



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
May 31, 2001

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CALIFORNIA ISO ENTERS STAGE ONE ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY

Conservation needed as demand increases with rising temperatures

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) issued a Stage One at 9:00 a.m. today, May 31, 2001, as operating reserves dipped below seven percent. Consumers are asked to lessen the strain on the state's power grid by conserving electricity, especially during the afternoon hours. **No blackouts are expected at this time.** A number of factors are contributing to today's emergency condition:

- Temperatures are higher today than yesterday leading to higher demand for power.
- Loss of 800 MW of generation overnight, only half of which may return to service today and the rest by tomorrow.
- A total of 10,000 megawatts worth of generation remains unavailable today with power plants off-line because of preventative repairs and plant malfunctions.

Peak demand on the transmission system is expected to reach 36,299 megawatts between 3-4 p.m. Today's Stage One declaration, which is in effect until midnight, enables the California ISO to access emergency resources to help maintain operating reserves. 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.

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STAGE ONE
2-2-2

If an operating reserve shortfall of less than one-and-a-half percent is unavoidable, a Stage Three Emergency 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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