2021 Summer Reliability Assessment

Energy Emergency Risk Areas

- High Risk
- Elevated Risk

California/Mexico

Planning reserve margins are below the 18.4% Reference Margin Level needed for maintaining loss-of-load risk below a 1-day-in-10-year benchmark; a 400 MW shortfall at peak demand and more than 10 GWh of unserved energy is expected. Non-firm imports are needed during periods of high electricity demand and in the evening hours when solar output is decreasing.

Southwest and Pacific Northwest/Rocky Mountains

Resource and energy adequacy is a significant concern across most of the Western Interconnection. Though new flexible resources have been added in California, peak demand projections have also increased in many parts of the west, and overall resource capacity is lower compared to 2020. Increasing demand and lower resource capacity could limit transfers.

MISO and New England

High electricity demand caused by above average temperatures is likely to exceed available capacity resources and require additional nonfirm transfers from surrounding areas.

ERCOT

Planning reserve margins increased to 15.3%; however, above average temperatures or less-than-expected wind output can cause energy challenges. Given significant penetration of wind resources, operators must have sufficient flexible resources to cover periods of low-wind output.