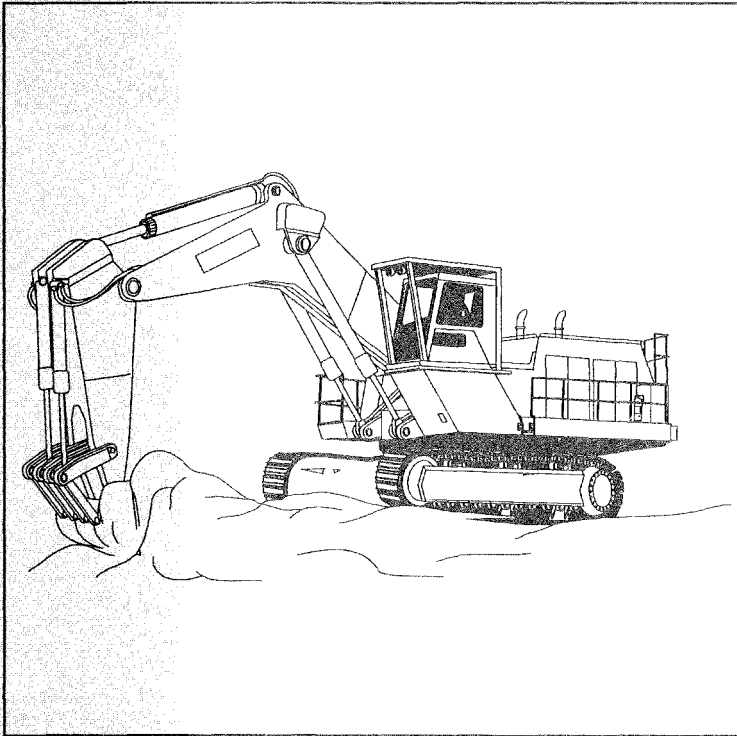


12 - 0309

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines



2011

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

2011

INSPECTOR OF MINES

Barry D. Lesar

329 Viking Drive, Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota 55750

HOME PHONE: 218-225-3203 OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9840

MOBILE UNIT: CD-28

E-MAIL: lesarb@stlouiscountymn.gov

Fax: 218-741-7832

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

ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

Open Due to Retirement

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 Frank Jewel, Duluth, Minnesota
District 2 Steven O'Neil, Duluth, Minnesota
District 3 Chris Dahlberg, 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

THE ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1 Davin Tinquist
District 2 Catherine McLynn
District 3 Leo Trunt
District 4 Rusty Eichorn
District 5 Mark Mandich

Jeff Walker Itasca County Auditor

Vic Williams Itasca County Sheriff, Itasca County Mine Inspector

December 31, 2011

THE HONORABLE BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY
COURT HOUSE
DULUTH, MN 55802-1202**

**ITASCA COUNTY
COURT HOUSE
GRAND RAPIDS, MN 55744**

Dear Chairman Nelson, Chairperson McLynn and Fellow Commissioners:

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines for the year 2011 is herewith submitted.

While the U.S. economy has continued to be considered underperforming, 2011 has been a year which continued to be a strong economic year for the mining industry in Northern Minnesota. While the environmental permitting for the Polymet project at the old Erie Mining Company plant site has not been finished, the outlook for semi-precious mining still looks positive. Mesabi Nugget has steadily increased their production and their mining division, Mesabi Mining, LLC, will be the major owner of a new Magnetation style plant just outside of Chisholm, MN. This operation is slated for startup in early 2012. Essar Steel is continuing to build their operation outside of Nashwauk, with mining slated to start in the fall of 2012. Along with the continued production at the original Magnetation project and with their expansion project at Taconite in Itasca County, the future of mining in St. Louis and Itasca counties holds much promise for our area and our state.

On the Public Safety side of mining, the Minnesota DNR Division of Minerals, along with other agencies is continuing the process of expanding the underground mine mapping project to include the western Mesabi Range. This project would then complete the mapping for the entire Mesabi Range and should prove helpful in planning future expansions for both the Mining Industry and public uses for the old mine lands. The maps that have been completed to this point are available on the Minnesota DNR, Division of Lands and Minerals web site.

The total employment for the year was 4,215 and these people worked a total of 8,900,044 manhours.

There were 195,157 tons of natural ore shipped and 40,040,404 tons of taconite and Iron Nugget products shipped from these mines. There were 99,233,934 tons of stripping and waste removed from these mines.

Inspections and visits for 2011 were as follows: Approximately 567* inspections, visits and investigations were made to the operating and non-operating mines. There were 0 fatalities and 24 lost time or serious accidents reported.

Acknowledgment 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

*There have been fewer inspections, visits and investigations this year due to the retirement of one Assistant Mine Inspector in June 2010.

Excerpts from the Law On

INSPECTOR OF MINES

CHAPTER 180

MINNESOTA STATUTES

SECTION 180.03

SUBDIVISION I

DUTIES

The duties of the inspector of mines shall be to visit in person or by one of his assistants all the working mines of his 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 he shall find that the employees are in danger from any cause, whether resulting from careless mining or defective machinery or appliances of any nature; he shall compel the erection of a partition between all shafts where hoisting of ore is performed, and where there are ladder ways, where men 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 aforesaid, it shall be his duty immediately to order the men engaged in the work at that place to quit work, and notify the superintendent, agent, or person in charge to secure the place from the 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, foreman, 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 carriages on which persons ascend or descend up and down the shaft, if in his judgement it shall be practicable and necessary for the purpose of safety.

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

2011

Number of Mining Companies	9
Number of Mines in Operation	7
Number of Plants in Operation	8
Number of Wash Plants	0
Number of Mines Inactive	285
Number of Abandoned Mine Shafts Inspected	64
Total Number of Mines and Plants	294
Total Pellets and Iron Nuggets Shipped	40,040,404
Total Ore Shipped	195,157
Taconite Mined	139,562,847
Stripping and Waste Removal, Tons	99,233,934
Total Material Moved, Tons Estimate	238,796,781
Total People Employed	4,215
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	8,900,044
Number of Visits, Inspections and Investigations	567

LABOR CLASSIFICATION AND HOURLY RATES

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

2011 WAGE RATES INCENTIVE INCLUDED

Labor Grade	Wage Rate
1	\$19.56
2	\$21.41
3	\$23.55
4	\$24.78
5	\$26.32

Due to Contractual changes the wage structure from mine to mine has changed significantly in recent years resulting in differing methods of payment. This results in different pay scales and different average daily wages from mine to mine. This is an example of what the rates are for only one of the mines in St. Louis and Itasca counties.

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

YEAR	MINES	TONS SHIPPED	EMPLOYED	INJURED	FATALS	FAT/1000	WAGES
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 Average/Day
2006	7	39,617,873	3,714	14	1	0.27	178.40 Average Day
2007	7	38,041,615.6	3,724	13	2	0.54	187.848
2008	7	40,599,311	3,732	26	0	0.00	182.40 see pg. 4 wages
2009	7	18,025,710	2,687	39	0	0.00	201.44 see pg. 4 wages
2010	7	37,996,765	3,761	27	0	0.00	238.44 see pg. 4 wages
2011	7	40,395,202	4,215	24	0	0.00	188.40 see pg. 4 wages

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, 2011

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
UNITED TACONITE LLC Mike Smith - Acting General Manager		5,149,703	15,592,347	16,815,941	524	1,101,170	12
Keewatin Taconite Co. Itasca Co. Production Division of USS St. Louis Co. Production Minnesota Ore Operations		4,927,006 0	17,863,165 0	1,447,308 0	Mine 222 Plant 144 Shops, Warehouse & Misc. 46	463,414 300,466 95,663	12 12 12
HIBBING TACONITE CO. Ed Latendresse, Manager	Production Shipped From Plant	7,789,437	28,333,458	34,619,791	725	1,537,370	12
ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC. J.H. Holmes, Vice President/Operations Manager		2,745,054 - Flux 108,834 - Chips	8,524,345	6,663,425	347	750,349	12
NORTH SHORE MINING COMPANY Babbitt, Silver Bay J. Korpi, General Manager		5,477,805	17,216,511	11,278,504	653	1,383,145	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, 2011

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
MESABI MINING, LLC Tom Lutes, Mine Manager MESABI NUGGET, LLC Jeff Hansen - Plant Manager	159,641 Tons of Iron Nuggets - No mining has been done as of this time, Scheduled for 2012 Mesabi Mining is still in the permitting phase for the Mine. So there is no Mine production for calendar year 2011. Plant Site Employment - 101 227,863 12						
USS CORPORATION, Minnesota Ore Operations Tom Kelly, Gen. Mgr. Minntac Plant, Mt. Iron Minntac Mine Minntac Plant Shop, Warehouse, & Miscellaneous		13,842,565	50,131,368	28,378,965		1,200,935 1,379,260 291,643	12 12 12
MAGNETATION, INC. Danilo Bibancos General Manager, Plant 1 Nashwauk, MN	Mesabi Chief 3 Mine 195,157 from Itasca County		1,901,653	Ore Mined (Tailings)	76	168,766	12
TOTALS	195,157	40,040,404	139,562,847	99,233,934	4,215	8,900,044	12
TOTAL RAW ORE TOTAL RAW ORE AND PELLETS ALL TONNAGES LISTED ARE IN LONG TONS	195,157	40,395,202	TOTAL NATURAL ORE, IRON NUGGETS & TACONITE SHIPPED				

**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, 2011**

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.
Joseph Scipioni, President & CEO

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**

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

Minnesota Ore Operations
KEEWATIN TACONITE
P.O. Box 217
Keewatin, Minnesota 55753
Phone: 218-778-8798

Tom Kelly General Manager
Jeremy Smolich Plant Manager
Michael Bakk Area Manager - Electrical & Mine Maintenance
Sarah Mattila Area Manager, Mine Operations & Crusher
Tim Kalish Area Manager - Plant Operations & Maintenance
Doug Johnson Division Manager - Ore Movement & ISO
John Skube Labor Relations
Angelo Sgro Safety Coordinator
Scott Karpinen Sr. Staff Supervisor of Safety & I.H.
Jerry Orrell Staff Supervisor, Safety & I.H.

* * * * *

UNITED TACONITE LLC

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

Mike Smith Acting General Manager
Robb Bigelow Area Manager, Business Improvement/
Technical Services
Todd Nelson Area Manager, Finance
John Baxter Area Manager, Human Resources
Jon LaMusga Section Manager, Materials
Lyle Johnston Area Manager, Maintenance
Bryan Baird Area Manager, Safety
Candice Maxwell Section Manager, Environmental

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

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

Edward M. Latendresse General Manager
Dana J. Koth Manager - Technical Services - Business
Tim S. Tomsich Area Manager - Financial Control
Jack T. Croswell Manager - Mining
Paul A. Carlson Manager - Plants
Dean A. Weiberg Manager - Maintenance
John C. Tamminen Manager - Technical Support
Josh Hendrickson Manager - Information Technology
Michael P. Kern Manager - Human Resources
Andrea J. Bakk Manager - Safety & Loss Control
Julie C. Lucas Manager - Environmental
Ralland W. Hess Manager - Procurement

* * * * *

MESABI MINING, LLC

P.O. Box 235
6500 County Road 666
Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota 55750
Phone: 218-225-6000
Fax: 218-225-0600

Mark Millet President - Iron Resources, Steel Dynamics, Inc.
Dave Bednarz Vice President - Iron Resources,
Steel Dynamics, Inc.
Tom Lutes Mine Manager, Mesabi Mining, LLC
Jeff Hansen Mesabi Nugget, Plant Manager

ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC.

5950 Old Hwy. 53

P.O. Box 1

Virginia, Minnesota 55792

Phone: 218-749-5910

Fax: 218-749-3420

E-mail: jonathan.holmes@arcelormittal.com

ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINES, INC.

- Michael Rippey President and CEO, ArcelorMittal USA
- Andy Harshaw Executive Vice President, Operations,
ArcelorMittal USA
- Wendell Carter Vice President and General Manager,
ArcelorMittal Indiana Harbor
- Daniel Mull Executive Vice President, Sales & Marketing
ArcelorMittal USA
- John Brett Vice President & Controller, Corporate Finance &
Planning, ArcelorMittal USA
- Jonathan H. Holmes Vice President, Operations,
ArcelorMittal Minorca Mine
- Om Mandhana Vice President, Procurement & Supply Chain,
ArcelorMittal USA
- Greg Ludkovsky Chief Technology Officer, ArcelorMittal
- Dale Laidlaw Vice President, Human Resources,
ArcelorMittal Flat Carbon Americas
- Vaidya Sethuramen Vice President, Finance & Chief Account Officer,
ArcelorMittal Flat Carbon Americas
- Thomas A. McCue Treasurer ArcelorMittal Flat Carbon Americas
- William Mundell Director of Taxes, ArcelorMittal USA
- Paul Libenson General Counsel, ArcelorMittal USA
- G. Craig Birchette Associate General Counsel, ArcelorMittal USA
- Marc R. Jeske Associate General Counsel, ArcelorMittal USA

MANAGERS

- Darrell Maki Manager - Plant
- William Bond Manager - Operating Technology
- Gary Kleffman Manager - Human Resources/Labor Relations
- Scott Harrison Manager - Pit
- Karla Heritage - McKenzie Manager - Safety
- Thomas Cossalter Manager - Purchasing

* * * * *

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

10 Outer Drive
Silver Bay, Minnesota 55614
Phone: 218-226-4125
Fax: 218-226-6037

NORTHSHORE MINING BABBITT MINE

BABBITT, MINNESOTA 55706
Phone: 218-827-2101

James Korpi General Manager
Terry Nanti Operations Manager
Rob Barkdoll Maintenance Manager
Marvin Harmer Tech Services Manager
Byron Rusco Railroad Manager
Karl Kerschen Human Resources Manager
Andrea Hayden Environmental Manager
William Bundschuh Silver Bay Power Manager
Ron Holm Safety Manager
Scott Blood Plant Safety Representative
Maria Strand Plant Safety Associate
Rod Lampton Mine Safety Representative

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

Minnesota Ore Operations
MinnTac
P.O. Box 417
Mt. Iron, MN 55768
Phone: 218-749-7299

Tom Kelly General Manager
Mike Patton Plant Manager
Terry Villa Division Manager - Mining, Maintenance
Scott Vagle Division Manager, Concentrating and Crushing
Ron Flick Division Manager - Agglomerating
Doug Johnson Division Manager, Ore Movement and ISO
John Skube Manager - Employee Relations
Angelo Sgro Safety Coordinator
Scott Karpinen Sr. Staff Supervisor - Safety & I.H.
Robert Youngman Staff Supervisor - Safety & I.H.
Kent Swanson Staff Supervisor - Safety & I.H.
John Zupin Staff Supervisor - Safety & I.H.
Mike Levar Staff Supervisor, Safety & I.H.

* * * * *

POLYMET MINING
P.O. Box 475
6500 County Road 666
Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750
Phone: 218-471-2150

OFFICERS

Joseph Scipioni President and Chief Executive Officer
Douglas Newby Chief Financial Officer
Brad Moore Executive Vice President of Government and
Environmental Affairs
LaTisha Gietzen Vice President of Public, Government and
Environmental Affairs

STAFF

James Tieberg Division Manager - Mining
James Scott Environmental Manager
Dave Draves Site Controller
Stephen DeVaney Purchasing Manager
Paul Brunfelt Division Manager of Plant
Kevin Pylka Manager of Environmental Permitting & Compliance

* * * * *

MAGNETATION, INC.
102 NE 3rd Street, Suite 120
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
Fax: 218-885-1235

Larry Lehtinen Chairman, President & CEO
Matt Lehtinen Vice President of Marketing &
Business Development
Danilo Bibancos General Manager Plant #1
Hope Wilson CFO

* * * * *

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
Terry F. Netzel Assistant Vice President
George W. Kratzner, II Treasurer
Thea M. Barnes Secretary
Patrick S. McGaffey Assistant Secretary/Assistant Treasurer

* * * * *

CONGDON MINERAL MANAGEMENT INC.

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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
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Mark Myles Trust Manager

* * * * *

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James Korpi Cliffs Natural Resources Northshore Mining
Mike Smith Cliffs Natural Resources United Taconite
Sandy Karnowski Cliffs Natural Resources
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Frank Ongaro Executive Director

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John Engesser Asst. Director, Division of Lands and Minerals
Peter Clevensine Manager, Engineering & Mineral Development

* * * * *

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* * * * *

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Open Due To Retirement Assistant Mine Inspector

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* * * * *

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

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Kenneth L. Bickel Safety Specialist
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Robert Wagstrom Production Tax
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Glen D. Johnson . Business Manager, Financial Director, Minneapolis
Daniel Kingsley Area Business Representative, Virginia
J. Dale Long Organizer, Virginia

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DISTRICT 11

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R. Bratulich Director

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Peggy May Staff Representative

**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
LOCAL UNITS**

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UNITED TACONITE LLC
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Steve Lere Financial Secretary
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Bryan Sandnas Plant Safety Chairman
Paul Horoshak Mine Safety Chairman

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KEEWATIN TACONITE
Phone: 218-778-6909**

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David Mlakar Safety Chair/Safety Representative
Joe Ferris Safety Representative
Kevin Noonan Area Chair, Concentrator
Cliff Tobey Area Chair, Shops
Jeff Stalboerger Area Chair, Pit
Lorne Middlestead (Temporary) Area Chair, Pond
Tom Damjanovich Area Chair, Crusher
Carl Jeranek Area Chair, Pellet Plant

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Wade Bexell Treasurer
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Bob Brown Chairman, Safety Committee

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Tom French Coordinator
Jim Labernik Sub Chair, Truck Shop
Jim Kottke Sub Chair, Training

LOCAL #1938
USS - MINNTAC MINE
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Mark Hagsten Safety Committee Co-Chairman
Dennis Jensrud Safety Coordinator - Minntac/Keetac
Rodney Moberg Full-Time Safety Representative, Mine/Shops
Mitch McDonald Full-Time Safety Representative, Concentrator/
Crushers
Dave Toole Full-Time Safety Representative,
Agglomerators I, II, III

* * * * *

BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION LABORERS

LOCAL 1097
307 North First Street
Virginia, MN 55792

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David L. Becker Vice President
Timothy G. McGauley Business Manager/Financial Secretary
Jerry F. Strle "E" Board Member
Richard M. Walker "E" Board Member
Todd A. Payne "E" Board Member
Rick J. Cannata Recording Secretary
Michael G. Warner Sergeant at Arms
Shelly A. Witanen-McDonald Staff

NON-FATAL LOST-TIME AND SERIOUS ACCIDENTS

ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE INC.

Operating Technician, Date of Accident - February 1, 2011. Injured was working in the filter cake pile with a 992 loader. While using the loader to break up the frost chunks prior to loading them in the reclaim building, Injured felt a pain in the back. This resulted in a strained back. Days Lost - 3

Operating Technician, Date of Accident - April 11, 2011. Injured was shoveling between rollers on the stacker boom when she felt a pain in her hip. This resulted in a strained hip. Days Lost - 114

Maintenance Millwright, Date of Accident - April 23, 2011. Injured was in the process of removing a lintel cooling box from the east side of the furnace. As the box was being removed, it came off the lip and abruptly shifted, catching and striking Injured's finger (the box is a top heavy load so the load fell with the top tipping backward and the bottom came out) between the box and the angle iron bracing outside of the furnace. This resulted in a crushing injury to the finger. Days Lost - 1

Plant Laborer, Date of Accident - August 19, 2011. Injured was placing a washdown hose on the floor and holding it with their left foot. Injured then placed their right foot onto the hose and their right knee buckled. This resulted in a right knee strain. Days Lost - 3

Operating Tech, Equipment Operator, Date of Accident - August 3, 2011. Injured was boarding the 336D backhoe and placed the left foot on the foot step on the track and his left hand on the tooth of backhoe bucket and pushed himself up to grab a pin. Injured's right foot was on the track and he lost his grip and fell backward to the ground. Injured hit the edge of trailer on his fall to the tailings on the ground. This led to a strain to the neck and back, contusion to lower left leg. Days Lost - 2

UNITED TACONITE LLC

MINE

Equipment Operator, Date of Accident - October 5, 2011. Injured was dismounting from the #56 Loader when he stepped into a hole. This resulted in a strained foot. Days Lost - 34

Auto Mechanic, Date of Accident - November 11, 2011. Injured and his partner were changing the track on the dozer. As they were trying to break the track free, they used a five foot lining bar to free up one of the four bolts holding the master link in place, the link separated and the track section fell down with the bar coming down with it. Injured was speared by the bar on the backside of his steel toe on his work boot. This resulted in Broken 4th toe on right foot and laceration of the area. Days Lost - 0

PLANT

None Reported for 2011

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident - January 5, 2011. Injured was attempting to use a straight impact wrench to tighten the bolts on a long flanged pipe for a new decapus. The wrench he was attempting to use would not work so Injured used a right angle impact driver instead. As injured went to tighten the bolts, the impact swung away from his body, jerking his arm. This resulted in pain to Injured's right elbow and forearm. The initial diagnosis was a right elbow strain. When the condition didn't resolve, further evaluation was done and eventually Injured was diagnosed as a partial common extensor tear with possible collateral ligament injury which eventually led to surgical repair on August 23, 2011. Days Lost - 69

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident - June 28, 2011. On the day of the incident there had been several times that the shuttle belt had "kicked" out due to belt slippage. Injured had tried to diagnose the problem earlier in the day by having the mechanic on the shift run the belt in manual mode while Injured watched the belt to see if it was sticking somewhere. Whenever they tried this the belt would not kick out and nothing could be seen, so the belt was returned to normal operation and left to run to see if it would act up again later. In the afternoon the belt "kicked" out again and the Control Room Operator said that the belt "kicked" out when he (the Control Room Operator) moved the Head Chute. Injured then proceeded up to the Shuttle Gallery to again check on the belt. First he said he went to the South side of the belt to check and he couldn't see any reason for the slippage, so he proceeded to the North side. At this point Injured went through the removable handrail and proceeded to go inside of the handrails that guard the shuttle traverse and conveyor to gain a better angle to view the belt passing into the head chute and stone box area. In order to view the belt, Injured had his foot on the traverse carriage rail and was looking into the Head Chute area to see if the belt was sticking on the chute liners. While looking into the Head Chute, Injured thought he saw the Head Chute move. At this point he realized the Traverse carriage was moving and he needed to step off of the rail. Before he was able to step down, a Traverse carriage wheel contacted his boot and started to roll over his toes. The steel toe of his safety boot crumpled and the middle three toes were injured, but the steel toe cap did prevent further damage to the big toe and the little toe of his left foot. Injured stated that he did not hear the movement horn for the Traverse, but that earlier in the day he had heard it sound when the Traverse was moving. Upon further checking, the horn was found to be inoperable and was repaired. This resulted in Crushed Toes, Left Foot (Center 3 toes). Days Lost - 48

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident - July 15, 2011. Injured was in the process of changing a starter on an International lube van. While pushing and pulling with his left hand, he started to feel discomfort in his left shoulder and upper biceps. Injured reported the incident to his coordinator and finished out his shift. Injured was seen by PT and prescribed ice and exercises. The pain continued and upon further examination a shoulder tendon tear was diagnosed, which required surgical repair. Days Lost - 46

KEEWATIN TACONITE

No Lost Time Accidents for 2011

NORTSHORE MINING COMPANY

Babbitt Mine

Coarse Crusher Attendant, Date of Accident - March 7, 2011. While sliding loading bin shrouds onto a fork lift, Injured's finger was pinched between two shrouds. This resulted in cut finger which required stitches to repair. Days Lost - 4

Coarse Crusher Maintenance Technician, Date of Accident - March 29, 2011. Injured was in the process of changing out 101" liner plates on the 60" crusher. During this procedure he was looking up, watching the liner that was being lowered into position. While watching the liner, he felt something fall into his eye (he thought it was some dirt). His eye continued to bother him and two days later he went into the clinic where they found a piece of rust which had to be removed and he was treated with antibiotics. Days Lost - 0

Operations Technician, Date of Accident - July 12, 2011. While driving a production truck, the right front tire blew out. This jarred Injured and resulted in a back strain. Days Lost - 0, Temporary restricted duty.

Silver Bay

Maintenance Technician, Date of Accident - March 29, 2011. While working in the Pelletizer, Injured felt a pain in his knee while climbing the stairs to the #12 Furnace shear pin platform. This resulted in ligament damage requiring surgical repair. Days Lost - 14

Maintenance Technician, Date of Accident - May 11, 2011. While cutting a steel pipe on a power hack saw, Injured reached onto the cutting table to remove a whisk broom. While pulling the broom off the deck, the broom came into contact with the saw blade. This caused the broom to be pulled and Injured's hand was jammed up against the pipe that was being cut. This resulted in a cut which required stitches to close it. Days Lost - 0

Maintenance Technician, Date of Accident - June 23, 2011. While in the process of changing a snub pulley on the stacker, Injured was grinding to facilitate the change out. Shortly after doing the grinding, Injured felt some irritation in his eye. This resulted in a piece of rust in his eye, which required removal and the application of antibiotic drops. Days lost - 0

Summer Student, Date of Accident - July 6, 2011. Injured was working on the railroad changing tie plates. Injured was removing debris from between a newly installed rail tie and the rail when the rail bounced and pinched Injured's finger between the two. This resulted in a cut which required stitches to repair. Days Lost - 0

Maintenance Technician, Date of Accident - July 6, 2011. Injured was holding a glass bottle in his hand when it broke. This resulted in cuts to both hands which required stitches to repair. Days Lost - 0

Maintenance Technician, Date of Accident - October 9, 2011. Injured was using a portable grinder when the grinder "kicked back" from the piece he was grinding and hit him in the chin. This resulted in a cut under his chin which required stitches to repair. Days Lost - 0

Maintenance Technician, Date of Accident - October 22, 2011. While in the process of removing a grease pump from the pallet wheel grease tank, Injured felt a pain in the neck. This resulted in a strained neck. Days Lost - 0

MAGNETATION

No Lost Time Injuries for 2011 at the Nugget Plant

USS CORPORATION, MINNESOTA ORE OPERATIONS, MINNTAC

Operating Tech 1, Drill/Blast, Date of Accident - January 13, 2011. Injured was standing on the third rung of a ladder when he lost his balance and fell approximately three feet to the ground. This resulted in a fractured foot. Days Lost - 76

Operating Tech 1, Utilities Operator, Date of Accident - March 3, 2011. Injured was discarding wood pallets at the salvage yard wood pile. While walking to the back of the passenger side of the pick-up truck, he slipped on light snow covered ice and fell to the ground, striking his head on the ice. This resulted in a contusion to his head. Days lost - 19

Operating Tech 2, Shovel Operator, Date of Accident - March 27, 2011. While entering the Mine Annex Dry, Injured tripped on the top step and fell into the closed exit door. Injured struck the door with his head and right shoulder. This resulted in a fracture to the arm. Days Lost - 20

Maintenance Tech - System Repair, Date of Accident - April 16, 2011. While servicing a production vehicle, Injured slipped on some ice. Injured was able to get up and started walking again and again slipped on the ice. This time falling on his knees and left hand. This resulted in an arm strain/sprain. Days Lost - 20