



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **HUSKY ENERGY CLEANUP AND DEMOLITION WORK BEGINS More Than 300 Workers Coming On-line To Restore Refinery**

(SUPERIOR, Wis.) – Employees and contractors are returning this month to the badly damaged Husky Energy refinery after a long, hard winter away. This is an encouraging sign for Wisconsin’s only refinery and major employer in the Superior-Duluth area, after a series of major explosions and fires crippled operations last April.

Terry McGowan, president of Wisconsin Infrastructure Investment Now (WIIN) said he’ll never forget when his phone rang at his Wisconsin Operating Engineer Local 139 office. “It was a beautiful spring day, I picked up the phone and heard that the refinery had suffered a series of explosions and fire – I had a hundred of my members on the job there and my heart sank that any of them would be in danger or worse. Thankfully and miraculously no one was near the blast at the time.”

Husky recently reported that once the demolition phase is complete, reconstruction will begin in the fall of 2019, costing an estimated \$400 million. The Superior Refinery directly employs about 200 workers and has \$22.5 million annual payroll, according to Husky.

Robb Kahl, the executive director of WIIN, said, “Reconstruction of the refinery will be a huge economic boost for the region as 350 construction workers come on line along with the economic ripple effect with all those people living and buying things in the region. It’s huge, not to mention the valuable petro-products that come of the refinery.”

If members of the public are interested in hearing more about the rebuild project and timeline an open house is planned for **Tuesday, April 16th** from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. at Superior Middle School.

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WIIN – Advocating for responsible investment in Wisconsin’s transportation, energy, mining and other infrastructure projects that create long-term strength for Wisconsin’s economy and working families. Go to [www.wisconsininfrastructure.com](http://www.wisconsininfrastructure.com) for more information.