MP rededicates, celebrates renewable hydropower

“Hometown Hydropower” takes center stage this summer as Minnesota Power celebrates its hydro system and showcases its investment in renewable hydroelectricity.

Historic Thomson Hydro Station, the heart of the system, sustained major damage when floodwaters raced down the St. Louis River in 2012. Now, as the station prepares to return to generation, Minnesota Power is rededicating to public service its entire hydroelectric system.

With 11 hydro facilities in three watersheds—the St. Louis, Mississippi and Kawishiwi rivers—Minnesota Power is the largest producer of hydroelectricity in Minnesota, capable of producing 120 megawatts.

Rededication events will take place at several hydro facilities throughout the summer. The rededication also includes a commemorative copper medallion and a website, www.mphydro.com, featuring the history of Minnesota Power’s hydro system and recent investments in the hydro facilities.

Options to purchase ALLETE stock

The option of purchasing ALLETE stock through your monthly Minnesota Power or Superior Water, Light & Power utility bill is no longer available as of June 1, 2014. However, there are several other easy ways for you to purchase additional shares of ALLETE stock.

Send a check or money order directly to ALLETE Shareholder Services using the tear-off transaction request form from your stock statement. A postage-paid return envelope is included with statement mailings.

Make purchases through either one-time or recurring ACH debits from your bank accounts. ACH (Automated Clearing House) debits can be scheduled by accessing your account online at www.shareowneronline.com, or by contacting ALLETE Shareholder Services (218-355-5974 or 1-800-535-3056) and requesting an electronic banking authorization form.

Blue Angels headline air show

Minnesota Power is a sponsor of the 2014 Duluth Air and Aviation Expo, featuring the U.S. Navy’s Blue Angels. The air show is Aug. 23-24 at the Duluth International Airport.

Find more information about the show at www.duluthairshow.com.

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 power restoration times. Download the app at mpower.com/outagecenter. Report an outage online or call 1-800-307-6937.

43 students receive over $100,000 in scholarships

The Minnesota Power Foundation awarded 43 scholarships totaling $100,000 to regional high school and college students this spring.

Twenty high school students received $2,500 Community Involvement scholarships in recognition of their dedication in giving back to the communities where they live as well as their good academic record.

Twenty-three New Generation Scholarships were awarded to students who will graduate in fields that align with our region’s workforce needs. Students pursuing a bachelor’s degree received $2,500 and those pursuing an associate’s degree received $1,000.

A list of the recipients can be found at mnpower.com/company/scholarships. The Foundation also awarded several other scholarships to students attending the University of Minnesota-Duluth, Itasca Community College, University of Wisconsin Superior, St. Olaf College and the University of St. Thomas.

In the past 17 years, more than 750 students have received educational funding totaling more than $1.2 million through the Foundation’s scholarship program.

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Building a new home?

Minnesota Power can help you build energy efficiency into your home with our Triple E new construction program.

- Receive a Plan Review
- Increase the comfort and durability of your new home
- Save an average of 25% on space heating costs compared to conventional new construction
- Receive up to $2,000 in qualifying incentives
- Receive a bonus rebate on a Ground Source Heat Pump

Visit www.mnpower.com/TripleE or call 218-355-3061

Customer alert: telephone scam

Customers of Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light & Power are asked to be aware of this telephone scam making the rounds: A caller posing as a utility employee instructs you to make an immediate wire or cash payment or power will be disconnected that day.

That’s not how we conduct business. We send a written notice to customers who are behind on their bills before service is disconnected. Customers who have not received a disconnect notice in the mail should not engage with anyone on the phone offering to take payment. Instead, they should hang up and contact Minnesota Power at 800-228-4966 to verify account status and report the attempted scam.

We do sometimes place courtesy calls for business reasons and will leave our 800-228-4966 number for a return call. These are usually recorded calls and never demand immediate payment of an overdue bill.

Summer safety reminders

Never touch or approach downed power lines. Always assume that downed wires are energized. Call Minnesota Power immediately to report downed wires at 1-800-228-4966.

Mark underground lines before you dig. In Minnesota, call 811 or 800-252-1166. In Wisconsin, call 811 or 800-242-8511.

Keep ladders and long-handled equipment away from power lines.

Visit www.mnpower.com/WaterHeating or call 218-355-2843

$100 electric water heater rebate offer

Learn more at www.mnpower.com/TripleE or call 218-355-3061

Warm up with our new

At 80 feet, the Fond du Lac dam on the St. Louis River is the tallest dam in Minnesota.

‘Hometown Hydropower’ kicks off at Fond du Lac

(continued from Page 1)

The first rededication event was in May at the 12-megawatt Fond du Lac Hydro Station on the St. Louis River. Minnesota Power recently installed a new state-of-the-art turbine at the powerhouse and constructed a new penstock, the pipe that carries water to the turbine, inside the original penstock. The $8 million refurbishment included an $800,000 grant from the U.S. Department of Energy that went toward the turbine replacement.

The project merited praise from the federal government and a national trade association. Jose Zayas, director of the DOE’s Wind and Water Power Technologies Office, called the project “a great example of how the federal government can partner with industry to create jobs and bring our hydropower infrastructure into the 21st century. The successful completion of this project exemplifies the hard work and dedication of the Minnesota Power staff.”

Jeff Leahey, executive director of the National Hydropower Association, said the Fond du Lac project highlights how the hydropower industry is using new and advanced technologies to modernize assets and increase performance.

“So it’s a prime example of how across the nation we can gain more hydropower generation by investing in our existing hydropower projects as well as our existing dams, maximizing the benefits for all of us,” he said.