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NEWS

Power restored to majority of customers in Brainerd Lakes Area following damaging storm; Minnesota Power crews continue work in hardest hit areas

Duluth, Minn. — Minnesota Power line crews restored power to more than 3,200 customers Friday in the Brainerd Lakes area, which was hit by severe storms Thursday morning.

Nearly 60 Minnesota Power and contract lineworkers restored primary lines and replaced 40 power poles broken by fallen trees during the storm and are now focusing on addressing issues such as trees on power lines and repairing service lines to homes. Power is expected to be restored to the majority of remaining 500 customers tonight. However, pockets of customers in the hardest-hit areas, such as Ojibwa Road and Nashway Road on Round Lake and northwest Gull Lake may experience individual outages into Saturday afternoon.

Customers without power are asked to call Minnesota Power at 800-30-POWER to report their outage to ensure it is recorded and repaired.

Some customers who have damage to their electric service meter and mast where the service line attaches to their home will need to contact an electrical contractor for repairs before Minnesota Power can restore power to the residence.

Customers are strongly warned to stay away from downed power lines and to expect the lines are energized. Energized lines pose an extreme hazard. Keep pets and children away from those areas.

For more outage updates and information go to www.mnpower.com or follow us on Twitter and Facebook.

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.



