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Cold Snap Results in Record Electricity Demand in New York

Supplies, however, remain sufficient, according to the New York Independent System Operator.

Guilderland, N.Y. – Two days of cold throughout New York has resulted in a winter record for consumer electricity demand.

The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), which operates the state's high voltage electric transmission system, announced today that the all-time winter peak electric load of 25,540 megawatts (MW) was set on Monday, December 20.

Peaks are measurements of the average total electric demand by consumers for a one-hour period. Generally, peak demand is reached in the late afternoon in both winter and summer. Despite the high demand experienced over the past two days, the system operated by the NYISO has adequate supplies of electricity for New York.

A winter peak of 24,627 MW was set on January 14 of this year, and then broken the next day when demand rose to 25,262 MW, making yesterday's mark the third all-time winter peak set in 2004. New York State reaches its highest electric loads during the summer. The state's all-time record load of 30,983 MW was recorded on August 9, 2001.

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The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) – www.nyiso.com – is a not-for-profit corporation established in 1999 to facilitate the restructuring of New York State's electric industry. Based in New York's Capital Region, in addition to administering the State's wholesale energy markets, the NYISO operates the State's high voltage electric transmission system. The NYISO's market volume was nearly \$7 billion in 2003.