



▶ to ML.com Contact Us

Individual Investors

Home - Financial Advisor - Markets & Research - BULLSEYE - Total Merrill -

Markets

- ▶ [Market Indices](#)
- ▶ [News Headlines](#)
- ▶ [Market Diaries](#)

Wealth Management Commentary

- ▶ [What the Bond Market is Saying](#)
- ▶ [Next Move by the Fed Expected in 2008](#)
- ▶ [Room for Growth in Auto Supplier Industry](#)
- ▶ [Merrill Lynch on the Air](#)

News Stories

California Public Utilities Commission Approves Agreement Between Pacific Gas & Electric and Energy Curtailment Specialists

SACRAMENTO, Calif., and BUFFALO, N.Y., June 5, 2007 /PRNewswire via COMTEX/ -- Energy Curtailment Specialists, Inc. (ECS), the largest demand response provider in the United States, announced approval of its Demand Response Purchase Agreement with Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC). Under the agreement, ECS will provide PG&E with a minimum of 40 megawatts of electricity over the next 5 years.

ECS' program, Cut Back California, is designed to alleviate pressure on the electric grid during times of peak energy use. The program does this by offering financial incentives to various commercial and industrial customers who agree to cut back their electricity use during these peak periods. ECS, a carbon neutral company, will assist in preventing blackouts while remaining true to the environmental standards of the people of California.

"In 2001, we founded Operation Save New York, the nation's most successful demand response program, and now we are very excited to apply that model to assist PG&E with their extensive capacity management programs. Our Cut Back California program is designed to work best for customers, PG&E, and the environment," said Glen Smith, president and chief executive officer of ECS.

ECS' total contracted demand response portfolio is nearly 700 megawatts, approximate in size to the output of the South Bay Power Plant in Chula Vista. ECS anticipates increasing its portfolio by up to 300 additional megawatts in demand response reserves over the next 2 to 3 years in California. For more information, call 877-327-0032 or visit <http://www.ecscal.com/>.

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As of close of business on September 29, 2006, Merrill Lynch Investment Managers combined with BlackRock Inc.'s investment management business. Merrill Lynch is a substantial stockholder in BlackRock, Inc.

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