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## **Minntac Extension Project Receives Federal Approval**

*Final permits secured to begin 483-acre mine extension which supports 100 jobs and generates millions of dollars for the state's school trust fund*

**Mountain Iron, Minn.** – The Iron Ore Alliance is pleased that United States Steel Corporation's Minntac facility has received the final necessary federal permits to move forward with a 483-acre extension of the mine's boundary. The extension will allow the facility to continue to mine and produce taconite pellets for approximately 16 more years. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and U.S. Environmental Protection Agency issued the federal permits for this project.

The mine extension project represents more than \$40 million of investment in addition to 100 new Steelworker jobs into U. S. Steel's Minnesota Ore Operations. U. S. Steel has operated iron mines in northeastern Minnesota for more than 100 years and is the state's largest producer of iron ore pellets, the key ingredient in blast furnace-based steelmaking.

"The iron ore mining industry is critical to northeastern Minnesota's economy," said John Rebrovich, assistant to the director of United Steelworkers District 11 and co-chair of the Iron Ore Alliance. "This extension will provide our region much needed high-quality, well-paying jobs."

The project will also help bolster education funding throughout the state. Iron ore mines, including U. S. Steel's Minntac and Keetac mines, contribute millions of dollars annually to Minnesota's Permanent School Fund, which distributes money to every public school in the state. In 2013, U. S. Steel contributed more than \$54 million in royalty payments to the trust fund. This amounts to 94% of the total trust fund contributions in 2013.

"Iron ore mining at Minntac is critical to the products we rely on every day – from the vehicles we drive to the appliances in our homes to the cans of food in our pantries," said Chris Masciantonio, general manager – governmental affairs for U. S. Steel and co-chair of the Iron Ore Alliance. "We are proud of the significant contribution we have on Minnesota's economy, and this extension project will help us continue to provide good jobs and support schools throughout the state."

“The Iron Ore Alliance is thankful for the support of our Congressional delegation – Senators Klobuchar and Franken and Congressman Nolan – for their assistance with the permits,” added Masciantonio. “We also appreciate the commitment and support of Governor Dayton, his state agencies, and the Iron Range legislative delegation. We would like to finally thank the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers for completing the approvals that will allow the expansion to proceed.”

In January 2014, the Minnesota Pollution Control Agency and the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources issued state permits for this project.

### **About the Iron Ore Alliance**

The Iron Ore Alliance is a joint initiative of United States Steel Corporation and the United Steelworkers to help educate Minnesotans about the importance of U. S. Steel’s iron ore business.

U. S. Steel’s Minnesota Ore Operations, with its Minntac and Keetac facilities located in northeastern Minnesota, is the state’s largest iron ore producer, and is a critical part of U. S. Steel’s North American operations. Minntac, located in Mountain Iron, is the single largest iron ore pelletizing operation in the United States. For more information, please visit [www.ironorealliance.com](http://www.ironorealliance.com).

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