



Contact:

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

NEWS

Minnesota Power Announces Wind Power Plans

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DULUTH, Minn.— Minnesota Power, a division of ALLETE, Inc. (NYSE: ALE), today announced it has entered into a long-term agreement to purchase approximately 50 megawatts of wind power from a new wind generation project to be built in south central North Dakota by a wholly owned subsidiary of FPL Energy. The planned project will connect to the regional power grid near Center, ND.

Florida-based FPL Energy is a subsidiary of FPL Group, Inc. (NYSE: FPL) and is the nation's leader in wind energy generation, producing approximately 40 percent of all of the wind-generated energy in the United States. FPL Energy said construction and commercial operation are both scheduled for 2006. FPL Energy said the project is subject to regulatory approvals and an extension of the federal wind energy production tax credit which is set to expire at the end of 2005.

"We're proud to be adding this significant resource to Minnesota Power's renewable energy portfolio and to be partnering with FPL Energy, a proven leader in the wind energy sector," said Don Shippar, ALLETE President and CEO. "This project exemplifies the kind of creative thinking required to meet the energy needs of the next decade."

In addition, during ALLETE's annual meeting of shareholders last month, Shippar said that Minnesota Power is actively pursuing proposals for a second new wind farm to be located on Minnesota's Iron Range in the northeastern part of the state. More information regarding this project will be made available as plans are finalized. Minnesota's regional economic development agency, Iron Range Resources, supports the idea.

"Minnesota Power and Iron Range Resources have discussed the potential value of the wind resource in this region. I am excited to see Minnesota Power exploring the wind energy development on the Range and will be eager to support their efforts," said Sandy Layman, Commissioner, Iron Range Resources.



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Minnesota Power • 30 West Superior Street, Duluth, Minnesota 55802
www.mnpower.com