

Laskin conversion a key step in *EnergyForward* plan

Minnesota Power is advancing its *EnergyForward* strategy with the conversion of Laskin Energy Center to natural gas.

As the conversion is completed this summer, the 110-megawatt facility in Hoyt Lakes will become Minnesota Power's first natural gas-fired power plant. Laskin came online in 1953 when it was called the Aurora Steam Station.

EnergyForward is Minnesota Power's plan for reaching a generation mix of one-third coal, one-third renewable resources and one-third natural gas. It's our road map to a cleaner energy future.

Home is where our heart is

The employees of ALLETE have a culture of sharing skills, knowledge and experience to benefit customers and communities.

Please take time to read our 2014-2015 Community Investment Report "Home Is Where Our Heart Is" at mnpower.com/Company/CommunityInvestmentReport to learn more about our employees and the Minnesota Power Foundation.



43 students receive Minnesota Power Foundation scholarships

The Minnesota Power Foundation awarded 43 scholarships to area high school and college students this spring. Recipients were selected by judges from the Duluth Superior Area Community Foundation.

Twenty high school seniors received \$2,500 Community Involvement scholarships in recognition of their dedication to giving back to their communities 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.

The complete list of recipients is at mnpower.com/scholarships.

In the past 18 years, more than 800 students have received MP Foundation scholarships totaling more than \$2 million.



mnpower.com/safety

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Forest management initiative takes root near Taconite Harbor

Minnesota Power's Rajala Woods initiative came to life on a cool May morning near Taconite Harbor Energy Center in Schroeder.

Children from the nearby Birch Grove Community School helped plant some of the first Rajala Woods white pine tree seedlings as company officials unveiled the forest management initiative.

Named in honor of Jack Rajala, a lifelong resident of Itasca County and chief executive of the Rajala Companies of Deer River, the initiative is an effort to increase the percentage of white pine and other longer-lived conifer tree species in the forest. Minnesota Power expects to plant up to 3 million white pine, red pine, jack pine and spruce tree seedlings over the next 10 years at an estimated cost of \$1.4 million.

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Seedlings like these at Taconite Harbor will be planted across about 3,000 acres of Minnesota Power land over the next decade. — Photo by Dennis O'Hara



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Own a poultry farm? Please call us

Since the confirmed presence of avian flu at some poultry farms in Minnesota this spring, state and federal agencies have been working with organization and industry partners to minimize the impact and eliminate the disease. If you own a poultry farm, please:

1. Call us at 1-800-228-4966 to make sure we have that information correctly noted in our system.
2. Let us know if you have special requirements related to the avian flu that we need to follow **before** we arrive at your property to restore power, check power lines, or for any other reason.

MP 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, ext. 5078, or 1-800-228-4966, ext. 5078.

Rajala Woods initiative to plant 3 million trees

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The trees will be planted across about 3,000 acres of company-owned land and will be highlighted at the Taconite Harbor site on the North Shore along with property adjacent to Colby Lake near Hoyt Lakes, at the Boulder Lake Management Area near Duluth, at the Blackwater Environmental Area in Cohasset, and near Pillager on property occupied by our Sylvan Hydroelectric Project.



Jack Rajala

Under the Rajala Woods initiative, professional forestry management practices will ensure the sustainable use of the forest, improve biodiversity, conserve aquatic resources and enhance wildlife habitat and recreation.

"Minnesota Power's Rajala Woods initiative is another example of ALLETE's focus on providing sustainable solutions to our customers, communities and the region," ALLETE Chairman, President and CEO Al Hodnik told those who



Birch Grove students watch MP land management specialist Corey Skerjance demonstrate how to plant a seedling.

gathered to mark the initiative's formal launch.

Minnesota Power hopes to work with other organizations and individuals who share a vision of Minnesota's north woods as a healthy, biodiverse and sustainable resource.

That vision was in full view as Rajala gave a few pointers to the children about planting trees before the first seedlings went into the ground at Taconite Harbor.

"I want all of you to understand that the best time to plant a tree is yesterday," Rajala said. "You know what the second-best time to plant them is? Today! So let's go plant some trees."

To learn more

If you'd like to learn more about Rajala Woods, including MP's plans for other forest restoration efforts and opportunities to volunteer, visit mnpower.com/rajalawoods.