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NYISO Hosts South Asia Energy Delegation

More than 1,000 international visitors from 55 nations have toured the NYISO

Rensselaer, N.Y. – Since its founding in 1999, visitors from around the world have come to the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) to see a model ISO in action.

Over the years, more than 1,000 representatives from 55 nations have visited the NYISO, which is one of only seven such organizations in the country. As the NYISO approaches its tenth anniversary, international interest remains keen. So far this year, the NYISO has hosted three dozen international visitors from seven countries.

Most recently, the NYISO hosted a group on September 23 from the South Asia Regional Initiative for Energy, funded by the U.S. Agency for International Development. The delegation included senior energy officials from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, and Sri Lanka. Organized by the U.S. Energy Association, the program's itinerary included various energy-related government and academic institutions.

The NYISO was the only ISO visited by the delegation, which was interested in learning more about the NYISO's best practices and how New York State's wholesale electricity markets have helped to foster the growth of renewable energy resources in the Empire State.

"The NYISO offered our delegation a unique opportunity to see how an advanced electricity market deals with energy exchange and coordination between several domestic and international entities," said Sarah Blanford, Senior Program Coordinator U.S. Energy Association. The NYISO coordinates grid operations with neighboring system operators that include PJM, ISO-NE, and the grid operators for the Canadian Provinces of Quebec and Ontario -- Hydro Quebec, and IESO, respectively.

In October, the NYISO is scheduled to host a delegation from the State Grid Corporation of China, a state-owned enterprise that builds and operate power grids serving 26 Chinese provinces, autonomous regions, and municipalities.

The NYISO provides informational briefings to representatives from other grid operators, regulatory entities, investors, governments, manufacturers, and utilities. The topics of briefings range from highly technical material to basic information about the electricity system, grid operations, and market design.

"We are proud of the NYISO's status among of the world's most advanced electricity system operators and appreciate opportunities to share our best practices and lessons learned with visitors from around the world," said Stephen G. Whitley, NYISO President & CEO.

Independent System Operators (ISOs), such as the NYISO, and Regional Transmission Organization (RTOs) are responsible for the reliable and economic operation of a majority of the nation's transmission system, with over two-thirds of America's energy customers relying on ISO/RTOs to "keep the lights on".

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The recently issued *2008 State of the Market Report: New York ISO* prepared by Potomac Economics, notes that "the NYISO markets are at the forefront of market design and have been a model for market development in other areas."

On September 22, the Independent System Operator/Regional Transmission Organization Council (IRC), which represents North America's 10 electric grid operators, released its new *2009 State of the Markets Report*, which finds that renewable power is gravitating toward organized wholesale electricity markets that improve reliability and open doors to diverse resources including demand response.

The report noted that fuel-adjusted spot energy prices are declining in most ISO/RTO regions as a result of regional economic dispatch and wholesale competition, citing the fuel-adjusted cost of wholesale power in New York declining 18% from 2000 to 2008.

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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 reliability and resource planning for the state's bulk electricity system.