



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
March 27, 2001

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

CALL FOR CONSERVATION COMES AS CALIFORNIA ISO ISSUES STAGE TWO ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared a Stage Two Electrical Emergency today, Tuesday, March 27, 2001, at 1:20 p.m. Operating reserves are low today because imported power from outside the state suddenly dropped by about 1,100 megawatts within a two-hour period this afternoon. Additionally, more than 10,500 megawatts of in-state generation is unavailable due to repairs and some 2,900 megawatts of Qualifying Facilities (QFs), or small independent generators, remain off line.

Consumers are asked to step up conservation efforts as the California ISO's job of balancing the supply and demand for power becomes more challenging this afternoon and into the evening peak hours. Demand across the California ISO Control Area is expected to peak at 29,250 megawatts around 6:00 p.m. this evening. Today's Stage Two Emergency is in effect until 10:00 p.m. With the Stage Two declaration, the California ISO is able to access emergency resources that will help maintain operating reserves. Voluntary load interruption programs have also been activated.

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,

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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 25,526 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.

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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