



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STAGE THREE ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY DECLARED
Rotating Blackouts Not Required At This Time; Teleconference at 10:30 a.m.

(Folsom, CA) The California Independent System Operator (California ISO) declared a Stage Three Emergency today at 7:20 a.m., Tuesday, January 16, 2001. **Rotating blackouts have not been ordered at this time.** The Stage Three declaration enables the California ISO to receive additional emergency assistance from federal and state agencies. The forecasted peak demand is 32,315 megawatts at approximately 6:00 p.m. this evening.

The total number of units off line due to planned and unplanned outages equals 10,700 megawatts. Four units or 1,600 megawatts tripped off line over the weekend because of reported equipment malfunctions. In addition, gas curtailments in the San Diego area have led to a derating of a major power generator, cutting supply by 800 megawatts as the three units convert to oil.

The California ISO is strongly urging consumers statewide to conserve electricity today. Stage One and Stage Two emergencies were extended from yesterday and will remain in effect until midnight. Twelve hundred (1,200) megawatts of interruptible load was curtailed this morning. Today's Stage Three emergency is also in effect until midnight.

Today's ISO Teleconference Updates

TIMES (ALL PST):	10:30 a.m.	2 p.m.	6:15 p.m.
PHONE NUMBER:	800/374-1387		
PASSCODE:	ISO News		

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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.

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