



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
April 24, 2001

Contact: Patrick Dorinson
Director of Communications
1 (888) 516-NEWS

CALIFORNIA ISO DECLARES STAGE ONE/STAGE TWO ELECTRICAL EMERGENCIES

Consumers Urged to Step Up Conservation Efforts

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) issued a Stage One Electrical Emergency today, April 24, 2001, at 1:40 p.m., followed by a Stage Two Electrical Emergency at 2:00 p.m. Both emergencies are in effect until midnight tonight.

Warmer than forecast temperatures, especially in southern California, are driving up the demand for power. The revised forecast for peak demand later this afternoon has jumped from 29,900 to 31,300 megawatts. In addition, two generator units in southern California tripped off line this afternoon due to forced outages—removing from service 1,080 megawatts of power. The California ISO is optimistic that customer outages will be avoided today, but is encouraging conservation through tomorrow as the state encounters its first heat spell of the season.

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.

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 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

-MORE-

STAGE ONE-2-2-2

voluntary curtailments of power are possible.

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.

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 25,526 circuit mile “electron highway.”

Other helpful contacts:

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

-ISO-