

# POWER Grant

Helping businesses lower electric usage and demand

## PROFILE

### Black Bear Expansion— A Sure Bet for Energy Efficiency

The Fond du Lac Band of Lake Superior Chippewa may be in the casino business, but it does not gamble with the environment. A major expansion project underway at its Black Bear Casino Resort in Carlton, Minn., is designed to conserve natural resources and use energy wisely. Minnesota Power is helping the band ensure the expanded casino and hotel complex operates as energy efficiently as possible.

Located at the intersection of U.S. Interstate 35 and Highway 210, Black Bear Casino Resort is a popular entertainment destination for many people. The facility includes a casino, hotel, conference rooms, pool and gift shop, as well as an 18-hole championship golf course and clubhouse. Its \$120 million dollar expansion will double the gaming floor, add 250 hotel rooms, upgrade convention facilities and provide ramp parking.

“It takes a lot of electricity to run this type of facility,” said Mike Murray, Jr., assistant construction projects manager for the Fond du Lac Band. “Our Tribal Council is very sensitive to power consumption and wanted to explore every opportunity to save energy, conserve resources and lower monthly utility bills with this expansion.”

The band contacted Minnesota Power early in the planning stages to discuss energy issues. Minnesota Power consultants sat down with project managers, architects and electrical engineers to review expansion plans, identify conservation



Minnesota Power representatives toured Black Bear Casino Resort's construction site to assess energy-efficient technologies.

improvements, calculate energy savings and estimate potential **POWERGrant** rebates. **POWERGrant** is Minnesota Power's commercial, industrial and agricultural energy conservation program.

The initial plan review identified design decisions and equipment upgrades that could reduce electric demand by 101 kW and save 5,341,006 per year—savings that would not have occurred if these measures had not been implemented. It is anticipated that these efficiency upgrades to buildings and equipment will result in more than \$200,000 in PowerGrant rebates. Upon review of the equipment and options with Minnesota Power, Fond du Lac officials decided to upgrade equipment to even higher levels than originally planned. The expansion is not yet complete, but, already, Minnesota Power has presented the band with a check for \$116,000 for

Learn more about **POWERGrant**.

Minnesota Power's Conservation Improvement Program  
218.722.5642 or toll-free at 800.228.4966, ext. 2909

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# POWER *Grants*

## “Energizing Our Region” through Conservation Improvement

Minnesota Power’s Conservation Improvement Program (CIP) works with local leaders, businesses, community groups, other energy providers and government entities to help customers reap the economic and environmental benefits of sustainable energy savings. Minnesota Power and its partners accomplish this through research, education, evaluation and direct impact initiatives.

### Find out how **POWER *Grant*** can help you

Minnesota Power awards grants to commercial/industrial customers who use innovative technologies, improve manufacturing processes, undertake renewable electric energy projects, or who need project design assistance. **POWER *Grant*** is available for a wide variety of projects employing diverse technologies.

Here are some examples of activities or products that could qualify for Minnesota Power funding under the **POWER *Grant*** Program:

- New electro-technologies that lower energy costs per unit of production in a manufacturing process
- Innovative technologies that are new and underutilized in our regional marketplace
- Inclusion of energy-efficient options in the design phase of a project

Maximum annual grants are determined by a customer’s average billing demand:

Customer Demand	Maximum Grant
Less than 100 kW	\$10,000
100 to 300 kW	\$25,000
Over 300 kW	\$50,000

Customers may submit multiple grant requests.

### Other Minnesota Power Products and Services

In addition to **POWER *Grants***, Minnesota Power CIP offers commercial, industrial and agricultural customers other energy efficiency products and services. These include energy audits, rebates, dual fuel, storage/off-peak services, outdoor and area lighting, and economic development assistance.



Energy-efficient lighting, air handling, and other systems in the first construction phase qualified for \$116,000 in PowerGrant rebates from Minnesota Power.

energy-efficient lighting, air handling and water pump systems in the first phase of construction. Those items alone are expected to reduce demand by 254 kW and generate 4,630,022 kWh in annual savings.

“It helps when customers call Minnesota Power on the front end of a project,” said Minnesota Power energy consultant Matt Haley of Matt Haley & Associates. “We can influence decisions that lead to greater energy savings and higher rebates.”

Along with energy-efficient design and construction, the band is looking at reducing plug load in the casino, hotel and convention center. It plans to install energy-efficient televisions, monitor displays, gaming machines and kitchen equipment wherever possible.

“The Fond du Lac Band involved Minnesota Power from the very beginning because of concern for the environment,” said Craig Kedrowski, regional account manager for Minnesota Power. “(Tribal chair) Karen Diver and the Tribal Council led the effort for the expansion to be as environmentally friendly as possible. It is well above minimum energy efficiency standards—and a really good project.”

“Our way of life is about trying to protect the environment and natural resources through active conservation and management of natural resources,” said Dennis Olson, Sr., construction projects manager for the Fond du Lac Band. “Minnesota Power helped us accomplish our environmental goals with this expansion in a way that made economic sense.”