



NEWS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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STATE REMAINS UNDER STAGE THREE ELECTRICAL EMERGENCY

Conservation is Key on Fourth Consecutive Day of Critically Low Operating Reserves

(Folsom, CA) According to the California Independent System Operator (California ISO), rotating blackouts have not been ordered but they cannot be ruled out for today, Friday, January 19, 2001. Yesterday's Stage Three Electrical Emergency was extended at midnight and remains in effect until midnight tonight.

Conservation efforts are being recognized on the state's electrical system and are helping to lessen the severity and duration of outages. The 4,000 stores that makeup the California's Grocers Association have dimmed lighting and are taking other energy saving measures to help with the emergency situation. All Californians are urged to rededicate their efforts to save as much energy as possible.

Media briefings will be held throughout the day to provide regular updates about today's dynamic power situation (see box below for specifics).

Today's ISO Teleconference Updates

TIMES (ALL PST): 10:30 a.m. 1 p.m.

PHONE NUMBER: 800/374-1387

PASSCODE: ISO News

Additional briefings for the day will be identified and announced on the calls.

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Electricity supply remains limited throughout the western region. A great deal of in-state generation – more than 10,200 megawatts – remains off line due to planned and unplanned outages. Stage One and Stage Two emergencies were also extended from yesterday and remain in effect until midnight. Today’s forecast for peak demand is 30,798 megawatts at approximately 6:00 p.m. this evening.

Stage Three declarations, required by the state’s Electrical Emergency Plan (EEP) when reserves dip to one and a half percent, enable the California ISO to receive additional emergency assistance from federal and state agencies. 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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