

**For Immediate Release:**

May 19, 2015

## **New York Power Grid Prepared for Summer 2015 *Sufficient Resources Available to Meet Expected Demand***

**Rensselaer, N.Y.** – Electricity supplies in New York State are expected to be adequate to meet forecasted demand this summer, the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) reported today.

“New York has sufficient statewide generating capacity and other power resources to serve forecasted levels of demand for electricity. After several years of declining margins in surplus resources, we have seen a rebound in the addition of generation. In particular, power plants are returning to service or upgrading their capacity in the high-demand region of southeastern New York,” NYISO President and CEO Stephen G. Whitley said.

### **Summer Demand Forecast**

The NYISO forecasts that New York’s 2015 summer peak demand will reach 33,567 megawatts (MW). Last year’s moderate summer weather produced a peak of 29,782 MW, the lowest since 2004. The 2014 peak occurred in September, far later in the summer season than usual.

This year’s forecasted summer peak is below the all-time peak demand, which was set in 2013 when a weeklong heat wave led to record-breaking power consumption of 33,956 MW on July 19.

Peak demand is a measurement of the average total electric demand by consumers for a one-hour period. One megawatt of electricity can serve approximately 800 to 1,000 homes.

Summer heat is responsible for electric power system peaks in New York as air conditioners that increase overall power usage are called upon to counteract rising temperatures. While the electricity system must be prepared to address peak load conditions, average demand is typically far less.

The peak forecast is based on normal summer weather conditions, with temperatures in New York City about 95 degrees Fahrenheit (°F). If extreme summer weather produces heat waves of 100°F in New York City and elsewhere, peak demand across the state could increase to approximately 35,900 MW.

### **Resource Availability**

The total capacity of power resources available to New York in summer 2015 is expected to be 42,150 MW. The total includes 39,039 MW of generating capacity from New York power plants; 1,124 MW in demand response resources (programs under which consumers reduce usage); and 1,987 MW of import capability that could be used to supply energy from neighboring regions to New York.

A surplus of capacity is available for the state as a whole, but transmission constraints narrow the margins of supply for downstate regions. However, in response to a new capacity zone implemented for the Lower Hudson Valley in 2014, approximately 1,000 megawatts of power resources were returned to service in southeastern New York. The resources include the repowering of the Danskammer Generating Station in Newburgh, New York, and restored capability at the Bowline Generating Facility in Haverstraw, New York.

The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) is a not-for-profit corporation responsible for operating the state’s bulk electricity grid, administering New York’s competitive wholesale electricity markets, conducting comprehensive long-term planning for the state’s electric power system, and advancing the technological infrastructure of the electric system serving the Empire State.

### **Reliability Requirements**

The ability of New York's power system to meet the needs of all electricity customers at all times is established by rigorous reliability requirements. The standard for resource adequacy sets requirements for reserves over and above the amount needed to meet forecasted peak demand. In 2015, the standard requires that 39,273 MW be available to serve New York, a reserve margin of 17 percent above the summer peak demand forecast.

### **Demand Response and Energy Efficiency**

In addition to power plant generating capacity and the capability of importing power, peak demand conditions can be addressed by demand response resources. These programs enlist large users of electricity and aggregations of smaller power customers to reduce their electricity consumption when called upon by the NYISO.

While power resources are expected to be sufficient to meet summer needs, the NYISO noted the value of energy efficiency.

"Wise use of electricity makes sound economic and environmental sense. Consumer participation in conservation programs and their use of energy-efficient products can enhance the overall reliability of New York's electric system," Mr. Whitley noted.

A copy of the NYISO's [2015 Summer Outlook summary](#) is available online at [www.nyiso.com](http://www.nyiso.com).

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