

Cleaner air, healthier forests at Boswell

On Earth Day In April, about 50 fourth-graders from Cohasset Elementary School planted white pine seedlings as part of the company's Rajala Woods initiative, and about 150 Minnesota Power and other officials and local business leaders rededicated Boswell's Unit 4 generator where mercury emissions have been reduced by more than 90 percent.

The Boswell project and Rajala Woods initiative highlight Minnesota Power's commitment to the environment and sustainability in northern Minnesota.

Over the past decade, Minnesota Power has invested more than \$600 million to cut emissions across its system. At Boswell, the company has reduced mercury emissions by more than 90 percent and cut sulfur dioxide emissions by more than 90 percent over 2005 levels, while also capturing 99.8 percent of particulates. That investment also included the installation of a high-efficiency steam turbine at Boswell 4 that produces 60 more megawatts of electricity with no additional emissions.

Under Rajala Woods, Minnesota Power is committed to planting up to 3 million white pine, red pine, jack pine and spruce seedlings over the next decade. MP hopes to restore the conifers to more historical levels on 3,000 acres.

MP Foundation invests in education

The Minnesota Power Foundation awarded scholarships to 21 college students and graduating high school seniors this spring.

In the past 19 years, more than 825 students have received MP Foundation scholarships totaling more than \$2 million. Find a list of scholarship recipients at positivelypowerful.org.



Stay safe by staying clear of power lines when using ladders or other equipment while working on outdoor projects. Remember to look up and follow the **10-foot rule** – equipment needs to clear power lines by 10 feet in every direction.

Electric energy is a powerful friend, but if your equipment comes in contact with a power line, the results could be deadly.



For more safety tips:
mnpower.com/safety



Energizer News

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MP honored as state's 50th Yellow Ribbon employer

Minnesota Power has received state recognition for its support of veterans, active-duty service members and their families.

The first Duluth-based company to earn Yellow Ribbon status, Minnesota Power also is the 50th employer in the state recognized for coordinating support systems for military-connected employees and their families.

The designation was formally announced in May at a ceremony at the Air National Guard's 148th Fighter Wing in Duluth.

Overseen by the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs, the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program supports service members, veterans and their families by connecting them with career counseling, professional

development and employment resources. To earn a Yellow Ribbon designation, companies must build relationships with local military leaders, identify which employees have military connections and commit to hiring, supporting and retaining veterans.

"While we are very proud to receive this recognition, what matters most is what it means to our military-connected employees and their families," said Al Hodnik, chairman, president and CEO of ALLETE, Minnesota Power's parent company. "ALLETE and its subsidiaries have for decades supported veterans, military members and their families quietly and behind the scenes. An organic employee effort recently grew out

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Work progressing on solar project at Camp Ripley

Construction on Minnesota Power's 10-megawatt solar installation at Camp Ripley is underway and the project is anticipated to be generating electricity from the sun by November.

The \$30 million project will help Minnesota Power achieve about one-third of its requirement under the state's solar energy standard. Minnesota Power's first large-scale solar array will cover about 80 acres of underused property at the National Guard's 53,000-acre regional training facility near Little Falls in central Minnesota—the southwestern edge of Minnesota Power's service territory. It's the largest solar project on any National Guard base in the nation.

The project is designed to allow Camp Ripley to use the energy produced by the array during emergencies, providing enhanced energy security for the military site. At most times, the solar energy produced would be sent to Minnesota Power's customers.

Minnesota Power has contracted with M+W Group, a global engineering and construction company, to build the array. Hunt Electric is a primary subcontractor. The array will be made up of 120,000 thin-film photovoltaic panels manufactured by First Solar of Ohio.

Honor recognizes support of military connections

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of that spirit of commitment to veterans. That employee team further bolstered the many ways support has and continues to be provided."

The assistance Yellow Ribbon companies extend to veterans, service members and their families is felt across the communities they serve. There are more than 13,000 soldiers and airmen in the Minnesota National Guard. In Minnesota Power's service territory, St. Louis County alone is home to nearly 19,000 veterans.



Employees and dignitaries celebrate ALLETE/Minnesota Power's designation as a Yellow Ribbon company.

Peregrines hatch at Boswell

Employee Linda McKeever holds a peregrine falcon nestling at Boswell Energy Center in Cohasset. Four falcons hatched at Boswell and were banded in June. Four falcons also hatched at Hibbard Renewable Energy Center in Duluth.



Stay up-to-date with the peregrines at FalconCam at mnpower.com/falconcam.

MP gets go-ahead to build first community solar garden in Duluth

The Minnesota Public Utilities Commission approved Minnesota Power's community solar garden pilot program on June 2.

MP's first community solar garden will be constructed in two locations — a 40-kilowatt array on company-owned land on Arrowhead Road in Duluth and a 1-megawatt array on vacant land owned by St. Louis County near the intersection of Haines and Arrowhead roads in Duluth.

Customers interested in participating are encouraged to join MP's solar program interest list at mnpower.com/communitysolar. You'll receive email updates from the solar team and a first-come, first-served opportunity to subscribe to the solar garden.