

# GREAT NORTHERN IRON ORE PROPERTIES

TRUSTEES:

JOSEPH S. MICALLEF  
PRESIDENT AND  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

ROGER W. STAEHLE  
ROBERT A. STEIN  
JOHN H. ROE, III

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

THOMAS A. JANOSKI  
VICE PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY  
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER  
ROGER P. JOHNSON  
MANAGER OF MINES  
KENNETH A. BAEHR  
MANAGER OF ACCOUNTING

*GNI*

FAX COVER SHEET

Date: July 15, 2009

Number of Pages (including cover sheet): 1

MESSAGE:

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

It is with deep regret that the Trustees of Great Northern Iron Ore Properties (the "Trust") inform you of the death of John H. Roe III, a fellow Trustee, on July 13, 2009, at the age of 69. Mr. Roe passed away following a very brief illness. He served as a Trustee of Great Northern Iron Ore Properties for approximately eight years, beginning on September 1, 2001. Mr. Roe's business acumen, his extensive executive experience, his practical approach to decision making and his pleasant manner all greatly helped the Trust in its business operations during his tenure. He will be missed by his fellow Trustees and the employees of the Trust.

Pursuant to the Trust Agreement and subject to Court approval, a successor Trustee is expected to be appointed at a later date.

Sincerely,

/s/ Joseph S. Micallef  
President and  
Chief Executive Officer