

August 14, 2002

POWER ADVISORY EXTENDED AS HOT WEATHER CONTINUES TO STRAIN SYSTEM

The Independent Electricity Market Operator (IMO) is extending its request to consumers to reduce their use of electricity as high temperatures and humidity, and increased air conditioning load continue to strain power supplies.

The combination of heat and humidity pushed electricity use to an all time record of 25,343 megawatts on Tuesday, and high temperatures and humidity are expected to persist into Friday. These conditions put significant strain on the power system.

“With demand also at near record levels in the northeast U.S., we’re extending our Power Advisory for the balance of the week. Actions by consumers can help relieve the system and benefit the environment at the same time, and I’d like to thank people for their co-operation,” said Paul Murphy, Chief Operating Officer of the IMO.

The IMO is asking homeowners and businesses to take the following actions:

- reduce electricity-intensive production processes;
- set air conditioners to 26 degrees Celsius or higher, or use fans as an alternative;
- turn off unnecessary lights and appliances;
- close curtains and blinds to keep out the sun and retain cooler air inside;
- delay the use of major power-consuming equipment such as dishwashers, washers and dryers and swimming pool pumps until after 8:00 p.m. or later.

The voluntary appeal for reduced consumption is extended through 5:00 pm Friday August 16.

The IMO issues a Power Advisory when supplies of power, supplemented by imports, are forecast to be adequate, but conditions are expected to result in strains on the electricity system. Conservation measures will benefit consumers, the environment and the electricity infrastructure.

The increased demand for power means increased prices, as the wholesale price of electricity fluctuates depending on demand for power and the available supply of electricity. Uplift charges to wholesale market participants are also expected to be higher than normal.

The Independent Electricity Market Operator (IMO) is responsible for operating and regulating Ontario's wholesale electricity system and the wholesale electricity marketplace -- linking buyers and sellers while directing the flow of electricity on Ontario's transmission system from generators and suppliers to local distribution companies and wholesale buyers.

For more information visit www.theimo.com.

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