



## NORTH AMERICAN ELECTRIC RELIABILITY COUNCIL

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **August 14, 2003 Power Outages – Update 8/15/2003 11:00 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 most likely 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 – 4200 MW  
Midwest ISO – 13000 MW  
Hydro Quebec – 100 MW  
Ontario IMO – 20000 MW  
ISO New England – 2500 MW  
New York ISO – 22000 MW

Total – 61,800 MW Lost (approximate)

Status of Restoration as of 8:00 a.m. EDT

PJM Interconnection – 4200 MW Restored  
Midwest ISO – 8700 MW Restored  
Hydro Quebec – 100 MW Restored  
Ontario IMO – 15000 MW Restored  
ISO New England – 2400 MW Restored  
New York ISO – 18400 MW Restored

Total 48,800 MW Restored (approximate)

We know that a number of transmission lines and generators tripped out of service prior to and during this event. However, a great deal of additional data and information must be gathered and analyzed before definitive conclusions can be drawn as to the root cause of this outage. NERC, in conjunction with its regional reliability councils and member utilities, and in coordination with government agencies, will conduct a thorough investigation and report its findings as soon as possible.

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.

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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](http://www.nerc.com).