



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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CALIFORNIA ISO DECLARES A STATEWIDE STAGE TWO ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY

Conservation Needed as Demand Surges and Supply Tightens

(Folsom, CA) At 7:50 a.m. today, Monday, April 9, 2001, the California Independent System Operator (California ISO) called a Stage Two Emergency as operating reserves dipped below five percent. This emergency status is partly attributable to higher electrical loads due to cold temperatures and meager winds, which has reduced available wind power generation from 1,000 megawatts to an estimated 250 megawatts. Additional conditions that are producing tight operating reserves include:

- A total of 12,421 megawatts worth of generation unavailable today with power plants off-line because of preventative repairs and plant malfunctions
- An additional 3,000 megawatts of generation from the state's qualifying facilities (QFs) remain unavailable due to continuing financial concerns
- Path 15 transmission congestion because of especially high demand and low supply in Northern California
- Low imported power due to higher loads in the Northwest—a region also suffering from a cold snap

With operating reserves hovering at critical levels, the California ISO requests that customers voluntarily reduce their use of electricity to prevent more severe curtailment measures. Peak demand on the transmission system is expected to reach 28,462 megawatts around 6:00 p.m. today. Today's Stage Two declaration, expected to be in effect until midnight, enables the California ISO to access emergency resources to help maintain operating reserves.

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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 “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 enacted by landmark legislation Assembly Bill 1890 that led to the restructuring of 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 25,526 circuit mile “electron highway.”

Continuously updated information about the California ISO control area’s electricity supply and the current demand on the power grid is available on the web at www.caiso.com.

Other helpful contacts:

Pacific Gas and Electric	415/973-5930
Southern California Edison	626/302-2255
San Diego Gas and Electric	877/866-2066

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