

energizer

minnesota power



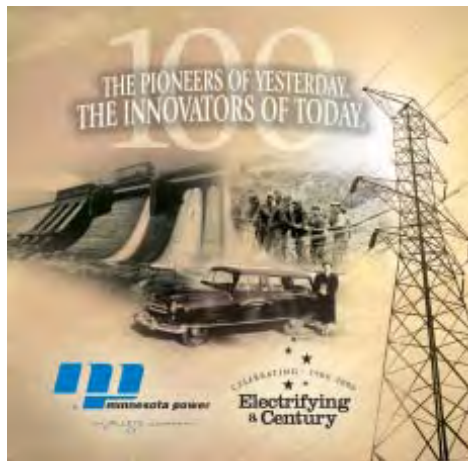
Minnesota Power 30 WEST SUPERIOR STREET DULUTH, MINNESOTA 55802 www.mnpower.com Marilyn Weber, Editor Feb. 2006

Celebrating a century of service 1906-2006

Dear customer:

We invite you to join us in celebrating a special anniversary this year – Minnesota Power’s Centennial. In 1906, MP was born through the acquisition of several hydroelectric companies. At that time, our company forefathers also began constructing Thomson Station on the St. Louis River near Duluth, still the largest hydro facility in the state.

Today, we bring clean, reliable energy to more than 137,000 residential, commercial and industrial customers throughout northern and central Minnesota. We’re equally committed to preserving our

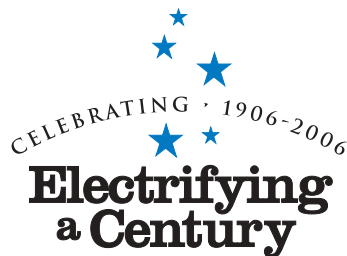


natural environment, helping create and maintain jobs in our region and giving back to communities we serve. And we’re continuously pursuing new and advanced energy technologies because we want our next century to be even better than our first.

It’s been our privilege and responsibility to serve customers for 100 years. We have many activities planned throughout the year, including community coffee parties, public tours of facilities, publication of a new history book and more. We’ll keep you abreast of these events and hope you’ll help us commemorate this historic milestone. You can learn more about MP’s history at mpcentennial.com.

Sincerely,

Don Shippar
Chairman, President and CEO



Give to HeatShare When You ROUNDUP

Here’s an opportunity to turn spare change into a warm home for our neighbors in need this winter. MP’s new Round Up Plan gathers voluntary contributions from customers by “rounding up” their monthly bills to the next dollar. Money raised will be donated to The Salvation Army’s HeatShare programs throughout northern and central Minnesota.



Here’s how your bill will be “rounded up:”

If your monthly payment is \$52.60, MP’s Round Up Plan will add 40 cents to make your monthly electric bill an even \$53. Your bill will show an itemized charge of 40 cents, labeled Round Up Plan.

To participate, call MP at 1-800-228-4966 and ask for a copy of our Round Up brochure. We’ll mail it to you right away.

AN ALLETE COMPANY

MP and Ferguson team up to promote ENERGY STAR® lighting

Ferguson Bath, Kitchen and Lighting Gallery in Duluth has long supplied area homebuilders and contractors with appliances, plumbing supplies, fixtures and more. It offers clients “one-stop” shopping convenience. Recently, it expanded into the lighting market and included efficient ENERGY STAR fixtures in their selection of products.

This was a perfect opportunity for Minnesota Power to team up with local management and New Jersey manufacturer Sea Gull Lighting, the national ENERGY STAR “Partner of the Year,” to market their new line of efficient lighting. MP is offering customers a \$20 instant rebate on every ENERGY STAR-rated lighting fixture purchased at Ferguson from January through July 2006.

Sales associates have undergone rigorous training to understand the technology and benefits of energy-efficient lighting. “We strive to be on the cutting edge, with up-to date technology and designs,” said Joseph Sitek, Ferguson general manager.

Stop by their showroom in the Airpark and check out the variety of energy efficient lighting styles, designs and features to meet any taste or budget, and take advantage of MP’s instant rebate.



Ferguson showroom Manager Kelle Zenner, General Manager Joseph Sitek and Lighting Dept. Manager Sue Vicklum.



24-hour automated outage reporting: 1-800-30-POWER

Some of the most severe weather in this part of the country occurs in the spring. MP’s electric system is designed to withstand harsh conditions, but occasionally, storms with heavy winds and ice can cause outages.

Be sure to report an outage by calling our toll-free lights out number. Your call will reach an automated reporting system that will recognize your phone number and where you live. This helps us dispatch line workers for repairs.

Please remember, phones that require connection to an electric outlet, such as a portable, probably will not work during an outage. Phones that are hard-wired to telephone company circuits should continue to work. Cell phones will work as long as the battery lasts.

To help you weather the storm, we recommend you keep the following items handy: flashlight and batteries, battery-powered radio, cell phone, candles and/or kerosene lamps (use with caution), warm clothing and blankets. If you have a fireplace, keep matches and firewood nearby. Also, turn off appliances, except your refrigerator and freezer. Leave one light switch on so you’ll know when power is restored.

Rights-of-way are not public thoroughfares

For some people, power line rights-of-way – the strip of cleared land beneath overhead power lines – is a popular area for year-round recreation.

MP maintains about 7,500 miles of power line right-of-way throughout northern and central Minnesota. Most of it is privately owned land. The landowner has granted MP rights permitting the electric line to be constructed and maintained on private land.

Before using right-of-way for snowmobiling, hunting, all-terrain vehicle riding or other purposes, you must first obtain the landowner’s permission. Failure to do so can be considered trespassing.

Thank you for your understanding and cooperation.

