



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 26, 2000

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

HIGH TEMPERATURES IN WESTERN STATES PROMPT STAGE ONE ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY Cal-ISO Urges Californians to Conserve Energy

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (Cal-ISO) is declaring a Stage One Emergency as the state's electric system responds to hot temperatures across the western United States. Unavailable generators have limited the ability of the northwest and southwest to export electricity to California. This in combination with increased state-wide demand – prompted by hot weather in the valley and high humidity in the south -- has resulted in narrow energy reserves.

The Cal-ISO is asking customers to voluntarily reduce their use of electricity, to prevent more severe curtailment measures. The Stage One Emergency is in effect from 3:00-7:00 p.m. tonight. Peak demand on the transmission system is expected to reach 43,039 megawatts by late afternoon today. Continuously updated information about California ISO operations is available on the web at www.caiso.com.

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. The Cal-ISO will acquire by any means, including non-competitive bid, additional resources in an amount sufficient to maintain minimum operation reserves. The Cal-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.

-MORE-

A Stage One Emergency takes effect when electricity operating reserves fall to below seven percent. A Stage Two is declared when reserves drop below five percent. At this level, large commercial customers that have signed up to voluntarily curtail power during high demand days will be asked to do so. If an operating reserve shortfall of less than one-and-a-half percent is unavoidable, Stage Three is initiated. Involuntary curtailments of service to customers including “rolling blackouts” are probable during this emergency declaration.

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:

PG&E	Leonard Anderson at (415) 973-5930 or Bill Roake at (415) 973-8702
SCE	Steve Conroy at (626) 302-1712 or Clarence Brown at (626) 302-2255
SEMPRA ENERGY	Doug Kline, Art Larson, or Ed Van Herik at (877)866-2066

-ISO-