

PRESS RELEASE - December 17, 2009

## **Barrick Gold Corporation Executive Vice-Chairman Gregory C. Wilkins passes away at 53**

Barrick Gold Corporation (NYSE:ABX) (TSX:ABX) is deeply saddened at the passing of the company's Executive Vice-Chairman, Greg Wilkins.

Mr. Wilkins, 53, died yesterday, Wednesday, December 16<sup>th</sup>, 2009, after battling cancer since March, 2008. He is survived by his wife, Vera, and children, Mark and Lauren.

"This is the loss of a dear friend who played a vital role in Barrick's growth," Barrick Founder and Chairman Peter Munk said in tribute. "He worked alongside me building Barrick for almost thirty years. He literally personified the values that guide our decisions at Barrick day by day. He was a leader who listened. He possessed an entrepreneurial spirit and an analytical mind. He produced results from considered decisions. Greg inspired confidence and respect in me, in our shareholders, in his colleagues, in everyone who met him."

Mr. Wilkins was most recently Executive Vice-Chairman of Barrick Gold Corporation after serving as President and Chief Executive Officer from 2003 to March 2008. He had been a member of the company's Board of Directors since 1991. Over the course of his career Greg held a succession of increasingly senior roles, including Chief Financial Officer in the early 1990s. A Chartered Accountant (1979), Greg held a Bachelor of Commerce degree from Concordia University in Montreal, the city of his birth.

As President and CEO of Barrick, Greg re-energized the company's leadership and set it on a disciplined path to deliver consistently exceptional performance. During his tenure Barrick achieved some of the most significant growth accomplishments of its first twenty-five years. He took the lead in executing Barrick's acquisition of Placer Dome Inc., a bold move that vaulted Barrick to its industry position today as the world's leading gold miner and one of Canada's most prominent companies.

Barrick's corporate head office in Toronto will be closed in tribute on the day of Greg's memorial service. Arrangements will be announced by the family.

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