



# **NEWS**

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## **ALLETE Clean Energy to celebrate Yellow Ribbon designation on Thursday**

*Company recognized for supporting veterans, service members and their families*

DULUTH, Minnesota — ALLETE Clean Energy, an ALLETE Inc. (NYSE: ALE) company, will celebrate its Yellow Ribbon designation from the state of Minnesota on Thursday, April 5.

The event will be from 10:30 - 11:30 a.m. at ALLETE Clean Energy's headquarters at 30 W. Superior Street in downtown Duluth. It also is an opportunity to see the newly renovated office space at ALLETE Clean Energy, a rapidly growing operator and developer of clean energy projects nationwide. Media members who plan to attend should RSVP to Kelley Eldien at the phone number or email address listed above.

The celebration begins with a presentation of the colors by the University of Minnesota Duluth Reserve Officer Training Corps. Speakers will be Cindy Schubitzke, ALLETE Clean Energy compliance adviser and a member of the Yellow Ribbon Steering Committee; Al Hodnik, ALLETE chairman, president and CEO; Andrew Grace, wind technician at ALLETE Clean Energy Armenia Mountain wind facility in Pennsylvania who served for more than six years in the U.S. Army and was deployed overseas twice; Duluth Mayor Emily Larson; Col. Christopher Blomquist, commander of the Duluth-based 148th Fighter Wing of the Minnesota Air National Guard; and Al Rudeck, president of ALLETE Clean Energy.

Light refreshments will be served, and the Proctor Military Kids Club will make a special appearance.

Overseen by the Minnesota Department of Military Affairs, the Beyond the Yellow Ribbon program supports service members, veterans and their families by connecting them with career counseling, professional development and employment resources. The Yellow Ribbon program is a sister program to Employer Support of the Guard and Reserve, a Department of Defense program established to promote cooperation between service members and their civilian employers.

To earn a Yellow Ribbon designation from the Department of Military Affairs, companies must build relationships with local military leaders; identify which employees have military connections; and commit to hiring, supporting and retaining veterans. The designation recognizes companies that support and honor military-connected employees and their families, and streamline their access to resources.

"One of ALLETE's core values is community engagement, and the Yellow Ribbon program is a prime example of supporting the military community," Rudeck said. "We have many employees with military ties and they bring with them a commitment to excellence and dedication. By supporting them and their families, we also support our business and its success."

ALLETE and its subsidiaries have long supported military-connected employees. Minnesota Power/ALLETE was named a Yellow Ribbon company in 2016, and ALLETE Clean Energy

leveraged the company's experience to quickly earn its certification in 2017. In September 2017, the North Dakota National Guard honored BNI Energy, an ALLETE company in Bismarck, North Dakota, in a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve for encouraging employment of National Guard members, reservists and veterans. The Minnesota National Guard honored ALLETE Clean Energy in a Statement of Support for the Guard and Reserve in September 2017.

ALLETE Clean Energy was established in 2011 to acquire or develop capital projects to create energy solutions by way of wind, solar, biomass, hydro, natural gas, shale resources, clean coal technology and other emerging innovations.

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 U.S. Water Services in St. Michael, Minnesota, and has an 8 percent equity interest in the American Transmission Co. More information about ALLETE is available at [www.allete.com](http://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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