

NSP calculates the storm will cost the Minnesota and Wisconsin companies about \$5 million, the highest ever for damage from one storm. The Wisconsin company estimates the cost of repairing damage and restoring service to be about \$4 million. More than \$1 million of that will be used to repair the main transmission line that serves western Wisconsin. That line — the King-Eau Claire 345-kilovolt line — has 63 structures down in a 10-mile section. NSP has hired outside contractors to reconstruct the line. The storm also knocked out four other major transmission lines to the area, but all were back in service within days.

Cost of the storm to the Minnesota company is substantially less than in Wisconsin. To date, the costs total about \$1 million. That amount will be somewhat higher, however, when all cleanup costs and outside contract crew expenses are tabulated.

Storm-damage costs are primarily comprised of the amount it takes to repair and replace damaged equipment, the additional company man-hours worked and the expense of outside crews hired to help restore service.

In the Twin Cities metro area, NSP called in crews from outstate to help restore power. All power was restored by July 19. The Wisconsin company called in crews from the other Wisconsin divisions, some Minnesota divisions, Wisconsin Power and Light Co. and Wisconsin Public Service Corp. Power was restored to Wisconsin customers by July 24.

Some tempers flared during the prolonged outage in the Eau Claire area. One man walked into the Eau Claire office, dropped a bag of spoiled food on the floor and said, "You ruined it; you eat it." Another group picketed the Eau Claire office.

"But, by and large, I think the cooperation and understanding of the community was fantastic," said Gordy (John) Englund, general manager of the Eau Claire office.

"The cooperation of all employees was fantastic. Every body was doing something to help. When power was restored to one residential area, a woman ran out of her

Photos by Dennis Stangl

