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NEWS

Minnesota Power to Form Charitable Foundation

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DULUTH, Minn.—In observance of its 100th anniversary as an electric utility, Minnesota Power, a division of Duluth-based ALLETE, Inc. (NYSE:ALE) announced today its intent to form a charitable organization to be called the Minnesota Power Foundation. The purpose of the foundation will be to bring all of the company's philanthropic efforts under one name, creating a more efficient and vibrant community organization.

"The formation of this foundation affirms our conviction that good corporate citizenship is as much a part of our mission as is providing reliable energy," said Don Shippar, ALLETE Chairman, President and CEO. "The Minnesota Power Foundation will provide a more stable funding base to support organizations working to address needs in the communities we serve."

The foundation will establish a vehicle for corporate giving that will generally be protected from the ups and downs of business cycles. Minnesota Power presently contributes nearly \$1 million annually to worthwhile causes, and it is expected that the foundation will continue this in future years.

"It's important to direct our resources toward areas that matter most to those we serve," Shippar added. "The foundation will focus its giving on grants that strengthen the community and enhance the quality of life for people served by Minnesota Power."

ALLETE's corporate headquarters are located in Duluth, Minnesota. ALLETE provides energy services in the upper Midwest and has significant real estate holdings in Florida. More information about the company is available on ALLETE's Web site at www.allete.com.

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.



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