

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines



Photo by Paul Pluskwik

2019

Derek Harbin
Mine Inspector
St. Louis County
201 South 3rd Avenue West
Virginia, MN 55792
218-742-9841

Joseph Austin
Safety & Risk Mgmt. Director
St. Louis County
2503 Rice Lake Road
Duluth, MN 55811
218-726-2139

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

2019

INSPECTOR OF MINES

Derek Harbin
16079 Goss St., P.O. Box 241
Pengilly, MN 55775
OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9841
CELL PHONE: 218-910-4753
E-MAIL: harbind@stlouiscountymn.gov
FAX: 218-471-7270

SAFETY & RISK MGT. DIRECTOR

Joseph J. Austin
5888 Sunny Lane
Caribou Lake, MN 55811
OFFICE PHONE: 218-726-2139
CELL PHONE: 218-348-0355
E-MAIL: austinj@stlouiscountymn.gov
FAX: 218-722-8860

ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

David Hamalainen
620 Bourgin Road
Virginia, MN 55792
CELL PHONE: 218-290-8855
OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9843

ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

Micah Hovet
733 Elizabeth Avenue
Grand Rapids, MN 55744
CELL PHONE: 218-244-7772
OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9840

OFFICE AT
GOVERNMENT SERVICES CENTER
201 South 3rd Avenue West, Virginia, Minnesota 55792
PHONE: 218-742-9841

THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1 Frank Jewell, Duluth, Minnesota
District 2 Patrick Boyle, Duluth, Minnesota
District 3 Beth Olson, Duluth, Minnesota
District 4 Paul McDonald, Ely, Minnesota
District 5 Keith Musolf, Duluth, Minnesota
District 6 Keith Nelson, Virginia, Minnesota
District 7 Mike Jugovich, Chisholm, Minnesota

THE ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1 Davin Tinquist
District 2 Terry Snyder
District 3 Leo Trunt
District 4 Burl Ives
District 5 Ben DeNucci

Jeff Walker Itasca County Auditor
Vic Williams Itasca County Sheriff, Itasca County Mine Inspector

February 25, 2020

THE HONORABLE BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS

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

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

Dear Chairs Jugovich, DeNucci and Commissioners:

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines for 2019 is herewith submitted.

Mining activity for 2019 showed a strong production schedule for both St. Louis and Itasca Counties. A total of 38,665,148 tons of natural ore and taconite were shipped from area operations compared to 40,986,054 in 2018. Mining related employment increased and was reported at 4,105 individuals. This was an increase of 151 employees compared to the 3,954 reported in 2018. These positive numbers mark three consecutive years of steady production. The total work hours reported for area mining operations was 8,517,320 for the year.

The number of active mining operations in the area during 2019 remained at six, these include: ArcelorMittal Minorca, Hibbing Taconite, Keetac, Minntac, Northshore, and United Taconite. All six of these facilities reported 12 months in operation during the year.

Progress was made by several area operations toward the objective of growth during the coming years. These include PolyMet, who continued efforts to obtain the final mine permits associated with the NorthMet project (copper/nickel/precious metal mining) and Twin Metals, who submitted their formal mine plan of operation this year and continued to move forward with efforts directed toward their semi-precious metal mining project near Ely.

2019 was marked with the loss of industry and mine safety advocate, former State Representative and County Commissioner Tommy Rukavina. Also of significance was the opening of the new mine view by the City of Hibbing, which showcases area mining operations and provides a public viewing opportunity.

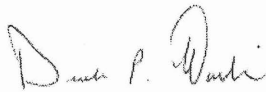
(Continued on page 3)

During 2019, area mining operations reported a total of 7 lost time or serious accidents. This is a significant decrease in comparison to the 14 experienced in 2018. Unfortunately, one fatality was reported during the year. This tragic incident occurred at the Arcelormittal Minorca Mine on November 5, 2019 and points to the importance of our shared commitment to the safety of all those who work in the mining industry.

St. Louis County Mine Inspectors successfully completed all required inspections of area operations mandated by Minnesota State Law Chapter 180, Section 180.03 during 2019.

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,



Derek P. Harbin
Inspector of Mines
St. Louis County



Joseph J. Austin MS, MIS, CHMM
Director, Safety and Risk Management
St. Louis County

Excerpts from the Law On
INSPECTOR OF MINES
CHAPTER 180
MINNESOTA STATUTES
SECTION 180.08

ACCIDENTS; NOTICE, INVESTIGATION.

Upon the occurrence of a reportable accident, it is the duty of the manager or designee of the mine to give notice to the inspector of mines, as soon as practical but at least within one hour of stabilization of the accident scene, stating the particulars of the accident. Upon notification, the inspector shall, if the inspector deems it necessary, go immediately to the scene of the accident and make suggestions and render assistance as the inspector may deem necessary in the premises and personally investigate the cause of the accident and take steps as the inspector may deem necessary for the safety of the employees of the mine and to prevent accident of a like or similar nature. The inspector shall be accompanied by three persons appointed by the manager or other person in charge of the mine and by three persons appointed by a majority of the employees of the mine. The requirement for accompaniment may be modified by a waiver signed by representatives from the employees, management, and inspector

Section 180.015; Subd. 7. Reportable accident.

"Reportable accident" means:

- (1) a death of any individual on mine property;
- (2) an injury that has a reasonable potential to cause death;
- (3) mine fires that result in evacuation of miners or cause significant damage to structures or equipment at a mine;
- (4) all explosions, including methane, dust, or unplanned detonation of explosives or blasting agents;
- (5) coal or rock outbursts, including bumps or bounces, that result in injury or evacuation of an area, or that interrupt production for more than 30 minutes;
- (6) inundations by liquid or gas;
- (7) entrapment of any person requiring mine rescue efforts;
- (8) any unstable condition at an impoundment or refuse pile that requires emergency corrective action to prevent failure or requires evacuation;
- (9) any accident at a mine that is likely to be the subject of immediate or extraordinary media interest;

or

- (10) a death of any individual off-mine property resulting from activities, such as flyrock, on mine property.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

2019

Number of Mining Companies	6
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 Inspected	66
Total Number of Mines and Plants	291
Total Taconite Products Shipped	38,665,148
Total Concentrate Shipped	78
Taconite Mined	135,029,849
Stripping and Waste Removal, Tons	152,286,561
Total Material Moved, Tons Estimate	287,316,410
Total People Employed	4,105
Number of Fatal Accidents, Open Pit	1
Number of Fatal Accidents, Plant	0
Total Number of Fatal Accidents	1
Fatalities per 1,000 People Employed	0.24
Number of Lost-time and Time Charged Accidents	7
Total Number of Employee-Hours Worked	8,517,320
Number of Inspections	385
Number of Investigations	4

2019 WAGE RATES INCENTIVE INCLUDED

Labor Grade	Wage Rate
1	\$25.92
2	\$28.38
3	\$31.21
4	\$32.84
5	\$34.88

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 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	(Silver 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	26,608,769	5,250	33	0	0.00	94.19
1987	9	30,063,909	4,857	26	1	0.21	94.19
1988	9	37,250,243	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	6,051	97	1	0.17	93.936
1995	9	47,030,820	6,005	87	0	0.00	97.936
1996	8	46,144,621	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	5,611	77	1	0.18	109.936
2001	8	34,144,559	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	40,464,089	3,568	29	0	0.00	178.40
2006	7	39,617,873	3,714	14	1	0.27	178.40
2007	7	38,041,616	3,724	13	2	0.54	187.848
2008	7	40,599,311	3,732	26	0	0.00	182.40
2009	7	18,025,710	2,687	39	0	0.00	201.44
2010	7	37,996,765	3,761	27	0	0.00	238.44
2011	7	40,395,202	4,215	24	0	0.00	188.40
2012	9	41,099,022	4,441	17	0	0.00	221.85
2013	9	40,221,204	4,371	29	0	0.00	226.24
2014	9	41,301,098	4,387	29	0	0.00	226.24
2015	10	34,683,076	4,047	19	0	0.00	231.92
2016	7	28,970,579	3,621	22	0	0.00	231.92
2017	7	39,485,849	3,944	18	0	0.00	231.92
2018	6	40,986,054	3,954	14	0	0.00	241.20
2019	6	38,665,148	4,105	7	1	0.24	249.68

REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11
OPERATIONAL SUMMARY
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019

MINES	TONS OF TACONITE PRODUCTS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE (ROCK & OVERBURDEN)	AVERAGE NUMBER PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS / PITS	EMPLOYEE HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC. Pellets - Pellet Chips -	2,729,514 58,893	8,259,728	7,370,726	350	774,849	12
HIBBING TACONITE CO.	7,473,344	27,946,136	31,969,882	740	1,534,052	12
NORTHSHORE MINING CO. BABBITT AND SILVER BAY	5,051,628	15,680,690	9,677,173	575	1,168,218	12
UNITED TACONITE LLC	5,309,187	15,219,818	20,870,054	529	1,126,058	12

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11
OPERATIONAL SUMMARY
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019**

MINES	TONS OF CONCENTRATE SHIPPED	TONS OF TACONITE PRODUCTS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE (ROCK & OVERBURDEN)	AVERAGE NUMBER PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS / PITS	MAN HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
USS CORPORATION M.O.O. KEEWATIN TACONITE CO. ST. LOUIS ITASCA	78	5,166,341	18,984,036	22,012,708	451	921,933	12
USS CORPORATION M.O.O. MINNTAC		12,876,241	48,939,441	60,386,018	1,460	2,992,210	12
TOTALS	78	38,665,148	135,029,849	152,286,561	4,105	8,517,320	

**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

Lawrence Sutherland General Manager
Travis Kolari Plant Manager
Cory Hertling Area Manager - Electrical & Mine Maintenance
John Kingston Area Manager - Mine Operations & Crusher
John Minor Area Manager - Plant Operations & Maintenance
Susan Wiire Interim Manager - Employee Relations
Kent Swanson Manager - Safety & Industrial Hygiene
Jerry Orrell Safety & Industrial Hygiene Specialist

* * * * *

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

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

Lawrence Sutherland General Manager
Tim Kalisch Division Manager - Plant & Plant Maintenance
Susan Wiire Interim Manager - Employee Relations
Kent Swanson Manager - Safety & Industrial Hygiene
Mike Levar Safety & IH Specialist
Jerry Orrell Safety & IH Specialist
Jeffrey Tomsich IH Specialist
Christie Dixon Safety & IH Specialist

ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC.
Company Officers and Staff

Minnesota Address

5950 Old U.S. Highway 53 North
P.O. Box 1
Virginia, MN 55792

Main Telephone

(218) 749-5910
(218) 749-3420 Fax

E-mail: robb.peterson@arcelormittal.com

Officers

John Brett President and CEO
Keith Howell Chief Operating Officer
Daniel Mull Executive Vice President, Sales & Marketing
Paul Liebenson General Counsel & Secretary
Michael Chimitris Assistant Secretary
Therese Vande Hey Assistant Secretary
Neil Kohlberg Vice President, Finance & Procurement
Richard Campoli Controller
Pat Parker Vice President, Labor Relations
Gary Norgren Vice President, General Manager
Robb Peterson Operations Manager
Daniel Wallden Treasurer
Richard Lenehan Assistant Treasurer
Christine F. Fleps Assistant Treasurer
Joseph P. Wallace Assistant Treasurer
William R. Martin Assistant Treasurer

Managers

Robb A. Peterson ... Operations Manager - ArcelorMittal Minorca Mine
Steven I. Mekkes Manager - Operating Technology
Eric A. Krause Manager - Pit
Adam R. Sersha Manager - Plant
Jaime L. Johnson Manager - Environmental
Daniel G. Vidmar Manager - Human Resources/Labor Relations
Mark H. Anderson Manager - Safety
Thomas R. Cossalter Manager - Purchasing
Ross A. Phенning Manager - Electrical/Systems

* * * * *

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

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

Ed Latendresse General Manager
Joe Marturano Manager - Asset Management
Todd Nelson Manager - Financial Control
Rally Hess Manager - Mining
Dan Aagenes Manager - Plants
Michael P. Kern Manager - Human Resources
Andrea J. Bakk Manager - Safety & Loss Control
Julie C. Lucas Manager - Environmental
Tim Angelo Manager - Procurement

* * * * *

UNITED TACONITE, LLC

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

Chad Asgaard General Manager
Ryan Korpela Area Manager - Plant
Jared Lubben Area Manager - Mine
Nick Beukema Area Manager - Maintenance
Adam Radel Area Manager - Finance
Joseph Mattson Area Manager - Human Resources
Ryan Bogart Area Manager - Safety
Candice Maxwell Area Manager - Environmental
Jon Lamusga Section Manager - Materials

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

Paul Carlson General Manager
Ron Holm Plant Manager
Conor McCue Mine Manager
Bryan Rusco Railroad Manager
Scott Blood Safety Manager
Andrea Hayden Environmental Manager
Andy Rogers Asset Manager
Troy Sarles Human Resource Manager
Chris Tokvam Purchasing Manager
Nolan Koskela Finance Manager
Luke Thun Plant Safety Representative
Jake Baxter Plant Safety Representative
Abby Cyr Plant Safety Associate
Rod Lampton Mine Safety Representative

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

Jon Cherry President and Chief Executive Officer
LaTisha Gietzen Director of Public and Community Relations
James Tieberg Division Manager - Mining
Kevin Pylka Manager of Environmental Permitting & Compliance
Christie Kearney Environmental Site Director

* * * * *

TWIN METALS MINNESOTA, LLC
400 Miners Drive
Ely, MN 55731

Kelly Osborne CEO
Julie Padilla Chief Regulatory Officer
Derek Heinecke V.P. Finance
Glenn Barr V.P. Engineering
Dean DeBeltz Director Operations and Safety

PIONEER FOUNDERS, LLC
306 W. Superior Street, Suite 1605
Duluth, Minnesota 55802-1816
Phone: 218-722-0816

Nicholas B. Alworth Managing Director

* * * * *

CONGDON MINERAL MANAGEMENT, INC.

1035 7th Ave. E.
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746-3675
Phone: 218-262-0799
Fax: 206-203-0098

David C. Adams President
David G. Meineke Vice President

* * * * *

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
Heidi McDermid Administrative Assistant

* * * * *

GLACIER PARK IRON ORE PROPERTIES, LLC

CORPORATE OFFICE

755 E. Mulberry Ave., Suite 600
San Antonio, TX 78212
Phone: 210-821-6523

Mr. David Schlagel President
Matt Gonzales Accountant

HIBBING OFFICE

801 E. Howard Street
PO Box 429
Hibbing, MN 55746
Phone: 218-262-3886

Jeff Tromp Chief Mining Engineer
Austin Dusek Geologist / GIS Specialist
Robert Crowe Mining Engineer / Inspector
John Reed Geological Engineer
Matt Walto Manager of Mines

* * * * *

HARTLEY OFFICE

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

Patrick Flattery Trust Manager

* * * * *

IRON MINING ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA

324 West Superior Street
Suite 502
Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Phone: 218-722-7724
Fax: 218-720-6707
www.taconite.org

2019 IMA Staff

Kelsey Johnson President

2019 IMA Board of Directors

Marci Knight American Bank of the North
Steve Mekkes ArcelorMittal Minorca Mine
Robb Peterson ArcelorMittal Minorca Mine (Board Chair)
Ed LaTendresse ArcelorMittal - Hibbing Taconite
Patrick Bloom Cleveland Cliffs Inc.
Sandy Karnowski Cleveland Cliffs Inc.
Paul Carlson Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - Northshore Mining Co.
Chad Asgaard Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - United Taconite
Adam Radel Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - United Taconite
Bruce Mars Conveyor Belt Services
Jim Perry Furin & Shea Welding & Fabricating Inc.
Randy Abernethy Industrial Weldors & Machinists
Brian Maki Lakehead Constructors
Jon Anderson RMS Equipment
David Bednarz Steel Dynamics
Mark Lorenz Steel Dynamics
Jeff Lipovetz TKDA
Matt Thibodeau Thibodeau, Johnson & Feriancek PLLP
Deb Deluca Duluth Seaway Port Authority
Allyz Kramer Short-Elliott-Hendrickson, Inc.
Frank Frederickson Minnesota Power
Chrissy Bartovich U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Tim Kalisch U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Travis Kolari U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Larry Sutherland U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations

* * * * *

ONONDAGA IRON, LLC

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

David Adams Chief Executive Officer
Jane Kingston Chief Financial Officer

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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

A Wholly-Owned Subsidiary of Superior Mineral Resources LLC
1910 East 8th Avenue
P.O. Box 650
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
Phone: 218-262-6127

Greg D. Lindahl President

* * * * *

SUPERIOR MINERALS RESOURCES, LLC

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

Greg D. Lindahl President and Chief Executive Officer

* * * * *

MESABI MINERAL ASSOCIATION

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

Nicholas B. Alworth Managing Director

* * * * *

GLOBAL MINERALS ENGINEERING, LLC

1035 7th Ave. E.
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746-3675
Phone: 218-262-0799
Fax: 206-203-0098

David G. Meineke President & CEO
Dorothy M. Meineke CFO

* * * * *

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155
(651) 259-5959
FAX (651) 296-5939

Sarah Strommen Commissioner
Barb Naramore Deputy Commissioner
Jess Richards Assistant Commissioner
Joseph Henderson ... Director, Division of Lands and Minerals (LAM)

Division of Lands and Minerals

1525 Third Avenue E.
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
(218) 231-8443
FAX (218) 262-7328

Peter Clevensline Asst. Director, Division of Lands and Minerals

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION
MINELAND RECLAMATION**

1003 Discovery Drive
Chisholm, Minnesota 55719
Phone: (218) 274-7000 Fax: (218) 274-7002

Linda Johnson Mining and Reclamation Programs Supervisor
Shelley Sallee Office & Administration Specialist, Sr.
James B. Plummer .. Laurentian Vision and Real Property Coordinator
Tom Schmelzler Building and Grounds Supervisor

* * * * *

**DEPARTMENT OF
IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION
4261 HIGHWAY 53 SOUTH
P.O. BOX 441
EVELETH, MN 55734
Phone: (218) 735-3000 or 800-765-5043**

Mark Phillips Commissioner
Jason Metsa Deputy Commissioner
Matt Sjoberg Executive Director of Development
Marianne Bouska Chief Operating Officer
Linda Johnson Mining Reclamation and Property Development

* * * * *

**RGGS Lands & Minerals LTD., L.P.
P.O. Box 1266
Virginia, MN 57792
Phone: (218) 749-1291
Fax: (218) 749-1294**

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**ST. LOUIS COUNTY
SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT
2503 RICE LAKE ROAD
DULUTH MN 55811-4819
PHONE: 218-726-2139**

Joseph J. Austin Director
Karen Matvey Information Specialist

**Government Services Center
201 South 3rd Avenue West
Virginia MN 55792
Phone: 218-742-9841**

Derek Harbin Inspector of Mines
David Hamalainen Assistant Mine Inspector
Micah Hovet Assistant Mine Inspector

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY LAND AND MINERALS
GOVERNMENT SERVICE BUILDING
320 West 2nd Street
Duluth MN 55802**

Mark Weber Director

**7820 Hwy 135
Virginia, MN 55792
Phone: 218-742-9885**

Julie Marinucci Deputy Director - Land Asset Management

* * * * *

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

515 W. First Street, Room 323
Duluth, MN 55802-1302
Phone: 218-720-5448
Fax: 218-720-5650

DISTRICT OFFICE

Christopher A. Hensler District Manager
Gerald D. Holeman Assistant District Manager
Daniel J. Goyen Assistant District Manager
Wilbert W. Koskiniemi Jr. Supervisory Special Investigator
Scott E. Salo Conference Litigation Representative
Stephen D. Cotie Health Specialist

DULUTH FIELD OFFICE

William H. Soderlind Supervisory Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Richard D. Galamo Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Mindy A. Meierbachtol Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Cory C. Niemi Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Terrance J. Norman Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Jeffrey J. Rausch Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Rufus L. Taylor Mine Safety & Health Inspector

HIBBING FIELD OFFICE

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

Richard V. Boeckermann .. Supervisory Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Jerome A. Cuffe Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Luke E. Jarvi Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Ryan D. Moberg Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Kevin N. Ouke Mine Safety & Health Inspector

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55101
Phone: (651) 556-6003 Fax: (651) 297-1939

Cynthia Bauerly Commissioner
Gina Amacher Director, Special Taxes Division
Steve Helmen Minerals Tax Supervisor
Nick Norris Revenue Tax Specialist

Minerals Tax Office
230 1st St. S., Suite 102
Virginia, Minnesota 55792
Phone: (218) 744-7424 Fax: (218) 742-9153

Bob Wagstrom Production Tax
Robert Pecchia Production Tax

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INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

Local No. 49
8381 Enterprise Drive N
Virginia, MN 55792
Phone: 218-741-8190 - Virginia
2829 Anthony Lane South
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-3285
Phone: 612-788-9441 - Minneapolis

Jason George Business Manager, Financial Director, Minneapolis
Ryan Davies Area Business Representative, Virginia
Dan Snidarich Area Business Representative, Virginia
Dan Manick Area Business Representative, Virginia

UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
DISTRICT 11

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE
Phone: 612-623-8045

Emil Ramirez Director

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

Cathy Drummond Assistant to the Director
John Arbogast Staff Representative
Michele Frederickson Staff Representative

**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
LOCAL UNITS**

**LOCAL #6860
UNITED TACONITE, LLC**
Phone: 218-744-4480

Dan Hill President
Jamie Winger Vice President
Candace Sprague Recording Secretary
Kris Kuhlmeier Financial Secretary
Gary Butala Treasurer
Larry Roberts Safety Coordinator
Larry Simonson Plant Safety Chairman
Gary Butala Mine Safety Chairman
Bryan Sandnas Training Coordinator

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

Cliff Tobey President
David Mlakar Safety Chair/Safety Representative
Joe Ferris Safety Representative
Pat Savage Area Chair, Concentrator
Jeff Stalboerger Area Chair, Shop
Kelly Peterson Area Chair, Pit
Lorne Middlestead Area Chair, Pond
Tawnya Gustafson Area Chair, Crusher
Carl Jeranek Area Chair, Pellet Plant
Eric Staydohar Area Chair, Electrical
Dan Pierce Area Chair Shop

**LOCAL #2705
HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY**

Phone: 218-254-2492
Fax: 218-254-7100

115 W. Lake Street, Chisholm, MN 55719

Chris Johnson President
Steve Rancourt Vice President
Mike Mandich Financial Secretary
Bill Fredette Recording Secretary
Wade Bexell Treasurer
Jeff Walters Union Safety Representative
Bill Fredette Safety Chairman

LOCAL #6115
ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC.
Phone: 218-741-3310

Harold Anderson President
Tom French Safety Coordinator
Reed Milos Sub Chair, Safety
Kyle Lamppa Training Coordinator

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

Steve Bonach President
Chad Daniels Vice President
Dave Chesser Recording Secretary
Paul Centa Financial Secretary
Rick Niemi Treasurer
Mitch McDonald Safety Committee Chairman
Mark Hagsten Safety Committee Co-Chairman
Matt Robillard Safety Coordinator - Minntac/Keetac
Rick Niemi Full-Time Safety Representative, Mine/Shops
Mike Hultman Full-Time Safety Representative, Concentrator/
Crushers
Paul Coombe Full-Time Safety Representative,
Agglomerators I, II, III

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BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION LABORERS
LOCAL 1097

712 4th St. North
Virginia, MN 55792
Phone: 218-741-3638

Rick J. Cannata President
Todd Payne Vice President
Shawn Braford Business Manager/Financial Secretary
Aaron C. Jarva "E" Board Member
Patrick D. O'Connell "E" Board Member
Ryan Towner "E" Board Member
Michael G. Warner Recording Secretary
Shelly A. Wiitanen Office Manager
Alfred M. Lung Sergeant at Arms

FATAL ACCIDENT

ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC:

Mobile Equipment Mechanic, Date of Accident — November 5, 2019. Employee was driving Service Truck SR136 on the main haul road heading east towards the pit. For unknown reasons at this time it appears the truck hit the berm on the south side of the road causing it to tip sideways ending up on the driver's side. Employee was found outside of the vehicle.

NON-FATAL LOST-TIME AND SERIOUS ACCIDENTS

ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC:

Pit Shift Manager, Date of Accident — August 9, 2019. Employee was climbing up a berm to plan the next job, which was moving a drill cable. The employee lost his footing and fell, catching himself and breaking the fall with his left arm. He felt pain in his shoulder at the time. He sustained a torn rotator cuff and a partially torn bicep tendon which required surgery to repair. Days Lost — 43

HIBBING TACONITE:

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident — February 24, 2019. Employee was working on the filter in the Pellet Plant. The snap blow had stopped working so the attendant removed an access plate to investigate and noticed material built on the proxy switch. The attendant reacted by removing the material that was on the proxy switch. At that time, the filter drive gear rotated around and clipped the right pointer finger of the attendant's hand causing a laceration. The filter was not locked out at the time of the incident. The incident resulted in stitches to the right pointer finger. Days Lost — 1

Auto Diesel Mechanic, Date of Accident — April 10, 2019. Employee was assigned to an engine repair change out on a production truck. It is believed that the employee was working on installing the left hand exhaust pipe for the production truck. It is assumed that the employee was either stepping onto or off of the rolling stair pulled up next to the frame when they fell approximately 10 feet to the ground. There were no witnesses to the incident that are currently known. The employee's partner stated they heard some noise/commotion and they heard their partner call for them. The employee's partner found him inside the driver's left front tire on the floor on his hands and knees. Employee did not lose consciousness during the incident. Incident caused contusion, spine compression and abrasions. Days Lost — 14

Electrician, Date of Accident — May 14, 2019. Employee was working on overtime installing new light fixtures in a storage room. The employee had lowered the JLG Liftpod, stepped out of the unit, squatted down to unhook their harness from the tie-off point, stood up and immediately felt pain in their right knee. Employee then sat down and removed their fall protection harness to take a look at their knee. Their knee appeared to be swollen and employee had difficulty bearing weight on it. Incident resulted in a torn meniscus and required surgical repair. Days Lost — 38

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY (cont)

Auto Diesel Mechanic, Date of Accident — August 11, 2019. Employee was using a pry bar on a section of loader fan shroud to align the bolt holes for installation by their partner. Employee using the pry bar applied pressure which caused the pry bar to slip and strike the employee in the left ear. This resulted in a small cut to their left ear. Days Lost — 3

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

Babbitt:

None

Silver Bay:

None

UNITED TACONITE:

None

USS CORPORATION, MINNESOTA ORE OPERATIONS

KEETAC:

None

MINNTAC:

Utility Person, Step 1,2 Agglomerator, Date of Accident — January 8, 2019. Utility person #1 was working on replacing a 1.5" ball valve off the main 273 water header. Upon completion of installing the new valve and pipe assembly (approximately 20" in length) the water header was re-energized. Utility person #1 then tried to open the 1.5" ball valve and the entire pipe assembly started to rotate towards the employee. Utility person #1 and utility person #2 again isolated the 1.5" ball valve and attempted to tighten the assembly by hand. Utility person #2 began to walk away while utility person #1 re-energized the 1.5" ball valve. At this point it is assumed that utility person #1 was struck by the valve/pipe assembly as it rotated off the header pipe extension. The employee suffered a fractured skull. Days Lost — 180

OpTech 1, Step 1,2 Agglomerator, Date of Accident — February 9, 2019. An OpTech 1 had exited the 1591 service pick-up truck and was walking across the Step 1,2 parking lot to enter the Step 1,2 Agglomerator. As the injured walked across the lot, he stepped on a patch of compressed snow and ice, slipping and landing on his right shoulder, tearing his right rotator cuff. The shoulder required surgery to repair the torn rotator cuff. Days Lost — 21