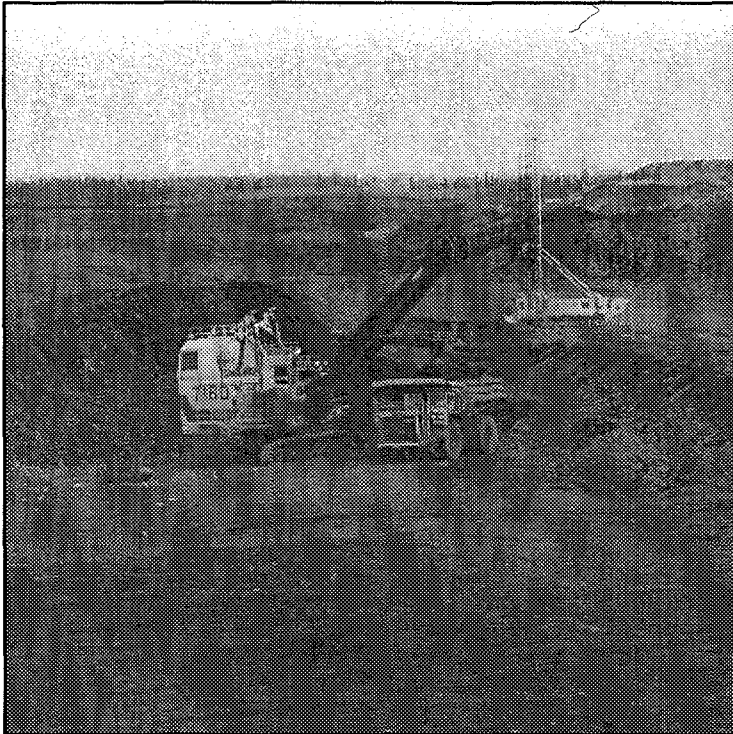


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**The
Annual Report
of the
Inspector of Mines**



2003

INSPECTOR OF MINES
Barry D. Lesar

OFFICE AT
St. Louis County Garage
Highway 135 East
Virginia, Minn. 55792

PHONE: 218-742-9840



The
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
INSPECTOR OF MINES
St. Louis County, Minnesota

2003

INSPECTOR OF MINES
Barry D. Lesar
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ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

Stanley J. Rojeski, Jr.
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Gilbert, Minnesota 55741
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OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9842
MOBILE UNIT: CD-27

ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

Paul T. Wier
2311 Station 44 Road
Eveleth, Minnesota 55734
HOME PHONE: 218-744-2806
OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9843
MOBILE UNIT: CD-20

OFFICE AT
ST. LOUIS COUNTY GARAGE
7823 HIGHWAY 135 EAST
Virginia, Minnesota 55792
PHONE: 218-742-9840

THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1 Dennis Fink, Duluth, Minnesota
District 2 Joanne Fay, Duluth, Minnesota
District 3 William J. Kron, Duluth, Minnesota
District 4 Mike Forsman, Ely, Minnesota
District 5 Peg Sweeney, Gnesen Township, Minnesota
District 6 Keith Nelson, Virginia, Minnesota
District 7 Steve Raukar, Kelly Lake, Minnesota

December 31, 2003

**THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS
ST. LOUIS COUNTY
COURT HOUSE
DULUTH, MN 55802-1202**

Dear Chairman Raukar, and Fellow Commissioners:

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines for the year 2003 is herewith submitted.

While this has been a difficult year in the mining industry in Northern Minnesota, there have been some encouraging developments recently with the opening of United Taconite and the potential for future growth in production due to long-term contracts with other nations. This potential does come with a further reduction in employees per ton of taconite produced in order to reduce the cost of production. While the re-opening of Eveleth Mines as United Taconite is good news for St. Louis County and the State, it brings with it the need for continued vigilance on everyone's part to ensure that the industry continues to provide a safe working environment for not only its employees but the general public as well.

The total employment for the year was 4,177* and these people worked a total of 7,212,701 manhours.

There was no natural ore shipped and 35,282,267 tons of taconite pellets shipped from these mines. There were 53,629,456 tons of stripping and waste removed from these mines.

Inspections and visits for 2003 were as follows: Approximately 531 inspections, visits and investigations were made to the operating and non-operating mines. There were no fatalities and 35 lost time or serious accidents reported.

Acknowledgement and appreciation is extended to both Labor and Management for their continued interest, efforts and cooperation in the field of safety and health throughout the mines and plants in St. Louis County.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry D. Lesar
Inspector of Mines
St. Louis County

*The increase in employees is not accurate. This number is artificially inflated due to changes in mine ownerships and names resulting in some employees being counted twice.

Excerpts from the Law On

INSPECTOR OF MINES

CHAPTER 180

MINNESOTA STATUTES

SECTION 180.08

ACCIDENTS; NOTICE, INVESTIGATION

When by reason of any accident in any mine loss of life or serious personal injury shall occur it shall be the duty of the manager or superintendent of the mine, and in their absence the person or officer under them in charge of the mine, to give notice thereof forthwith to the inspector of mines, stating the particulars of such accident, and the inspector shall, if the inspector deems it necessary from the facts reported, go immediately to the scene of such accident and make such suggestions and render such assistance as the inspector may deem necessary in the premises and personally investigate the cause of such accident and take such steps as the inspector may deem necessary for the safety of the employees of such mine and to prevent accident of a like or similar nature. The inspector shall be accompanied by three persons appointed by the manager or other person in charge of the mine and by three persons appointed by a majority of the employees of the mine to serve in such cases.

**SUMMARY OF STATISTICS
MINES OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA
2003**

Number of Mining Companies	8
Number of Mines in Operation	6
Number of Plants in Operation	6
Number of Wash Plants	0
Number of Mines Inactive	285
Number of Abandoned Mine Shafts	64
Total Number of Mines and Plants	291
Total Pellets Shipped	35,282,267
Total Ore Shipped	0
Taconite Mined	120,791,480
Stripping and Waste Removal, Tons	53,629,456
Total Material Moved, Tons Estimate	174,420,936
Total People Employed	4,177*
Number of Fatal Accidents, Open Pit	0
Number of Fatal Accidents, Plant	0
Total Number of Fatal Accidents	0
Fatalities per 1,000 People Employed	0
Number of Lost-time and Time Charged Accidents	35
Total Number of Man-hours Worked	7,212,701
Number of Visits, Inspections and Investigations	531

* - The increase in employees is not accurate. This number is artificially inflated due to changes in mine ownerships and names resulting in some employees being counted twice.

LABOR CLASSIFICATION AND HOURLY RATES

Shift Difference:	Sunday 1 1/4 Time
.....	Afternoon \$0.30
.....	Night \$0.45

2003 WAGE RATES INCENTIVE NOT INCLUDED

Job Class	Wage Rate	Job Class	Wage Rate
1 & 2	15.242	14	17.582
3	15.437	15	17.777
4	15.632	16	17.972
5	15.827	17	18.167
6	16.022	18	18.362
7	16.217	19	18.557
8	16.412	20	18.752
9	16.607	21	18.947
10	16.802	22	19.142
11	16.997	23	19.337
12	17.192	24	19.532
13	17.387		

These wage rates are from one of the Taconite properties only, each company has different wage rates as per their individual contracts.

YEAR	MINES	TONS SHIPPED	EMPLOYED	INJURED	FATALS	FAT/1000	WAGES
1905-10	(Average per year)		13,320		73	5.44	2.110
1910-11			19,918		78	3.91	2.640
1911-12			15,286		51	3.31	2.575
1912-13			16,048		44	2.74	2.705
1913-14			16,000		43	2.59	2.310
1914-15			11,430		24	2.10	2.421
1915-16			14,639		34	2.32	2.923
1916-17			14,779		22	1.51	3.391
1917-18	(Sliver Cave Disaster)		15,307		60	3.92	4.347
1918-19			14,212		33	2.32	5.645
1919-20	114	25,349,924	14,121		36	2.55	6.010
1920-21	102	27,165,386	12,043		26	2.16	6.037
1921-22	84	13,398,525	9,688		24	3.48	4.062
1923	90	33,147,517	11,896		27	2.27	5.076
1924	75	22,808,875	11,538		21	1.82	5.144
1925	76	29,077,679	10,180		18	1.77	5.126
1926	66	32,583,943	9,225		15	1.63	5.283
1927	70	28,052,363	9,038		22	2.43	5.305
1928	59	29,704,774	8,022		9	1.12	5.230
1929	57	35,680,720	8,008		17	2.12	5.340
1930	50	25,196,155	7,752		13	1.68	5.280
1931	32	12,270,886	4,824		4	0.83	5.260
1932	30	1,773,750	2,243		2	0.89	4.308
1933	35	10,809,167	2,843		1	0.35	4.433
1934	42	11,781,226	4,272		2	0.47	4.830
1935	40	13,703,715	4,079		6	1.47	5.060
1936	42	23,322,975	4,694		6	1.28	4.800
1937	52	36,536,326	6,356		5	0.79	6.200
1938	38	10,976,760	3,773		4	1.06	5.816
1939	43	24,156,258	4,589		3	0.65	6.080
1940	47	36,493,781	5,547		1	0.18	6.400
1941	63	45,874,218	7,097	60	5	0.70	6.820
1942	60	53,923,635	8,101	107	14	1.70	7.030
1943	62	51,753,320	9,597	156	7	0.73	7.440
1944	66	50,532,679	9,390	247	6	0.64	7.750
1945	56	47,544,509	8,495	175	12	1.41	7.720
1946	60	38,380,361	7,100	167	6	0.84	7.720
1947	79	47,293,918	8,715	153	9	1.03	8.720
1948	80	52,020,563	10,286	178	5	0.49	9.480
1949	94	42,406,528	9,680	187	7	0.72	9.480
1950	109	48,671,966	10,257	159	4	0.38	10.480
1951	116	60,249,538	11,884	188	8	0.66	10.480
1952	122	48,192,132	10,838	160	2	0.18	11.480
1953	122	60,776,174	12,079	215	4	0.33	12.160
1954	121	49,845,118	9,925	157	4	0.40	12.560
1955	127	36,137,304	10,381	151	2	0.19	14.850
1956	127	44,493,944	11,017	134	6	0.54	17.560

YEAR	MINES	TONS SHIPPED	EMPLOYED	INJURED	FATALS	FAT/1000	WAGES
1957	124	50,093,275	12,804	144	6	0.47	17.560
1958	90	30,495,093	10,250	83	0	0.00	18.400
1959	89	16,055,353	9,256	93	4	0.43	22.480
1960	95	39,526,879	11,797	132	2	0.16	22.430
1961	85	33,169,291	9,200	51	4	0.43	22.430
1962	46	23,269,349	8,676	57	1	0.11	22.430
1963	61	35,255,178	7,671	30	2	0.26	22.430
1964	42	39,115,088	8,102	26	1	0.12	22.430
1965	54	40,891,345	8,305	53	0	0.00	22.430
1966	49	44,412,473	9,445	56	4	0.43	22.430
1967	51	41,216,870	8,825	52	4	0.44	23.760
1968	53	43,078,879	9,125	55	2	0.22	25.640
1969	51	34,628,234	9,394	58	0	0.00	27.430
1970	49	33,648,268	9,631	71	5	0.52	28.520
1971	50	32,687,511	9,441	58	0	0.00	32.480
1972	46	35,100,156	9,431	63	0	0.00	34.096
1973	47	46,076,814	10,131	58	4	0.40	35.352
1974	49	51,745,763	10,667	60	1	0.09	44.360
1975	51	45,394,814	10,864	71	0	0.00	45.842
1976	52	41,425,833	11,514	77	1	0.09	47.368
1977	24	26,556,566	10,840	82	2	0.19	56.682
1978	26	50,806,547	13,056	138	1	0.08	64.344
1979	26	54,530,338	13,267	164	0	0.00	70.832
1980	18	42,076,497	11,441	107	1	0.09	80.112
1981	12	47,300,056	11,630	96	0	0.00	89.472
1982	11	22,335,570	7,626	44	0	0.00	94.192
1983	9	26,843,983	5,935	50	2	0.34	84.19
1984	9	30,463,941	6,305	55	0	0.00	87.39
1985	9	31,948,722	5,539	29	0	0.00	90.60
1986	9	26,608,768.51	5,250	33	0	0.00	94.19
1987	9	30,063,909	4,857	26	1	0.21	94.19
1988	9	37,250,242.97	4,546	41	1	0.18	94.19
1989	9	38,421,803	5,664	55	2	0.35	94.19
1990	9	41,441,888	6,379	40	1	0.16	94.19
1991	10	38,420,014	6,468	49	0	0.00	94.19
1992	10	37,684,439	6,325	110	0	0.00	106.94
1993	9	39,338,920	5,953	133	0	0.00	106.94
1994	9	43,976,323.01	6,051	97	1	0.17	93.936
1995	9	47,030,820.33	6,005	87	0	0.00	97.936
1996	8	46,144,620.64	6,032	96	0	0.00	101.936
1997	8	46,978,014	6,129	84	0	0.00	103.616
1998	8	46,862,734	5,962	114	1	0.17	105.936
1999	9	43,136,042	5,633	99	0	0.00	105.936
2000	9	44,806,128	5,610.7	77	1	0.18	109.936
2001	8	34,144,559.29	4,212	60	0	0.00	113.936
2002	8	39,087,907	4,036	60	0	0.00	113.936
2003	8	35,282,267	4,177*	35	0	0.00	121.936

* The increase in employees is not accurate. This number is artificially inflated due to changes in mine ownerships and names resulting in some employees being counted twice.

**REPORT TO COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES
(Minnesota Statutes 180)
ORE SHIPPED FROM MINES, TONS OF STRIPPING REMOVED
NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED, MINES OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2003**

MINES AND SUPERINTENDENTS	TONS OF NATURAL ORE SHIPPED	TONS OF TACONITE PELLETS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE	AVG. NO. PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS/PITS	MAN HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
CLIFFS ERIE L.L.C. James Scott Operations Manager T. 59, 60, R. 12, 15 UNITED TACONITE LLC Todd Roth - Site Manager EVTAC MINING Howard Hilshorst, President Dave Kolehmainen, Maint. Manager Craig Hartman, Mine Manager John Tamminen, Plant Manager Keewatin Taconite Co. Division of USX	Shut Down and Deactivation activities for the old LTV Steel Plant						
		80,449	438,980	578,348	323	46,250	1
		1,522,249	4,757,441	2,401,146	141	350,203	5
		2,619,128	9,663,022	5,088,996	Mine & Maint. 181 Plant 130 Elec. & Tech. 31 Administrative 22	232,425 166,872 39,422 28,762	7.4 7.4 7.4 7.4

REPORT TO COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES
(Minnesota Statutes 180)
ORE SHIPPED FROM MINES, TONS OF STRIPPING REMOVED
NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED, MINES OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2003

Page 8

MINES AND SUPERINTENDENTS	TONS OF NATURAL ORE SHIPPED	TONS OF TACONITE PELLETS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE	AVG. NO. PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS/PITS	MAN HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
NATIONAL STEEL PELLET CO. Keewatin, MN T. Peluso, Manager Parts of Sec. 7, 8, & 9; T. 57, R. 21	St. Louis Cty. Itasca Cty.	0 1,764,045	0 6,341,785	0 2,547,225	Pit - 191 Plant - 175 Office - 63	152,813 139,975 50,095	4.6 4.6 4.6
HIBBING TACONITE CO. J.N. Tuomi, Manager T. 57, R. 20, & 21		7,761,047	27,802,676	19,152,304	685	1,405,467	12
ISPAT INLAND MINING Minorca Mine J.H. Holmes, Manager		694,914 Acid Pellet 2,062,221 Flux Pellet 59,162 Flux Chips	8,239,770	9,085,020	347	673,256	12
AUBURN MINERALS LLC AUBURN MINE Virginia City Mike Skubic - Mine Manager			Closed and No Longer Active – No Shipping				
NORTH SHORE MINING COMPANY Babbitt, Silver Bay D. Prah, General Manager	Standard Pellets 4,760,000 Sinter 78,000 Concentrate 29,000		14,124,000	6,558,000	488	1,006,000	12

REPORT TO COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES
(Minnesota Statutes 180)
ORE SHIPPED FROM MINES, TONS OF STRIPPING REMOVED
NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED, MINES OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2003

Page 9

MINES AND SUPERINTENDENTS	TONS OF NATURAL ORE SHIPPED	TONS OF TACONITE PELLETS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE	AVG. NO. PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS/PITS	MAN HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
USX CORPORATION J.E. Swearingen, Gen. Mgr. Minntac Plant, Mt. Iron T. 58, R. 17 Minntac Mine		13,852,052	49,423,806	8,218,417			
Minntac Plant				MINE -	485	1,011,835	12
Shop, Warehouse & Miscellaneous				PLANT -	520	1,084,554	12
				Shops Etc. -	395	824,772	12
TOTAL PELLETS		35,282,267	120,791,480 tons	53,629,456 tons	4,177*	7,212,701	Avg. 11.0
TOTAL RAW ORE							
TOTAL RAW ORE AND PELLETS	35,282,267 tons	TOTAL NATURAL ORE & TACONITE MINED		120,791,480 tons			

* - The increase in employees is not accurate. This number is artificially inflated due to changes in mine ownerships and names resulting in some employees being counted twice.

**MINING COMPANIES, MINE OPERATIONS,
SAFETY PERSONNEL AND OTHER AGENCIES**

CLIFFS ERIE L.L.C

P.O. Box 900
Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota 55750
Phone: 218-225-4250
Fax: 218-225-4230

Bruce Gerlach Area Manager, Facilities
Jim Scott Operations Manager

* * * * *

EVTAC MINING

P.O. Box 180
Eveleth, Minnesota 55734
Phone: 218-744-7800

Howard Hilshorst President
Jim Hecimovich Vice President, Chief Executive Officer
Robert Verville Vice President, Treasurer
David Kolehmainen Maintenance Manager
John Tamminen Plant Manager
Craig Hartman Mine Manager
Terry Browning Director, Employee Services
Rob Campbell Loss Control Manager
Dan Anderson Safety Coordinator, Mine
Brian Lahti Safety Coordinator, Plant

* * * * *

KEEWATIN TACONITE

One Mine Road
P.O. Box 217
Keewatin, Minnesota 55753
Phone: 218-778-6521

Joseph Scipioni General Manager
Terry Marolt Senior Division Manager Operation
Dave Draves Controller
Jerry Adam Division Manager - Mine Maintenance
Duane Kokkinen Division Manager - Mine Operations
Darrell Maki Division Manager - Plant
John Skube Human Resources Director
Brian Rauzzi Manager of Safety

* * * * *

AUBURN MINERALS, LLC

Accounting - One Plainview Road
Plain, Wisconsin 53577

Operations - P.O. Box 961
Virginia, MN 55792

Phone: Accounting Office 608-546-2343
Operations Office 218-749-6530

David Kraemer Governor
Dave Edmunds Governor, & Assistant Mine Manager
Scott Peterson Governor, & Treasurer
Holly Skubic Governor
Michael Skubic Governor & Mine Manager
Ceased Operations in 2002 – No Longer in Business

* * * * *

UNITED TACONITE LLC

P.O. Box 180
Eveleth, MN 55734
Phone: 218-744-7800

J.N. Tuomi General Manager
T.D. Roth Site Manager
C.L. Hartman Area Manager - Mining
T.W. Nanti Area Manager - Plants
J.P. Baxter Area Manager - Human Resources

* * * * *

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

P.O. Box 589
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
Phone: 218-262-6800

J.N. Tuomi General Manager
W.T. Williams Area Manager - Mining
E.M. Latendresse Area Manager - Concentrating & Pelletizing
J.C. Tamminen Area Manager, Mine Maintenance

* * * * *

**ISPAT INLAND MINING
MINORCA MINE**
5950 Old Hwy. 53
Virginia, Minnesota 55792
Phone: 218-749-5910
Fax: 218-749-5256

DIRECTORS

Jonathan H. Holmes, Madhu G. Ranade, Peter D. Southwick

ISPAT INLAND MINING OFFICERS

Madhu G. Ranade President & COB
Jonathan H. Holmes Vice President
Thomas A. McCue Treasurer
Edward C. McCarthy Secretary
Marc R. Jeske Assistant Secretary

SECTION MANAGERS

J.H. Holmes General Manager - Minorca Mine
R.E. Aaseng Section Manager - Plant
W.M. Bond Manager - Business & Operating Technology
S.T. VonWald Section Manager - Electrical/Systems
M.C. Mourin Section Manager - Administration
J.R. Richards Controller, Sr. Staff Accountant -
Operating Technology,
S. W. Harrison Section Manager - Pit

* * * * *

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY
10 Outer Drive
Silver Bay, Minnesota 55614
Phone: 218-226-4125

D. Prah General Manager
M. Johnson Assistant General Manager
M. Buckely Area Manager, Technical Services
B. Bundschuh Area Manager, Silver Bay Power & Energy
C. Viola Area Manager, Finance Control
M. Harmer Manager, Silver Bay Operations
J. Sandstrom Area Manager, Railroad
K. Kerschen Manager, Human Resources
C. Frosaker Area Manager, Mine
B. Baird Safety Representative
K. Alvey Area Manager, Safety and Loss Control

NORTHSHORE MINING AREA SAFETY COORDINATORS

Phone: 218-827-2101

Scott Eckman Maintenance
Steve Thompson Maintenance
Thomas Edman Maintenance
Duane Solberg Maintenance
Carl Lekatz Railroad
Laurie Rasmussen Administration
Merle Vandervest Mine
Don Mather Mine
Brad Sader Mine

* * * * *

USS, A DIVISION OF USX CORPORATION

Minnesota Ore Operations

General Office - Mt. Iron, Minnesota 55768

Phone: 218-749-7200

J.D. McConnell General Manager
J.E. Skube Manager - Employee Relations

ORE OPERATIONS

R.E. Luoma Division Manager - Maintenance Services
M. Keppel Division Manager - Mining & Concentrating
S.D. Starkovich Senior Staff Supervisor - Safety & Security
S.R. Vagle Division Manager - Technical Services
P.S. Anderson Senior Area Manager - Agglomerator
D.R. Savela Staff Supervisor - Safety

* * * * *

**LAKE SUPERIOR MINES SAFETY COUNCIL
EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

John Koivisto Hibbing Taconite Company
Gus Josephson ISPAT Inland Mining Company
Rob Campbell EVTAC Mining Company
Steve Starkovich USS Minnesota Ore Operations
Karla McKenzie National Steel Pellet Company
Kimball Alvey Northshore Mining Company
Steve Roberts Empire Iron Mining Partnership
Scott Hoiem Tilden Magnetite Partnership

OTHER MEMBERS

Terry Severn Cleveland Cliffs, Inc.
Tom Gregorich Hibbing Community College

ALWORTH LAND & IMPROVEMENT COMPANY

1605 Alworth Building
306 W. Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Phone: 218-722-0816

R.K. Prescott Chairman
Nicholas B. Alworth Vice Chairman
Steven G. LaFlamme President
Roger D. Wedin Executive Vice President
George W. Kratzner, II Treasurer
Thea M. Littler Secretary

* * * * *

THE AMERICAN IRON ORE ASSOCIATION

915 Rockefeller Building
614 Superior Avenue West
Cleveland, Ohio 44113-1383
Phone: (216) 241-8261
FAX: (216) 241-8262
www.aioa.org

Frank Ongaro Executive Director

* * * * *

CONGDON MINERAL MANAGEMENT INC.

1910 East 8th Avenue
P.O. Box 650
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
Phone: 218-262-6127

John P. Congdon President
David C. Adams Vice President
David C. Dudley Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer
David G. Meineke Vice President
Susan K. Milani Assistant Treasurer
Bethany J. Hooper Assistant Secretary

* * * * *

EVELETH FEE OFFICE, INC.

301 McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 521
Eveleth, Minnesota 55734-0521
Phone: 218-744-4646
Fax: 218-744-2149

Daniel L. England President
Thomas J. Malkovich Vice President/Manager of Mines
Beverly A. Saranpaa Administrative Assistant

®

GREAT NORTHERN IRON ORE PROPERTIES

801 East Howard Street
P.O. Box 429
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746-0429
Phone: 218-262-3886
Fax: 218-262-4295

J.S. Micallef President and CEO
J.H. Roe, III Trustee
R.W. Staehle Trustee
R.A. Stein Trustee
T.A. Janochoski Vice President and CFO
R.P. Johnson Manager of Mines
K.A. Baehr Manager of Accounting

* * * * *

HARTLEY OFFICE

740 East Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Phone: 218-723-8060

Mark Myles Trust Manager

* * * * *

IRON MINING ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA

505 LONSDALE BUILDING
302 West Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Phone: 218-722-7724
Fax: 218-720-6707
www.taconite.org

Frank Ongaro President
Jonathon Holmes Chair, Board of Directors
Jim McConnel Vice Chair, Board of Directors

* * * * *

LEON IRON COMPANY

740 East Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Phone: 218-723-8060

Kenneth Maine Chief Financial Officer
Lawrence F. Bowman Chief Executive Officer

* * * * *

ONONDAGA IRON COMPANY

740 East Superior Street
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: 218-723-8060

Douglas H. Lewis Chief Financial Officer
Kenneth Maine Chief Executive Officer

* * * * *

MERIDEN ENGINEERING LLC

1910 East 8th Avenue
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Phone: 218-262-6127

D.G. Meineke President & CEO
S.K. Milani Treasurer
G.D. Lindahl Chief Mining Engineer

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MESABI MINERAL ASSOCIATION

By Oneida Realty Company
1605 Alworth Building
306 W. Superior Street
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Phone: 218-722-0816

R.K. Prescott Chairman

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 296-4807
FAX (651) 296-5939

A. Garber Commissioner
W.C. Brice Director, Division of Lands and Minerals (LAM)
K.A. Lewis Manager, Mineral Transactions (LAM)

Division of Lands and Minerals

1525 E. Third Avenue
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
(218) 262-6767
FAX (218) 262-7328

M.K. Vadis Assistant Director
P.T. Clevensline Manager, Engineering
A.S. Knoll Manager, Mineland Reclamation

**STATE OF MINNESOTA
IRON RANGE RESOURCES
MINELAND RECLAMATION DIVISION**

**801 SW Highway 169, Suite 2
Chisholm, Minnesota 55719**

Phone: (218) 254-7967 Fax: (218) 254-7973

R. Svatos Mineland Reclamation Director
D. Jordan Natural Resources Forestry Specialist, Sr.
B. Itkonen Mineland Reclamation Specialist, Sr.
S. Perkovich Office Manager

**IRON RANGE RESOURCES
4261 HIGHWAY 53 SOUTH
P.O. BOX 441
EVELETH, MN 55734**

S. Layman Commissioner Iron Range Resources
B. Hiti Deputy Commissioner, Iron Range Resources
B. Hanson Director, Development Strategies

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MINNESOTA MINE INSPECTORS

St. Louis County

Barry D. Lesar Inspector of Mines
Stanley J. Rojeski, Jr. Assistant Mine Inspector
Paul T. Wier Assistant Mine Inspector

**OFFICE AT
ST. LOUIS COUNTY GARAGE**

**Highway 135 East
Virginia, Minnesota 55792
Phone: 218-742-9840**

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**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION**

515 W. 1st Street #228
Duluth, Minnesota 55802-1302
COMM: 218-720-5448
FAX: 218-720-5650
Duluth Duty Field Station COMM: 218-720-5448

DISTRICT OFFICE

Felix A. Quintana District Manager
Steven M. Richetta Assistant District Manager
George F. Schorr Industrial Hygienist (Health Specialist)
William H. Pomroy Mine Safety & Health Specialist
 (Safety Specialist)
Thomas J. Pavlat Mine Safety & Health Specialist (CLR)
Wayne P. Mowbray Mine Safety & Health Specialist
Mary M. Mikulich Management & Program Analyst
Devon R. Willeck Computer Specialist
Lynda L. Moller Management Assistant
FlorAnne P. Nyquist Mine Safety and Health Technician (OA)
Tricia L. Johnson Mine Inspection Records Clerk (OA)
Kim S. Stevens Mine Inspection Records Clerk (OA)

EDUCATIONAL FIELD SERVICES

David T. Couillard Mine Safety & Health Specialist (Training)

DULUTH DUTY FIELD STATION

Dale E. Hedman Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Wayne L. Lundquist Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Abdon J. Friend Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Dennis J. Libertoski Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Robert A. Marincel Mine Safety & Health Inspector

HIBBING FIELD OFFICE

522 East Howard Street, Suite 201A
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
Phone: 218-262-5205
Fax: 218-262-1296

Russell T. Jarvi, Jr. Supervisory Mine Safety and Health Inspector
William G. Dethloff III Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Alan J. Brandt Mine Safety & Health Inspector (Electrical)
Richard V. Boeckermann Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Christopher A. Hensler Mine Safety & Health Inspector

* * * * *

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55146
Phone: (651) 556-6003 Fax: (651) 297-5309

Daniel A. Salomone Commissioner
George Hoyum Director, Special Taxes Division

Minerals Tax Office
612 Pierce St.
Eveleth, Minnesota 55734-1611
Phone: (218) 744-7420 Fax: (218) 744-7421

Donald H. Walsh Manager
Thomas W. Schmucker Administrative Engineer
Norma J. Krogerus Revenue Tax Specialist
Robert Wagstrom Mining Engineer
Carolyn Koskela Secretary

* * * * *

UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
DISTRICT 11

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE
Phone: 612-623-8045

Dave Foster Director

EVELETH SUB-DISTRICT OFFICE
Phone: 218-744-2757
Fax: 218-744-7926

Herb Larsen Sub-district Director
Eldon Kirsch International Representative
Gene Skraba Staff Representative
Bob Bratulich Staff Representative

* * * * *

**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
LOCAL UNITS**

**LOCAL #6860
EVTAC new Name UNITED TACONITE LLC
Phone: 218-744-4480**

Joe Strlekar President
Brian Lahti Safety Coordinator
Larry Roberts Plant Safety Chairman
Paul Horoshak Mine Safety Chairman

**LOCAL #2660
KEEWATIN TACONITE
Phone: 218-778-6909**

Loren Middlestead President
Dave Mlakar Chairman, Safety Committee
Ross Erickson Union Safety and Health Representative
Carl Jeranek Area Chair, Pellet Plant
Kevin Noonan Area Chair, Concentrator
Cliff Tobey Area Chair, Shops
Jerald Kinkel Area Chair, Pit
Harlee Sirjord Area Chair, Pond
Tom Damjanovich Area Chair, Electrical

**LOCAL #2705
HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY
Phone: 218-254-2492
Fax: 218-254-7100
115 W. Lake Street, Chisholm, MN 55719**

Rich Rojeski President
Al Caliguiri Chairman, Safety Committee
Dave Tuin First Co-Chairman, Safety Committee
Glen Saarinen Union Safety Representative

LOCAL #6115
ISPAT INLAND MINING
Phone: 218-741-3310

Marty Henry President
Gerry Knaeble Chairman, Safety Committee
Kerry Santelli Sub-Chairman, Plant Maintenance
Kim Berens Sub-Chairman, Plant Operations
Jim Labernik Sub-Chairman, Pit Maintenance
Rick Olsen Sub-Chairman, Pit Operating

LOCAL #1938
USX - MINNTAC MINE
Phone: 218-741-0887

Mike Woods President
Jon Malek Vice President
Steve Manninen Recording Secretary
Mike Neri Financial Secretary
Tim Carlson Safety Committee Chairman
Jon Malek Safety Committee Co-Chairman
Dennis Jensrud Safety Coordinator - Plants
Rodney Moberg Safety Coordinator - Mines

INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS
AUBURN MINERALS LLC
Phone: 218-741-8190

Thomas (Butch) Pariseau VP & ABR
Mike B. Fabish ABR

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NON-FATAL LOST-TIME AND SERIOUS ACCIDENTS

AUBURN MINERALS - Correction from 1995 (Accident mis-reported)

Larry Gulbranson, Truck Driver, Date of Accident - September 8, 1995. Injured had been loaded at the pit bottom by a front end loader. As injured was driving up the steep hill to the dump site the truck downshifted, and because the loader had apparently loaded the truck heavy on the back end, the truck's nose lifted off of the ground and the truck started to tip over. At this time injured applied all brakes and the truck flipped. Injured was knocked unconscious and jarred around in the cab. This resulted in a broken collar bone. Days Lost - 7 weeks.

ISPAT - INLAND MINING COMPANY

Driller, Date of Accident - January 28, 2003. Injured was walking on a drill pattern, when he tripped and fell over the windrow left by a grader. This resulted in contusions to the right hip and lower back. Days Lost - 3

Mechanic, Date of Accident - February 14, 2003. Injured was pushing on a fuel hose while trying to fuel a hydraulic excavator. This resulted in a hernia, which required surgical repair. Days Lost - 40

Millwright, Date of Accident - February 16, 2003. Injured was pounding on a lip liner for the bucket of a hydraulic excavator. While pounding with a sledgehammer a piece of metal broke loose and flew, striking injured in the stomach. This resulted in surgical removal of the metal. Days Lost - 2

Haul Truck Driver, Date of Accident - February 20, 2003. Injured was driving his truck, when it went over a rock. This caused injured to be bounced around in the cab. This resulted in a strained left upper abdomen. Days Lost - 1

Excavator Operator, Date of Accident - March 28, 2003. Injured was walking on the snow covered road to access the boarding ladder to the excavator he was going to operate. While walking, injured slipped on the snow and fell. This resulted in a fractured lower right leg, which required surgery. Days Lost - 77

Blaster helper. Date of Accident - September 17, 2003. Injured was bending over to pick up a one pound primer when he felt a strain in his back. This resulted in a lower back strain. Days Lost - 2

Welder, Date of accident - October 28, 2003. Injured was grinding on a piece of galvanized metal, when a foreign body entered his right eye. This resulted in a scratch to the cornea. Days Lost -1

EVTAC MINING COMPANY

MINE

David Wallin, Senior Mining Engineer, Date of Accident - February 11, 2003. Injured was walking down a berm in the mine when he slipped, causing him to fall backwards. He kept himself from falling to the ground, but in doing so he felt a pop in his back. This resulted in a bulged disc in the back. Days Lost - 2

William Saari, Production Truck Driver, Date of Accident - April 4, 2003. Injured was in the process of doing his pre shift inspection on the truck he was going to operate. While walking around the truck he slipped on the icy ground, jarring himself. This resulted in a back strain. Days Lost -1

PLANT

Michael R. Dobson, Step Up Foreman, Date of Accident - April 19, 2003. Injured was accompanying an electrician to check a pump density gauge in the electric panel enclosure. The electrician started to open the gauge enclosure when the injured hit the floor after coming in contact with a 460V fuse block. The first responders were notified and medical attention followed on their arrival. Neither the injured nor the witness are sure where the injured came in contact with the 460V. This resulted in stiff joints, left side. Days Lost - 2

UNITED TACONITE LLC

MINE

None Reported For 2003

PLANT

Vincent Vesel, Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident - December 10, 2003. Injured and his partners were in the process of pulling in a new belt for the #8 line. In the process of pulling on the tugit handle to pull the belt into position, injured felt pain in his left shoulder. This resulted in a strain to the left shoulder. Days Lost -15

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

Sharon Lenka, Green Feed Attendant, Pelletizer Date of Accident - January 11, 2003. Injured was using a warm water hose to hose frozen concentrate chunks on the FCR -1 Conveyor. She was standing on the mid step of the access stoop when she lost her balance and fell to the grating below. This resulted in fractured left ribs. Bruised left arm and elbow. Days Lost - 65

Phillip Lambert, Crusher Attendant, Concentrator, Date of Accident - January 17, 2003. Injured was working in the #1 drive house when he noticed the sump pump had stopped working. He then proceeded to go outside to check the pump discharge. While walking to the discharge he slipped on some ice under the recent snow fall. This resulted in bruising and strains. Days Lost - 7

Daniel Weinberger, Weldor, Date of Accident - January 19, 2003. Injured was changing the cutting edges on a D-11 crawler tractor because of wear. The bolts on the right and left portions of the cutting edge had been removed and he was starting to remove the bolts on the center section, which is about 12 feet long. He noticed that 3 of the bolts on one end of the cutting edge were missing and then proceeded to cut off the remaining bolts. As he cut off the last bolt the cutting edge sprung away from the blade striking Dan in the right arm and knocking him to his back on the floor. The cutting edge then fell across his right leg causing the stated injuries. The cutting edge piece is 2 inches thick, 8 inches wide and 12 feet long weighing approximately 640 pounds. This resulted in fractures to the Tibia and Fibula. Days Lost - 98

Jody Wright, Weldor, Date of Accident - March 10, 2003. Injured was inside of Mill #7 air arcing cone bolts/nuts to facilitate the removal of cone sections. While he was cutting one of the bolts a spark flew up under his welding hood, around his safety glasses and into his left eye. This resulted in corneal abrasions to the left eye. Days Lost - 3

Benny Caple, Operations Coordinator, Mining Date of Accident March 28, 2003. Injured was walking to the Mine Service Building from the employee parking lot prior to the start of his scheduled shift. While walking alongside the concrete barriers, he slipped on the icy walkway. There was fresh snow that had just been removed by a skid steer loader which caused the icy conditions. When injured fell he landed on his left arm which resulted in a fractured left arm between the elbow and the shoulder. Days Lost - 37

Kenneth Maki, Maintenance Mechanic, Concentrating, Date of Accident - May 20, 2003. Injured and his work partners were changing "bang boards" on the #1 POC near the Drive house. During the change out they needed to use chain jacks to lower the belt. The chain jacks were fastened to cable slings which were strung over an overhead beam. During the lowering process something gave way on the support beam, causing a shower of dust and dirt to fall. Some of the dust and dirt got around injured's safety glasses and into his eye causing foreign debris to enter and irritate his cornea. Days Lost - 1

Thomas McLaughlin, Service Equipment Operator, Date of Accident - July 3, 2003. Injured was leaving the Concentrator at the end of his shift to go home. As he was ascending the exit ramp he felt an initial "pop" in his right calf. When he took the next step he felt another "pop" in his right calf accompanied by severe pain. When he was examined it was found he suffered a ruptured right calf tendon. Days Lost - 9

Jim Bunn, Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident - September 16, 2003. Injured was reaching over a hydraulic cylinder repair machine when he felt his foot slipping. To prevent his falling he tensed his muscles and caught himself. This resulted in a hernia. Days Lost - 30

Ron Paglarini, Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident - December 16, 2003 - Injured was pulling a length of hydraulic line when he felt a pain in his back. This resulted in a lower back strain. Days Lost - 5

LTV CLIFFS LLC, ERIE MINE -

No Accidents Reported for 2003, Not Operating

NATIONAL STEEL PELLET COMPANY/KEEWATIN TACONITE

Robert Wilson, Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident - February 13, 2003. Injured and his partner were in the process of changing the teeth on a front end loader. While his partner tapped the tooth into place with a sledge hammer, injured was holding the crane chain arms to hold the tooth in position. When his partner struck the tooth a piece of the tooth broke off and struck injured in the left arm. This resulted in a foreign body in injured's left forearm. Days Lost - No Records Due to Ownership Changes

Dan Dougherty, Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident - April 8, 2003. Injured was in the process of pulling a floor jack across the floor in the tire stall when he felt a sharp pain in his right elbow. This resulted in a strained right elbow. Days Lost - No Records Due to Ownership Changes

KEEWATIN TACONITE

Keith Griese, Maintenance Mechanic Plant, Date of Accident - July 9, 2003. Injured was walking from the center grate launder area to the warehouse to pick up some parts needed for the project he and his partner were working on. As he was descending the steps in the center grate launder area, his right foot slipped off of the second step from the bottom. When he fell he landed on his right hand, due to the fact he was holding onto the handrail with his left hand. This resulted in a fractured right wrist. Days Lost - 16

Ted Spawn, Maintenance Technician, Date of Accident - August 12, 2003. Injured and his partner were in the process of finishing the installation of four upper gates at the Pellet Loadout Pocket. While attempting to manually push one of the gates into its final position, the gate became jammed. After freeing the jammed gate with a chain hoist, they removed the chain hoist and again attempted to push the gate into position. In order to get a better grip on the gate, the employee to the west of the gate pulled it out slightly. This caused the gate to be overbalanced and the gate tipped downward and slipped out of the framework, striking both employees, but only injuring one. This resulted in a left quadriceps bruise and a bruised left foot. Days Lost - 27

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

Tracey Lilenthal, Equipment Operator, Date of Accident - June 7, 2003. Injured was operating an end dump truck. While the truck was being loaded by a front end loader, the loader bucket dropped onto the side of the truck with a full load of material in it. This caused the truck to bounce and jar injured in the cab. This resulted in a neck strain. Days Lost - 20

Margaret Handy, Tech 1, Mine Operations, Date of Accident - December 13, 2003. Injured was sitting in the cab of the haulage truck she was operating, while the truck was being loaded at the shovel. As the shovel was loading the truck, the shovel overswung and the shovel bucket struck the front of the truck box. This caused injured to be jarred in the cab. This resulted in soreness to her shoulder, back and neck. Days Lost - 12

Russell George, Bull Gang Mechanic, Date of Accident - September 29, 2003. Injured and his partners were in the process of breaking and racking the drill steel on a rotary drill. Two pieces of steel were being racked into one rack because the other rack was B.O. A wood block was being used in between the wrench and steel rack because the wrench would not travel far enough to get the steel rack into place. As the wrench was brought in, injured's finger was pinched between the wood blocking and the wrench. This resulted in the tip of the right index finger being broken and lacerated. Days Lost - 56

Silver Bay

Bart Kozar, Senior Tech, Power Plant, Date of Accident - September 8, 2003. Injured was dismounting from a scaffold onto the ground. While stepping off of the scaffold, he had his foot at an odd angle, and when he placed weight on the foot he experienced pain in his knee. This resulted in a sprained right knee. Days Lost - 72

Dave Rogers, Tech 1, Pelletizing Operations. Injured was attempting to widen the spacing of the forks on a forklift truck. While attempting to move the left side fork, it slipped off of the pin boss and fell. The fork pinched two fingers between the fork and the fork rest. This resulted in a broken middle finger. Days Lost - 8

Robert Nelson, Senior Tech, Plant Maintenance, Date of Accident - December 24, 2003. Injured was in the process of changing return idlers on a conveyor under the furnace, when a hot chip fell from above and landed in his left eye. This resulted in a scratch and bum in the eye. Days Lost -1

USX CORPORATION, MINNTAC MINE

Harold Nyhus, Shovel Operator, Date of Accident - January 12, 2003. Injured was dismounting from the passenger side of the No. #988 Grease Bus. While stepping down from the upper exterior step to the lower step he missed the step and fell to the ground. He was facing the interior of the truck while dismounting and holding the grab rail on the exhaust shield and the inside of the open door. This resulted in a ruptured meniscus in the right knee and a dislocated patella. Days Lost - 29

Mike Vesel, Millwright, Date of Accident - January 17, 2003. Injured was working on a screen rebuild in the screen repair bay. He and a partner were installing the lower half of the V-belt guard. The jib crane was holding the weight of the guard, but to get the guard around the lower sheave it was necessary to lift and twist the guard for clearance. Injured felt the hernia occur and reported it. The injured was standing on the floor of the shop reaching across a small walkway, a somewhat awkward position. The procedure has been the same for many years. This resulted in a hernia. Days Lost - 23

Dennis Fleetwood, Millwright, Date of Accident - March 3, 2003. Injured was removing a hub from the barrel shaft for the 132-04-01 pump. A similar hub weighed 76 pounds. He slid the hub along the shaft to remove it and then turned to the right and placed the hub on the floor, a distance of less than a foot. Injured was kneeling on the shop floor. While he turned he felt a twinge in his back. This was verbally reported and employee continued to work his normal shifts. The injured thought the hub was too light to use any mechanical lift. This resulted in hernia's to the L4, L5 Disks. Days Lost - 67

Jon Nevala, Fire Inspector, Date of Accident - March 20, 2003. After extinguishing a fire at the coal handling facility the fire crew was in the process of putting the equipment away. Injured was to disconnect the fire hose from the fire hydrant. It appears that the fire hydrant system did not depressurize. Injured then loosened a cap on the opposite side of the hydrant to relieve the 115/120 pounds of water pressure. The cap he was loosening dislodged and flew off, striking injured in the thigh and the water pressure threw him back approximately 10 feet, striking a parked vehicle with his back. This resulted in torn rib cartilage, chips of the transverse process and bruises of the back. Days Lost -109

David Wersal, Iron Worker, Date of Accident - May 12, 2003. Injured and his partner were removing angle iron that ran parallel to the railroad rails in the welding shop annex. While using a crane to pull a loosened section of the angle iron from the floor, the chain hook pulled through the angle iron, swung free and struck injured in his safety glasses. This caused the safety glasses (hardened glass lenses) to shatter and pieces of glass entered injured's eye. This resulted in corneal abrasions caused by foreign bodies. Days Lost - 9