August 14, 2003 Power Outages — Update 8/15/2003 — 12:00 a.m.

Starting at about 4:11 p.m. EDT, major losses of electric load occurred in the northeastern United States and Canada in the Eastern Interconnection. Although the exact cause is not known at present, the outages are not the result of a terrorist attack. The areas most affected center around the Great Lakes: Michigan, Ohio, New York City, Ontario, Quebec, northern New Jersey, Massachusetts, and Connecticut.

The following load was lost (approximate numbers):

- PJM Interconnection – 4,000 MW
- Midwest ISO – 18500 MW
- Hydro Quebec – 100 MW
- Ontario IMO – 21000 MW
- ISO New England – 2500 MW
- New York ISO – 24400 MW

Total – 61,800 MW lost (approximate)

Status of Restoration as of 11:00 p.m. EDT

- PJM – 1400 MW
- HQ – 100 MW
- IMO – 5000 MW
- ISO NE – 1200 MW
- NYISO – 13600

Total 21,300 MW restored (approximate)

A large number of nuclear plants in the affected areas went off line and may take several days to return to service. Other fossil-fired generation also remains off-line and much of it is expected to be restored within hours.

The disturbance appears to have been caused by the loss of several major transmission lines in the upper Midwestern United States, but investigations and data collections continue. Utilities will work through the night and the next several days throughout the affected areas to return all customers to service. Although the event was felt throughout the entire Eastern Interconnection, the south and midwestern United States were not affected.

NERC is working closely with the affected companies, the White House, the U.S. Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and Canadian officials. We will continue to evaluate the situation throughout the evening and will have more information to report in the morning.