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## **U.S. Steel cuts more from Minnesota ore**

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**United States Steel Corp.** will temporarily idle additional capacity at its Minnesota Ore Operations, the company announced Tuesday.

Effective June 1, U.S. Steel (NYSE: X) said it will idle a portion of its Minntac plant in Mt. Iron, Minn., due to the company's current inventory levels and ongoing adjustment of its steelmaking operations throughout North America.

All 680 employees at Minntac have been issued notices under the Worker Adjustment and Retraining Notification Act, according to U.S. Steel spokeswoman Sarah Cassella. The number of employees impacted will be based upon operations and, or maintenance needs.

### **See Also**

- [U.S. Steel CEO asks Congress to improve trade laws amid plant closures](#)

Earlier this month, U.S. Steel [announced it would temporarily idle a separate portion of the Minnesota Ore Operations](#) located in Keewatin, Minn. As a result, 412 employees at the company's Keetac plant received notices under the WARN Act.

U.S. Steel will continue to operate Minntac at reduced capacity in order to meet customer demand.

"These ongoing operational adjustments are a result of challenging market conditions that reflect the cyclical nature of the industry," the company said in a statement. "Global influences in the market, including a high level of imports, unfairly traded products and reduced steel prices, continue to have an impact."

Last week, U.S. Steel CEO [Mario Longhi testified in front of members of the Congressional Steel Caucus](#), asking them to change trade policies in order to level the playing field for domestic steel producers.

"Total and finished steel products imported into our market by heavily subsidized, command economies increased year-to-year between 22 percent to 90 percent," he said. "The last time we were at these levels, nearly half of American steel companies disappeared. Today, across the country, once again, mills are idled. Plants continue to be shut down. American workers are laid off."

Throughout March, U.S. Steel has announced a number of temporary idles throughout its operations. On March 25, the company [announced it would idle its Granite City Works](#) in Granite City, Ill., potentially impacting up to 2,080 employees.

The company said it is also [moving ahead with the idling of its tubular steel plant in Lorain, Ohio](#). About 614 employees at the facility will be temporarily laid off.

Justine Coyne covers manufacturing and higher education.