



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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GRID OPERATORS FACE CHALLENGES FOLLOWING SOUTHERN CA SUBSTATION FIRE

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) dispatched additional electrical generation and issued a restricted maintenance operations notice after the equipment failure of a transformer bank at a transmission substation in Southern California Friday night. The grid precautions continue this week as Southern California Edison (SCE) crews work on restoring the facility located in Acton in the Antelope Valley.

An internal mechanical failure is the initial reported cause of a transformer explosion at the 500 kilovolt (kV) Vincent Substation. Operators in the California ISO control room and transmission dispatchers in nearby states moved into action shortly after 6:30 p.m. Friday night when the blaze, fueled by thousands of gallons of mineral oil used to insulate transformers, damaged part of the substation. The facility was immediately de-energized, causing the California grid to isolate sections of the western transmission network. No blackouts resulted, even though a total of five 500 kV and eight 230 kV transmission lines were immediately taken out of service. An estimated 900 megawatts of State Aqueduct pump load was interrupted to help stabilize the grid. Firefighters spent some eight hours extinguishing the blaze. No injuries were reported.

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VINCENT FIRE-2-2-2

The facility impacts a transmission artery in the state known as Path 26. At this point, the California ISO is managing statewide electricity flows by directly re-linking transmission lines that run through the state. Evaluations are currently underway by the ISO and SCE to determine the extent of the damage to the substation in order to provide restoration estimates and to assess near-term impact to western grid operations.

The California ISO is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation charged with managing the flow of electricity along California's wholesale power grid. The mission of the California ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity, and ensure equal access to more than 25,000 circuit miles of "electron highway." As the impartial operator of the wholesale power grid in the state, the California ISO conducts a small portion of the bulk power markets. These markets are used to allocate space on the transmission lines maintain operating reserves and match supply with demand in real time.

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