

For Immediate Release:

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Contact:

Carol E. Murphy 518-356-7580, c: 518-461-1436

James J. Smith 518-356-8732, c: 518-470-6835

Kenneth M. Klapp 518-356-6253, c: 518-461-3564

Steamy Weather Results in Record Electricity Demand for New York

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

Guiderland, N.Y. – The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) has announced that an all-time record for electricity demand was set today in New York State.

Between 3 and 4 p.m. today, the NYISO recorded an hourly average peak load of 31,741 megawatts (MW), breaking the previous record of 30,982, set on August 9, 2001.

Peak loads 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 high temperatures and humidity over the past two business days, the system operated by the NYISO had adequate supplies of electricity for New York.

The NYISO operates the state's high voltage electric transmission system, working with the state's transmission owners to maintain reliable service to consumers. The August 2001 record was actually broken three times today in three consecutive hours. The hour beginning 1 p.m. saw a peak load of 31,427 MW, and a peak load of 31,662 MW was recorded in the hour beginning 2 p.m.

One MW of electricity is enough to power about 1,000 homes.

While the NYISO has not formally 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 – 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.