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NEWS

ALLETE Clean Energy donates $17,000 to fire association near Storm Lake wind site

Duluth, Minn.— ALLETE Clean Energy, a wholly owned subsidiary of ALLETE Inc. (NYSE: ALE), has donated $17,000 to the Alta Firemen's Association in Alta, Iowa, near the company's Storm Lake wind facility.

The donation will support upgrades to a brush truck to improve its versatility in responding to off-road, wildland and field fires as well as supporting other fire, rescue and EMS responses. ALLETE Clean Energy made the donation Feb. 20 at a regular meeting of the association in Alta.

"Safety is a shared value at ALLETE Clean Energy and we have a rich tradition of giving back to the communities where we live and work," said Nicole Johnson, ALLETE Clean Energy president. "These volunteers are always ready to assist their neighbors and we're proud to support them in their safe and effective responses to fires and other emergencies."

The Alta Firemen's Association is a 501(c)(3) organization that supports the Alta Fire Department. The department provides fire protection to the Alta Fire District, a 99-square-mile, mostly rural area that encompasses Elk, Nokomis and Maple Valley townships and the city of Alta. The department also has mutual aid agreements with neighboring fire departments in three counties. Nine of the 29 firefighters in the all-volunteer department are certified EMS providers.

"We appreciate ALLETE Clean Energy's support of our firefighters and emergency responders," said Kirk Reetz, Alta Firemen's Association president and Alta fire chief. "Having the right equipment is critical to safely and effectively doing our job. The upgrades to this truck will better equip us to respond to field, grass, and wildland fires to protect the most valuable assets of our rural community. Thank you to ALLETE Clean Energy for their investment in our community."

About 18 people are employed at the Storm Lake I and Storm Lake II sites, which ALLETE Clean Energy purchased in 2014. The Storm Lake sites produce about 350,000 megawatt-hours of clean, renewable energy annually, enough to power about 32,000 homes.

ALLETE Clean Energy acquires, develops and operates clean and renewable energy projects and is well-positioned to drive additional clean-energy sector growth. ALLETE Clean Energy owns, operates, has in advanced construction and has delivered build-transfer projects totaling more than 1,500 megawatts of nameplate wind capacity across eight states.

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. ALE-CORP

PHOTO CAPTION:

ALLETE Clean Energy donated $17,000 to the Alta Fireman's Association at the fire hall in Alta on Monday, Feb. 20. From left are Kirk "Bubba" Reetz, association president and Alta fire chief; Kyle Lessmeier, Storm Lake wind site manager; Dave Suhr, assistant chief; Travis Kopfmann, department foreman; Lindsay Brown, training officer; John Wilson, secretary-treasurer; Joey Leonard, EMS director; Bill Sawyer, general manager operations ALLETE Clean Energy; and Kathryn Koch, manager ALLETE Clean Energy human resources.

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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