



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CALIFORNIA ISO CALLS STAGE ONE AND TWO ELECTRICAL EMERGENCIES *Voluntary Interruptible Programs Activated*

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared a Stage Two Electrical Emergency at 4:00 a.m. today, Thursday, December 7, 2000. Imports into California are severely limited, putting the state into an early morning supply crunch just as the power grid experienced the typical morning peak demand period. More than 11,000 megawatts of generation remain off line, including an unusually high number of forced, unplanned outages. The California Public Utilities Commission, with assistance from the California ISO, will continue on-site inspections of power plants reporting forced shutdowns today. Demand across the California ISO Control Area is expected to peak at 33,839 megawatts at 6:00 p.m. tonight.

Interruptible customers were asked to curtail electricity consumption this morning in order to help meet demand. The curtailments are expected to end some time this morning. **The ISO urges interruptible customers to remain in close contact with their local utilities regarding whether further voluntary load curtailments will be required later today. Interruptible customers are urged not to shed their contracted electrical load until specified to do so by their local utility.** Interruptible customers, mainly commercial and industrial users, receive a reduced rate in exchange for a commitment to come off line when asked to do so for reliability purposes.

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With today’s Stage One in effect until 10 p.m., conservation of electricity is strongly urged. Customers are asked to delay turning on their holiday lights until 7 p.m. when the peak demand on the state’s electrical system has subsided. Additional conservation tips include setting the thermostat at 68 degrees when at home and 55 degrees when you’re away, using electrical appliances during off-peak hours (before 4 p.m. and after 7 p.m.), and turning off computers, copiers, lights, etc. when not in use.

A Stage Two Emergency is declared when operating reserves dip below five percent or are expected to within the next two hours. If an operating reserve shortfall of less than one-and-a-half percent is unavoidable, Stage Three will be 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 created by landmark legislation Assembly Bill 1890, which restructured 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 California 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 12,500 circuit mile “electron highway.”

Information about the California ISO control area’s electricity supply and the current demand 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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