

For Release: July 23, 2016 5:30 p.m.
Contact: Kelley Eldien
Sr. Communications Specialist
Minnesota Power/ALLETE
218-391-2193
keldien@mnpower.com

Media advisory

Extra lineworker support helping Minnesota Power restore service; some Duluth neighborhoods may experience extended outages

Duluth, Minn. - Minnesota Power thanks the public for their continued patience during this catastrophic storm event. Over 220 lineworkers and over 180 support personnel from Minnesota Power, Ameren, Intren and MJ Electric are in the field and diligently working to restore power as quickly and safely as possible. Both public and employee safety remain the top priority. Minnesota Power reminds customers to assume all downed lines are energized and to stay away.

"I appreciate the patience from our customers as we restore electric service to the many communities and neighborhoods. I would like to thank everyone involved for their cooperation, support and expertise," said Brad Oachs, Minnesota Power's Chief Operating Officer.

Power has been restored to many customers in the UMD area, crews continue to address remaining neighborhood outages. Power has been restored to most residents in Hermantown with small, localized service issues being addressed. Please call us at 1-800-307-6937 to report an outage IF your neighborhood has power but your home does not.

Service to the Woodland area, which feeds from the Colbyville substation, has sustained significantly more damage than originally thought. As mentioned during this morning's press conference, power restoration in this area may not occur until early next week. More information will become available as crews continue to gain access to the damaged areas. "In 27 years of working on the distribution system at MP, this is the worst system damage I have seen in Duluth," said Chuck Kimball, Minnesota Power's manager of Tech Systems.

Some customers may have broken masts on their home as a result of the storm. If this is the case, the homeowner will need to contact an electrical contractor for repairs before we can restore power to your home.

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