



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 21, 1999

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CALIFORNIA ISO READY FOR Y2K Lights Likely to Stay on if Consumers Celebrate as Planned

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO), controllers of most of the state's electric grid, is fully prepared for the millennium rollover New Year's Eve. As the calendar flips closer to the historic crossover into the Year 2000 (Y2K), the biggest concern is overreaction to the potential Y2K bug. The California ISO is 100 percent prepared for the transition and has estimated, based on historical data, energy consumption for New Year's Eve. Since California's electric system works best when the flow of electricity is steady, the California ISO is asking consumers to be predictable New Year's Eve and avoid sudden changes in power use. To assist them in "keeping the lights on" for California, the ISO requests that customers notify their local utility if they plan to significantly change their power use during the transition period.

Customers should also let their local utility know if they plan to install a backup generator. Backup generators are probably not necessary due to Y2K concerns, but to ensure proper installation, those who purchase generators should have the work done by a licensed, qualified electrician. Improper installation and use of backup generators jeopardizes the safety of both customers and utility line crews because of the risks posed by electricity backfeeding along power lines.

"We can never guarantee against outages, but contingencies are part of our daily routine," said California ISO Chief Information Officer Dennis Fishback. "Heat waves, winter storms and natural disasters keep us well trained anticipating and avoiding outages. Every reasonable precaution is in place to minimize Y2K-related disruptions in the flow of electricity and we believe it is highly unlikely we will experience any power outages related to the computer date change."

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Chartered by the state, the not-for-profit California ISO assumed control of the state's open-market transmission power grid in 1998 when California deregulated its energy markets. It has spent over 10,000 employee hours testing its computers to ensure Y2K readiness, even though the computer systems were built with Y2K compliance as a design requirement. A team of 168 California ISO employees will monitor computer systems and equipment during the Y2K overnight transition.

The California ISO has a comprehensive Y2K contingency plan that includes keeping extra generators on line, ready to replace any power plants that might shut down. Along with setting aside more surplus power, the California ISO will also limit the amount of power flowing over its borders, using mainly generation within the state for operating reserves. This reduces the impact to the ISO grid, should a neighboring state or control area experience a major disruption of power.

The California ISO will hold media briefings at its Folsom command center beginning December 31, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. and continue them throughout the day and overnight to keep the public informed about the status of the ISO power grid and other grids. Members of the media planning to attend on site are asked to assist the ISO with accommodating press by notifying them in advance (888) 516-NEWS. A news teleconference line is available during briefings for media who cannot be present at the facility. Call 1-800-521-5414 and give the passcode "ISO News", if you would like to participate in the teleconference. Additionally, the ISO will be keeping the media and the public informed during the transition by providing an easy-to-access location on its web site to view updates. Simply click on "Y2K Transition Status" at www.caiso.com.

Command Center Media Briefing Room Schedule:

Friday, December 31, 1999

- 10:00 a.m. Report on Cal-ISO Y2K status and foreign power grid rollovers
- 5:00 p.m. Report on Cal-ISO Y2K status and Europe's power grid rollovers
- 10:00 p.m. Report on Cal-ISO Y2K status and Eastern Time Zone power grid rollovers
- 11:00 p.m. Report on Cal-ISO Y2K status and Central Time Zone power grid rollovers

Saturday, January 1, 2000

- 12:30 a.m. Report on Cal-ISO, Western and Mountain Time Zone power grid rollovers

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ISO Y2K-3-3-3

The ISO briefings will cover the status of the transmission systems (69 kilovolt and above). Questions relating to the distribution systems that deliver electricity locally to homes and businesses should be directed to local utilities. Here are the media contact numbers for the major utilities serving customers within the ISO power grid:

Pacific Gas & Electric	(415) 973-5930
Southern California Edison	(626) 302-2255
San Diego Gas & Electric	(877) 866-2066

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