



## NEWS RELEASE

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

March 27, 2001

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

### **NEED FOR CONSERVATION CRITICAL AS CALIFORNIA ISO ISSUES STAGE TWO ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY**

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared a Stage Two Electrical Emergency today, Monday, May 7, 2001, at 10:00 a.m. with operating reserves dipping below five percent. Today's situation is due to a number of factors, including:

- Heat spell predicted with inland highs in the low 90s, causing surge in air conditioner usage.
- Highs close to 100 degrees in the Southwest, limiting imports from that region. Total imports (NW + SW) expected to be 4,000 megawatts over peak period today.
- A total of 12,500 megawatts worth of generation remains unavailable today with power plants off-line because of preventative repairs and plant malfunctions.
- Four nuclear units are offline in the western U.S. for refueling or repairs.
- Approximately 2,000 megawatts of generation from the state's qualifying facilities (QFs) remain unavailable to the state's grid.

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. With conditions expected to remain tight throughout the day, a teleconference update has been scheduled for later this morning.

**TIMES (ALL PST): 11:45 a.m. with additional times TBD**

**PHONE NUMBER: 800/374-1387**

**PASSCODE: ISO News**

-MORE-

Demand across the California ISO Control Area is expected to peak at 32,000 megawatts around 3:00 p.m. this afternoon. Today's Stage Two Emergency is in effect until midnight. 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, Stage Three will be initiated. Involuntary curtailments of service to customers, including "rotating blackouts," are possible during this emergency declaration.

***Should rotating outages be necessary today, media is reminded of a new communication vehicle available on the California ISO's website ([www.caiso.com](http://www.caiso.com)). Please access the Systems Conditions page (logo on the left) for up-to-the-minute information about outages called within the state.***

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](http://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

-- ISO --

**Media Hotline: 888 516-NEWS**