



NEWS RELEASE

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ISO Calls Summer Electricity Supply Adequate *Energy Conservation Still A Smart Idea*

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (ISO) is forecasting an operating reserve of at least 13 percent through the summer of 2003. Even with the forecast of an adequate supply to meet Californian's energy needs, the ISO is still urging consumers to be judicious about when they use electricity, avoiding the peak afternoon hours when possible.

"We know it is hard to avoid using air-conditioning when it's hot," said ISO Vice President of Grid Operations Jim Detmers. "However, you can help offset the afternoon 'air conditioning rush hour' by not using other major appliances and unnecessary lighting during the peak afternoon periods. These are simple habits that help reduce the statewide peak demand and perhaps lower your monthly utility bill at the same time," he said. (see *Powerful Habits* energy saving tips below).

The ISO released its 2003 Summer Assessment this week. The report, available at www.caiso.com, predicts there should be enough electricity to see California through the summer. "We should be able to meet the demand for energy with no trouble—barring unforeseen circumstances," said Detmers. "The unexpected loss of key power plants, or brush fires that damage or threaten transmission lines can trigger electrical system emergencies when they coincide with regional heat waves that drive up the demand for energy. That's why ongoing conservation is so important. It gives us a greater margin if equipment fails or we have to limit the amount of electricity flowing on a transmission line due to fires," he said.

According to the ISO Assessment, more than 900 megawatts of new generation came on line in early 2003, and another 2,700 megawatts is expected before June. However, despite late season storms,

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Summer Assessment 2-2-2-2

the snow pack and reservoir levels in much of the northwest are still lagging behind normal conditions. That means less hydroelectric energy for California, and more regional competition for those megawatts during widespread heat waves. One megawatt is enough to serve the instantaneous energy needs of about 750 homes.

Detmers also cautioned that while this year looks okay, the future is by no means certain. Many older power plants may have to reduce their output, or shut down entirely as new air quality rules take effect. In addition, many new power plant projects have been cancelled or postponed.

The California ISO is a not-for-profit public benefit corporation charged with managing the flow of electricity along California's open-market wholesale power grid. The mission of the California ISO is to safeguard the reliable delivery of electricity, and ensure equal access to more than 25,000 circuit miles of "electron highway". As the impartial operator of the wholesale power grid in the state, the California ISO conducts a small portion of the bulk power markets. These markets are used to allocate use of the transmission lines, maintain operating reserves and match supply with demand in real time.

Powerful Habits Energy Tips:

- Set your thermostat to 78-80 degrees when home, 85 degrees or off when you're away.
- Keep the refrigerator full (with bottles of water if nothing else) and unplug that second unit.
- Switch off the lights when you leave a room
- Avoid using major appliances (washer, dryer, dishwasher etc) during the peak use hours of 3-7 p.m.
- Reset your pool pump to run in off-peak hours (late night or early morning)
- Consider having a professional check your air-conditioning unit, attic insulation, and ductwork.
- Consider replacing major appliances if more than 10 years old. (Refrigerator, A/C, washer/dryer, dishwasher, water heater) New "Energy-Star" models will be much more energy efficient than old ones.
- Plant shade trees on the south and west sides of your home.

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