



NEWS RELEASE

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

CALIFORNIA ISO ISSUES STAGE ONE AND STAGE TWO ELECTRICAL EMERGENCIES Immediate Conservation Advised

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) called a Stage One Electrical Emergency today Monday, November 13, 2000, effective 5:00 p.m. followed immediately by a Stage Two Emergency at 5:15 p.m. after a forecast of insufficient operation reserves. An estimated 11,000 megawatts of generation is unavailable today because of scheduled maintenance. The California ISO is issuing an immediate appeal for energy conservation to help meet a forecasted peak power demand of 32,820 megawatts at 6:00 p.m. today. Both electrical emergencies are in effect through 8:00 p.m. this evening.

The California ISO anticipate possible activation of the voluntary load interruption 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.

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 future 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 voluntary curtailments of power are probable.

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A Stage Two Emergency is declared when operating reserves dip below five percent or are expected to within the next two hours. While not expected tonight, 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 enacted by landmark legislation Assembly Bill 1890 that led to the restructuring of California’s electricity industry.

The California ISO is chartered by the state to manage 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 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 vast 12,500 circuit miles of “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

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