



Power to Ontario.
On Demand.





POWER ON DEMAND



The IESO co-ordinates with generators and transmitters to ensure that Ontario's power system meets the needs of all consumers today and for the future.

MANAGING ONTARIO'S ELECTRICITY SYSTEM

Ontario depends on an instantaneous and reliable supply of electricity. It supports our quality of life and strengthens our economy. Ontario's IESO works behind the scenes to ensure that power is available when and where it's needed.

The IESO directs the flow of power across the province so that it meets the highest expected demand with extra power in reserve. Ensuring that there is enough energy to meet that demand is an ongoing and highly-complex process, requiring the close co-ordination of all parts of the system.

Every five minutes, the IESO forecasts electricity demand throughout the province and directs generators to provide the required amount of electricity to meet that demand. It can also reduce demand by calling on large volume users to cut back on consumption. This process of balancing supply and demand repeats itself 24 hours a day, seven days a week.





THE TRUE COST OF ELECTRICITY

The wholesale electricity market encourages large consumers of electricity to shift consumption away from periods of high demand – reducing the need to fire up more expensive generation facilities.



OPERATING THE WHOLESAL MARKET

For more than a century, Ontarians have benefited from low-cost and abundant electricity supplies. Today, in the 21st century, our needs are changing and so is our electricity system.

Concerns about the environment and Ontario's aging generation facilities require us to rethink the way we use electricity – and what value we place on having a reliable supply of it. As operator of the wholesale electricity market, the IESO is supporting the development of new approaches to managing Ontario's electricity system.

In the wholesale market, prices rise and fall depending on the availability of supply. This provides consumers with an incentive to use electricity more wisely – to shift electricity use to times of the day when demand and prices are lower. By shifting consumption to off-peak periods, we can make more efficient use of our electrical infrastructure and reduce the need to build additional generation facilities.



153 million
megawatt hours of electricity

\$10 billion
in electricity charges

More than 150 million MWh of electricity move through the wholesale market each year, representing approximately \$10 billion in electricity charges. Since the opening of the market, the IESO has issued settlement statements and invoices in an accurate and timely manner.



OUR PEOPLE, OUR
EXPERTISE

PERFORMING TO THE HIGHEST STANDARDS

Ontarians rely on the smooth operation of the power system day in, day out. That's why IESO employees work to the highest operational standards and practices.

We are system engineers, software programmers, economists, customer relations specialists, administrative co-ordinators, financial analysts, security officers, training instructors and market development advisors, just to name a few. Our wealth of expertise and our commitment to excellence has made the IESO a recognized leader in reliability and technical expertise.

IESO employees are dedicated to ensuring an efficient and reliable power system that meets Ontario's needs today and in the decades to come. This promise includes providing information about the performance of our power system to help Ontarians better manage their electricity use.

The IESO offers consumers a wealth of information about Ontario's power system. Demand and price data is easily accessible from our Web site at www.ieso.ca.





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**Independent Electricity
System Operator**

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