

**For Immediate Release:**

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## **Heat Wave Causes Record Electricity Usage**

*Demand reduction customers are called upon to help decrease the load.*

RENSSELAER, N.Y. – A stubborn heat wave resulted in record demand for electricity across New York on Tuesday, breaking a record set just two weeks ago, 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 33,879 megawatts (MW), surpassing a record 32,624 MW set on July 17.

Today's record may not last. On Wednesday, the NYISO is predicting an hourly average peak load of 34,040 MW.

“The state’s bulk power system continues to function very well under trying conditions,” said Mark S. Lynch, NYISO President and CEO. “Our electricity markets are sending the correct market signals for generators to remain running, our demand response programs are helping to reduce the high demand, and our control room operators are working with neighboring control areas to ensure the power flows throughout the Northeast.”

To avert a possible power reserve shortage in New York City and Long Island, the NYISO called on companies in its Special Case Resources (SCR) and Emergency Demand Response Program (EDRP) to curtail power usage from 2 to 7 p.m. today. The curtailment programs were expected to reduce usage by 655 MW. Despite this precautionary step, New York’s bulk electric grid had ample supplies of electricity for New Yorkers, the NYISO reported.

Peak loads are measurements of the average total electric demand by consumers for a one-hour period. One megawatt of electricity is enough to power between 800 and 1,000 homes. Peak demand usually occurs in the late afternoon, in winter and summer. In summer, usage climbs each day during a heat wave, causing the load to grow every day a heat wave drags on. During these periods, as throughout the year, the NYISO works with power plants and transmission owners (utilities) to maintain reliable service to consumers.

The NYISO continues to call on the state Legislature to reinstate the Article X power plant siting law. Article X provided a streamlined process to review, approve and locate new generation facilities. It expired at the end of 2002.

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The NYISO offers the following practices to reduce consumption:

- Set 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.

### **Breaking Records: New York peak load records, 1997 to 2006**

Aug. 1, 2006: 33,879 MW  
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

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*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.*