

For Immediate Release:

November 12, 2009

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NYISO Forecasts Sufficient Electricity Supply for Winter 2009-2010

New York State electricity use expected to be slightly higher than last year, but lower than record winter peak

Rensselaer, NY - According to the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO), New York State has sufficient resources to meet the anticipated electricity needs of the 2009-2010 winter season.

The NYISO forecasts New York's winter peak usage will reach 24,998 megawatts (MW). The forecast is 325 MW (1%) higher than the winter 2008-2009 peak of 24,673 MW that occurred on December 22, 2008.

"The NYISO works closely with power producers, electric utilities, energy service companies, public authorities, and government officials to see that power resources are available to meet the needs of New York's electricity consumers throughout the year," said Stephen G. Whitley, NYISO President and CEO.

The NYISO prepares estimates of peak demand as part of its comprehensive planning for New York State's electric system, which supports the reliable operation of the bulk electricity grid and the effective management of the wholesale electricity markets.

The electric system needs surplus power supplies to guarantee that sufficient electricity is available in the event of unanticipated power plant outages or unexpected increases in power consumption. With a total available supply of 41,055 MW, New York has a capacity margin of 16,057 MW, or 64.2% for the 2009-2010 winter season. The New York State Reliability Council (NYSRC) set a minimum installed reserve margin of 16.2% for the period of March 2009 through April 2010. The NYISO develops the reliability rules that must be complied with by the NYISO and the companies that produce and deliver power in New York State.

While the upcoming winter peak is expected to be slightly higher than last winter's peak, this winter's forecast is 543 MW (2%) less than the record winter peak of 25,541 MW set on December 20, 2004.

New York's electricity system experiences its greatest demand during summer months due in large part to the power demands of air conditioning and cooling systems. According to the United States Energy Information Administration, fewer than 7 percent of New York households rely on electricity as the main source of home heating, while nearly 70 percent use air conditioning.

The summer 2009 peak was 30,844 MW, set on August 17. New York's all-time record peak was 33,939 MW, set on August 2, 2006.

A megawatt (MW) is a measure of electricity equal to one million watts. One megawatt is roughly the amount of electricity required to supply 1,000 homes.

More information is available from the NYISO presentation, *2009-2010 Winter Outlook*, available for download from the NYISO website (www.nyiso.com).

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The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) – 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 conducts comprehensive planning for the state's bulk electricity system.