

UNITED STATES  
SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION  
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K  
CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (Date of Earliest Event Reported) – **November 2, 2009**

**ALLETE, Inc.**

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

**Minnesota**  
(State or other jurisdiction of  
incorporation or organization)

**1-3548**  
(Commission File Number)

**41-0418150**  
(IRS Employer  
Identification No.)

**30 West Superior Street**  
**Duluth, Minnesota 55802-2093**  
(Address of principal executive offices, including zip code)

**(218) 279-5000**  
(Registrant's telephone number, including area code)

Check the appropriate box below if the Form 8-K filing is intended to simultaneously satisfy the filing obligation of the registrant under any of the following provisions:

- Written communications pursuant to Rule 425 under the Securities Act (17 CFR 230.425)
  - Soliciting material pursuant to Rule 14a-12 under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14a-12)
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 14d-2(b) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.14d-2(b))
  - Pre-commencement communications pursuant to Rule 13e-4(c) under the Exchange Act (17 CFR 240.13e-4(c))
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## SECTION 8 – OTHER EVENTS

### Item 8.01 Other Events

On November 2, 2009, ALLETE, Inc. (ALLETE) issued a press release announcing that Minnesota Power, an operating division of ALLETE, Inc., submitted a filing with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission, seeking to increase retail electric rates. The press release is attached to this Current Report on Form 8-K and furnished as Exhibit 99.

## SECTION 9 – FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS

### Item 9.01 Financial Statements and Exhibits

(d) Exhibits

#### Exhibit Number

- 99 ALLETE News Release dated November 2, 2009, announcing Minnesota Power's 2010 Retail Rate Increase Request with the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission. **(This exhibit has been furnished and shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.)**

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*Readers are cautioned that forward-looking statements should be read in conjunction with ALLETE's disclosures under the heading: "SAFE HARBOR STATEMENT UNDER THE PRIVATE SECURITIES LITIGATION REFORM ACT OF 1995" located on page 2 of this Form 8-K.*

**Safe Harbor Statement  
Under the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995**

Statements in this report that are not statements of historical facts may be considered “forward-looking” and, accordingly, involve risks and uncertainties that could cause actual results to differ materially from those discussed. Although such forward-looking statements have been made in good faith and are based on reasonable assumptions, there is no assurance that the expected results will be achieved. Any statements that express, or involve discussions as to, future expectations, risks, beliefs, plans, objectives, assumptions, events, uncertainties, financial performance or growth strategies (often, but not always, through the use of words or phrases such as “anticipates,” “believes,” “estimates,” “expects,” “intends,” “plans,” “projects,” “will likely result,” “will continue,” “could,” “may,” “potential,” “target,” “outlook” or words of similar meaning) are not statements of historical facts and may be forward-looking.

In connection with the safe harbor provisions of the Private Securities Litigation Reform Act of 1995, we are hereby filing cautionary statements identifying important factors that could cause our actual results to differ materially from those projected, or expectations suggested, in forward-looking statements made by or on behalf of ALLETE in this Current Report on Form 8-K, in presentations, on our website, in response to questions or otherwise. These statements are qualified in their entirety by reference to, and are accompanied by, the following important factors, in addition to any assumptions and other factors referred to specifically in connection with such forward-looking statements:

- our ability to successfully implement our strategic objectives;
- our ability to manage expansion and integrate acquisitions;
- prevailing governmental policies, regulatory actions, and legislation including those of the United States Congress, state legislatures, the FERC, the MPUC, the PSCW, the NDPSC, and various local and county regulators, and city administrators, about allowed rates of return, financings, industry and rate structure, acquisition and disposal of assets and facilities, real estate development, operation and construction of plant facilities, recovery of purchased power, capital investments and other expenses, present or prospective wholesale and retail competition (including but not limited to transmission costs), zoning and permitting of land held for resale and environmental matters;
- the potential impacts of climate change and future regulation to restrict the emissions of GHG on our Regulated Operations;
- effects of restructuring initiatives in the electric industry;
- economic and geographic factors, including political and economic risks;
- changes in and compliance with laws and regulations;
- weather conditions;
- natural disasters and pandemic diseases;
- war and acts of terrorism;
- wholesale power market conditions;
- population growth rates and demographic patterns;
- effects of competition, including competition for retail and wholesale customers;
- changes in the real estate market;
- pricing and transportation of commodities;
- changes in tax rates or policies or in rates of inflation;
- project delays or changes in project costs;
- availability and management of construction materials and skilled construction labor for capital projects;
- changes in operating expenses, capital and land development expenditures;
- global and domestic economic conditions affecting us or our customers;
- our ability to access capital markets and bank financing;
- changes in interest rates and the performance of the financial markets;
- our ability to replace a mature workforce and retain qualified, skilled and experienced personnel; and
- the outcome of legal and administrative proceedings (whether civil or criminal) and settlements that affect the business and profitability of ALLETE.

Additional disclosures regarding factors that could cause our results and performance to differ from results or performance anticipated by this report are discussed in Item 1A under the heading “Risk Factors” beginning on page 20 of our 2008 Form 10-K. Any forward-looking statement speaks only as of the date on which such statement is made, and we undertake no obligation to update any forward-looking statement to reflect events or circumstances after the date on which that statement is made or to reflect the occurrence of unanticipated events. New factors emerge from time to time, and it is not possible for management to predict all of these factors, nor can it assess the impact of each of these factors on the businesses of ALLETE or the extent to which any factor, or combination of factors, may cause actual results to differ materially from those contained in any forward-looking statement. Readers are urged to carefully review and consider the various disclosures made by us in this Form 8-K and in our other reports filed with the SEC that attempt to advise interested parties of the factors that may affect our business.

**SIGNATURES**

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned thereunto duly authorized.

**ALLETE, Inc.**

November 2, 2009

/s/ Steven Q. DeVinck

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Steven Q. DeVinck  
Controller



For Release: November 2, 2009



## NEWS

Contact: Amy Rutledge  
Communications  
Manager  
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218-348-2961  
arutledge@mnpower.com

### **Minnesota Power requests rate increase to support infrastructure and environmental improvements**

Duluth, Minn.—To support a stronger electric system and a healthier environment for its customers in Northeastern Minnesota, today Minnesota Power asked for an \$81 million net increase in electric retail rates. New rates approved by the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission are expected to go into effect in 2011. The company has requested that interim rates be implemented in early 2010.

Minnesota Power, an ALLETE (NYSE:ALE) company announced earlier this fall its intent to file for additional revenues to recover the costs of significant investments to ensure current and future system reliability, enhance environmental performance and bring new renewable energy to Northeastern Minnesota.

If the request is approved, Minnesota Power estimates that an average residential customer, using 755 kilowatt-hours, would see an increase of \$13 on their monthly bill. The new rate request also includes shifting \$14 million in line items currently reflected on customers' bills into base rates. That shift would result in no net increase or decrease on customers bills.

"We've worked hard to keep our customers' costs low by negotiating competitive fuel contracts, company-wide discretionary spending reductions, and pay freezes," said ALLETE Chairman and CEO Don Shipp. "At the same time, our customers and policymakers expect us to deliver reliable power and increase our generation from renewable energy sources. The ongoing investment in our system reflects our commitment to maintaining a robust, reliable system and providing cleaner energy that results in long-term benefits for our customers and the region."

The new rates help to pay for a series of upgrades at the company's Boswell Energy Center's four generating units in Cohasset that directly benefit Minnesota's environment. A three year project at the facility's second largest unit is scheduled to be completed this month and is expected to reduce emissions by 80 to 90 percent.

The acquisition of a large DC transmission line between North Dakota and Minnesota is also part of the request. That acquisition is currently pending state and federal regulatory approval. The 465 mile existing line will ultimately be used to deliver wind energy to customers in Minnesota, including from the company's Bison 1 energy center. Site development for the 75 megawatt project is currently underway near New Salem, North Dakota.

"While we continue to build our wind, water and biomass resources, we also know that our customers want and need the competitively priced power that is produced at our existing generating units. Our upgrades will result in cleaner, more efficient, state-of-the-art operations at these facilities," said Shipp.

Overall, due to lower fuel costs, customers' bills have remained relatively flat and their electric rates have remained competitive in the region even with last year's interim rate increase. Final rates for the company's May 2008 request will go into effect with this month's bills.

Through its *Power of One* program, Minnesota Power offers customers a number of rebates, tools and programs to help conserve energy and save on their monthly bill. Go to [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.com) for more details.

For more information regarding Minnesota Power's rate request go to [www.straightenergyanswers.com](http://www.straightenergyanswers.com). The public will have the chance to provide input regarding the rate request at upcoming public hearings. Those dates will be set by the administrative law judge that will be assigned to Minnesota Power's rate case proceeding.

Minnesota Power provides retail electric service within a 26,000-square-mile area in northeastern Minnesota to 144,000 customers and wholesale electric service to 16 municipalities. More information can be found at: [www.mnpower.com](http://www.mnpower.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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**This exhibit has been furnished and shall not be deemed "filed" for purposes of Section 18 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, nor shall it be deemed incorporated by reference in any filing under the Securities Act of 1933, except as shall be expressly set forth by specific reference in such filing.**

