



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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INCREASED CONSERVATION EFFORTS IMPORTANT TODAY

Stage Two Electrical Emergency Declared This Morning

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared a Stage Two Electrical Emergency this morning, Monday, March 19, 2001 at 6:00 a.m. Operating reserves are low today due to limited imports and more than 11,500 megawatts of in-state generation which remains unavailable due to planned and forced maintenance. Nearly 50% of the state's Qualifying Facilities (QFs), small independent power generators, are not operating today because of financial concerns and an inability to purchase fuel to run the plants.

Megawatt-savings through conservation are extremely helpful to the California ISO's efforts to manage the state's electricity grid during these instances of short supply. Californians are encouraged to step-up their conservation efforts as much as possible today.

Today's Stage Two Emergency is in effect until midnight. Demand across the California ISO Control Area is expected to peak at 29,348 megawatts around 6:00 p.m. this evening.

With the Stage Two declaration, the California ISO is able to access emergency resources that will help maintain operating reserves today. At this time, the ISO has not requested that the utilities' voluntary interruptible customers, mainly commercial and industrial users, come off line.

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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, 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 12,500 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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