



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
January 11, 2001

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STAGE THREE ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY DECLARED

No Rotating Blackouts At This Time, But Outages May be Imminent

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared a Stage Three Emergency today at 8:50 a.m., Thursday, January 11, 2001. No rotating blackouts have not been ordered at this time, but may be imminent. The Stage Three declaration enables the California ISO to receive emergency assistance from federal and state agencies. The forecasted peak demand is 33,488 megawatts at approximately 6:00 p.m. this evening.

A record amount of generation outages is being reported to the California ISO. Overnight the amount of power unavailable to the ISO-controlled grid increased 1,600 megawatts when four units were taken off line. The total amount of generation offline is now at 15,000 megawatts or more than one-third of all the available power in the state.

The California ISO is strongly urging consumers statewide to conserve electricity today. Stage One and Stage Two emergencies were called earlier today and are in effect until midnight. The Stage Three emergency is in effect until 10 p.m.

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

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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.

MEDIA TELECONFERENCE CALLS WILL BE HELD AT 10 a.m., 2 p.m and 6:15 p.m. today. Call:

888 295-6211

Passcode: 377462

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