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# NEWS

## Minnesota Power expects to fully restore power to storm affected areas by tonight

Duluth, Minnesota—Minnesota Power expects to restore power by the end of the day to remaining customers who have been without electricity since severe storms blew through the area last week.

Crews are focusing today on the time-consuming process of restoring individual service wires, the wires that connect from the pole to the customer's house, especially in the Woodland and Morley Heights neighborhoods of Duluth, as well as the south side of the City of Rice Lake.

Although full restoration is expected by the end of the day, customers requiring repairs to their service mast on their home cannot be reconnected and will still have no power. Those customers must hire an electrician to complete repairs before Minnesota Power can restore service. Those customers will still be reflected on the outage map. We encourage **customers who are without power to call Minnesota Power at 1-800-30-POWER. (307-6937) if their power remains out.** Customers also should call if they see trees leaning into power lines. Some trees may have been weakened by the storms and could pose a threat for power outages in the near future.

About 46,000 customers were without power at the peak of the storm. In addition to damaging homes, businesses and cars, the many uprooted and fallen trees caused extensive damage to power lines and poles. At least 300 power poles required replacement. Minnesota Power called in additional crews from Ameren, Intren, MP Technologies, M.J. Electric and Xcel Energy who worked 16-hour shifts to steadily restore power. The restoration effort involved 400 people including 260 lineworkers and 30 professional tree removal crews. Crews from Ameren and Intren will head home today.

"This was an extraordinary storm that caused widespread damage to our electrical system in many of the communities we serve. It was certainly a storm for the ages with Duluth bearing the brunt of much of the damage," said Al Hodnik, ALLETE chairman, president and CEO. "We appreciate the patience and support of our customers and the tremendous effort of our employees, reinforcements from partner utilities, tree removal crews and support staff who worked to get the lights back on and help return life to normal."

The storms on July 21 also affected Minnesota Power customers in Island Lake, Meadowlands, Floodwood, Cloquet, Brainerd Lakes area and the Ely area.

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.*

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