



For Release: July 15, 2015

Contact: Amy Rutledge
Corporate Communications Manager,
218-723-7400
arutledge@mnpower.com

MEDIA ADVISORY

Minnesota Power adds 50 more line workers to help restore power in storm-ravaged Brainerd Lakes

Duluth, Minn.—Minnesota Power has called in additional resources to help restore power to Brainerd Lakes area communities heavily damaged by Sunday's severe storm. The company now has an estimated 200 line workers and tree removal crews working to restore electricity to 4,200 affected customers. Additional crews arrived this morning from Xcel Energy and MJ Electric. Six line workers from Brainerd Public Utilities have also joined the restoration effort.

Crews working 16-hour days have made significant headway in clearing damaged trees and gaining access to downed power lines. With the additional resources, Minnesota Power expects to make more progress today and restore power to half of the affected customers this evening.

The company says while restoration efforts continue, it's evident the extent of damage to infrastructure is worse than originally thought. Depending on the severity of damage in their neighborhoods, electric service may not be restored to some customers until this weekend. More than 150 power poles were snapped by the high winds, requiring replacement along with damaged transformers. In severely damaged areas like Pine Beach Peninsula, crews must first remove trees to gain access to downed lines. New poles and transformers are at the removal sites and are being replaced as clearing progress is made.

Efforts will continue to focus on the heavily storm-damaged areas of Gull Lake, Round Lake, Pine Beach, Sylvan and rural Nisswa. Other contractors involved in the restoration effort include, Hooper, MPT, Donovan, Lake States, and Northern Clearing.

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

Power restoration in this situation is a phased approach. Public safety and critical infrastructure is the first priority. Larger transmission lines are repaired first, then the restoration moves to primary distribution lines and then into neighborhoods to repair individual electric services.

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.

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



@mnpower