

**For Immediate Release:**

July 17, 2006

**Contact:**

Ken Klapp 518-461-3564

James Smith 518-470-6835

## **Heat Pushes Electricity Usage to Record Levels**

*Electrical supplies sufficient for New Yorkers.*

RENSSELAER, N.Y. – The current heat wave has caused statewide electricity usage to reach record levels on Monday, breaking a record set in July 2005, 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 32,624 megawatts (MW), passing a record of 32,075 MW set July 26, 2005. Last year's record was actually broken in three consecutive hours today as usage in the hour beginning at 2 p.m. reached 32,316 MW. In the 3 p.m. hour, the peak load was 32,519 MW.

Peak loads are measurements of the average total electric demand by consumers for a one-hour period. Peak demand usually occurs in the summer and winter, in the late afternoon in both winter and summer. In summer, usage climbs each day during a heat wave. The NYISO works with power plants and transmission owners (utilities) to maintain reliable service to consumers during these periods, as throughout the year.

“We predicted in May that the summer of 2006 would be a record-breaking summer in terms of electrical usage,” said Mark S. Lynch, the NYISO’s President and CEO. “We are prepared to meet the electrical needs of New Yorkers, today and every day.”

The NYISO forecasted a peak load of 33,295 MW in its annual summer electricity forecast published in May (one MW of electricity is enough to power between 800 and 1,000 homes). Despite the increased usage, New York’s bulk electric grid has sufficient supplies of electricity for New Yorkers this year, NYISO system operators said.

While sufficient electricity supplies have been secured this summer, the NYISO once again called for the state Legislature to reinstate the Article X power plant siting law. Article X, which expired Dec. 31, 2002, provided a streamlined process to review, approve and locate new generation facilities.

With its Market Participants and the state’s Department of Public Service, the NYISO is currently completing its first Comprehensive Reliability Plan (CRP). The CRP is an overview of New York’s electric power demand and provides solutions needed to maintain reliable electric service statewide over the next 10 years.

-more-

Not since the mid-1980s has a new peak load been set in consecutive years. Then, records were set in six consecutive years from 1983 to 1988. Here are New York's record peak loads since 1997:

July 17, 2006: 32,624 MW  
July 26, 2005: 32,075 MW  
Aug. 9, 2001: 30,982 MW  
July 6, 1999: 30,311 MW  
July 15, 1997: 28,699 MW

###

*The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) – [www.nyiso.com](http://www.nyiso.com) – is a federally regulated, 501(c) 3 nonprofit corporation established in 1999 to facilitate the restructuring of New York's electric industry. The NYISO operates the state's high-voltage electric transmission system and administers the state's wholesale energy markets. The NYISO's market volume was \$10.7 billion in 2005.*

-30-