

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **High Heat Drives Another Record for Electricity Demand**

*Supplies remain adequate, New York Independent System Operator reports.*

Guiderland, N.Y. – For the second consecutive week, extreme heat and humidity have driven statewide electricity usage to record levels, the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) announced today.

Between 4 and 5 p.m. today, the NYISO recorded an hourly average peak load of 32,075 megawatts (MW), which broke last week's record of 31,741 MW, set between 3 and 4 p.m. July 19. Last week's record was broken twice today, with 31,841 MW of demand recorded between 3 and 4 p.m.

Peak loads are measurements of the average total electric demand by consumers for a one-hour period. Peak demand is typically reached in the late afternoon in both winter and summer. Despite the state's recent hot spells, there were sufficient supplies of electricity for New Yorkers, NYISO system operators reported.

The NYISO operates the state's high voltage electric transmission system, working with the state's transmission owners to maintain reliable service to consumers. One MW of electricity is enough to power about 1,000 homes.

The NYISO credited the availability and performance of generators statewide, especially during this week's record-setting day and the high demands of last week. They helped the NYISO and its transmission owners meet the electric needs of residents and businesses without incident.

While the NYISO has not requested that consumers conserve electricity, it recommends the following practices to reduce consumption:

- Set air conditioners to a higher temperature than normal;
- Refrain from using major appliances such as washing machines, electric stoves, clothes dryers and dishwashers until the cooler evening hours;
- Draw curtains and blinds during the sunny part of the day to prevent solar heating;
- Turn off lights when not needed;
- Go to an area mall or swimming location where you can cool off while giving your air conditioner a break; and
- Open attic vents to relieve strain on cooling systems.

*The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) – [www.nyiso.com](http://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 \$7.3 billion in 2004.*