



AN ALLETE COMPANY

EnergizerNews

SPRING 2017

Energy flows from MP solar power plant at Camp Ripley



Minnesota Power's solar array at Camp Ripley was built through a partnership with the Minnesota National Guard.

Minnesota Power's new solar power plant at the Minnesota National Guard's Camp Ripley is now generating electricity to power customer homes and businesses.

Minnesota Power and the Minnesota National Guard joined forces to build the 10-megawatt solar array at the central Minnesota training base. While it is located on a military site, the solar power plant is owned and operated by Minnesota Power. It began generating power in late 2016 after the project was delayed for a short time because of tornado damage at Camp Ripley.

The clean, renewable electricity produced at Camp Ripley is enough to power about 1,700 homes a year. While the energy generated by the solar power plant will flow to all Minnesota Power customers, the array also is designed to allow Camp Ripley to use the solar energy during emergencies if the power grid is down, providing enhanced energy security for the military site.

The \$25 million project is Minnesota Power's first large-scale solar array and covers an area

the size of about 62 football fields at the National Guard's 53,000 acre regional training facility near Little Falls. It's the largest solar project on any National Guard base in the nation.

The solar array, made up of more than 116,000 thin-film cadmium telluride panels, is part of a broader partnership between Minnesota Power and the National Guard. In 2014, Minnesota Power and the National Guard signed an agreement to increase renewable energy production and identify ways Camp Ripley could reduce its energy use and enhance energy security.

The solar power plant will provide Minnesota Power with about one-third of its requirement under the state's Solar Energy Standard. In 2013 the Minnesota Legislature passed legislation requiring that 1.5 percent of a public utility's applicable retail sales come from solar energy sources by 2020. The solar array also is a component of Minnesota Power's EnergyForward strategy to provide a balanced generation mix, bring more renewable energy online, produce cleaner power, and strengthen the electric grid. ■

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**. ■

Download our outage app

Be prepared in the event of a service interruption by downloading the Minnesota Power outage app. You'll be able to check the location of outages and get estimated restoration times. **Download the app at mnpower.com/OutageCenter. Report an outage online or call 1-800-307-6937.** ■

Discover how we are moving *EnergyForward*



mnpower.com/energyforward

Preconstruction begins on Great Northern Transmission Line

Tree clearing and soil boring are underway as Minnesota Power prepares to build its Great Northern Transmission Line.

If you live or work near the route for the GNTL, you've probably seen equipment and crews preparing for construction of the 500-kilovolt transmission line that will deliver hundreds of megawatts of clean energy from Canada's extensive hydropower resources to Minnesota beginning in 2020.

Tall trees and most woody vegetation will be removed from the right-of-way for construction, operation and maintenance of the line. A soil boring also will be made at each structure site. Learn more about the GNTL

project, including construction schedules and locations at greatnortherntransmissionline.com. The 224-mile route will cross the border between the U.S. and Canada in Roseau County. The route includes locations in Roseau, Lake of the Woods, Koochiching and Itasca counties.

Safety and communication throughout the next four years of preconstruction and construction are priorities for Minnesota Power and its partner contractors.

Safety: All crews working on the GNTL are trained to perform safe work practices every day on the job site. We ask nearby communities to be aware of heavy construction equipment on the roads and to

keep a safe distance from crews while they work.

Communication: We plan to keep the project community informed about the work underway throughout the project area. If you live along or near the GNTL's route, you already may have signed up to receive project updates. If not, you can do so at greatnortherntransmissionline.com/contact or call our project hotline at 1-877-657-9934.

The GNTL project team is ready to answer any questions you might have—please feel free to contact us. ■



mnpower.com/safety

Call before you dig

Utilities will mark underground lines free of charge.

Minnesota:

811 or 800-252-1166
gopherstateonecall.org

Wisconsin:

811 or 800-242-8511
diggershotline.com



RECYCLE
your old refrigerator or freezer!

Save energy and get a **\$50 reward**
from Minnesota Power!

1-866-552-6755
mnpower.com/refrigeratorrecycling

Know how to spot a scam.

Our employees will **never ask you to buy a prepaid debit card.**

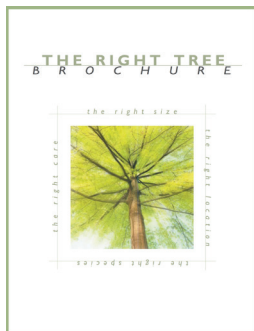
Know the signs to #stopscams

UTILITIES UNITED
AGAINST SCAMS

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. ■



Theatre 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 30 schools across the Minnesota power service territory, from Duluth to Eveleth and Cherry, on the Iron Range, and Staples and Bertha in central Minnesota. ■



Can changing a light bulb really save energy and money?

Ask Us

mnpower.com/lighting