



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CAL-ISO DECLARES STAGE ONE EMERGENCY AT 1:38 p.m. State's Utility Consumers Asked to Conserve

(Folsom, CA) Today's continued pressure on California's electric transmission grid prompted the California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO) to declare a Stage One Emergency in effect from 1:38 p.m. to 7 p.m. With operating reserves forecasted to dip below 7 percent, the Cal-ISO has asked the state's investor-owned utilities and their customers to conserve electricity today to reduce the power demand on the state's electricity grid. Today's revised peak load forecast is 44,500 megawatts.

A Stage One Emergency goes into effect when the Cal-ISO's operating reserves dip below 7 percent or are expected to within the next two hours. Though a Stage One indicates that operating reserves are below minimum, they are not so low as to require interruption of service to consumers. However, during a Stage One Emergency utility customers are urged to voluntarily reduce electricity use in order to avoid more severe conditions.

A Stage Two Emergency is declared when operating reserves dip below 5 percent or are expected to within the next two hours. At this stage, the Cal-ISO asks the state's utilities to implement their load management programs. These programs often rely on commercial and industrial customers who receive discounted electricity rates to voluntarily curtail their electricity use in order to lower the state's demand for power.

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STAGE ONE -2-2-2

This week the Cal-ISO declared Stage Two Emergencies on September 1 and August 31 due to heavy statewide power demand caused by California's lengthy heat wave. The Cal-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.

Within the Cal-ISO's control area (the region served by investor-owned utilities or 75% of the state), 22 million Californians broke the all-time electricity consumption record on Monday, August 3, 1998, when they used 44,927 megawatts of energy at 4:11 p.m.

The National Weather Service reports that Sacramento alone has encountered a total of 28 days this summer with temperatures above 100 degrees. Last summer the area saw only 14 days of triple digit heat.

Cal-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 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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