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NEWS

Minnesota Power seeking solar prequalification applications

DULUTH, Minn. – Minnesota Power, a division of ALLETE, Inc. (NYSE: ALE), is seeking experienced solar developers and EPC (Engineer Procure Construct) firms to submit prequalification applications in advance of a site specific solar request for proposals expected to be released in January, 2015 for a project to be in service late summer of 2016.

Minnesota Power is developing, in partnership with the Minnesota Army National Guard, a 10-megawatt utility scale solar project at Camp Ripley near Little Falls, Minn. This solar system will provide energy to Minnesota Power's customers and provide additional resiliency to Minnesota's largest military installation through innovative microgrid compatibility being incorporated into the requirements.

A copy of the prequalification form and additional details are available at www.mnpower.com/Environment/Solar. Prequalifications will be accepted up to Dec. 15, 2014.

Minnesota Power provides retail electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota to 144,000 customers and wholesale electric service to 16 municipalities. 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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