



MEDIA RELEASE

For Immediate Release

Frigid Temperatures Drive Electricity Demand to New Record

CALGARY, ALBERTA (December 16, 2008) – As the mercury plunged across the province, yesterday, Monday, December 15, at 6:00 p.m., Alberta’s demand for electricity reached an all time high of 9806 megawatts (MW), breaking last winter’s record of 9710 MW set on January 28, 2008.

“The heaviest demand for electricity in Alberta typically occurs during the winter,” says Warren Frost, Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) vice-president of Operations and Reliability. “A prolonged cold snap, reduced daylight hours and increased lighting are all factors that combine to push demand to record levels.”

The AESO’s system controllers monitor the electricity grid 24 hours per day, seven days per week, working collaboratively with transmission facility owners and power generation owners to ensure that even during times of high demand, contingency plans are in place and reserves available to meet the electricity demands of all Albertans.

Electricity consumption in Alberta has grown by 28% since 2000 and yearly peak demand growth is forecasted to average 3.4% over the next 20 years. The AESO estimates an additional 5000 MW of electricity supply by 2017 and 11,500 MW by 2027 will be required to meet the growing electricity demands of Albertans.

Here are some ways Albertans can help reduce the demand on the electricity system:

- Run major appliances (washers, dryers, dishwashers) during off-peak hours (after 7:00 p.m.)
- Turn off unnecessary lights
- Turn off non-essential electrical appliances
- Connect a timer to your vehicle’s block heater

As an independent system operator, the AESO leads the safe, reliable and economic planning and operation of Alberta’s interconnected power system. The AESO also facilitates Alberta’s fair, efficient and openly competitive wholesale electricity market, which has about 200 participants and approximately \$8 billion in annual energy transactions.

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