



For Release: Aug. 4, 2016

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NEWS

Minnesota Power expects to have power restored to majority of customers in storm-damaged Brainerd Lakes, Nisswa and Gull Lake by late Friday night.

Duluth, Minn. — Minnesota Power line crews are making progress in restoring power in the Nisswa and Brainerd Lakes area after severe storms hit the region Thursday morning.

All available Minnesota Power resources have been dispatched to this area, including extra line crews and tree-removal and construction crews. Minnesota Power also has called in extra lineworkers from MJ Electric who will help restore power on Friday.

As of 4 p.m. Thursday, the company estimates power will be restored to the majority customers in the area by 9 p.m. Friday as crews work to repair primary distribution lines before moving on to individual service lines. Isolated pockets of customers in hard-hit areas such as Ojibwa Road at Round Lake and Interlochen Road on the west side of Gull Lake may experience outages into early Saturday because of the extent of the damage in those areas. High winds toppled trees and caused downed power lines and an estimated 30 broken power poles that crews will need to replace.

About 3,600 customers were without power in the area on Thursday afternoon, with additional customers expected to be restored tonight.

Customers without power are reminded to call Minnesota Power at 800-30-POWER (800-307-6937) to report their outage to ensure it is recorded and repaired.

Some customers who have damage to their electric service meter and mast where the service line attaches to their home will need to contact an electrical contractor for repairs before Minnesota Power can restore power to the residence.

The storms also caused power outages in the Duluth and Cloquet areas, where by Thursday afternoon power was restored to all but seven customers. The largest outage near Duluth hit the Pike Lake and Saginaw areas, where about 500 customers were restored by 10 a.m. Crews also restored power in the Menahga, Walker and Akeley areas Thursday afternoon.

Customers are strongly warned to stay away from downed power lines and to expect the lines are energized. Energized lines pose an extreme hazard. Keep pets and children away from those areas.

For more outage updates and information go to www.mnpower.com or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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.

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