



For Release: July 13, 2015

Contact: Kelley Eldien  
Senior Communications Specialist  
Minnesota Power/ALLETE  
218-391-2193  
keldien@mnpower.com

# ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

## **Minnesota Power crews working to restore power after worst storm of season**

Minnesota Power line crews have been very busy in the utility's western service territory after major storms hit the towns of Brainerd, Baxter, Pillager, Nisswa, Little Falls and surrounding areas last night. At around 3 a.m., there were about 8,000 Minnesota Power customers without power, with the Nisswa/Gull Lake areas being hardest hit.

As of now, they have about 5,200 customers without power and are working as quickly and safely as possible to restore power. The biggest obstacle is removing all of the large trees that have fallen and broken an estimated 100 power poles which all need to be removed and replaced. The number of broken power poles could grow as they continue to assess the damage in the region.

Minnesota Power line crews are supplemented by contractors helping remove downed trees and are focusing on the Nisswa and Gull Lake areas. **The current estimate for power being restored in these areas is noon on Thursday, July 16.** Minnesota Power has dispatched all available line workers from the northern and central area crews to the Brainerd area and has called in an additional 40 line workers out of the Twin Cities to aid in the tree clearing and power restoration efforts.

Power restoration in this situation is a phased approach. Public safety and critical infrastructure is their first priority. They begin with the larger transmission lines, move to the primary distribution lines, then move into neighborhoods to repair individual services.

**Minnesota Power also reminds everyone to please stay clear of downed power poles, lines and wires as they could still be energized.** The public's patience is appreciated as they work to restore power safely and quickly.

Residents and media in affected communities are encouraged to visit their online outage center at <http://www.mnpower.com/OutageCenter/OutageMap> for updates as well as to follow their Twitter and Facebook pages for updates as new information is known.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 144,000 customers, 16 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com).

*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.*

###

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



@mnpower