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Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines



2007

INSPECTOR OF MINES
Barry D. Lesar

OFFICE
St. Louis County Gar
Highway 135
Virginia, Minn. 55

PHONE: 218-742-9840

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

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2007

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INSPECTOR OF MINES
Barry D. Lesar
329 Viking Drive
Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota 55750
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OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9840
MOBILE UNIT: CD-28
E-MAIL: lesarb@co.st-louis.mn.us
Fax: 218-741-7832

ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

Stanley J. Rojeski, Jr.
4554 Vermilion Trail
Gilbert, Minnesota 55741
HOME PHONE: 218-865-6945
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

ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

Terrance M. O'Neil
616 S. Main Street, Box 294
Biwabik, Minnesota 55708
HOME PHONE: 218-865-6978
OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9841
MOBILE UNIT: CD-14

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 Steven O'Neil, 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, 2007

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

Dear Chairman Forsman, and Fellow Commissioners:

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines for the year 2007 is herewith submitted.

While the mining industry in northern Minnesota was marred by tragedy twice in the past year, with the fatalities at United Taconite and Arcelor Mittal, the overall condition of the industry has been strong for the third year in a row. With the continued work to bring the Polymet project at the old Erie Mining Company plant site on line, and the building of the Mesabi Nugget Project outside Aurora, along with the progress of the M. I. S. Project in Itasca County, the future of mining in St. Louis and Itasca counties holds much promise for our area and our state.

The total employment for the year was 3,724 and these people worked a total of 7,659,017 manhours.

There was no natural ore shipped and 38,041,615.6 tons of taconite pellets shipped from these mines. There were 74,930,725 tons of stripping and waste removed from these mines.

Inspections and visits for 2007 were as follows: Approximately 722 inspections, visits and investigations were made to the operating and non-operating mines. There was 2 fatalities and 13 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 and Itasca counties.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry D. Lesar
Inspector of Mines
St. Louis County

Excerpts from the Law On

INSPECTOR OF MINES

CHAPTER 180

MINNESOTA STATUTES

SECTION 180.03

SUBDIVISION 1

INSPECTIONS

The duties of the inspector of mines shall be to visit in person or by assistants all the working mines of the inspector's county at least once every 90 days and oftener if requested so to do as hereinafter provided, and closely inspect the mines so visited and condemn all such places where the employees are in danger from any cause, whether resulting from careless mining or defective machinery or appliances of any nature. The inspector shall compel the erection of a partition between all shafts where hoisting of ore is performed, and where there are ladder ways, where workers must ascend or descend going to and from their work. In case the inspector of mines shall find that a place is dangerous from any cause, as is aforesaid, it shall be the inspector's duty immediately to order those engaged in the work at that place to quit work, and notify the superintendent, agent, or person in charge to secure the place from existing danger, which notification or order shall be in writing, clearly define the limits of the dangerous place, and specify the work to be done or change to be made to render the same secure, ordinary mine risks excepted. It shall be the duty of the inspector of mines to order the person, persons, or corporation working any mine, or the agent, superintendent, lead supervisor, or other person having immediate charge of the working of any mine, to furnish all shafts, open pits, caves, and chutes of such mine where danger exists with some secure safeguard at the top of the shaft, open pit, cave, or chute, so as to guard against accidents by persons falling therein or by material falling down the same, also a covering overhead on all the carriages on which persons ascend or descend up and down the shaft, if in the inspector's judgment it shall be practicable and necessary for the purpose of safety.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

MINES OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA

2007

Number of Mining Companies	7
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	38,041,615.6
Total Ore Shipped	0
Taconite Mined	130,667,122
Stripping and Waste Removal, Tons	74,930,725
Total Material Moved, Tons Estimate	205,597,847
Total People Employed	3,724
Number of Fatal Accidents, Open Pit	2
Number of Fatal Accidents, Plant	0
Total Number of Fatal Accidents	2
Fatalities per 1,000 People Employed	0.54
Number of Lost-time and Time Charged Accidents	13
Total Number of Man-hours Worked	7,659,017
Number of Visits, Inspections and Investigations	722

LABOR CLASSIFICATION AND HOURLY RATES

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

2007 WAGE RATES INCENTIVE INCLUDED

Labor Grade	Wage Rate
1	19.301
2	21.232
3	23.481
4	24.765
5	26.378

Due to Contractual changes the wage structure has changed significantly in recent years resulting in fewer job classes. This is one example of the several different pay schedules presently in effect.

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
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

YEAR	MINES	TONS SHIPPED	EMPLOYED	INJURED	FATALS	FAT/1000	WAGES
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
2005	8	40,464,088.92	3,568	29	0	0.00	178.40
2006	7	39,617,873	3,714	14	1	0.27	Average/Day 178.40
2007	7	38,041,615.6	3,724	13	2	0.54	Average Day 187.848

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, 2007

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
Operations Manager		Pellets - 4,736,301.18					
UNITED TACONITE LLC Jack Tuomi - VP & General Manager	All Tonnages in Long Tons Concentrate -	50,580.42	15,614,518	13,614,548	505	991,046	12
Keewatin Taconite Co. Division of USX	Itasca Co. Production St. Louis Co. Production	5,092,835 0	18,469,209 0	9,904,895 0	Mine 150 Plant 146 Shops, Warehouse & Misc. 111	312,088 305,448 231,563	12 12 12
HIBBING TACONITE CO. Ed Latendresse, Manager	Production Shipped From Plant	7,438,450	26,933,575	21,292,944	706	1,390,950	12
ARCELOR - MITTAL STEEL USA, MINORCA MINE, INC. Minorca Mine J.H. Holmes, Vice President, Operations	All Tonnages in Long Tons	60,442 - chips 2,634,534 - Flux 2,694,976 - Total	8,410,874	7,171,101	336	726,374	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, 2007

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
NORTH SHORE MINING COMPANY All Tonnages in Long Tons Babbitt, Silver Bay M. Mlinar, General Manager		4,517,847	14,731,470	11,421,124	515	1,082,011	12
USX CORPORATION S. Coleman, Gen. Mgr. Minntac Plant, Mt. Iron Minntac Mine Minntac Plant Shop, Warehouse, & Miscellaneous	All Tonnages in Gross Tons	13,510,626	46,507,466	11,526,113	Mine, Crushing - 456 Concentrating, Agglomerator Operations - 374 Maintenance, Tech. Services, Administration - 425	951,806 780,905 886,826	12 12 12
TOTALS		38,041,615.6	130,667,122	74,930,725	3,724	7,659,017	12
TOTAL RAW ORE							
TOTAL RAW ORE AND PELLETS		38,041,615.6 TONS	TOTAL NATURAL ORE & TACONITE MINED		130,667,122 TONS		

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, 2007

NON-FERROUS MINES AND SUPERINTENDENTS	TONS OF PRODUCT SHIPPED	TOTAL ORE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE *	AVG. NO. PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS/PITS	MAN HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
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Polymet Mining Corp.
 Don Hunter
 Project Manager

NON-FERROUS PROPERTY, IN DEVELOPMENT, NOT IN PRODUCTION AT THIS TIME

TOTAL MATERIAL MOVEMENT
 FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS

- * - Total Tonnage of both waste rock and overburden removed to expose the ore body
- ** - Tonnage Used to Determine Total Production Shipped for the year

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

KEEWATIN TACONITE

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

Scott Coleman General Manager
Mike Rhoads Plant Manager
Jeremy Smolich Area Manager - Plant Operations & Maintenance
John Skube Labor Relations
Laurie Potter Manager, Safety & I.H.s
Scott Karpinen Sr. Staff Supervisor of Safety & I.H.
Jerry Orrell Staff Supervisor, Safety & I.H.
William Getty Area Manager, Electrical & Mine Maintenance

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UNITED TACONITE LLC

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

Jack Tuomi General Manager
Santi Romani Area Manager, Plants
Mike Smith Area Manager, Mine
Todd Davis Area Manager, Technical Services
Bryan Wittman Area Manager, Financial Control
John Baxter Area Manager, Human Resources
Richard Stewart Area Manager, Materials
Lyle Johnston Area Manager, Maintenance
Dave Evans Area Manager, Safety
Jason Agenes Section Manager, Environmental

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

P.O. Box 589
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
Phone: 218-262-5950

E.M. Latendresse General Manager
S.G. Rogers Area Manager - Technical Services
T.S. Tomsich Sr. Area Manager - Financial Control
J.T. Croswell Sr. Area Manager - Mining
P.A. Carlson Area Manager - Plants
D.A. Weiberg Area Manager - Maintenance
D.G. Pollock Area Manager - Materials
J.C. Tamminen Area Manager - Mine Maintenance
K.K. Eggert Area Manager - Information Technology
E.G. Bryant Sr. Area Manager - Human Resources
A.J. Bakk Section Manager - Safety & Loss Control
A.J. Hayden Section Manager - Environmental

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MESABI NUGGET

P.O. Box 235
Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota 55750
Phone: 218-225-6000

Steve Rutherford Operations Manager
Jeff Hansen Engineering Manager
Tom Lutes Mining Manager

**ARCELOR MITTAL
MINORCA MINE, INC.**

5950 Old Hwy. 53
P.O. Box 1
Virginia, Minnesota 55792
Phone: 218-749-5910
Fax: 218-749-3420

DIRECTORS

Louis Schorsch, Michael Rippey

ARCELOR - MITTAL MINING OFFICERS

Mark Whalen President
Michael Rippey Executive Vice President
Leonard Chuderewicz Executive Vice President, Operations
Daniel Mull Executive Vice President, Sales & Marketing
John Brett Vice President, Corporate Planning and Analysis
Mathew Bernstein Vice President, Strategic Planning & Analysis
Jonathan H. Holmes Vice President, Operations
Om Mandhana Vice President, Procurement
Greg Ludkovsky Vice President, Technology
James Michaud Vice President, Human Resources
Vaidya Sethuramen Vice President, Finance & Chief Account Officer
Thomas A. McCue Treasurer
William Mundell Assistant Treasurer
G. Craig Birchette Assistant Secretary
Marc R. Jeske Assistant Secretary

SECTION MANAGERS

Richard Aaseng Manager - Plant
William Bond Division Manager - Business & Operating Technology
Gerald Golobich Manager - Human Resources/Labor Relations
Scott Harrison Manager - Pit
Karla Heritage - McKenzie Manager - Safety
Thomas Cossalter Manager - Purchasing
Alvis Pace Controller

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NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

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

M. Mlinar General Manager
M. Buckley Area Manager, Technical Services
B. Bundschuh Area Manager, Silver Bay Power & Energy
C. Viola Area Manager, Finance Control
T. Nanti Area Manager, Silver Bay Operations
J. Sandstrom Area Manager, Railroad
K. Kerschen Area Manager, Human Resources
S. Acker Area Manager, Materials
J. Wells Area Manager & Loss Control
D. Scamehorn Area Manager, Maintenance
S. Blood Silver Bay, Plant Safety Representative
M. Strand Silver Bay, Plant Safety Associate

NORTHSHORE MINING BABBITT MINE

BABBITT, MINNESOTA 55706

Phone: 218-827-2101

J. Korpi Area Manager, Babbitt Mine
C. Wills Section Manager, Maintenance
D. Halverson Section Manager, Engineering
D. DeBeltz Mine Safety Representative
L. Rasmussen Mine Safety Associate

USS, A DIVISION OF USX CORPORATION

Minnesota Ore Operations

General Office - Mt. Iron, Minnesota 55768

Phone: 218-749-7200

Scott Coleman General Manager
John Skube Manager - Employee Relations

ORE OPERATIONS

Ray Luoma Division Manager - Maintenance Services
Bruce Kniivila Division Manager - Mining, Crushing
Laurie Potter Manager - Safety & I.H.
Greg Yanief Division Manager, Concentrator & Agglomerator
Bob Youngman Staff Supervisor - Safety & I.H.
Kent Swanson Staff Supervisor - Safety & I.H.
John Zupin Staff Supervisor - Safety & I.H.

* * * * *

POLYMET MINING
P.O. Box 475
6500 County Road 666
Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750

OFFICERS

William Murray Chairman of the Board
Joseph Scipioni President and Chief Executive Officer
Douglas Newby Chief Financial Officer
Phillip Brodie-Hall Executive Vice President - Project Construction
Gaston Reymanants Vice President - Marketing
Latisha Gietzen Vice President of Public, Government and
Environmental Affairs

STAFF

James Tieberg Division Manager - Mining
Don Hunter Area Manager - Mine Development
James Scott Senior Manager - Environmental Permitting
Richard Patelke Senior Geologist
Dave Draves Site Controller
Steve Devaney Manager - Procurement

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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

11 E. Superior Street
Suite 514
Duluth, MN 55802
Phone: (218) 722-7724
FAX: (218) 720-6707
www.aioa.org

Anne Glumack Interim 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

324 West Superior Street
Suite 502
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Phone: 218-722-7724
www.taconite.org

Craig Pagel Chief Executive Officer
Cathy Elmer Administrative Assistant

* * * * *

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

* * * * *

MINING MINNESOTA

P.O. BOX 16666
Duluth, Minnesota 55816
Phone: 218-393-2301
E-Mail: fongaro@miningminnesota.com

Frank Ongaro Executive Director

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
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R.K. Prescott Chairman

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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Division of Lands and Minerals

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*** * * * ***

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B. Hiti Deputy Commissioner, Iron Range Resources
M. Sjoberg Director, Development Strategies

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Stanley J. Rojeski, Jr. Assistant Mine Inspector
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Terrance M. O'Neil Assistant Mine Inspector

OFFICE AT
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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION
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Gerald D. Holeman Assistant District Manager
George F. Schorr Supv. Spec. Investigator
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(Health Specialist)
William H. Pomroy.. Mine Safety & Health Specialist (Staff Assistant)
Thomas J. Pavlat Mine Safety & Health Specialist
Wayne L. Lundquist Mine Safety & Health Specialist (CLR)
Stephen W. Field Mine Safety & Health Specialist
Mary M. Mikulich Supv. Management & Program Analyst
Devon R. Willeck IT Specialist
Jenna L. Nelson District Secretary
Debra J. Johnson Mine Safety and Health Technician (OA)
Kenneth L. Bickel Safety Specialist

DULUTH DUTY FIELD STATION

Dale E. Hedman Mine Safety & Health Inspector
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Carolyn Koskela Secretary

* * * * *

**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
DISTRICT 11**

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**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
LOCAL UNITS**

LOCAL #6860

UNITED TACONITE LLC

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Larry Roberts Treasurer

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Larry Roberts Plant Safety Chairman

Paul Horoshak Mine Safety Chairman

LOCAL #2660

KEEWATIN TACONITE

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Lorne Middlestead Chairman, Safety Committee

David Mlakar Safety Representative

Sue Bayliss Area Chair, Pellet Plant

Kevin Noonan Area Chair, Concentrator

Cliff Tobey Area Chair, Shops

Dan Grzybowski Area Chair, Pit

Harlee Sirjord Area Chair, Pond

Tom Damjanovich Area Chair, Crusher

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**LOCAL #6115
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Tom Aubin Vice President
Paul Monacelli Recording Secretary
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Jim Labernik Sub-Chair, Pit Operations/Maintenance
Kerry Santelli Financial Secretary

**LOCAL #1938
USX - MINNTAC MINE**

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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

FATAL INDUSTRIAL ACCIDENTS

Location of Accident

United Taconite, Thunderbird Mine

Date and Time of Accident

April 18, 2007 10:49 A.M.

Name of Deceased, Age and Occupation

Deane Driscoll, 50 years old, Drill operator

Nature and Extent of Injuries

Massive head trauma, resulting in death

Events Leading up to and a Description of the Accident

Drill operator, Deane Driscoll, was in the process of leveling or had just completed leveling the #9044 Rotary Drill. Deane had drilled two holes on his shift previous to setting the drill up at this location. The previous shift the drill had drilled six holes. It appears at this time that there was a catastrophic failure of the left operator's cab end stabilizing cylinder allowing the drill to become unstable and tip over. This resulted in the drill operator being ejected from the operator's cab deck side window, to the rocks below. The drill was set up with the failed cylinder on the down side of a 10.9% grade. It also appears that the four bolts securing the cylinder end cap broke, possibly from fatigue. The exact cause of the stabilizing cylinder's failure will be determined at a later date, when testing of the bolts is completed.

Location of Accident

Arcelor Mittal USA, Laurentian Mine

Date and Time of Accident

June 8, 2007, 12:03 P.M.

Name and Occupation of Deceased

Donavon Dunblazier, Operating Tech, Utility Heavy Equipment Operator

Nature and Extent of Injuries

Crushing injuries

Events Leading up to and a Description of the Accident

Injured was working with a crew that was replacing dewatering pipelines and pumps that had been removed earlier that day for blasting clearance. Don was in training for the operation of mobile cranes under the direction of H. Sande, Mittal Steel's on site crane trainer. Don had made 3 lifts previously with this crane that morning using the outriggers, removing the dewatering pumps from the pit sump. At the time of the accident the crane was hooked to an 80' section of 12" steel spiral weld pipe that weighs approximately 1280 pounds. The crane is used during this part of the operation to lift and guide the 80-foot section into alignment with the pipe that was not removed for the blast. The upper end of the crane's pipe had been attached to the pipe above with the assistance of T. Swanson and M. Long, millwright, pit and millwright starter, respectively. H. Sande was monitoring the crane operation from various places nearby. The crane was placed parallel to the pipe facing the sump area with the boom raised to a 29° angle and boom rotated to an angle between 60° and 65° to the left which is the operator's cab side. H. Sande saw that the setup was not correct, came to tell Don that the outriggers must be down for that lift. While next to the operator he checked the near side tires for evidence of excess load, the tires appeared OK and H. Sande then walked to the offside to look for indication of lightening on that side. While he was there Sande heard Don rev the engine and start to extend the boom for unknown reasons. Sande yelled warnings to drop the load. The crane then lifted on the side Sande was on and went down on the boom. As the crane settled, the boom rotated back toward the front of the crane. Don came out of the cab as the crane was going over and was pinned under the crane as it landed. It is not known if Don was wearing a seat belt. The crane door was open at the time of the accident.

NON-FATAL LOST-TIME AND SERIOUS ACCIDENTS

MITTAL STEEL USA, MINORCA MINE, INC.

Production Truck Driver, Date of Accident - February 20, 2007. Injured was dismounting from his truck when he stepped on un-even ground and twisted his left ankle. This resulted in a sprain to the left ankle. Days Lost - 11

Millwright, Date of Accident - July 16, 2007. Injured was lifting a window air conditioning unit, when he felt a pain in his back. This resulted in a lower back strain. Days Lost - 4

Millwright. Date of Accident - September 4, 2007. Injured was in the process of disconnecting an 8 inch pipe. When he disconnected the pipe it fell and pinched his finger between a handrail and the pipe. This resulted in a laceration to the fourth finger of the right hand. Days Lost - 8

UNITED TACONITE LLC

MINE

No Non-Fatal Serious Accidents

PLANT

Plant Operations, Date of Accident - June 6, 2007. Injured was unplugging the center launder going to the classifier. When material started to flow to the classifier the hot pellets that had backed up in the hopper came through and hit the water. This caused excessive steam and water to back into the discharge and spray out. Injured tried to escape the hazard but ran directly into the discharge of steam, water, and hot pellets. This caused burns to the upper back, shoulder and wrist. Days Lost- 16

Plant Maintenance, Date of Accident - July 28, 2007. Injured was lifting a tool box full of impact sockets onto the deck of a broderon mobile crane. The tool box suddenly opened while it was being lifted and caused injured to experience pain in the shoulder. The action caused an injury to injured's neck which required surgical repair. Days Lost - 90

Plant Loader Operator, Date of Accident - September 7, 2007. Injured was using the 2 yd. loader to clear a plugged windbox below the Line 2 cooler. This task involves installing a push rod into a socket on the rear of the bucket, positioning the loader bucket under the windbox,

then lifting the rod through the windbox opening while moving the loader in order not to jam the push rod in the sides of the windbox. The push rod seems to have caught momentarily in the plugged material which then raised the rod nearly out of the socket. When lifted again the rod came out of the socket entirely and went through the windshield of the loader striking the operator on the chin. The injured was able to back the loader out of the area and park it. First responders then treated Jim and he was transported for further care. Days Lost - 0

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

Auto Mechanic, Date of Accident - April 9, 2007. Injured and his partner were carrying a production truck door up a diagonal stairway to re-install it on the truck cab. Injured hooked the toes of his work boots on the decking of the top step. This caused him to fall forward. Injured grabbed onto the hand railing of the stairs to catch himself. The sudden jarring caused a partial tendon tear requiring surgical repair. Days Lost - 68

KEEWATIN TACONITE

Engineers Helper, Date of Accident - February 26, 2007. Injured and his partner were staking the property line on the top of a new blast. While walking on the blasted material they unknowingly stepped on a material bridge over a void in the blast pile. When they were both on the bridge, it collapsed and they fell into a hole approximately 3 feet by 6 feet. They were both able to climb out under their own power. This resulted in a sore head. Days Lost - 0 (Restricted Duties)

Engineers Helper, Date of Accident - February 26, 2007. Injured and his partner were staking the property line on the top of a new blast. While walking on the blasted material they unknowingly stepped on a material bridge over a void in the blast pile. When they were both on the bridge, it collapsed and they fell into a hole approximately 3 feet by 6 feet. They were both able to climb out under their own power. This resulted in a cut to the head which required stitches. Days Lost - 0 (Restricted Duties)

Hybrid, Date of Accident - August 26, 2007. Injured was tightening a bolt, and to gain added leverage had grabbed an adjacent bolt. When he did this his finger was pinched between the bolt head and the trunion. This resulted in the amputation of one finger tip. Days Lost - 11

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

Silver Bay

Maintenance Employee, Date of Accident - June 27, 2007. Injured was using a jack hammer to push bolts out of a rod mill when he felt pain in his right hip. He was transported to the clinic for treatment. Days Lost - 54

Maintenance Employee, Date of Accident - July 4, 2007. injured was working inside a mill when a liner fell while being inserted into position. When the liner fell it struck injured in the arm. Injured was seen by a doctor and taken off work. Days Lost - 2

USX CORPORATION, MINNTAC MINE

Production Truck Driver, Date of Accident - August 21, 2007. Injured was hauling coarse tails with a 205 ton, Model 730E Komatsu Truck. After dumping a load of tailings at the #81 stockpile the injured traveled approximately 2800 feet west on the East Pit haul road. As the truck attempted to travel under the railroad bridge, the truck's raised box struck the bridge. The Komatsu truck height with a raised box is 43 feet 6", and the clearance under the bridge is from 40 feet 3" to 41 feet 8". It appears the force of this collision broke the hoist cylinders and forced the back of the truck downward which allowed the truck to travel under the railroad bridge. After passing beneath the bridge, the truck's box likely hit the truck's back wheels, as evidenced by markings on the rear tires and then rebounded to the lowered position. This resulted in a laceration below the left eye which required stitches, and strains to his body. Days lost - 84