

NEWS RELEASE



For Immediate Release:

Tuesday June 5, 2001

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Independent System Operators Initiate Process For Developing “One Stop Electricity Shopping” Technology For Entire Northeastern Region

- Cambridge Conference To Focus On “End State Design” –

Guilderland, New York – The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) announced today that seven northeast power control areas—representing three major NERC regions -- will participate in a process to develop the blueprint for a system that will allow energy companies to easily buy and sell wholesale energy inter-regionally by going to a single website tied to each of the companies' market scheduling systems.

The group, which includes: the NYISO; the Independent System Operator of New England (ISO-NE); the Independent Electricity Market Operator (IMO) of Ontario; the NPCC; the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland Interconnection (PJM); TransEnergie of Quebec, New Brunswick Power of the Maritimes and Detroit Edison, will be kicking off their work at a conference in Cambridge, Massachusetts on June 5 and 6. Participants will be working with a group of market participants—as a focus group--and a leading computer technology company to begin developing the parameters for the tool's design.

The target technology, generically referred to as a “Collaborative Scheduling System” (CSS), will be designed to permit a buyer or seller of wholesale electricity to go to any one market's website and schedule all of their wholesale energy transactions throughout the entire Northeast. The intent is for the technology to be versatile and open enough that it could be run with virtually any scheduling system. One advantage to such a system is that it would provide for access and recovery of information in the event of a disaster. Under such a system, if one site were to go down, traders could still schedule transactions through a number of other sites.

“With this project we are aiming to do for Northeast wholesale electricity trading what *Charles Schwab* did for online stock trading,” said William J. Museler, President and CEO of the NYISO. “And while this effort is primarily aimed at enhancing services for energy traders, we envision that the more efficient unit commitment resulting from this system may ultimately deliver savings to consumers as well.”

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The NYISO is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1999 to facilitate the restructuring of New York State's electric industry. In addition to administering the State's wholesale energy markets, the NYISO operates the State's high voltage electric transmission system. Last year, the NYISO's market volume (including energy, ancillary services, ICAP and TCC auctions) exceeded \$5.2 billion, more than all of the other Northeast markets combined.