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NEWS

Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power remind customers of energy bill assistance programs

Duluth, Minn. — During this dangerous cold weather, Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power are here to help customers who are having difficulty paying their energy bills.

The companies are reminding all customers, including customers affected by the federal government shutdown, that they offer a variety of programs and resources to help customers manage and pay their energy bills and avoid potential disconnection of service.

All Minnesota Power customers having trouble paying their bill, including affected government workers and contractors, should call the company at (800) 228-4966. The company will help them set up a payment plan and waive late payment charges for plans set up under the Cold Weather Rule or for customers affected by the shutdown.

An Energy Assistance Program, or EAP, also may benefit customers who need help paying their bill. Visit mnpower.com/EAPproviders or call (800) 657-3710 for information. Minnesota Power's CARE program (Customer Affordability of Residential Electricity) is one program that may help. Customers can find out if they are eligible for a reduced electric rate through CARE by visiting mnpower.com/care. Households that qualify for energy assistance also may be eligible to receive other benefits, including exemptions from some fees and weatherization and energy efficiency programs.

Superior Water, Light and Power customers should call the company at (715) 394-2200 or (800) 227-7957 to set up a payment plan and waive late payment charges for plans set up under the Cold Weather Rule or for customers affected by the shutdown.

The company also can help customers contact Wisconsin's Home Energy Plus program that includes the Wisconsin Home Energy Assistance Program (WHEAP) and Weatherization Assistance Program (WAP). WHEAP provides assistance for heating costs, electric costs and energy crisis situations. WAP helps renters and homeowners reduce their energy consumption. Customers can learn whether they're eligible for the programs at swlp.com/Customerservice/WILowIncomeAssistanceFee.

Both companies also offer Budget Payment Plans that help customers avoid seasonal peaks in utility bills by leveling payments out over the course of the entire year. State Cold Weather Rules in Minnesota and Wisconsin also protect customers from disconnection of heat-providing service through April 15 provided they make and maintain a payment plan with the utility.

In recognition of the government shutdown's impact on the communities it serves, Minnesota Power has made an additional donation of \$4,500 to three regional food banks that distribute food to food shelves across northeastern and north-central Minnesota and northwestern Wisconsin. The

donation is a supplement to annual Minnesota Power Foundation donations to area food banks and food shelves.

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.

Superior Water, Light and Power provides electricity, water and natural gas in the city of Superior and adjacent areas in northwestern Wisconsin. The company has served the area since 1889 and provides services to approximately 15,000 electric customers, 13,000 natural gas customers and 10,000 water customers. More information can be found at www.swlp.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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