



CALIFORNIA ISO

California Independent
System Operator

NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

July 28, 1998

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HEAT WAVE STRESSES STATE'S ELECTRICITY RESERVES **California ISO calls on voluntary interruptible customers to conserve power**

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO) called on customers who had signed up with their utilities for interruptible service to curtail their energy use yesterday as the summer's second heat wave descended upon the state. The action came as the state lost nearly 2000 megawatts of electricity following malfunctions at several power plants. Today's forecast for the state's energy use is expected to be lower than yesterday, but operators of the Cal-ISO, the state's computerized nerve center for the new open-market power grid, are prepared for another day of hot weather and high electricity consumption.

Customers participating in interruptible load programs can opt to allow their electricity to be interrupted and in doing so save money on their utility bills while allowing the Cal-ISO (and their local utility) to increase electricity operating reserves. The Cal-ISO's first use of interruptible load this year occurred at 2:52 p.m. yesterday in areas served by Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E). The Cal-ISO lifted the request for interruptible power shortly after 5 p.m.

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HOT WEATHER OUTAGE-2-2-2

Cal-ISO is chartered by the state to manage the flow 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 mandated the investor-owned utilities turn their private transmission power lines over to the Cal-ISO's public power grid. The mission of the Cal-ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity and ensure equal access to the state's "electron highway", which spans 124,000 miles or three-quarters of the state. The Cal-ISO is the second largest control area in the U.S. and the fifth largest in the world. Its computerized control center is located in Folsom, 22-miles from the capital city of Sacramento.

Other helpful contacts:

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ISO-07.28.98