



NEWS RELEASE

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California ISO Unveils Outage Notification Plan Meets Deadline for Governor's Executive Order to Roll Out Warnings to Public

(Folsom CA) The California Independent System Operator (ISO) unveiled a plan today, Friday June 15, 2001, aimed at giving Californians as much notice as possible about the likelihood of rotating outages. The notification plan is in response to a June 1st Executive Order by Governor Gray Davis, and a corresponding directive by the ISO Board of Governors.

ISO Board of Governors Chair Michael Kahn said the plan will help people cope with rotating outages. "Along with giving customers, business and public safety officials adequate time to prepare for possible outages, the warnings are also expected to spur conservation," said Kahn. "Conservation may even obviate the need for the outage."

As of today, the California ISO has in place a system for issuing a public warning two days before the possibility of rotating blackouts, which will be refined 24 hours ahead of time based on dynamic factors such as weather, power plant and transmission line outages, and conservation. If rotating outages appear imminent, the ISO will notify local utilities and the Governor's Office of Emergency Services 90 minutes ahead. That will give utilities time to provide a one-hour's notice to the news media, the public and other agencies about where the outages will occur and how many customers will be affected

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Matching the supply and demand of electricity in California is a constant balancing act. The weather, the flow of imported power and conservation efforts and overall demand can fluctuate hour by hour. California ISO President and CEO Terry Winter said people need information about the possibility of blackouts. “Our goal is to give people the information they need to plan their lives, run their businesses, and reduce the impact of rotating outages. We will be fine tuning this system through the summer to make sure we’re achieving that goal.”

Electronic notices will be issued 48 and 24 hours ahead of challenging days when the grid operators forecast possible rotating blackouts. These notices are an extension of the ISO’s current electrical emergency notifications issued via its Alerts, Warnings and Emergencies System, which are e-mailed and e-paged to key governmental agencies, utilities and media.

The ISO’s unique System Conditions section of its website www.caiso.com, which currently features AWE notices, demand forecasts and other information, will be enhanced by the addition of “Today’s Outlook.” The new resource will forecast the supply and the demand of electricity, any expected shortfall, and other pertinent information. Today’s Outlook is already on line and posted at www.caiso.com/SystemStatus.html.

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.”

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