

Stockton College Joins Program to Protect Regional Electrical Supply, Save Energy Funds

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**Contact: Tim Kelly
Office of Public Relations
Galloway Township, NJ 08240
Tim.Kelly@stockton.edu
(609) 652-4950**

Galloway Township, NJ- The Richard Stockton College of New Jersey has joined a regional program designed to ensure a reliable supply of electricity during the peak demand months of June through September.

“This is a beneficial program for the College, the electric company and the community in general,” said Donald Moore, associate vice president for administration and finance.

According to Moore, the “energy demand curtailment” program has the ability to prevent or lessen brownouts and blackouts during peak usage times. These usually occur in the summer months when the region is hosting thousands of vacationers and air conditioning is being used extensively, he said.

“The way the program works, if the regional provider anticipates a power emergency, Stockton has agreed to reduce its electrical demand on a few hours notice,” said Moore.

The reduction at Stockton will be accomplished through a variety of measures like turning off lighting in hallways allowing the temperature to rise a few degrees in selected areas and pre-cooling. A standby generator may be activated. The maximum period for cutbacks will be six hours.

Stockton will be paid for joining the program, and also save on the electricity conserved, according to Alice Gitchell, Stockton’s energy specialist.

“The curtailment program is a win/win arrangement,” said Gitchell. “If the suppliers of electricity can count on end user cooperation, they don’t have to build expensive new generators to deal with demand levels that are only experienced once in a while,” she added. “Stockton will be paid for conservation measures of its own choosing that have minimal impact on its operations.”

Although there were no emergency events last summer or in 2009, Stockton has agreed to

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Since the program was initiated, the average has been two emergencies per year. Regional demand depends on weather and on the volume of summer tourism. If there are no emergencies this summer, Stockton will demonstrate its capacity for conservation through performance of a one hour demand reduction "test."

"The northeastern United States experienced a power shortage in August of 2002. Blackouts caused economic losses and disrupted transportation," Gitchell said. "Brownouts caused damage to refrigerators and other equipment that uses compressors. Reliability of supply is a very high priority for the utilities and the regional interconnection service, commonly known as 'the grid'" she concluded.

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