



ALLETE Declares Dividend on Common Stock

DULUTH, Minn.-- ALLETE's (NYSE: ALE) board of directors has declared a quarterly dividend on the company's common stock.

A dividend of 28.25 cents per share of common stock was declared by the board. On an annual basis the dividend is equivalent to \$1.13 per share, unchanged from the previous quarter.

The regular quarterly dividend on common stock is payable June 1 to shareholders of record at the close of business May 14, 2004.

ALLETE's corporate headquarters are located in Duluth, Minnesota. ALLETE's holdings include ADESA, the second largest wholesale vehicle auction network in North America; AFC, the leading provider of independent auto dealer financing; Minnesota Power, a low-cost electric utility that serves some of the largest industrial customers in the United States; and significant real estate holdings in Florida. For more information about ALLETE, visit the company's Web site 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. 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.