



EMERGENCY

ELECTRIC LOAD REDUCTION HELPS ENSURE GRID RELIABILITY

ALL LEVELS OF NEW YORK GOVERNMENT ARE INVITED TO PARTICIPATE IN EMERGENCY ELECTRIC LOAD REDUCTION

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In 2001, all state agencies and affiliates were directed, by Executive Order 111, to develop and implement short- and long-term electric load reduction programs. Since that announcement, New York government offices have helped ensure grid reliability, by taking a few simple and relatively-painless measures like: reducing lighting levels, unplugging unnecessary electric loads (e.g., such as office equipment left running when its user is not present) and raising thermostats, to reduce electric load on peak summer days.

For example, the Office of Mental Health's Rochester facility was able to reduce electric consumption by as much as 30 percent on a peak day by implementing these and other load-reduction measures and through the collective effort of its employees to sacrifice and reduce electric consumption. A five to 10 percent load reduction at most state facilities is typically achieved. Together, state facility programs provide an "un-metered load reduction" equivalent to adding one small power plant to the system during the peak period, when it is needed most. While such action may not avoid blackouts altogether, when implemented promptly, the program does help operators balance supply and demand, thereby avoiding further equipment failure(s) that could compromise the electric grid.

The New York State Peak-Load Reduction Program was implemented for the first time during the Summer of 2001 when NYDPS staff contacted the six largest state agencies and directed them to reduce load immediately. In 2002, the Peak-Load Reduction Program was activated four times and participation was expanded to include all state agencies. Following the 2003 blackout, NYSERDA reported that affected state agencies were able to reduce their load by about 100 MW when requested to do so on two occasions, thereby aiding the power restoration process. While the program was tested, it was not implemented during the summers of 2004 and 2005, due to mild weather. In 2006, however, over a dozen peak-load reduction orders were issued in late July and early August as the entire state was immersed in an extended heat wave and localized distribution problems occurred.

To be effective, load reduction efforts need to be implemented quickly. Communication processes must distribute orders rapidly and each organization contacted needs to receive and respond to those orders just as fast. Absent automated controls, pre-planned communication procedures using a combination of telephone and internet communications are effective methods for ensuring that notification is timely. This program and the procedures each agency develops and implements, ensures that state agencies and affiliates are prepared to respond effectively to a load reduction order.

By broadening participation in peak-load reduction, we expect to improve the state's ability to ensure grid reliability and possibly avoid brownouts and blackouts. That is why you have been invited to participate in the New York State Peak Load Reduction Program. We are not asking anyone to put themselves at risk, to reduce production, or compromise safety. All we ask is that government at all levels implement a program to reduce electric power when requested to do so -- on peak-load days -- generally during the hours of 10 am and 6 pm. Your participation is totally voluntary.

With the support of NYCOM, you will be notified in 2007 how you can participate and when your efforts will be requested.

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PEAK-LOAD REDUCTION MEASURES

- Reduce lighting, turn off appliances (e.g., coffeemakers and refrigerators) and escalators.
- Set space cooling at 78°F
- Turn off all lights in unoccupied rooms and space cooling in unoccupied rooms.
- Turn off all idle equipment (e.g., printers, copiers, personal computers, monitors, servers, elevators, etc.).
- Verify that the energy management "sleep" features are enabled on computer equipment so they automatically power down when in intermittent use.
- Turn off all display and decorative lights and fountains.
- Ensure that all vestibule and exterior doors are tightly closed.
- Remove all items (plants, books, furnishings, etc.) from heating/cooling vent grills.
- Close blinds and window coverings.
- Increase chill water supply temperature.
- See NYSERDA Smart Offices Web Site at: www.nyserdera.org/programs/offices/default.asp.