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ISO New England *Outlook* Details Winter Forecast, Industry Preparations

Holyoke, MA—December 21, 2009—New England is expected to have sufficient resources to meet consumer demand for electricity this winter, according to ISO New England Inc., the operator of the region's bulk power system and wholesale electricity markets. This winter's capacity outlook, as well as the actions ISO New England and others in the energy industry take to prepare for the winter season, are discussed in the latest issue of the organization's quarterly newsletter, *ISO New England Outlook*.

ISO New England projects that sufficient resources will be available to meet the expected peak level of demand for electricity for the 2009/2010 winter. Consumption could rise as high as 22,100 megawatts (MW) this winter, while the region has capacity totaling about 36,300 MW, including 2,520 MW of demand-side resources such as energy efficiency, load management, and emergency generation.

If the region were to experience a prolonged cold spell, higher-than-anticipated electricity use, unexpected outages of power plants or major transmission lines, or a combination of these factors, ISO New England has special steps it can take to maintain the reliability of the grid. For example, the system operator can request assistance from neighboring power grids, draw upon reserves, ask companies participating in demand-side resource programs to temporarily reduce electricity consumption, and ask the public to conserve electricity voluntarily. Procedures that address specific cold weather conditions can also be utilized.

ISO New England produces *ISO New England Outlook* to inform market participants, regulators, consumers, and other stakeholders of events and issues involving the wholesale electricity industry in the six-state region. The newsletter is available [online](#).