



NEWS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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California ISO to Demonstrate New Grid Reliability Tools
Better "Visibility" May Reduce the Odds of a Major Blackout

(Folsom, CA) Following traffic accidents, you often hear drivers say, "I never even saw it coming." The same can be true of major power outages such as the one that gripped the East Coast and Upper Midwest last August 14. Most of the power grid operators in that region never knew there was trouble brewing, partially because they didn't have the tools they needed to see it coming.

With funding from the U.S. Department of Energy and the California Energy Commission, the Consortium for Electric Reliability Technology Solutions (CERTS), is testing a variety of high tech tools that increase "visibility" for grid operators, giving them key information about their own systems as well as adjacent power systems. The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is providing the test environment for the CERTS research and development.

Some of these tools allow operators to see instability on the grid long before it becomes a full-blown problem. For example, one of the new software programs being tested will take the pulse of the power grid 30 times per second as opposed to every four seconds, so operators will have more time to take the necessary steps to stop a cascading outage.

"It's akin to giving us a telescope, to see problems at a distance along with a microscope to magnify situations at close range," said California ISO President and CEO Terry Winter, who is also a member of the CERTS Board.

Media unable to attend in person may participate via conference call:

Call in number 877-381-5438

Pass code: ISO News

Date: Today, Wednesday, April 14, 2004

Time: 10:00 a.m. (please arrive early for check in)

Place: 151 Blue Ravine Road, Folsom California

**Participants: Terry Winter James Glotfelty John Geesman
California ISO U.S. Dept. of Energy California Energy Commission**