Minnesota Power to work on storm outages throughout the night

Most customers will be restored Sunday night; a small number may be restored Monday a.m.

Duluth, Minn. — Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power crews are working throughout the night to restore power safely and quickly as possible after a powerful spring storm ended Sunday.

Heavy, wet snow brought down numerous power lines and power poles across the company’s service area, causing numerous outages affecting as many as 5,900 customers about noon Sunday. As of 8 p.m., crews had reduced that number to just under 1,000 customers.

As of 7 p.m., the largest outages include about 200 customers in the Alborn and Meadowlands area, about 109 customers near Wrenshall, and 125 customers in and near Esko. Most of the other outages are smaller, scattered outages affecting fewer than 20 customers. Power is expected to be restored to most customers through the night, though some repairs affecting a small number of customers may extend into Monday morning.

All available crews are out in full force working to restore power, and Minnesota Power crews from other areas have been shifted to the hardest-hit areas from rural Duluth to Floodwood and south to Cloquet and Sandstone. In addition, Minnesota Power called in additional resources through mutual aid and five Xcel Energy contract crews have traveled from northern Wisconsin to assist MP crews in Cloquet.

The safety of our crews and customers is of top priority during this outage response. Crews have reported many low-hanging wires because of the heavy snow. Do not attempt to touch or lift any wire with poles or sticks. Do not get out of your vehicle on or near wires. All power lines should be considered energized and dangerous.

We thank customers for their patience and understanding during these storm-related outages. We fully recognize the inconvenience caused by the outages, especially during the COVID-19 stay-at-home order.

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.

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.

###