



Contact: Eric Olson  
218-723-3947  
eolson@allete.com

# ***NEWS***

## ***Don Shippar named president of Minnesota Power***

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Bob Edwards, Minnesota Power chairman and chief executive officer, has announced that Don Shippar, 52, currently MP's executive vice president and chief operating officer, will become president and chief operating officer effective January 1, 2002.

Shippar currently has responsibility for MP's generation, transmission, distribution and customer service areas. In his expanded role, Shippar will have more direct responsibility for new generation initiatives, including customer-based generation projects, in addition to responsibility for MP's involvement in Split Rock Energy LLC. Split Rock is the alliance formed in 2000 between MP and Elk River, Minn.-based Great River Energy. The two companies combined their power supply capabilities and customer loads for power pool operations, generation outage protection and wholesale power marketing and trading.

Shippar joined MP in 1976 and has held several management positions in the areas of telecommunications, human resources and electric operations. He was appointed chief operating officer in 2000 and to his current position of executive vice president and chief operating officer in January, 2001.

A Superior, Wis. native, Shippar is a graduate of Superior Senior High School, Wisconsin Indianhead Technical College and the University of Wisconsin-Superior. He serves on the board of the University of Wisconsin-Superior Foundation.

Minnesota Power, an ALLETE company, serves 144,000 customers in northeastern Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin with affordable electricity. The company supplies wholesale electric power to 16 municipal systems and also markets power across the Midwest.

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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Minnesota Power • 30 West Superior Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802  
[www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com)