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News

Settlement reached in worker's death

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HIBBING — The attorney for the family of a 50-year-old Eveleth man who died while working with a 340,000-pound drill at United Taconite in 2007 said that even though a settlement was reached earlier this month in a wrongful death lawsuit, nothing can replace the family's loss.

Deane Driscoll was killed on April 18, 2007, when the drill he was operating to mine taconite, a 351 Pit Viper, allegedly tipped over.

"Nothing can replace the loss of Deane Driscoll, an outstanding citizen, employee at United Taconite and loving husband and brother," said the Driscoll family's attorney, Ed Matonich of Hibbing. "Mr. and Mrs. Driscoll lived a rich and full life and he was respected and appreciated by anyone whose life he touched."

Matonich said the lawsuit was settled on June 9 — just days before the case was scheduled to go to a jury trial. Matonich said it was a sealed settlement so details were not available.

The lawsuit was filed against the drill company, Atlas Copco. United Taconite was also named in the suit.

"Are we satisfied? You're never satisfied with that kind of loss but the settlement brings closure to the family," Matonich said.

Matonich also said he was helped in the lawsuit by staff and attorneys at his office including Darrold Persson, David Arndt and Julie Matonich.

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