



July 26, 2012

ALLETE Board of Directors declares dividend on common stock

DULUTH, Minn. - ALLETE, Inc. (NYSE: ALE) board of directors has declared a quarterly dividend of 46 cents per share of common stock.

On an annual basis the dividend is equivalent to \$1.84 per share, unchanged from the previous quarter.

The regular quarterly dividend is payable September 1 to common stock shareholders of record at the close of business August 15, 2012.

ALLETE, Inc. is an energy company headquartered in Duluth, Minnesota. ALLETE's energy businesses include Minnesota Power, Superior Water, Light & Power Co., BNI Coal, and ALLETE Clean Energy. More information about the company is available 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. 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.

Investor Contact:

Tim Thorp
218-723-3953
tthorp@allete.com