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NEWS

Laskin Energy Center to Observe 50TH Anniversary

06-30-03

HOYT LAKES, Minn. -Minnesota Power's Laskin Energy Center, near Hoyt Lakes, Minn., will celebrate 50 years of reliability and innovation in a ceremony on Wednesday, July 2, 2003, at the plant.

Company officials and state and local leaders are expected to attend the event, scheduled for from 1-4 p.m. at the plant, 5699 Colby Lake Road, just outside of Hoyt Lakes. A brief ceremony will begin at 1 p.m. Tours of the center will be conducted, food and refreshments will be served and there will be prize drawings throughout the afternoon.

The observance is being held in conjunction with the Centennial Celebration in the neighboring community of Aurora, Minn., which runs July 1-6.

What is today the Laskin Energy Center was initially built to power the earliest taconite processing facilities pioneering the revitalization of the Iron Range. It was originally called the Aurora Steam Electric Station; Hoyt Lakes did not yet exist. It was later renamed for Sylvester "Syl" Laskin, who managed Minnesota Power's Range Division during the plant's early years and ultimately rose to become president, chairman and CEO.

Construction of the plant marked a major shift for Minnesota Power. Up until that time, except for one coal-fired plant on Duluth's waterfront, the company had been mainly a hydroelectric operation.

Laskin Energy Center, in addition to providing energy, has served as a laboratory for experimentation and innovation. It was the site of testing the feasibility of using the company's own waste oil as fuel, of a full-scale ozone generator project that remains one of the largest of its kind in the industry, and of a mercury emissions reduction project that has earned national recognition and praise.

Next to the energy center is the 220-acre Laskin Energy Park, offering industrial building sites for new and expanding manufacturers. The sites come with electricity, natural gas and stable, low-cost steam. High-speed telecommunications are already in place, along with digital switching, and the park has rail access.



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