

September 20, 2002

POWER ADVISORY - IMO ASKS PUBLIC TO REDUCE ELECTRICITY CONSUMPTION AS UNSEASONABLE WEATHER STRAINS SYSTEM

The Independent Electricity Market Operator (IMO) is asking consumers to reduce their use of electricity as unseasonably high temperatures and humidity, and increased air conditioning load are putting a strain on power supplies.

“The forecast calls for a humidex reading of 37 degrees, which is much higher than normal for this time of year,” 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 in effect until 8:00 PM Friday.

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

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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