



## NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL

Princeton Forrestal Village, 116-390 Village Boulevard, Princeton, New Jersey 08540-5731

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Contact: Ellen P. Vancko  
evancko@nerc.com

### **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.