



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 17, 2001

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ROTATING POWER OUTAGES ORDERED IN NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Continuing Supply Limitations Necessitate Rolling Black-outs

(Folsom, CA) In conjunction with the Stage Three Emergency declared at 1:45 a.m. this morning, **the California Independent System Operator (California ISO) has ordered rotating customer outages today, Wednesday, January 17, 2001.** The California ISO has requested the state’s utilities to implement their rotating outage programs and **curtail 500 megawatts within Northern California beginning at 11:40 a.m.** Outages are anticipated to last all afternoon and possibly into the evening. The extent of the black-outs and whether they are extended to include Southern California will be evaluated on an hourly basis. Specific details will be available at a 1:00 p.m. briefing (see details below).

Updated Times for Teleconference Updates

TIMES (ALL PST):	1:00 p.m.	5:00 p.m.
PHONE NUMBER:	800/374-1387	
PASSCODE:	ISO News	

Please contact your local investor-owned utilities for specific information regarding which customers will be affected. This is the first time rotating customer outages have been required statewide since the California ISO assumed control of the electrical grid in April of 1998.

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California ISO anticipates reaching a peak load of 32,279 megawatts at approximately 6:00 p.m. this evening. The previous record demand during the winter months was 34,432 MW set December 13, 1999. Stage One and Stage Two Emergencies are already in effect all day, until 12 midnight.

Stage Three of the state's Electrical Emergency Plan (EEP) is required when operating reserves fall below one-and-a-half percent. The California ISO's EEP is part of the state's enhanced reliability standards created by landmark legislation Assembly Bill 1890, which restructured California's electricity industry.

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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