



For Release: July 22, 2014

Contact: Amy Rutledge  
Manager - Corporate Communications  
Minnesota Power/ALLETE  
218-723-7400  
arutledge@mnpower.com

## ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

### **High winds, storms and saturated soil lead to widespread power outages**

Duluth, Minn.—Minnesota Power line crews are working to restore power across northern Minnesota after a summer storm downed power lines and knocked out electric service to about 10,000 residents. By 9 a.m. this morning, line workers had reconnected electricity to about 5,000 customers.

Thunderstorms packing winds up to 60 miles per hour hit Minnesota Power's western division about midnight and later swept across the rest of the utility's 26,000-square-mile service territory. The storm snapped tree limbs and uprooted trees from International Falls to Duluth.

In the Duluth area, the largest outage came in Duluth Heights, where about 2500 customers were without power from approximately 1:30 a.m. to roughly 3 a.m. Nisswa, Pine River and Eveleth sustained widespread outages overnight.

At 10:30 a.m. this morning, there were about 120 outages affecting more than 4,000 customers across the Minnesota Power service area. About 670 were still out of power in the Eveleth-Gilbert area and 1,800 customers were without power in the vicinity of Nisswa.

"This storm raked across our service territory rather quickly and then subsided about 3 a.m.," said John Muehlbauer, Minnesota Power line crew superintendent. He said it was unusual for a storm to cause outages in all three divisions of the utility's service territory. All available line crews worked through the night and were supplemented by more personnel this morning, he said.

Not only were winds excessive overnight, but wet summer weather has left the ground saturated and many large trees were uprooted, downing distribution lines and feeder lines across the region. Minnesota Power line crews will work through the day to restore electric power, with a goal to have all customers back online by the end of the day.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 144,000 customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at: [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com).

*The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission.*

###