Bay Front Power Plant returns to service following major air quality and control system upgrades

ASHLAND, Wis. – Xcel Energy’s Bay Front Power Plant was returned to service today following completion of an $18.7 million upgrade to its air quality equipment and boiler control systems. The plant has been offline since September as more than 100 additional workers were on site to complete installation of new particulate controls, activated carbon injection equipment and boiler control systems. With these upgrades, Bay Front is now among the cleanest biomass power plants in the nation.

“This was a significant project and investment in this plant that allows us to continue to meet Wisconsin’s renewable energy goals while providing cleaner energy to our customers,” said Mark Stoering, president and CEO, NSP-Wisconsin. “We greatly appreciate the support of the city of Ashland and area residents during this project.”

On average, Bay Front uses about 250,000 tons of waste wood each year purchased from local loggers and other suppliers located within approximately 75 miles of the plant. Through its current purchases of waste wood and related services, Bay Front has a more than $30 million annual economic impact on a six-county region in northern Wisconsin.

In 1979, Bay Front became the first investor-owned utility power plant in the nation to burn waste wood to generate electricity. Since then it has used more than 5.8 million tons of waste wood, including sustainably harvested biomass and used railroad ties.

Xcel Energy is committed to reducing its impact on the environment by reducing emissions, promoting conservation and using renewable energy. Xcel Energy is the No. 1 wind power provider in the United States, according to the American Wind Energy Association and a leading provider of renewable energy in Wisconsin. Visit www.xcelenergy.com for more information.

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