



Press Advisory

For Immediate Release

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ISO New England and New York ISO Agree to Share Short-term Reserves *Effort Viewed as a Way to Increase Power Grid Reliability*

Holyoke, MA -- March 13, 2001 -- In an effort to increase the reliability of the bulk electric power systems that extend from western New York to northeastern New England, the independent system operators for the two regions have agreed to a reserve sharing procedure during short-term periods of generation or transmission line loss.

ISO New England Inc. and the New York ISO, operators of their region's bulk power grids, have agreed to share "ten-minute reserves", a type of bulk power reserve designed to meet real-time power grid interruptions in ten minutes or less. An industry standard, reserve generation is required to be available whenever an online power plant suddenly trips off-line and stops contributing generation to the bulk power grid. This type of system interruption does not typically impact the consumer and operating reserve requirements will not be reduced for either region.

"As independent system operators, both ISO New England and the New York ISO have a responsibility to improve the effectiveness of system operations," said William W. Berry, ISO New England's Chairman of the Board. "The reserve sharing procedure is yet another step toward improving reliability and furthering inter-regional coordination efforts."

The compact calls for a sharing procedure in which either region can count on reserves to be made available by the other region for up to four hours following a system interruption. This procedure is intended to provide flexibility in committing resources to recover lost generation and help maintain system frequency.

"Power grid coordination between New England and New York has been a long-standing tradition," said William J. Museler, President and CEO of New York ISO. "Our shared reserve procedure gives both ISOs the ability--and assistance--to better manage a short-term system interruption."

ISO New England Inc. is the not-for-profit corporation responsible for the day-to-day reliable operation of New England's bulk power grid, as well as administrator of the region's wholesale electricity marketplace. ISO New England, www.iso-ne.com, is based in Holyoke, Massachusetts.

The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) is an independent, not-for-profit corporation that operates the state's electric power grid from a Power Control Center near Albany, New York, in a manner that ensures reliability and provides fair and open access for all buyers and sellers in the electricity wholesale markets.

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