



ALLETE Appoints New Chief Financial Officer

The board of directors of ALLETE, Inc. has appointed James K. Vizanko to the position of ALLETE's chief financial officer.

Vizanko, 48, has served as corporate treasurer since 1993. In his new position, Vizanko will oversee all financial operations and investment strategies of ALLETE and its various businesses.

He began his career at Minnesota Power, a business unit of ALLETE, Inc., in 1977 as a financial analyst. He was promoted to manager-investments, financial projects advisor, manager-financial planning and analysis, and director-financial planning and analysis before assuming the treasurer position. Vizanko was elected a vice president of ALLETE by the board of directors in April.

A Duluth native and Morgan Park High School graduate, Vizanko has a bachelor's degree in mathematics and a master's of business administration degree from the University of Minnesota-Duluth. He also holds professional certification as a Chartered Financial Analyst.

ALLETE, Inc. is a multi-services company with corporate headquarters in Duluth, Minnesota. ALLETE's holdings include the second largest wholesale automobile auction in North America; the leading provider of independent auto dealer inventory financing; the largest investor-owned water utilities in Florida and North Carolina; significant real estate holdings in Florida; and a low-cost electric utility that serves some of the largest industrial customers in the United States.

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.