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NEWS

Dangerous weather conditions hamper some power restoration efforts *Safety requires a slower approach during whiteout conditions*

Duluth, Minn.— Minnesota Power crews are responding safely and as quickly as possible in extreme weather conditions to restore power during the first major winter storm of the season.

High winds, heavy snow and whiteout conditions are making power restoration efforts difficult in the western service region from Walker south to Royalton this afternoon. These extreme weather conditions could mean extended outage times for some customers. As of 3 p.m. Friday, power was out for about 6,800 customers, mostly in the western service area. The largest outages are in the Hackensack, Royalton, Buckman, Backus, Pine River and Nisswa areas. Customers in the Royalton area will be without power until this evening as crews replace downed poles, a job that requires de-energizing the area to ensure safety.

Also at 3 p.m. Friday, 236 customers were without power in the central and northern service regions that include the Duluth area and the Iron Range. Crews in the field advise outages in these areas may expand if the wind gusts experienced in the western service area move east with the same force.

For the latest outage information, customers are encouraged to visit the Minnesota Power Outage Center at <http://www.mnpower.com/OutageCenter>, where they also can learn how to download the Minnesota Power outage app for smartphones. Customers also can follow Minnesota Power on Facebook and/or Twitter to get outage updates.

Safety is paramount while restoring power during severe weather events, for both Minnesota Power line crews and customers. Minnesota Power strives to restore power as quickly as possible while also ensuring the safety of all.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 145,000 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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