



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
December 14, 2000

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

CALIFORNIA ISO CALLS STAGE ONE AND TWO ELECTRICAL EMERGENCIES
Conservation Efforts are Helping and Need to Continue

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) issued a Stage Two Electrical Emergency at 1:00 a.m. today, Thursday, December 14, 2000. The stage two declaration, in effect until 10:00 p.m. this evening, allows the California ISO to secure additional emergency resources to help address the state's continuing power shortage. Demand across the California ISO Control Area is expected to peak at 33,752 megawatts at 6:00 p.m. tonight.

TELECONFERENCES FOR SITUATION UPDATES

DATE:	Thursday, December 14, 2000		
PHONE NUMBER:	800/374-1387		
TIMES (All PST):	11:00 a.m.	2:00 p.m.	6:15 p.m.
PASSCODE:	982640		

The California ISO is attempting to maintain reliability of the power grid without activating voluntary load management programs. **The ISO urges interruptible customers not to shed their contracted electrical load until specified to do so by their local utility.** Interruptible customers, mainly commercial and industrial users, receive a reduced rate in exchange for a commitment to come off line when asked to do so for reliability purposes.

-MORE-

A Stage One is also in effect all day (from 12 a.m. this morning to 12 a.m. tonight), urging state residents to continue their conservation efforts. Customers are asked to delay turning on their holiday lights until 7 p.m. when the peak demand on the state's electrical system has subsided. Additional conservation tips include setting the thermostat at 68 degrees when at home and 55 degrees when you're away, using electrical appliances during off-peak hours (before 4 p.m. and after 7 p.m.), and turning off computers, copiers, lights, etc. when not in use.

A Stage Two Emergency is declared when operating reserves dip below five percent or are expected to within the next two hours. If an operating reserve shortfall of less than one-and-a-half percent is unavoidable, Stage Three will be initiated. Involuntary curtailments of service to customers, including "rotating blackouts," are possible during this emergency declaration. The California 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.

The California ISO is charged with managing 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 the state's investor-owned utilities turned their private transmission power lines over to the California ISO to manage. The mission of the California ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity, facilitate markets and ensure equal access to a 12,500 circuit mile "electron highway."

Information about the California ISO control area's electricity supply and the current demand is available on the web at www.caiso.com.

-- ISO --