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		Version No.	1.0
		Effective Date	10/01/25
Operations for Extreme Weather		Distribution Restriction: None	

Purpose

This procedure outlines the initiative-taking Operating Process required prior to the onset of extreme weather events to ensure the California ISO (CAISO) Balancing Authority (BA) completes extreme weather preparations for those periods, including forecasting load needs and adequate reserve requirements.

1. Responsibilities

Roles and responsible for implementing and maintaining the methodology.

- Short Term Forecasting (STF)
- Real-Time Operations Engineering
- Balancing Authority System Operations (Generation Dispatcher)
- Operations Training

2. Scope/Applicability

The Operating Process contained in this procedure supports compliance with TOP-002-5 Requirement R8 and addresses preparations and operations for extreme weather periods and is not required for other seasonal conditions.

The Operating Process is specific to extreme weather operations to formalize the process to review and respond to oncoming conditions that may affect generation availability and capability, forecast load, and determining whether additional capability/reserves should be ready to serve loads during extreme weather.

3. Procedure Detail


3.1 Extreme Weather Period Identification (R8.1)

CAISO identifies extreme weather period using documented methodology with zone specific thresholds and tiered declarations. Decisions are recorded with cross functional review and emergency declarations linked to operational playbooks.

The methodology for identifying and responding to extreme weather periods is developed, maintained, and implemented by the STF team. The criteria and decision-making process for identifying future extreme weather periods are documented in:

- Section 6.5 of the [Daily Weather procedure](#)
- Section 9.3 of the [STF Alert Procedure](#)

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Thresholds and tier classifications for extreme weather are defined in the Temperature Risk Matrix, located in:

- Section 6.1 and Section 6.5 of the [Daily Weather procedure](#)

Upon identification of an extreme weather period in the forecast, the STF team issues an Extreme Weather Bulletin via email. Detailed guidance on the content and format of the Extreme Weather Bulletin is provided in Section 6.5 of the [Daily Weather procedure](#). Examples of Extreme Weather Bulletin email notifications are available in Section 7.0 of both the [Daily Weather procedure](#) and the [STF Alert Procedure](#)

3.2 Reserve Margin Determination During Extreme Weather Period (R8.2, 8.2.1)

During identified extreme weather period CAISO determine adequate, deliverable reserves using, temperature-conditional unit performance, validated fuel supply and inventories, unit start reliability, dual fuel capabilities, and environmental constraints. The reserve targets and commitments are documented, reviewed daily, and supported by deliverability studies.


The methodology for determining adequate reserve margin during the extreme weather period considering historical and expected extreme weather limitations is determined by the STF team. The methodologies outlined and documented here:

- 1) Uncertainty within the alert procedure that gets updated with reflective historical data by weather/load season. (Refer to Section 9.3 Renewable (Net load) Uncertainty of [STF Alert Procedure](#)).
- 2) Residual Unit Commitment (RUC) processes (Refer to Section A3.2.3, Run RUC of Operating Procedure [1210 Day-Ahead Market](#)).
- 3) Regulation Requirement Processes (Refer to Sections 7.0 and 8.0 of [Regulation Recommendation Procedure](#)).

Availability and Capability and Start-Up Issues: Expectations of generators submitting outages (Refer to Operating Procedures [3200 Normal Operations Planning Process](#) and [3220 Generation Outages](#)). The CAISO does not own or operate any generating facilities. Each BPS generation owner and operator is responsible and accountable for maintaining generating unit reliability and applying plant-specific winter weather readiness plans and Extreme Weather Data.

In the Fuel Supply section of Operating Procedure [4100 System Operations Emergency Plan](#) describes the CAISO runs a Day-Ahead Market Analysis that helps predict fuel usage. CAISO shares the output of this hourly report with the respective gas transmission operators to manage burns in their pre-defined gas transmission zone. CAISO is ongoing communication with the gas transmission operator concerning fuel supply or inventory. In addition, Section 3.3 of Operating Procedure [4120 Gas Transmission Pipeline System](#)

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[Limitations or Outages](#) describes roles, communications and actions related to natural gas reductions or insufficiency requiring a curtailment of scheduled gas volumes with advanced or immediate notice where the gas system limitation or scheduled gas reduction impacts one or few Generator Operators rather than a defined gas curtailment zone.

The Fuel Supply section of Operating Procedure [4100 System Operations Emergency Plan](#) addresses generators in the CAISO Balancing Area (BA) that have dual fuel capabilities. A list of dual fuel capable units is maintained in Operating Procedure [4610A Black Start and Dual Fuel Units](#).

The Environmental Constraints section of Operating Procedure [4100 System Operations Emergency Plan](#) addresses relaxation of environmental constraints during system emergencies.

3.3 Eight-day Hourly Forecast During Extreme Weather Period (R8.3 and 8.3.1 – 8.3.4)

CAISO produces and maintains a rolling 8-day hourly forecast for the extreme weather period covering demand and weather patterns, Resource Adequacy (RA) Capacity availability, and uncertainty assessments. Forecasts are constraint aware, deliverability validated and timestamped with a governed update process.


The methodology for determining 8-day hourly forecast during the identified extreme weather period is identified in Section 9.3 of the [STF Alert Procedure](#). During the extreme weather period in the Day-Ahead Period, forecasts are updated and communicated in the DA Forecast.

When the current day has yellow alert within Insufficient Supply to Meet Demand when evaluated in D+1, real-time load adjustments are performed daily at 8:00 AM, and for orange/red alerts, at 8:00 AM, Noon and 3:00 PM for Current Day Peak.

For the day triggering the alert for D+2 and forward, adjusted load forecast and confidence bands emails are communicated by 9:00 AM.

3.4 Emergency Declarations

Emergency declarations related to identification of extreme weather period are covered in Operating Procedure [4100 System Operations Emergency Plan](#) and extreme weather playbook: [Summer Readiness – Home](#). The Manager of BA Operations shall utilize the Scheduling and Logging System for the ISO of California (SLIC) to document all decisions and actions taken for each operating day identified during an extreme weather period.

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4. Supporting Information

Operationally Affected Parties

Shared with the Public.

References

Resources studied in the development of this procedure and that may influence some steps taken herein include but are not limited to:

CAISO Tariff	
CAISO Operating Procedure	3200 Normal Operations Planning process 3220 Generation Outages 4100 System Operations Emergency Plan 4120 Gas Transmission Pipeline System Limitations or Outages 4610A Black Start and Dual Fuel Units
NERC Requirements	TOP-002-5 R8-R8.3.4
Other References	Daily Weather procedure STF Alert Procedure Regulation Recommendation Procedure

Version History

Version	Change	Date
1.0	First Issue created.	10/01/25

5. Periodic Review Procedure

Review Criteria & Incorporation of Changes

There are no specific criteria for reviewing or changing this document, follow instructions CAISO Operating Procedure 5510.

Frequency

Annual

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