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## **NYISO Forecasts Sufficient Electricity Supply for Summer 2008**

*New York State electricity use may peak 5% higher than last year*

Rensselaer, N.Y. – According to the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), New York State has sufficient resources to serve the electricity needs of the 2008 summer season, barring unexpected extremes in weather conditions.

The NYISO forecasts New York's summer 2008 peak electricity usage to reach 33,809 megawatts (MW). The forecast is 1,640 MW (5.1%) higher than the 2007 summer peak of 32,169 MW that occurred on August 8, 2007.

However, the forecast for the summer 2008 peak is lower than New York's record peak of 33,939 MW, set on August 2, 2006. Summer 2006 was the second warmest on record in the nation since 1936. Heat waves in July and August 2006 set New York's top three record peak loads. (See *attached table*.)

Summer heat and humidity are crucial elements in electricity demand due to the electricity consumed by air conditioning systems. The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) temperature outlook for summer 2008 depicts an increased probability of above average temperatures for New York.

Peak demand is the year's single highest demand for electricity for a one-hour period, and generally occurs on a late summer afternoon. It usually happens several days into a heat wave, as electricity use tends to increase when tolerance for the heat lessens.

Reliability rules and standards require the NYISO to maintain 15 percent reserve capacity over the forecast peak load (33,809 MW). As a result, 38,880 MW of installed capacity must be maintained for the summer capability period that runs from May 1 through Oct. 31. The NYISO expects 38,920 MW of New York State resources to be available to the bulk electricity grid and additional reserves are available from neighboring power systems.

New York City and Long Island, where nearly half of New York State's summer electricity use occurs, are expected to have more than sufficient capacity to meet their needs. For New York City, the actual installed "in-city" capacity is 480 MW above the requirement of 9,571 MW. Long Island is expected to exceed its requirement of 5,098 MW by 530 MW.

While the electricity system must be prepared to address peak load conditions, average electricity demand is usually well below such peaks. For example, in 2007, the average electricity demand was 40 percent lower than the peak.

Summer 2008 electricity supply for New York State is expected to be adequate despite the retirement of electricity generating facilities such as the Lovett units in the Hudson Valley and Russell Station in the Rochester metropolitan area. New generation, transmission upgrades, and vigorous demand response programs that cut peak demand all contribute to providing sufficient resources for New York's electricity needs.

Nationally, the North American Electric Reliability Corporation (NERC) has forecast that summer 2008 peak demand in the U.S. will be 1.3% higher than the 2007 actual summer demand, assuming normal weather.

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New York State Highest Peak Loads* <i>1997 to Present</i>	
<b>Date</b>	<b>Megawatts</b>
Aug. 2, 2006	33,939 MW
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
* Record high average electricity demand for a one-hour period.	

New York State Average Demand* <i>1997 to 2007</i>	
<b>Year</b>	<b>Megawatts</b>
2007	19,103 MW
2006	18,523 MW
2005	19,088 MW
2004	18,239 MW
2003	18,083 MW
2002	18,122 MW
2001	17,900 MW
2000	17,831 MW
1999	17,849 MW
1998	17,280 MW
1997	16,997 MW
*Average hourly electricity demand for the year.	

The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) – [www.nyiso.com](http://www.nyiso.com) – is a not-for-profit corporation that began operations in 1999. The NYISO operates New York’s bulk electricity grid, administers the state’s wholesale electricity markets, and performs comprehensive reliability planning for the state’s bulk electricity system.