



U. S. Steel

# Iron Ore Alliance

An alliance between the United Steelworkers and U. S. Steel



## About Minnesota Ore Operations

- U. S. Steel’s Minnesota Ore Operations, consisting of Minntac and Keetac in northeastern Minnesota, produce iron ore pellets. Minntac is the state’s largest single mining operation.
- Iron ore is the key ingredient in blast furnace-based steel making. Iron mined in Minnesota is used to create steel for products people use every day – from buildings, aircraft and cars to household appliances, like toasters, washing machines and so much more.
- Minnesota Ore Operations is a major part of the state’s economy and global supply chain, directly employing more than 1,800 people throughout both facilities and delivering iron to U.S. manufacturers.

## Minntac at-a-glance

**9 miles long | 1.9 miles at widest point | 435 feet deep**

- Located in Mountain Iron, Minnesota, the Minntac facility began operations in 1953 as Pilotac.
- Minntac processes 2.2 billion tons of crude ore to produce 16 million net ton of iron pellets annually.
- Around 30% of the original crude feed becomes product. Remaining products are used to build roads or directed to the tailings basin, which purifies and reclaims 96% of the water used on site.
- The facility has 46 crushers and 11.5 miles of conveyor belts to move iron through three stages of crushing.



## Keetac at-a-glance

**4.6 miles long | 1.2 miles at widest point | 360 feet deep**

- Keetac, located about 30 miles from Minntac in Keewatin, Minnesota, opened in 1965 and began pellet production in 1967.
- This facility handles 716 million tons of crude iron annually to produce 6 million net ton of iron pellets.
- Keetac is the only mine with primary crushers in the pit.



## Contact us

[IronOreAlliance.com](http://IronOreAlliance.com) | Heidi Larson: [heidi@goffpublic.com](mailto:heidi@goffpublic.com)

The Iron Ore Alliance is a joint initiative of the United Steelworkers and United States Steel Corporation (U. S. Steel) to help educate Minnesotans about the state’s modern iron mining industry and the value it brings.