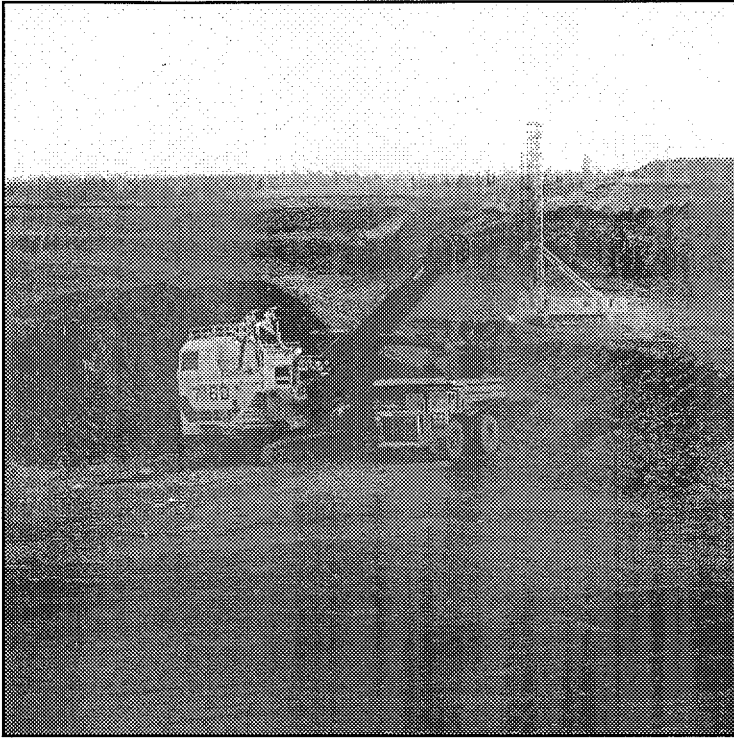


05 - 0281

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



2004

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

2004

INSPECTOR OF MINES
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ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR
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Gilbert, Minnesota 55741
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MOBILE UNIT: CD-27

ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR
Paul T. Wier
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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, 2004

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

Dear Chairman Sweeney, and Fellow Commissioners:

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines for the year 2004 is herewith submitted.

While this has been another 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 3,444 and these people worked a total of 7,169,588 manhours.

There was no natural ore shipped and 42,059,597 tons of taconite pellets shipped from these mines. There were 58,250,654 tons of stripping and waste removed from these mines.

Inspections and visits for 2004 were as follows: Approximately 520 inspections, visits and investigations were made to the operating and non-operating mines. There were no fatalities and 24 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

Excerpts from the Law On

INSPECTOR OF MINES

CHAPTER 180

MINNESOTA STATUTES

SECTION 180.04

**REQUIRING EMPLOYEES TO WORK AFTER ORDER TO
QUIT; LIABILITY OF EMPLOYER**

If any person is required to continue work in any place in which the inspector of mines has ordered employees to quit work, as aforesaid, except to do such work as may have been by the inspector required to be done in order to render such place safe, ordinary risks of mining excepted, the persons or corporations so requiring employees to work in such place shall be liable for all accidents causing injury or death to any employee arising by reason of such place not having been repaired or changed as required by the inspector.

**SUMMARY OF STATISTICS
MINES OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA
2004**

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	42,059,597
Total Ore Shipped	0
Taconite Mined	136,129,489
Stripping and Waste Removal, Tons	58,250,654
Total Material Moved, Tons Estimate	194,380,143
Total People Employed	3,444
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	24
Total Number of Man-hours Worked	7,169,588
Number of Visits, Inspections and Investigations	520

LABOR CLASSIFICATION AND HOURLY RATES

Shift Difference:	Sunday 11/4 Time
.....	Afternoon \$0.30
.....	Night \$0.45

2004 WAGE RATES INCENTIVE NOT INCLUDED

Job Class	Wage Rate	Job Class	Wage Rate
1 & 2	18.173	14	21.485
3	18.449	15	21.761
4	18.725	16	22.037
5	19.001	17	22.313
6	19.277	18	22.589
7	19.554	19	22.865
8	19.830	20	23.141
9	20.106	21	23.417
10	20.382	22	23.693
11	20.658	23	23.969
12	20.934	24	24.245
13	21.209	25	24.521

Labor Grade	Wage Rate
1	18.939
2	20.019
3	22.139
4	23.352
5	24.871

These wage rates are from 2 separate contracts with different Taconite properties.

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
1957	124	50,093,275	12,804	144	6	0.47	17.560

YEAR	MINES	TONS SHIPPED	EMPLOYED	INJURED	FATALS	FAT/1000	WAGES
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
2004	8	42,059,597	3,444	24	0	0.00	145.384

* 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, 2004

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 Keewatin Taconite Co. Division of USX	Shut Down and Deactivation activities for the old LTV Steel Plant						
		4,091,450	13,397,814	9,597,517	380	825,025	12
		5,451,256	18,943,162	6,299,889	Mine 132 Plant 131 Elec. & Tech. 83 Administrative 27	276,355 273,549 173,918 56,076	12 12 12 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, 2004

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
HIBBING TACONITE CO. M.P. Mlinar, Manager T. 57, R. 20, & 21		8,331,070	29,393,675	16,151,813	681	1,368,534	12
ISPAT INLAND MINING Minorca Mine J.H. Holmes, Manager		2,858,015 GT Pellets 50,920 GT Pellets Chips 2,908,935 GT Total	8,514,334 GT	8,499,101	342	674,952	12
NORTH SHORE MINING COMPANY Babbitt, Silver Bay D. Prahl, General Manager		5,041,000	13,928,000	10,354,000	489	1,025,000	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, 2004

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. McConnell, Gen. Mgr. Minntac Plant, Mt. Iron T. 58, R. 17 Minntac Mine Minntac Plant Shop, Warehouse & Miscellaneous		16,235,886	51,952,504	7,348,334 MINE - AGGL. -	593 191 395	1,237,058 398,331 860,790	12 12 12
TOTAL PELLETS		42,059,597	136,129,489 tons	58,250,654 tons	3,444*	7,169,588	Avg. 11.0
TOTAL RAW ORE							
TOTAL RAW ORE AND PELLETS	42,059,597 tons	TOTAL NATURAL ORE & TACONITE MINED 136,129,489 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

* * * * *

KEEWATIN TACONITE

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

Joseph Scipioni General Manager
Dave Draves Accounting
Duane Kokkinen Area Manager - Maintenance
Darryl Maki Area Manager - Plant
John Skube Labor Relations
Brian Rauzzi Manager of Safety
Don Thompson Area Manager - Mine

* * * * *

UNITED TACONITE LLC

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

T.D. Roth Site Manager
C.L. Hartman Facility Manager - Mining
T.W. Nanti Facility Manager - Plants

* * * * *

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

P.O. Box 589

Hibbing, Minnesota 55746

Phone: 218-262-6800

M.P. Mlinar General Manager
S.G. Rogers Area Manager - Technical Services & Environmental
T.S. Tomsich Sr. Area Manager - Financial Control
W.T. Williams Area Manager - Mining
E.M. Latendresse Area Manager - Plant
J.T. Croswell Sr. Area Manager - Operations Improvement
D.E. McLaughlin Area Manager - Maintenance Service
D.G. Pollock Area Manager - Materials
J.C. Tamminen Area Manager - Mine Maintenance
K.K. Eggert Area Manager - Information Technology,
Safety & Loss Control

* * * * *

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, Louis Schorsch

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
G.R. Josephson Safety & Environmental, Sr. Staff Engineer

* * * * *

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

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

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

NORTHSHORE MINING AREA SAFETY COORDINATORS

Phone: 218-827-2101

- Steve Thompson Maintenance
- Thomas Edman Maintenance
- Duane Solberg Babbitt Warehouse
- Carl Lekatz Railroad
- Tony Bee Railroad
- Laurie Rasmussen Administration
- Merle Vandervest Mine
- Brad Sader Mine
- Matt Brenny Mine
- Jim Tuomala Mine
- Eric Mayranen Mine

* * * * *

USS, A DIVISION OF USX CORPORATION

Minnesota Ore Operations
General Office - Mt. Iron, Minnesota 55768
Phone: 218-749-7200

- Jim McConnell General Manager
- John Skube Manager - Employee Relations

ORE OPERATIONS

- Ray Luoma Division Manager - Maintenance Services
- Mike Keppel .. Division Manager - Mining, Crushing & Concentrating
- Brian Rauzi Senior Staff Supervisor - Safety & Security
- Scott Vagle .. Division Manager - Technical Services & Agglomerator
- Bob Youngman Staff Supervisor - Safety
- D.R. Savela Staff Supervisor - Safety

* * * * *

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

11 East Superior Street
Suite 514
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
P.O. Box 650
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
Phone: 218-262-6127

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

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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

G. Merriam Commissioner
M. Holsten Deputy Commissioner
W.C. Brice Director, Division of Lands and Minerals (LAM)
K.A. Lewis Manager, Mineral Transactions (LAM)
D. Martin Manager, Mineral Potential

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. Clevensine Manager, Engineering & Mineral Development
A.S. Knoll Manager, Mineland Reclamation
J. Matthew Manager, Regional Operations

*** * * * ***

**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 Supervisor
D. Jordan Natural Resources Forestry Specialist, Sr.
B. Itkonen Mineland Reclamation Specialist, Sr.
G. Dormanen Mineland Reclamation Staff
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

*** * * * ***

RGGS Lands & Minerals LTD., L.P.
202 2nd Avenue South
Virginia, MN 57792
Phone: (218) 749-1291
Fax: (218) 749-1294

* * * * *

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

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE

600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55146
Phone: (651) 296-3403 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

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

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**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

UNITED TACONITE LLC

Phone: 218-744-4480

Joe Strekar 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 Rojaski 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
Mark Hagsten Safety Committee Co-Chairman
Dennis Jensrud Safety Coordinator - Plants
Rodney Moberg Safety Coordinator - Mines

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NON-FATAL LOST-TIME AND SERIOUS ACCIDENTS

ISPAT - INLAND MINING COMPANY

Welder, Date of Accident - March 29, 2004. The injured suffered arc flash to his eyes while welding in confined quarters with another welder. Cause of this accident was the confined location with two weldors in close proximity of one another creating a hazard. Days lost- 2.

Crusher conveyor attendant, Date of Accident - April 15, 2004. Injured suffered a Grade III sprain to the right ankle when she stepped on a hose that was strung across a stairway and rolled her ankle. Cause of this accident was the unsafe condition of a hose strung across a stairway. Days lost - 100.

Millwright, Date of Accident - May 7, 2004. Injured strained his right calf while pushing on a door to close it. There were no hazardous conditions or triggering event to cause this accident. Days lost -18.

UNITED TACONITE LLC

MINE

Mine Operations, Utility Driver. Date of Accident - Jan 18, 2004. The employee was walking back to the fuel station, climbed over the berm, foot caught on the berm resulting in a fall, resulting in a fracture to the leg. Days lost -100.

Mine Maintenance, Electrical Tech. Date of Accident- February 20, 2004. The employee was drilling through a modified valve handle clamped in a vise on a drill press table. The valve was also held by hand with a pair of adjustable pliers. The handle came out of the vise and caught the right index finger with the drill. Days lost - 7.

PLANT

Plant Operations, OMT. Date of Accident - January 8, 2004. The 31B concentrator reject conveyor became overloaded with chunks requiring employee to climb into the discharge chute of vibrating screen to toss out frost chunks. Upon re-entering the chute to clear additional frost chunks, employee misjudged the drop resulting in a fracture to his left leg. Days lost - 33.

Plant Operations, Lab Tech. Date of Accident - July 2, 2004. The employee was taking a pellet sample using the 21A mechanical sampler. Employee emptied sample bucket using a two-handed underhand toss motion while holding the bucket horizontally. After taking a second cut, he started to carry the sample; he felt a pain in the groin area resulting in a groin strain. Days lost - 5.

Plant Maintenance, MM. Date of Accident - June 3, 2004. The employee was crouched down holding a roller in both arms and when he stood up felt a muscle twitch in the back which resulted in a back strain. Days lost - 13.

Plant Maintenance, MM. Date of Accident - June 6, 2004. While investigating the malfunction of an a/c unit on the General Office roof the employee stepped over an electric conduit and when foot came down he slipped on the gravel roofing material resulting in a twisted knee. Days lost - 39.

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

James Dietrich, Weldor, Date of Accident - January 12, 2004. Injured was assigned with a partner to weld sections of 30" pipe, 40 feet long, together. One length of pipe was being moved into the central shops building with the use of 2 forklifts. The pipe was cradled between the forks on both ends, carried low to the ground to have an unobstructed view of the pipe while moving. The forklifts were to carry the pipe into the building, when the overhead crane would take over movement of the pipe. The pipe was inside, in the position for the crane to take the lift, when the first forklift stopped. The injured moved with his partner to measure for the mid-point of the pipe to make further lifts. The pipe had a beveled end which would not allow for a tape measure to hook the end without being held. The injured placed the tape end on the pipe with his right hand holding it in the proper place when the pipe moved lengthwise into the stopped forklift pinching the injured man's little finger between the pipe and the top of the fork on the forklift. Days Lost - 25.

Allen Caliguiri, Electrician, Date of Accident - January 26, 2004. Injured was shoveling snow in the vicinity of the ramp to the Dravo building. The exertion caused injured to sprain his back and knee. Days Lost - 4.

Michael Charon, Weldor, Date of Accident - February 18, 2004. Injured was lifting a section of screen grate inside an area to be welded on. While lifting the grate, injured felt a pain in the groin area. This resulted in a hernia. Days Lost - 20.

John Wilton, Tractor Operator, Date of Accident - June 6, 2004. Injured was descending the ladder on the left side of a motor grader. While descending, injured missed the bottom step and fell to the ground, striking the left rear tire. This resulted in a lower back strain. Days Lost - 20.

Thomas Anderson, Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident - August 17, 2004. Injured was changing a lip shroud on an electric shovel. While lifting the shroud, which weighs approximately 90 pounds, he felt pain in his right groin area. This resulted in a strain to the groin. Days Lost - 16.

Terrance Samsa, Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident - September 17, 2004. Injured was in the process of changing a feed chute elbow, deck elbow and rotating a pipe. While working on top of the feed end trunnion to access the victaulic coupling on the feed chute elbow, he felt a pain in his lower back when he tried to position the coupling. This resulted in a lower back strain. Days Lost - 3.

LTV CLIFFS LLC, ERIE MINE

No Accidents Reported for 2003, not Operating

KEEWATIN TACONITE

Phil Dotzler, Operating Tech II, Date of Accident - February 8, 2004. Injured was exiting the Mine Reporting/Dry Building via the Supervisors entrance. As injured exited the office he stepped on some ice and his left foot slipped while his right foot was caught in a groove in the ice. As injured fell his right foot did not release from the groove, which resulted in a broken leg, sprained ankle and a damaged ankle ligament. Days Lost - 74.

Alan Ryan, Operating Tech I, Drills. Date of Accident - April 29, 2004. During the pre-shift inspection the injured was in the drill machinery house checking the fluid levels. The hydraulic level was low and was filled by the employee. When leaving the house after filling the tank the injured slipped at the compressor area. The drill floor had oil seepage in the walkway and had absorbent pads in place. It is unknown whether the seepage was completely covered. No oil puddles were visible to the injured on entering the drill. The slip and fall resulted in a torn right rotator cuff. Days Lost - 58.

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

Everett McCormick, Senior Tech, Date of Accident - February 24, 2004. Injured was making up a new quick coupler connection on an air line using a hand-held banding tool. While tightening the band, the tool slipped and tipped causing injured's left hand to be caught in the tool. This resulted in a laceration to the left index finger. Days Lost - 2.

Hugo Scholz, Electrician, Date of Accident - May 13, 2004. Injured was tightening a ball hitch on the bumper of a pickup truck. While applying pressure to the wrench, his right little finger was caught in a pinch point between the wrench and the bumper. The sharp bumper edge caused the skin on the finger to be torn. Days Lost - None.

Charles Kidd, Maintenance, Date of Accident - March 24, 2004. Injured was changing a track pad on a Model 295 BE shovel. The track pad crushed his hand causing dislocations in the hand and wrist that had to be surgically repaired. Days Lost - 24.

USX CORPORATION, MINNTAC MINE

Charles Mattson, Maintenance Tech, Mechanic, Date of Accident - May 5, 2004. Injured and mill crew were assigned to remove pie liners from the inside of the mill. The liners were loosened and secured in place by a safety bolt. The crew members were on the outside of the mill while the liners were being knocked down from the inside of the mill. As the third liner dropped, approximately 3-1/2 feet, it struck another liner, causing a fragment of metal 1" in diameter x 1/4" to fly out of the mill. Being where the injured was sitting, it is believed that the fragment had to ricochet off of the trunnion sleeve on the opposite side of the mill before striking injured's leg. This resulted in a laceration to the left thigh. Days Lost -13.

Bob Gustafson, Utility Tech. Date of Accident - September 28, 2004. Injured was coiling a two-inch diameter hose of several lengths while working between the 110-01-1 and 110-02-1 mills in the concentrator. Although drained, the hose was heavy and also difficult to coil because of tangles. When the task was nearly complete, a portion of the hose became caught on a floor mounted rod charger stop. He attempted to free the hose from a distance of about three feet while bending at the waist, twisting his torso, and reaching behind. The employee felt pain in his back as he did so, resulting in a back strain. Days lost - 3.

James Lautiger, Maintenance Tech. Electric. Date of Accident - October 8, 2004. Employee was servicing the #2 Electric Shovel. Servicing involves checking and maintaining a list of items at various places throughout the equipment. While walking across the shovel roof toward the operator's cab, the employee stumbled. He prevented a fall by catching himself with his right leg. His left knee was injured with damaged cartilage. Days lost - None in 2004. Time lost started in 2005.

Ronald Backstrom, Lab Utilityman, Date of Accident - September 15, 2004. Injured was collecting pellet samples from a conveyor in the pelletizer. Injured placed 4 sample scoops of pellets in the sample bucket and was proceeding to his truck. As injured was descending a set of stairs, with the bucket in his right hand and holding the handrail with his left, he caught his boot heel on the 4th step from the top and fell backwards. Injured's left hand stayed on the handrail, which resulted in his left shoulder being jerked, causing injuries requiring surgical repair in 2005. Days Lost - 0 in 2004.