Q. What is a rotating outage?
A. A rotating outage is a temporary and scheduled electric outage conducted under utility control that lasts approximately one hour, depending on circumstances. A utility manages and rotates the outages to protect the integrity of the overall electric system.

Q. Why would Southern California Edison (SCE) need to resort to rotating outages?
A. Controlled, rotating outages can become necessary when the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) declares a Stage 3 Emergency. Under these circumstances, without controlled, rotating power outages on a relatively small scale, a widespread disturbance to the electric grid could occur, which would lead to uncontrolled, large-scale outages.

Q. How will I be notified about a Stage 3 Emergency declaration?
A. As soon as the Stage 3 Emergency is declared, SCE will contact the news media, especially radio and television stations, which are encouraged to broadcast the news immediately. Because SCE may have as few as 10 minutes after a Stage 3 Emergency is declared before rotating outages begin, individual notifications are not possible. You can also contact SCE at 1-800-611-1911 to find out whether your neighborhood is part of a current controlled outage. You can also find out if your rotating outage group is being called by visiting www.sce.com

Q. How does the rotation work?
A. SCE identified the circuits available for use in rotating outages according to California Public Utilities Commission rules. A circuit is an electrical line that supplies power to a combination of residential and/or commercial customers within a given geographical area. These circuits have been arranged into groups. The amount of power the CAISO designates for curtailment will determine the number of groups that are interrupted at any one time. The groups will be interrupted, as operating conditions permit, and each outage is expected to last about one hour. At the end of the hour, service will be restored to the affected groups and the next groups on the list will be interrupted to maintain the amount of load requested by the CAISO. Once a group has been used in a rotating outage, it is moved to the bottom of the list.

For more information about outages, visit www.sce.com/info/PowerOutages.