



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 20, 2000

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

STAGE TWO ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY ISSUED BY CALIFORNIA ISO

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared a Stage Two Electrical Emergency today, Wednesday, December 20, 2000, from 2:15 p.m. until midnight. For several days now, grid operators at the California ISO have been dealing with limited transmission capacity on Path 15, a group of high-voltage power lines that feed electricity back and forth between Northern and Southern California. A traffic jam of sorts occurs on Path 15 when demand for power in the northern end of the state draws generation supply from Southern California to the point the power lines approach and sometimes exceed transmission capacity.

Today's forecasted consumption of electricity is expected to peak around 6:00 p.m. at an estimated 33,720 megawatts. A Stage One Emergency, requesting continued conservation efforts throughout the state, was issued earlier today at 9:15 a.m. and will also remain in effect until 12:00 midnight.

At this time, the California ISO expects to maintain the reliability of the power grid without activating voluntary load management programs. **The ISO urges interruptible customers to wait 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.

-MORE-

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.

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
----------------------------	--------------

###