



Minnesota Power 30 WEST SUPERIOR STREET DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55802 [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com) Marilyn Weber, Editor Summer 2006



*Taconite Harbor generating station*

## **Leading the way for a cleaner environment**

For decades, Minnesota Power has operated generating facilities that have surpassed strict air emission regulations to help protect human health and the environment. We've more than doubled generation output while operating coal-fired generating plants at 70 percent below current emission requirements. MP is taking further action to cut air emissions.

Recently, the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (MPUC) approved our voluntary \$60 million plan to install air emission reduction equipment at Laskin Energy Center in Hoyt Lakes and Taconite Harbor Energy Center in Schroeder. The MPUC approval took into account the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency's (MPCA) sup-

port of our plan and authorized project cost recovery through customers' monthly billings. Once MP has the necessary permits, on-site construction will begin this fall with completion by year-end 2008. MP estimates these environmental retrofits will reduce nitrogen oxide emissions by more than 60 percent at both facilities and reduce sulfur dioxide emissions and mercury emissions at Taconite Harbor by 65 percent and up to 90 percent, respectively.

Another emission reduction project is planned for our Boswell Unit 3 in Cohasset. A nearly \$200 million emission control upgrade will reduce mercury emissions by up to 90 percent and cut nitrogen oxide and sulfur dioxide emissions by more than 80 percent. Similar approval will be sought from the MPCA and MPUC later this year. With approvals in place, construction would begin in 2007 and be completed by year-end 2009.

These earth friendly projects demonstrate our leadership in environmental stewardship. For more information about our air emission reduction plans, please call or e-mail Eric Olson, 218-723-3947 or [eolson@allete.com](mailto:eolson@allete.com). Or, visit [mnpower.com/earthfriendly](http://mnpower.com/earthfriendly).

## **Wind energy makes sense for your business**

The newly formed Minnesota Power WindSense Renewable Energy Partnership invites our progressive businesses to invest in a renewable energy future by buying blocks of wind-generated electricity, purchased from Great River Energy's wind farm in southwestern Minnesota. We'll even help position your company as an environmental leader through advertising.

The cost to produce wind energy is higher than the cost of producing electricity from coal or hydropower. As a result, wind energy provided under this program will include a small surcharge of \$2.50 per 100-kilowatt-hour block per month to cover the additional cost.

For more details or to get a copy of Frequently Asked Questions on the WindSense

Partnership for businesses, call Al Lian at 218-722-5642, ext. 2824. To acquire information on our residential WindSense program, visit our Web site at: <http://www.mnpower.com/wind/windsense/index.htm>



AN ALLETE COMPANY



*Minnesota Power energy specialist Dave Lake checks the insulation level in the attic of an area residence. Call NOW to schedule a FREE audit of your home's energy use. You'll receive recommendations on energy efficiency improvements, free energy-saving materials and more. 1-800-228-4966*

## Found Money COMBO SPECIAL

Receive a \$375 rebate from Minnesota Power when you purchase and have installed a new central air conditioner and a qualifying furnace with an ECM (electronically commutated motor) fan. Furnaces equipped with an ECM use about 10 times less electricity than standard motors for operating the furnace fan. It also enhances the efficiency of the central air conditioning system.

For a list of participating contractors, call 1-800-677-8423, or visit [mnpower.com/combo](http://mnpower.com/combo).

Offer available 8/1 through 9/30-2006.



## MP can help detect stray voltage

MP will work with farmers to help detect and reduce stray voltage in confined animal operations. This low-level voltage can be found on metal objects that farm animals touch, such as water pipes and stanchions. The voltage level is usually so slight that humans can't feel it, but animals may.



It can be caused by many factors, including faulty wiring or improper grounding. The voltage can affect animals' behavior, milk production, eating habits and overall health.

For more information about stray voltage or to schedule a free stray voltage investigation, call MP's Dan Tonder, 1-800-228-4966, ext. 5031.

## We need your current phone numbers

In the next few months, Minnesota Power will be installing new equipment that will help us track down the cause and location of power outages even more rapidly. The Outage Management System is linked through customers' phone numbers at their home or business. When you call to report an outage, our new system will be able to automatically identify the predicted outage location.

We need your help. Please call us at 1-800-228-4966 to confirm we have

your correct primary and cell phone numbers. With current customer contact information, our line crews can more easily locate problems within our service area if there's a power outage, and get your lights back on as soon as possible.

Also call our toll-free 800 number to report outages, find out your account balance or to make payments or arrange for payments. You will be connected to

our Interactive Voice Response (ivr) system. Simply call 1-800-228-4966 and listen carefully for the prompts to the service you need.

We look forward to hearing from you.

**Weatherline: 733-0300**  
**Time, temp & forecast**