



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

AESO Issues Public Appeal for Albertans to Reduce Use of Power

CALGARY, Alberta (July 24, 2006) – Alberta's electric industry is making a request for all of us to voluntarily reduce our use of electricity until 6 p.m. this evening.

The Alberta Electric System Operator's (AESO) forecast shows that the last few days of unusually hot and humid weather has increased demand for electricity primarily due to the higher use of air conditioning and irrigation systems.

In addition to the higher demand for power, Alberta's electricity supply is currently affected because some power generating units are currently and unexpectedly unavailable to provide electricity to the grid.

If Albertans pitch in to reduce their use of electricity until 6 p.m. tonight we can all help reduce demands on the Alberta system. Consumers can voluntarily reduce electricity use by:

- Turning off unnecessary lights and electrical appliances;
- Minimizing the use of air conditioning by closing blinds, shades or drapes during the hottest part of the day; and,
- Avoiding the use of major power-consuming equipment such as dishwashers and washers and dryers during the energy conservation period.

Since June, the AESO has successfully managed through five new system peaks for summer electricity usage. However, if the situation changes the AESO's procedures require additional steps to ensure the ongoing integrity of Alberta's power grid.

As an independent system operator, the Alberta Electric System Operator (AESO) leads the safe, reliable and economic operation and planning of Alberta's interconnected power system. The AESO also facilitates Alberta's hourly wholesale electricity market, which has about 200 participants and \$7 billion in annual energy transactions.

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