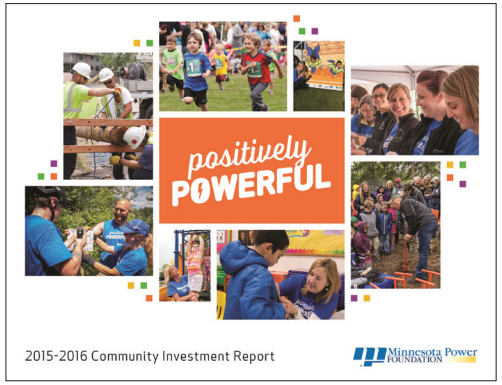
Report showcases 'positively powerful' stories of community involvement



Employees at Minnesota Power and ALLETE share their skills, knowledge and experience to benefit customers and communities.

The 2015-2016 Minnesota Power Foundation Community Investment Report details the various ways we advance the arts, raise cultural awareness, enrich community opportunities, promote education and deliver critical health and human services.

You can read this report at **mnpower.com/PositivelyPowerful.org.**

The right tree in the right place

The Right Tree brochure provides tips for selecting and siting trees to ensure the safety and reliability of electric service. Read the brochure online at **mnpower.com/treebook** or call 800-228-4966 to receive a free copy.

Watch falcons on our nest camera

In a typical year, migrating peregrine falcons return in March to their nesting boxes at our Boswell Energy Center in Cohasset and Hibbard Energy Center in Duluth. Eggs are laid in mid-April and the chicks hatch in late May. The falcons are identified, banded and entered into a database that makes it possible to track the birds' activities over their lifetimes, adding to what we know about this once-endangered species.

Sixty-six peregrines have hatched at Boswell (including three in 2015) since 1993 and 55 have been banded. At Hibbard, 15 chicks have hatched and been banded since 2008. You can follow the peregrine falcons' activity on our FalconCam at **mnpower.com/falconcam.**

Call before you dig

Utilities will mark underground lines free of charge.

Minnesota:	Wisconsin:
811 or 800-252-1166	811 or 800-242-8511
gopherstateonecall.org	diggershotline.com

SPRING 2016

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AN ALLETE COMPANY

Energizer News

Hybrid electric bucket truck rolls into neighborhoods

Minnesota Power unveiled its first plug-in hybrid electric bucket truck at the Duluth Entertainment Convention Center during the 26th annual Energy Design Conference and Expo in February.

The truck features an electric-operated boom powered by batteries and was purchased from Altec Inc., which has an operations and service center in Duluth.

The recent addition to Minnesota Power's vehicle fleet reflects a commitment among utilities nationwide to devote 5 percent of their annual vehicle fleet acquisition budgets to purchasing plug-in electric vehicles and other sustainable technologies.

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Showy lady's slipper bloom in Jay Cooke State Park. Photo by Dennis O'Hara

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Minnesota Power helps farmers find stray voltage

Minnesota Power works with farmers to help detect and reduce stray voltage in confined animal operations.

This low-level voltage can be found on metal objects that farm animals touch, such as water pipes and stanchions. The voltage level is usually so slight that humans cannot feel it, but animals may. It can be caused by many factors, including faulty wiring or improper grounding.

For more information or to schedule a free stray voltage review, contact Kevin McLean at 320-635-5078 or 1-800-228-4966, ext. 5078.

Theater program for children focuses on safe use of electricity

Minnesota Power is committed to educating young people about the safe and responsible use of electricity.

That's why Minnesota Power continues to partner with the National Theatre for Children to deliver a live, theatrical production focusing on electrical safety and designed for students in kindergarten through sixth grade.

The program will reach thousands of students from 28 schools across the Minnesota Power service territory, from Duluth up the North Shore to Grand Marais and Tofte, to Hibbing and Virginia on the Iron Range, and to Long Prairie and Brainerd in central Minnesota.

Minnesota Power's first hybrid bucket truck sports a colorful design.

Batteries power truck's boom

(continued from Page 1)

This hybrid technology allows the boom and bucket to be operated while the truck is turned off. Eliminating the need to idle trucks at worksites lowers emissions and reduces noise, benefitting the neighborhoods where Minnesota Power lineworkers are performing maintenance, completing repairs or restoring service.

"It's important we look for alternative fuel options in all aspects of our company, and I'm excited to pilot a plug-in technology option in our fleet," said Stefanie Stollenwerk, Minnesota Power's manager of transmission and distribution support services. "Utilizing plug-in technology is an opportunity to increase awareness with our employees and customers and helps us explore options to diversify our energy usage."

Learn more at **mnpower.com/HybridTruck.**

Route for major transmission line receives approval

Minnesota Power's Great Northern Transmission Line took a big step forward recently with approval of the route for the 500-kilovolt line that will deliver carbon-free hydroelectricity from Canada to customers in Minnesota.

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved a route that crosses the border between the U.S. and Canada in Roseau County in northern Minnesota. The 224-mile line will pass through Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching, and Itasca counties to the Blackberry electric substation east of Grand Rapids.

Construction is expected to get underway in earnest in 2017 with the line completed by 2020. Total cost of the project is estimated to be between $560 million and $710 million. The line will be used to deliver at least 383 megawatts of energy to MP customers under agreements with Manitoba Hydro.

Learn more at **greatnorthern transmissionline.com.**