

For Immediate Release

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New England's Electricity Use Sets New All-Time Record

Holyoke, MA—July 28, 2005—New England's electricity use reached an all-time high yesterday, according to ISO New England Inc., the operator of the region's bulk power system and wholesale electricity markets. Preliminary data collected by the ISO shows that electricity use reached 26,922* megawatts (MW), surpassing the previously established record of 26,749 MW set a week ago, on July 19, 2005.

Because of extremely high temperatures and humidity combined with local transmission constraints in the southwestern region of Connecticut, ISO New England implemented emergency operating procedures (Operating Procedure No. 4) in Southwest Connecticut to help maintain power system reliability.

As part of these emergency procedures, ISO New England called upon emergency energy resources the ISO secured through an RFP process in 2004 to address bulk power system inadequacies in Southwest Connecticut. ISO New England has approximately 220 MW enrolled in the program, including both emergency generation and reductions in electricity use, and from conservation resources—without which, today's system demand would have been higher and would have created more of an overall reliability risk. In addition to relying on emergency resources, ISO New England also issued a voluntary request for electricity conservation for that region of the state.

“Today's heat and humidity pushed electricity use to new levels in New England, affecting Southwest Connecticut in particular, where inadequacies in the electricity system make short-term emergency measures necessary,” said Stephen G. Whitley, ISO New England's Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer yesterday. “Fortunately, ISO New England was able to call upon its emergency resources in Southwest Connecticut today to maintain power system reliability in that area.”

According to ISO New England's annual power supply outlook released in April, summer electricity use for New England is forecast to reach 26,355 MW on at least one day during this summer under normal peak weather conditions of around 91 degrees Fahrenheit. Extreme weather conditions, such as an extended heat wave of approximately 95 degrees Fahrenheit, could drive peak use to 27,985 MW.

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*Preliminary data updated 07/28/05.