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NEWS ADVISORY

Minnesota's Cold Weather Rule takes effect Oct. 15

DULUTH, MN - Minnesota Power reminds its residential customers who may have trouble paying their energy bill that the Cold Weather Rule will take effect Friday, October 15. The Cold Weather Rule was designed to help protect residents from service disconnection during the winter – provided they contact Minnesota Power to ensure that protection.

Under the rule, all residential customers are protected from service disconnection from October 15 through April 15 provided the disconnection would affect the customer's primary heating source.

The Cold Weather Rule does not forbid winter shut off. Customers who receive a shut off notice during the winter months are advised to act promptly and **contact Minnesota Power to set up a payment plan.**

State funds are currently available for energy assistance this heating season and Minnesota Power will refer customers to community energy assistance programs as needed. Tips on how to save energy and lower your bills, are available through Minnesota Power's energy conservation program, Power of One, at this link: www.mnpower.com/powerofone

Minnesota Power's residential customers recently received detailed information about the Cold Weather Rule with their energy bills. For more information, contact Minnesota Power's 24-hour residential customer service line at **218-722-2625** or **1-800-228-4966**.

Minnesota Power, an ALLETE company, supplies electric service to 144,000 retail customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States.

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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