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NEWS RELEASE

Heat Wave Prompts Governor to Send State Employees Home Early

Gov. Christie Whitman today sent home early all non-essential state employees to conserve energy during the current heat wave. The Governor said that she received reports that brownouts are occurring in a number of areas throughout the state.

"We need to all save energy in any way we can during this heat emergency, so that energy usage is not interrupted for those residents most vulnerable to the heat or in vital facilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, and senior citizen housing," said Gov. Whitman.

Because the peak hours for energy use are between 4:00 and 6:00 p.m., the Governor dismissed the employees for the day beginning at 3:30 p.m. To avoid gridlock on local roads, employees were sent home in staggered shifts, leaving one-half hour before their normal leave time.