



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 18, 2001

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

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA BLACKOUTS ORDERED AT 9:50 a.m.

Electricity Supply Remains Very Limited Throughout the Western Region

(Folsom, CA) **California Independent System Operator (California ISO) ordered rotating customer outages in Northern California again today, Thursday, January 18, 2001.** The California ISO has requested the utilities to implement their rotating outage programs and **curtail 1,000 megawatts within Northern California beginning at 9:50 a.m.** The extent of the blackouts and whether they are extended to include Southern California will be evaluated on an hourly basis. Details will be available at the 10:30 a.m. and 1:00 p.m. briefings (see details below).

Today's Teleconference Updates

TIMES (ALL PST):	10:30 a.m.	1:00 p.m.
PHONE NUMBER:	800/374-1387	
PASSCODE:	ISO News	

Conservation efforts will help lessen the severity and duration of outages. All Californians are urged to rededicate their efforts to save as much energy as possible during this emergency situation.

Please contact your local investor-owned utilities for specific information regarding which customers will be affected.

-MORE-

California ISO anticipates reaching a peak load of 31,856 megawatts at approximately 6:00 p.m. this evening. Stage One and Stage Two Emergencies are also in effect all day, until 12 midnight.

Stage Three of the state’s Electrical Emergency Plan (EEP) is required when operating reserves fall below one-and-a-half percent. 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.

Other helpful contacts:

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

###