

For Immediate Release:

February 26, 2009

Contact:

Ken Klapp (518) 356-6253

NYISO Marks Wind Power Milestone

Total output reaches 1,000 megawatts

Rensselaer, N.Y. – The New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) recently observed a milestone in the expansion of wind power generation in New York. At 6:00 pm on February 19, 2009, the combined total output of all wind plants in New York reached 1,000 megawatts (MW).

“This is a significant milestone for New York’s power system,” said NYISO President and CEO Stephen G. Whitley. “Wind is a rapidly growing segment of New York’s power supply and an essential element of the state’s portfolio of renewable power resources.”

The NYISO has contributed to New York’s leadership in wind development through advancements in market design and the deployment of sophisticated forecasting systems. In 2008, the NYISO developed procedures and deployed software to collect forecasts and real time meteorological data from generating sites to predict the output of each facility.

The NYISO contracted with AWS Truewind, of Colonie, N.Y., to provide wind power forecasts. The data is fed directly into the NYISO operational systems that determine the balance of electricity supply and demand. The NYISO dispatches resources to meet electrical demand using a least-cost, bid-based system that recognizes transmission constraints and reliability requirements.

To continue to reliably integrate wind resources as they increase over the next several years, the NYISO is proposing an enhanced wind management system, which is planned to begin in May. Wind plant operators will be able to submit bid prices reflecting their cost of operation that will allow the NYISO to evaluate wind power alongside all other generating resources.

At the time when wind output reached 1,000 MW, it provided nearly 5% of the roughly 21,000 MW of total system demand.

New York’s total wind capacity is currently 1,274 MW, with another 8,000 MW of wind power proposals being studied by the NYISO for interconnection to the grid. By contrast, the total installed wind capacity in January of 2008 was 424 MW, and the top combined total output reached was 375 MW.

“The continued growth of economical, emission-free, renewable power resources is essential to meeting New York’s energy challenges. The NYISO is proud to be playing a vital role in that effort,” Whitley noted.

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

For more information on wind power integration, a NYISO white paper (*Integration of Wind into System Dispatch*) is available for download from 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 reliability and resource planning for the state’s bulk electricity system.