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Recent heavy rains cause high water levels in Cloquet River and White Iron Lake

Duluth, Minn. — Areas along the Cloquet River below Island Lake Reservoir are experiencing high water levels after up to 7 inches of rain fell on June 18 in the upper parts of the watershed.

Minnesota Power is closely monitoring the inflow into Island Lake Reservoir, which increased substantially Thursday night as the water from Tuesday's storms moves downstream. Dam operators increased discharge from the reservoir early in an effort to keep the peak discharge as low as possible and possibly below levels that affect downstream buildings. Minnesota Power operates its dams and hydropower facilities under licenses from the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

Minnesota Power has communicated with several residents on Hunter and Bowman lakes below Island Lake Reservoir to prepare for higher water levels. More rain could increase or prolong the peak flow.

In addition to the Cloquet River, high water is occurring at White Iron Lake below Birch Lake Reservoir near Ely. A natural constriction at Silver Rapids means water passed down from the reservoir raises levels in White Iron Lake until the water moves through Silver Rapids.

Island Lake Reservoir and Birch Lake Reservoir are not designed for flood control or to store water during such heavy rain events. While Minnesota Power works proactively and within FERC guidelines to adjust reservoir outflows to reduce peak water levels and flows below the reservoirs, the excess water needs to be passed through the river systems.

Real-time water level information is available at https://www.mnpower.com/environment/watertable. Due to the unpredictable nature of stream flow and reservoir elevations, and periodic technical difficulties, Minnesota Power cannot guarantee the accuracy of the information displayed. Currently, Minnesota Power recognizes that the Alden Lake flow, an indication of inflow to Island Lake Reservoir, is significantly overstated. For safety reasons, this gauge is unable to be calibrated for high flows like we are experiencing now but is a good indication of inflow changes during normal operations.

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 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.