

# PowerGrant Profiles

November, 2005



## *Hoyt Lakes Arena: Lighting the Way for a "Giant" Comeback*

Hockey is a way of life in Northern Minnesota. It was a dark day when Mesabi East cut its high school hockey program, leaving the East Range without a team of hockey Giants to cheer. Yet, hope burns bright that they will return—as bright as the new high-bay lights at the Hoyt Lakes Arena.



*High-bay fluorescent lighting over the rink will save the City of Hoyt Lakes \$3,900 per year.*

The 2005 lighting project at Hoyt Lakes Arena replaced 72 metal halide lights with 36 energy-efficient T5 fluorescent fixtures that provide more lumens at rink level using far less electricity. They also are wired with dual switching to allow full lighting during games and half lighting for practices, scrimmages, and other activities without the lighting requirements of hockey.

"This arena was built in 1969 to 1970, and the former lights were noisy, inefficient, and difficult to maintain," said Tom Ferris, Arena/Recreation



*Recent conservation improvements to the Hoyt Lakes Arena earned a \$5,819 PowerGrant Rebate from Minnesota Power.*

Supervisor for the City of Hoyt Lakes. He researched lighting options and contacted other communities that had made the switch to fluorescents in their arenas.

"I was skeptical that fluorescent lighting would work in our cold-weather environment, so I initially installed four fixtures over the center red line during the coldest part of the year," Ferris said. "They came on with hardly any warm-up needed at all."

The new arena lighting will conserve approximately 65,282 kWh and reduce monthly demand by 16.6 kW, saving the City \$3,900 per year. A PowerGrant rebate of \$5,819 from Minnesota Power brought the total cost down to \$7,681, meaning the project will pay for itself in two years.

### ***PowerGrant Contact Information***

For more information, please call Minnesota Power's Conservation Improvement Program toll-free at 800-228-4966 ext. 2909.

## ***"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 you could get a PowerGrant***

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. PowerGrant awards are available for a wide variety of projects employing diverse technologies.

Here are some examples of activities or products that could qualify for MP funding under the PowerGrant 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:

<b><i>Customer Demand</i></b>	<b><i>Maximum Rebate</i></b>
0 to 100 kW	\$10,000
101 to 300 kW	\$25,000
Over 300 kW	\$50,000

Customers may submit multiple grant requests.

### ***Other MP Products and Services***

In addition to PowerGrants, MP CIP offers commercial and industrial 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.



*Minnesota Power Regional Account Manager Dale Sundin and Hoyt Lakes Arena/Recreation Supervisor Tom Ferris under the new lights.*

## ***Sports facilities are improved by whiter, brighter light.***

"Our City is always looking for ways to save money, and energy conservation is one area with savings potential," Ferris said. He noted that energy-efficient lighting also has been installed at the Hoyt Lakes Ballpark, a project that earned the City an \$8,948 PowerGrant rebate by substantially reducing monthly electric demand.

Well-lit sporting facilities result in safer games, faster plays, and better calls—important considerations for athletic programs. The Hoyt Lakes Arena hosted the Junior Gold A Minnesota State Hockey Tournament shortly after the new lights were installed. The improvements scored points with players, fans, and

officials. Other arena users, including youth hockey programs, men's no-check hockey teams, figure skating clubs, and the general public, also appreciate the whiter, brighter difference.

"The Hoyt Lakes Arena is a showplace for high-bay fluorescent lighting," said Dale Sundin, a Regional Account Manager for Minnesota Power. "Other Northland communities could benefit from making similar changes in their own arenas, and Minnesota Power is eager to help them."

Meanwhile in Hoyt Lakes, the arena is lit for a "Giant" comeback.