



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 28, 2001

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

CALIFORNIA ISO DECLARES STAGE TWO ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY

Conservation Efforts Important as Supplies Remain Limited

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) called a Stage Two Emergency at 11:20 a.m. today, Wednesday, March 28, 2001, as the ISO-controlled Power Grid responds to the loss of nearly 1,000 megawatts of electricity in the southern region. This loss of generation is in addition to the 10,820 megawatts worth of power plants already off-line today because of preventative repairs and plant malfunctions. With the Stage Two declaration, the California ISO is able to access emergency resources that will help maintain operating reserves.

The California ISO is asking customers to voluntarily reduce their use of electricity, to prevent more severe curtailment measures. Today's Stage Two Emergency is in effect until midnight. Peak demand on the transmission system is expected to reach 29,331 megawatts around 6:00 p.m. today.

A Stage One Emergency, already in effect today from 11 a.m. to midnight, takes effect when electricity operating reserves fall below seven percent. A Stage Two is declared when reserves drop below five percent. 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.

-MORE-

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 25,526 circuit mile “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

-ISO-