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ISO New England Requests Voluntary Electricity Conservation Precautionary Step Due to Expected High Temperatures

Holyoke, MA – August 1, 2006 – The extreme weather forecasted for the New England region over the next two days may drive regional electricity use to record levels. Although power resources are forecasted to be adequate, supplies could be tight and ISO New England, operator of the region's bulk power system, is requesting that consumers voluntarily conserve electricity as a prudent, precautionary measure to help keep supply and demand in balance during this high heat and humidity.

“We are asking customers to voluntarily conserve electricity as a precautionary step because high demand for electricity during severe temperatures can stress the region’s power system,” said Stephen G. Whitley, ISO New England’s Senior Vice President and Chief Operating Officer. “In the past, the public’s response to voluntary conservation requests has been very effective.”

Taking simple, practical steps to reduce electricity use, particularly between the hours of 1:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m., will help maintain system reliability. ISO New England suggests several ways to reduce electricity consumption and advises that these measures be taken consistent with health and safety.

- Raise air conditioning thermostats by a few degrees if health permits. A suggested temperature range for summer is between 74°F–78°F.
- Turn off unneeded lights and appliances.
- Turn off unnecessary office equipment.
- Shut off air conditioners when leaving home for extended periods.
- Defer laundry and other chores requiring electricity until the evening hours.

New England’s electricity usage is forecast to reach record-breaking levels on Wednesday, August 2, with demand potentially reaching 28,030 megawatts (MW). Preliminary data shows that New England’s current all-time record for electricity usage is 27,395 MW, which was set on July 18, 2006. Last summer, the region set a summer demand peak of 26,885 MW on July 27, 2005.

With electricity demand expected to set a new record for the second time this summer, regional energy-efficiency efforts are increasingly important. ISO New England recently unveiled the *Take Charge New England*[™] campaign, an initiative aimed at residential and commercial customers to promote simple yet effective steps for becoming more energy efficient. Information and tips for managing electricity use year round are available at www.takecharge-ne.org.