanned plant outages, remain unavailable today. In addition, the amount of imported power available from the Pacific Northwest today was limited because the power is needed in Washington and Oregon—states also suffering from the current cold snap. Weather forecasts are calling for warmer temperatures this weekend.

A Stage One Emergency is required when the state's electricity operating reserves fall below seven percent. Stage One of the state's Electrical Emergency Plan is initiated to advise the public of potential power shortages and to ask all of the state's customers to conserve electricity to ensure there will be enough power to meet demand. The request for demand reduction is not intended to disrupt employment or curtail industrial production or commerce.

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However, if the conservation measures are insufficient in lowering the demand for power, load management programs that implement voluntary curtailments of power are possible.

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 charged with managing 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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