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# ***MEDIA ADVISORY***

## **Power outages shrinking as Minnesota Power responds in Brainerd Lakes Area**

Duluth, Minn.—Minnesota Power is steadily whittling down the number of power outages in the storm damaged Brainerd Lakes area. Crews are working to restore power to an estimated 1536 customers as of 9:00 p.m. tonight and expect another significant reduction of outages Saturday, with the majority of customers restored by Sunday. Sunday's severe storm in the Brainerd Lakes area destroyed roughly 250 power poles, damaged more than 100 transformers and blew countless trees onto power lines. While work remains for the Duluth-based utility, an army of 200 of company line workers and contractors has restored electric service to nearly 6,500 customers whose power was knocked out by the storm.

MP crews today continued their efforts in two of the most severely damaged areas, Round Lake and the Cinosam neighborhoods, both are densely populated and suffered intense tree damage with hundreds of trees uprooted by the severe storm. Customers are being asked to inspect the electric service meter and mast on their home for damage and contact a local electrical contractor for repairs, so that Minnesota Power can restore service to the home. Also a reminder for residents who are clearing trees from their property to please be aware of restored power lines to help prevent an inadvertent outage.

ALLETE CEO Al Hodnik was among many Minnesota Power representatives who met with Governor Mark Dayton and U.S. Congressman Rick Nolan today during their tour of the Brainerd Lakes area to assess damage caused by the recent severe weather. Hodnik and other company representatives attended a meeting with emergency management personnel and local officials to update Dayton and Nolan on the significant progress to date in restoration efforts.

Minnesota Power is appreciative of the assistance being provided by supporting line workers and tree removal companies: Brainerd Public Utilities, Xcel Energy, Michels Power, Hooper Construction, MJ Electric, Donovan, MP Technologies, LNR Boring, Lake States Tree Service, Northern Clearing, and Bay West Environmental.

**Minnesota Power reminds everyone to please stay clear of downed power poles, lines and wires in their yards, on their roofs and in driveways as the lines could be energized.**

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).

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