

GREAT NORTHERN IRON ORE PROPERTIES

OFFICE OF THE TRUSTEES
W-1290 FIRST NATIONAL BANK BUILDING
332 MINNESOTA STREET

SAINT PAUL, MINNESOTA 55101-1361

(651) 224-2385

FAX (651) 224-2387

www.gniop.com

THOMAS A. JANOCHOSKI
VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

ROGER P. JOHNSON
MANAGER OF MINES

KENNETH A. BAEHR
MANAGER OF ACCOUNTING

TRUSTEES:

JOSEPH S. MICALLEF
PRESIDENT
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ROGER W. STAEHLE

ROBERT A. STEIN

JAMES E. SWEARINGEN

GNI

(CUSIP NO. 391064102)

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DISTRIBUTION DECLARED

The Trustees of Great Northern Iron Ore Properties, at their meeting held on June 10, 2011, declared a second quarter 2011 distribution amounting to \$3.00 per share payable on July 29, 2011, to certificate holders of record on June 30, 2011. Previously, the Trustees paid a quarterly distribution amounting to \$2.25 per share on April 29, 2011, to certificate holders of record on March 31, 2011. The first, second, third and fourth quarter 2010 distributions amounted to \$2.00, \$2.75, \$3.75 and \$3.75 per share, respectively.

As previously reported, the continued demand for steel, which impacts overall taconite production, has resulted in steady production by our lessees. Barring any unexpected production cutbacks from our lessees' mining plans, and dependent upon the economy's continued overall recovery, we still anticipate that the results for the year 2011 could be better than those of 2010.

As previously reported, the Trust of Great Northern Iron Ore Properties will terminate on April 6, 2015, pursuant to the terms of its original 1906 Trust Agreement. The certificate holders (shareholders) at the end of the Trust will receive a final distribution after its wind-down and final accounting, which distribution will essentially represent the net monies remaining at that time. Upon Trust termination, the shares will be cancelled and, after the final distribution to the certificate holders, all properties will be conveyed to the reversioner. More information on the termination of the Trust is available on the Trust's Web site at www.gniop.com or within the Trust's Annual Report, which is also available on the Trust's Web site or may be requested by calling the Trust office at the telephone number listed above.

/s/ Joseph S. Micallef

Joseph S. Micallef, President
and Chief Executive Officer