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MEDIA ADVISORY

Minnesota Power crews expect to fully restore power to storm damaged Brainerd Lakes area tonight

Duluth, Minn.—Minnesota Power expects to fully restore power to the Brainerd Lakes area one week after devastating storms tore through the area, downing hundreds of trees and snapping power lines. At the peak of the outage 8,000 customers were without electricity last Sunday night.

Crews wrapped up work today on the remaining 500 outages and will work into the night to restore electricity to remaining customers in the Cinosam neighborhood on Gull Lake. Last Sunday's severe storm in the Brainerd Lakes area destroyed numerous power poles and transformers and blew countless trees onto power lines. More than 200 Minnesota Power crews, contractors and partners including Xcel Energy, Crow Wing Cooperative and Brainerd Public Utilities worked 16 hour shifts to steadily restore service to customers throughout the week.

The company's outage map is not reflecting real time numbers as the system is not keeping pace with the closing of trouble orders. Some customers who have damage to their electric service meter and mast may not have electricity yet and will need to contact an electrical contractor for repairs before Minnesota Power can restore power to the residence.

"Having toured the storm ravaged area on Friday, I saw firsthand the effects of this extraordinary storm and the extraordinary response by our crews, partners and the community," said ALLETE CEO Al Hodnik. "This was one of the most damaging storms to our system in recent memory and I appreciate the patience and support of our customers and tremendous effort of our employees to get the lights back on and help return life to normal in the Brainerd Lakes community."

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.

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