

**Base-load generating station:** A generating station which is normally operated to supply all or part of the base load of a system and which consequently operates at full output whenever available. Base-load generating units tend to be large units with low operating costs.

**Bulk electricity system:** The generation and high voltage transmission facilities (generally 115 kilovolts and up) considered as a whole.

**Bus:** A set of electrical conductors that serves as a common connection for two or more circuits. A bus may be in the form of rigid bars ("busbars") or in the form of cables.

**Capability:** The maximum load that a station or equipment is capable of carrying under specified conditions.

**Capacity:** The rate of delivery of energy (for example, a utility might sell 50 megawatts of capacity or electric power); or

The maximum quantity of power that a piece of equipment or a system is capable of carrying or supplying (for example, a generating unit might have a rated capacity of 50 megawatts).

**Capacity factor:** For any equipment, the ratio of the average load during some period of time to the rated capacity of the equipment. Capacity is usually expressed as a percentage.

**Circuit:** Any conductor or set of conductors intended to carry electricity.

**Circuit breaker:** A switching device to open or close an electric power circuit during either normal system operation or fault conditions.

**Cogeneration:** The combined production of electricity and useful heat (usually steam).

**Control centre:** The control room from which instructions are issued for switching of power system equipment, stations or lines, and for changing the amount of power generated in power stations. Typically such a centre is equipped with remote controls, telemetering and computer facilities. Automated system maps indicate the operating status of generating units, transmission lines and main substation equipment. Metering devices show the loads being carried by units and lines, and the voltage levels at selected locations. Thus the system supervisor is provided with a complete picture of the main features of the power system and can coordinate its operations.

**Converter station:** An installation for converting direct current into alternating current, or for changing one frequency of alternating current to another.

**Current:** The flow of electricity in a conductor. Current is measured in amperes.

**Demand:** The desire of purchasers for electricity. "Demand" is often used synonymously with "power" which is the rate at which electrical energy is being delivered.

**Demand charge:** The component of a two-part price for electricity which is based on a customer's highest power demand reached in a specified period, usually a month, regardless of the quantity of energy used. The other component of the two-part price is the energy charge.

**Demand management:** Actions taken by a utility or other agency intended to influence the amount or timing of customers' use of electricity. These actions can be divided into three groups: load growth, load shifting and load reduction.