



California ISO
Your Link to Power

News Release

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High-tech grid & market tools enhance new competitive energy market

FOLSOM, Calif. - With the new electricity market performing well after launching this spring, the California Independent System Operator Corporation (the ISO) is charting the release of several enhancements that add to the robustness of the market. The new features and products add new forecasting tools for use in the ISO control room, provide a broader array of choices for market participants and make it easier for renewable power and other diverse resources to participate in California's competitive wholesale markets.

“Over the next 18 months, the California ISO intends to implement a series of additions to the basic market design that reflect improvements stakeholders have asked for, or in some cases, elements that the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) requires,” said ISO Vice President of Technology & Corporate Services and CFO Steve Berberich. “We recognize some functionality will launch beyond dates specified in FERC orders and we pledge to implement those functions as quickly as possible while ensuring the implementation is done effectively and correctly.”

ISO staff briefed the ISO Board of Governors about the [Market Initiatives Release Plan](http://www.caiso.com/241e/241eb48c70780.pdf) (<http://www.caiso.com/241e/241eb48c70780.pdf>) and the implementation timeline at its meeting yesterday. The plan reflects the importance of each element to the new market structure and the amount of work required by the ISO and market participants to execute the changes. The California ISO worked with stakeholders for several months to finalize the plan.

Now that the summer peak-demand season is nearly over, the ISO plans to introduce some of the new market elements in the next few months. These include new wind forecasting applications, enhancements to the market bidding interface process, changing the way the ISO accounts for different generator operating characteristics and improving the process for generator owners to input power plant information into ISO databases. These changes are in final market simulation stages and will be fully deployed during fall 2009.

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The California ISO operates the state's wholesale transmission grid, providing open and non-discriminatory access supported by a competitive energy market and comprehensive planning efforts. Partnering with more than 90 client organizations, the ISO is dedicated to the continual development and reliable operation of a modern grid that operates at the least cost to the benefit of consumers. The ISO bulk power market allocates space on transmission lines, maintains operating reserves and matches supply with demand. Recognizing the importance of global climate change, the ISO welcomes new, advanced technologies that will help meet the energy needs of 30 million Californians efficiently and cleanly. The ISO is a non-profit public benefit corporation.