

NEWS RELEASE



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New York's Electric System Survived Unprecedented Week of Record Demand Thanks To Everyone Doing Their Part, Says NYISO

- Government, consumers, businesses, and market all delivered when needed -

(Guilderland, New York – August 10, 2001) – The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) expressed strong appreciation today to the many parties who contributed to keeping New York's electric system up and running during a period of unprecedented electric demand this week.

As a result of soaring temperatures and high humidity, three new all-time peak consumption records were established during the week of August 6-11, 2001. On Tuesday, August 7, electricity demand rose to 30,509 MW between 2:00 p.m. and 3:00 p.m. On Wednesday, August 8, electricity demand rose to 30,665 MW between 3:00 p.m. and 4:00 p.m. and on Thursday, August 9, electricity demand rose to 30,983 MW for the period from 2:00 p.m. until 3:00 p.m. Prior to this week, the highest recorded peak occurred on July 6, 1999 when electricity demand rose to 30,311 MW.*

"Governor Pataki's timely action to reduce State energy consumption; the efforts of businesses and consumers to conserve; and the outstanding efforts by electric generating and transmission companies, all contributed vitally to keeping the lights on during a week when the system was pushed harder than it ever has been before," said William J. Museler, President and CEO of the NYISO. "Without such a cooperative effort by so many parties, the situation could have been much worse."

The NYISO estimates that the combined conservation efforts of the various groups yielded more than 1,000 MW in reduced electricity demand statewide. It also noted that the both the generation and transmission infrastructure performed very well under the extreme conditions, with relatively low mechanical failures occurring.

"As fortunate as we were this time around, the increase in peak demand of 672 MW over just two years underscores the critical need for us to get new generating plants sited and make improvements to our transmission system. If we don't respond to these warning signs, then even the heroic efforts we saw this week might not be enough," said Museler.

* - All peak figures represent integrated averages over a one-hour period.

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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.