



Jim Hoolihan Named to ALLETE Board of Directors

DULUTH, Minn.—ALLETE, Inc. (NYSE: ALE) today announced that Jim Hoolihan has joined its board of directors. Mr. Hoolihan was elected by shareholders during ALLETE's annual meeting today in Duluth.

Hoolihan, 53, is a business and civic leader from Grand Rapids, Minn. He is president of Grand Rapids-based Blandin Foundation, Minnesota's largest rural-based private foundation, with assets of nearly \$400,000,000. He served three terms as mayor of Grand Rapids, and in 2002 was named Citizen of the Year by the Grand Rapids Herald Review.

Prior to joining the Blandin Foundation in 2004, Hoolihan was president of Industrial Lubricants Company, and Can-Jer, a Grand Rapids-based company providing industrial supplies and services to the logging, railroad, taconite and coal-mining industries.

He has served on several civic boards and commissions including the Governor's Task Force on Mining and Minerals; the Taconite Production Tax Committee; United Way of Grand Rapids as campaign chair; Itasca County Family YMCA, as officer and board member; and chair of Itasca Development Corp./Jobs 2020.

"We are very pleased to welcome Jim Hoolihan to the ALLETE Board of Directors," said ALLETE CEO Don Shippar. "Jim is an accomplished businessman and a recognized regional community leader. His skills and expertise in both of those capacities will be significant assets to our corporation going forward."

Hoolihan holds a law degree from William Mitchell College of Law (1979), masters of business degree from the University of Minnesota (1978) and his bachelor's degree in economics from the University of Notre Dame (1975). He graduated from Grand Rapids High School in 1971.

He is a trustee of Saint Joseph's Catholic Church in Grand Rapids and the College of Saint Scholastica, Duluth. He is married to Kathy Walter Hoolihan and is the father of three children.