



For Release: Feb. 3, 2025

Contact: Amy Rutledge
Director - Corporate Communications
Minnesota Power/ALLETE
218-723-7400
arutledge@mnpower.com

Minnesota Power issues distributed solar RFP to advance regional projects under *EnergyForward*

Duluth, Minn. — Minnesota Power, a utility division of ALLETE Inc. (NYSE: ALE), has issued its first Request for Proposals (RFP) for distributed solar projects as part of its compliance with Minnesota’s new Distributed Solar Energy Standard (DSES).

The RFP seeks proposals for solar generating facilities of 10 megawatts or less that will be connected to Minnesota Power’s distribution system. The DSES requires Minnesota Power to generate 3% of its retail electricity sales from distributed solar energy resources by 2030. The company expects to need between 65 and 85 megawatts of distributed solar capacity to meet this requirement.

“This RFP represents another important step in Minnesota Power’s *EnergyForward* strategy as we continue transitioning to a diverse set of cleaner energy sources while maintaining reliable service for our customers and keeping their bills as low as possible,” said Julie Pierce, vice president of Strategy and Planning. “Adding distributed solar resources across our service territory will help us meet state requirements while we make meaningful and innovative investments in our communities throughout Northeastern Minnesota.”

Minnesota Power plans to add these solar resources through multiple RFP phases, with the first round targeting 20-30 megawatts.

The company will accept project structures including power purchase agreements in which Minnesota Power purchases the energy produced and build-transfer agreements in which Minnesota Power purchases a completed solar project.

“We see the DSES requirement as an opportunity to engage with our customers and the communities we serve and create meaningful partnerships as we expand solar development across our region,” said Frank Frederickson, vice president of Customer Experience and Engineering Services. “We’re particularly interested in projects that enhance local benefits through the optimization of regional resources.”

Project proposals must be electrically connected to Minnesota Power’s distribution system and constructed or procured after Aug. 1, 2023. Projects of 100 kilowatts or larger must meet prevailing wage and apprenticeship requirements, and proposals may include energy storage components that are charged directly by the solar project.

The priorities for Minnesota Power’s RFP are to seek geographic diversity of projects across Minnesota Power’s service territory, use local and union labor, use materials made in the United States, create community partnerships and engagement, produce environmental benefits such as pollinator-friendly habitats, and to locate projects in disadvantaged communities or tribal lands.

Interested parties can find complete RFP information at <https://www.mnpower.com/Environment/DSESRFP>. Proposals will be accepted through May 29, 2025.

Minnesota Power provides electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota, supporting comfort, security and quality of life for 150,000 customers, 14 municipalities and some of the largest industrial customers in the United States. More information can be found at www.mnpower.com.

ALLETE, Inc. is an energy company headquartered in Duluth, Minnesota. In addition to its electric utilities, Minnesota Power and Superior Water, Light and Power of Wisconsin, ALLETE owns ALLETE Clean Energy, based in Duluth; BNI Energy in Bismarck, North Dakota.; and New Energy Equity, headquartered in Annapolis, Maryland; and has an 8% equity interest in the American Transmission Co. More information about ALLETE is available at www.allete.com.

Minnesota Power calculates and reports carbon emissions based on the GHG Protocol. Details are in ALLETE's [Corporate Sustainability Report](#).

The statements contained in this release and statements that ALLETE may make orally in connection with this release that are not historical facts, are forward-looking statements. Actual results may differ materially from those projected in the forward-looking statements. These forward-looking statements involve risks and uncertainties and investors are directed to the risks discussed in documents filed by ALLETE with the Securities and Exchange Commission.