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# NEWS

## **Minnesota Power Locomotive 'Retires' to Museum**

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(Duluth, Minnesota) — After 53 years of devoted service at Minnesota Power's Laskin Energy Center, a 45-ton GE switching locomotive will be retired to the Lake Superior Railroad Museum at 6 p.m. Wednesday.

Minnesota Power will turn over the faithful engine in ceremonies at the museum that will include brief remarks from Tom Gannon, the museum curator, and Minnesota Power's Eric Norberg, vice president-strategic initiatives, a "drive-by" by the locomotive, social hour and dinner.

The diesel-electric locomotive was built by General Electric's Locomotive & Car Equipment Department, Erie, Pa. It has a Cummins Engine Co., Inc., engine and General Electric main generator, traction motor and traction-motor gear unit. Its compressor was built by Leece Neville. The unit is about 25 feet long with 33-inch diameter wheels.

The engine's first assignment was moving materials for construction of the Laskin plant which is located between Aurora and Hoyt Lakes. That completed, it moved on to the task it would perform for the rest of its working life — constructing a coal stockpile and processing coal deliveries for electric energy production.

"This engine was a key participant in the history of Northern Minnesota. The Laskin plant was built on the verge of the 'boom times' of the emerging taconite mining industry on the eastern Iron Range. Only a few years after Laskin was commissioned, the first commercial taconite facility, Erie Mining Co. (later known as LTV Steel Mining Co.), opened for production in Hoyt Lakes," said Al Rudeck, manager of Laskin and Minnesota Power's engineering services. "It is as deserving as a piece of equipment could be of preservation in the Lake Superior Railroad Museum."



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