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[21298001]

Robert J. Penn, president and chief executive officer, will take early retirement from this steelmaker Dec. 31.

[21298002]

William S. Leavitt, chairman, said Mr. Penn, 58 years old, would continue as a consultant and would work with the board in selecting a successor.

[21298003]

UNR recently emerged from bankruptcy-law proceedings that left 64% of the reorganized company's common stock in the hands of trustees of an asbestos-disease claims trust.

[21298004]

The company said it would have no further comment.

[21298005]

Mr. Leavitt, 37, was elected chairman earlier this year by the company's new board, having served as vice president for legal and corporate affairs.