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Brothers and Sisters,

We were called to the General Managers office yesterday afternoon to have a meeting with Employee Relations. I regret to inform everyone that we were told they will be issuing a WARN Notice to all Minntac employees as of March 31, 2015. The Company reported their pellet forecast is 3.2 million tons more than the steel mills need and they have no choice but to make a pellet adjustment starting June 1, 2015. That amount of tonnage is equal to the entire output of step 1 and 2 Agglomerator for a period of 4 months. They informed us they intend to shut down lines 3, 4, and 5 for that duration initially, and will be reviewing our order status during that time to make any further adjustments if needed. We were informed they intend to layoff around 700 people as of June 1st.

We have been in contact with the Governor's office and were told that they will provide us with any assistance we need dealing with unemployment and signing up for MnSure for those that will be losing their healthcare. We will also be applying for Trade Adjustment Assistance which extends the duration of unemployment benefits. At this point in time we have not been given any details on who is getting laid off, manning levels in each department, or if they will keep stripping in the mine, as details become available we will immediately keep everyone informed. The magnitude of this first round of layoffs came as quite a blow and the logistics of this will be quite a lot to deal with. This is not the first time your leadership has had to deal with this and we will work our way through all the hard times that we as Steelworkers have come to accept as being part of the Industry. No one has been or will be forgotten or left behind as we work through the next 60 days and beyond.

If anyone has any questions going forward Arbo and I can be reached at the hall **741-0887** or our personal cells **290-4074** for Jon and **780-0536** for Arbo. News like this is devastating news and the uncertainty of everything cannot distract us from doing our jobs safely, we all need to go home in the same condition we arrived.

In Solidarity:
Jon Malek – President USW Local 1938