



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL

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ELECTRIC POWER SYSTEMS GREET NEW YEAR WITH NO UNUSUAL PROBLEMS

As the Atlantic, Eastern, Central, Mountain, and Pacific time zones welcomed the new millennium, reports from key electricity control centers throughout North America continued to indicate a successful Y2k transition. There have been no reports of outages related to Y2k and the status of the nation's electricity grids remains normal.

Michehl Gent, President of the North American Electric Reliability Council, welcomed the reports of a smooth transition through the midnight hours in all time zones in the United States and Canada. "Reports of a smooth transition as each time zone passed into the new millennium added to our confidence that the electric power industry, working through a coordinated process in cooperation with the Department of Energy, has beaten the Y2k bug."

Minutes after each time zone rollover, NERC conducted a scheduled conference call among the 22 key electricity control centers in North America. There were no reports of Y2k-related anomalies associated with the local time rollover in any of the time zones. The status of electric systems in North America remains "green." NERC is an independent organization that the Department of Energy has asked to lead an industry-wide process of coordinated preparations for the Y2k transition.

NERC has a team at the Department of Energy headquarters to share information during the Y2k rollover. This team will continue to monitor key electricity control centers throughout North America through a series of scheduled conference calls throughout the New-Year weekend.

A copy of this press release is available from the NERC web site, <http://www.nerc.com/pressrelease>. This site also includes other information on the electric industry's Y2k readiness program and results.

NERC is a not-for-profit company formed as a result of the Northeast blackout in 1965 to promote the reliability of the bulk electric systems that serve North America. It works with all segments of the electric industry as well as customers to "keep the lights on" by developing and encouraging compliance with rules for the reliable operation and adequacy of supply of these systems. NERC comprises ten Regional Reliability Councils that account for virtually all the electricity supplied in the United States, Canada, and a portion of Baja California Norte, Mexico.