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NEWS

MINNESOTA POWER SPONSORS SUMMER TEACHER SEMINAR

DULUTH, Minn.— Educators from the Minnesota Power service territory are invited to attend the Lignite Energy Council's teacher seminar titled "Lignite – Our Regional Resource: Energy, Economics and Environment." Minnesota Power is offering to pay tuition and ground travel expenses for up to ten teachers from in its service territory who wish to attend. This year's seminar will be held at Bismarck State College in Bismarck, ND, June 19-21, 2007.

"Energy issues are becoming an increasingly important subject in our society, which makes this annual seminar all the more important," said Peggy Hanson, Community Relations Administrator. "Minnesota Power is proud to be a sponsor of this energy seminar and I encourage educators to take advantage of it."

Over 2,200 teachers have attended the three-day seminar in past years, which includes tours of North Dakota's power plants and lignite coal mines.

"This is our 22nd year of offering the seminar and we've had over 100 teachers annually since 1993 when we changed the format to allow more teachers to attend," said Renee Walz, director of membership and education for the Lignite Energy Council. "Every seminar is different as we change to meet the needs of teachers and explore different events in the industry."

Walz said the seminar provides teachers with a broader understanding of the lignite industry and the important role it plays in providing electricity to homes, farms and businesses. The seminar also provides teachers with the information and educational materials they can use to teach their students about how lignite is mined and converted into electricity and synthetic natural gas.

Minnesota Power is pleased to offer educators from our service area the opportunity to attend this three-day seminar free of charge. Teachers who attend the seminar and complete a lesson plan receive one graduate credit in economics from the University of North Dakota. Teachers can find more details on the seminar and register online at: www.mnpower.com/community.

Teachers from all grade levels are encouraged to apply to the program but earth science, social studies and energy education teachers will be given top consideration. Registration ends March 30.

The seminar includes tours of a lignite mine, a power plant fueled by lignite, and the Great Plains Synfuels Plant. The Synfuels Plant converts coal into synthetic natural gas and other valuable byproducts. A tour of the visitor's center at Fort Mandan, which was constructed with the use of coal combustion byproducts, is also included. Fort Mandan near Washburn, ND, is the location where the Lewis & Clark Expedition spent its first winter.

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