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Contact: Amy Rutledge
Manager–Corporate Communications
Minnesota Power/ALLETE
218-722-7400
arutledge@mnpower.com

NEWS

Minnesota’s Cold Weather Rule takes effect Oct. 15

DULUTH, MN – Minnesota Power reminds its residential customers who may have difficulty paying their energy bills that the Cold Weather Rule will help protect them from service disconnection during the winter – as long as they take a few steps to ensure that protection.

Under the rule, income eligible residential energy customers are protected from service disconnection from October 15 through April 15 provided the disconnection would affect the customer’s primary heating source. Eligible customers must work out a monthly payment plan with Minnesota Power to be protected. Minnesota’s Cold Weather Rule does not prevent winter shut-off if customers don’t commit to a payment plan.

Customers who receive a proposed shut-off notice during the winter are advised to act promptly and **contact Minnesota Power to set up a payment plan at 1-800-228-4966.**

Minnesota Power will refer customers to community energy assistance programs as needed. One such program is our Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity (CARE). To learn if you qualify for CARE (which begins October 1 each year), visit www.mnpower.com/care.

Minnesota Power’s residential customers recently received detailed information about the Cold Weather Rule with their energy bills. For more information, contact Minnesota Power’s 24-hour residential customer service line at **1-800-228-4966.**

Minnesota Power, an ALLETE company, supplies electric service to 144,000 retail customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States.

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.

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