



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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**NO CUSTOMER OUTAGES AT THIS TIME, BUT STRONG POSSIBILITY
State Remains Under Stage Three Electrical Emergency for Third Consecutive Day**

(Folsom, CA) Yesterday's Stage Three Electrical Emergency was extended at midnight and remains in effect until midnight tonight according to the California Independent System Operator (California ISO). Today, Thursday, January 18, 2001 marks the third consecutive day of critically low electricity operating reserves – a Stage Three Emergency is required when operating reserves are at or below 1.5 percent.

At this time, rotating blackouts have not been ordered but there is a strong possibility they will be required today. More than two hours of blackouts were experienced in Northern California yesterday from approximately 11:40 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Conservation efforts will help lessen the severity and duration of any outages. All Californians are urged to rededicate their efforts to save as much energy as possible during this emergency situation. Media briefings will be held throughout the day to provide regular updates to the press (see box below for specifics).

Thursday's ISO Teleconference Updates

TIMES (ALL PST):	10:30 a.m.	1 p.m.
PHONE NUMBER:	800/374-1387	
PASSCODE:	ISO News	

Additional briefings for the day will be identified and announced on the calls.

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Electricity supply remains limited throughout the western region. A great deal of in-state generation – more than 10,500 megawatts – remains off line due to planned and unplanned outages. Stage One and Stage Two emergencies were also extended from yesterday and remain in effect until midnight. Today’s forecast for peak demand is 31,856 megawatts at approximately 6:00 p.m. this evening.

Stage Three declarations, as required by the state’s Electrical Emergency Plan (EEP), enable the California ISO to receive additional emergency assistance from federal and state agencies. The California ISO’s EEP is part of the state’s enhanced reliability standards created by landmark legislation Assembly Bill 1890, which restructured 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 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.

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