



NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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August 14–15, 2003, Power Outages – Update 8/15/2003 6:00 AM

Starting at about 4:11 PM EDT on August 14, major losses of electric load occurred in the northeastern U.S. and Canada. Although the exact cause is not known at present, the outages are not the result of a physical or cyber terrorist attack. Investigations and data collections continue. 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 5:00 a.m. EDT

PJM – Almost 4,000 MW Restored
HQ – 100MW Restored
IMO – 8500 MW Restored
MISO – 7700 MW Restored
ISO NE – 2400 MW Restored
NYISO – 18400 MW Restored

Total 41,100 MW Restored (approximate)

The disturbance appears to have largely been caused by the loss of several major transmission lines in the upper Midwestern United States, which caused additional lines to go out of service as well as major fossil and nuclear power plants. A large number of nuclear plants in the affected areas went off-line and may take several days to return to service. Most fossil-fired generation has been restored to service.

Utilities worked throughout the night and will continue to work over the next several days throughout the affected areas to return all customers to service. Although the event was felt

throughout the entire Eastern Interconnection, customers and utilities in the south and western part of the Interconnection 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. NERC will continue to evaluate and analyze the situation throughout the day and we will report as more information becomes available.

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. NERC 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 of the electric grid. NERC membership 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. For more information about NERC go to www.nerc.com.