



MAINE’S ROLE IN ISO OPERATING PROCEDURE NUMBER 4

Power Watch and Power Warning statements issued by ISO New England may exempt the State of Maine from their requests for voluntary load reductions by utility customers.

The reason is Maine’s current situation in generating capacity and transmission links.

Maine is typically a net exporter of electric energy, both from in-state sources and via transmission links to the Maritime Provinces of Canada. In other words, Maine normally has more than enough generating capacity to serve all in-state electricity users’ needs.

When economic dispatch of generation in that region exceeds export transmission capability, restrictions on Maine generation occur. There is simply no “room” to push additional energy along the line without risk of overloading and overheating it. This situation is called a “transmission constraint.”

It is therefore possible that ISO New England may be asking for load reductions and additional output in the region at the same time Maine customers’ use goes on as normal and Maine generating units sit idle or run at less than full capacity. This does not indicate preferential treatment or a dysfunctional power market, but a physical transport limitation on energy flows.

ISO New England may issue a Power Watch to ask customers to reduce electricity use, within the bounds of health and safety, when regional electricity supplies are expected to be tight. The more urgent Power Warning is issued to help utilities avoid forced, localized service interruptions to maintain the integrity of the overall power grid.

Maine will be included in these appeals if actions in that state can help the rest of the region. Otherwise, Maine will be exempted.

For further information, contact ISO New England Corporate Communications Department at 413-535-4000.