

---

**For Immediate Release:**

August 27, 2009

**Contact:**

Ken Klapp (518) 356-6253

## **Planning Key to Addressing Energy Needs**

### ***NYISO leads effort to forecast New York's power trends***

RENSELAER, N.Y. – As recent heat waves increased power consumption to this summer's highest levels, the Empire State's bulk electric system reliably served the power needs of New Yorkers.

"New York State is well prepared for the summer's electricity demands thanks to the NYISO's careful planning in anticipation of the state's power needs. State government, power producers, electric utilities, and energy service companies work very closely with the NYISO to see that power resources are available to meet the needs of New York's electricity consumers," said Stephen G. Whitley, NYISO President and CEO.

Between 3pm and 4pm on Monday, August 17, the New York Independent System Operator (NYISO) recorded an hourly average peak load of 30,844 megawatts (MW).

The NYISO noted that an installed generating capacity of 38,547 MW is in place this summer to meet projected demand. Demand resources, programs providing incentives for electricity customers to reduce their power use during times of peak demand, are also available to provide over 2,000 MW of load relief if necessary.

While electricity usage on August 17 was at the highest levels seen so far this year, it was below the NYISO's 2009 forecast peak of 33,452 MW. New York State's all-time record system peak is 33,939 MW, recorded on August 2, 2006.

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.

### **The Power of Planning**

"The NYISO is constantly looking ahead to see that power supply is sufficient to meet consumer demand – on a moment-to-moment basis and through decade-long planning horizon. New York State's energy planning process, now underway as a result of Governor Paterson's initiative, takes a comprehensive look at the future energy needs of New Yorkers," Whitley noted.

"New York's power grid is meeting today's needs and we want to be sure that it can continue to supply the kinds of energy New Yorkers will need in the future. Our State Energy Planning process seeks to continue our state's ability to address the energy needs of its citizens in the most environmentally responsible and economically sensible means possible," said Thomas Congdon, Energy Secretary to Governor David Paterson and Chair of the New York State Energy Planning Board.

The State Energy Planning Board is holding public hearings for the *Draft 2009 State Energy Plan* throughout the state in August and September. Details can be found at <http://www.nysenergyplan.com/>.

The NYISO's Comprehensive Reliability Planning Process is performed in collaboration with stakeholders and includes input from government regulators and market participants who supply, use, transmit, and trade energy in New York's wholesale electricity markets. The studies are conducted in accordance with reliability criteria of the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, the Northeast Power Coordinating Council, and the New York State Reliability Council. Details on the NYISO planning can be found at <http://www.nyiso.com/>.

###

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