

September 10, 2002

POWER WARNING : IMO REQUESTS IMMEDIATE PUBLIC ASSISTANCE

The Independent Electricity Market Operator (IMO) has declared a Power Warning in response to continuing strains on the electricity system as a result of unusually hot weather and high humidity.

Consumers and industries are being asked to reduce their electricity consumption.

Power Warnings are issued by the IMO when supplies of power may not meet demand. Current system conditions mean the IMO may need to take protective actions and reduce demand including, but not necessarily limited to, voltage reductions. In these circumstances, no additional public notice may be possible.

Yesterday, Ontario's electricity system voltages were reduced for about half an hour in order to help maintain supply to customers.

The IMO is asking homeowners and businesses to take all available actions to reduce their electricity consumption. Actions to reduce load include:

- 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;
- avoid, to the extent possible, the use of major power-consuming equipment such as dishwashers, washers and dryers and swimming pool pumps.

This Power Warning is to remain in effect until 8 PM Tuesday evening.

The Independent Electricity Market Operator (IMO) is responsible for operating and regulating Ontario's wholesale electricity system and the new 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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