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#### **DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**

500 LAFAYETTE ROAD, ST. PAUL, MINNESOTA 55155-4037

OFFICE OF THE COMMISSIONER

DNR INFORMATION (612) 296-6157

November 15, 1989

State Executive Council State Capitol St. Paul, Minnesota 55155

Re: Report and Recommendations on Bids Submitted for the October 12, 1989 Sale of State Metallic Minerals Leases

Dear Members of the State Executive Council:

On October 12, 1989, 10 parties submitted 83 bids for state leases to prospect for and mine metallic minerals. Attached is a tabulation of all the bids received and opened before Lieutenant Governor Marlene Johnson and Steven Thorne, Deputy Commissioner of Natural Resources.

The Unit Book for this sale listed 3,384 mining units covering 1,370,232 acres. The bids received covered 81 mining units containing a total of 34,789 acres.

The Department recommends that leases be awarded to the high bidders on 65 of the 81 mining units bid on and that action be deferred on the bids on the other 16 mining units. The bidders and detailed recommendations on their bids are described later in this report under the heading "Review and Recommendations."

Bids were submitted on 2 mining units in Aitkin County, 8 mining units in Beltrami County, 16 mining units in Itasca County, 13 mining units in Lake of the Woods County, 3 mining units in Roseau County, and 39 mining units in St. Louis County.

Approximately 22% (7,696 acres) of the total bid acreage consists of School Trust Fund Lands--3,696 acres are in Itasca County and 4,000 acres are in St. Louis County. Revenue from leases covering these lands is distributed to the Permanent School Fund, from which the annual net interest and dividends are distributed to the school districts throughout the state.

An additional 38% (13,247 acres) of the bid acreage consists of lands and minerals that have forfeited for taxes--80 acres are in Aitkin County, 3,104 acres are in Itasca County, and 10,063 acres are in St. Louis County. Eighty percent of the revenue from leases covering these lands is distributed to the county, town or city, and school district in which the leased lands lie. The remaining twenty percent is distributed to the general fund of the state.

An additional 36% (12,526 acres) of the bid acreage consists of Consolidated Conservation Area Lands, which were originally acquired as the result of tax forfeiture. There are 4,795 acres in Beltrami County, 6,702 acres in Lake of the Woods County, and 1,029 acres in Roseau County. Fifty percent of the revenue from leases covering these lands is distributed to the county in which the leased lands lie, and the remaining fifty percent is distributed to the Consolidated Conservation Area Account.

The remaining bid acreage consists of rural credit lands (160 acres) and acquired lands (1,160 acres).

Of the 81 mining units bid upon, 79 units had been previously offered for lease and 40 units, covering 17,968 acres, were previously leased. There are also two mining units in St. Louis County bid upon which had not been previously offered.

As shown on the attached bid tabulation, the bids received ranged from 0 percent to 6.683 percent of the value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in the mill concentrate. Two of the mining units received more than one bid. The average high bid for this sale is 1.32%. This average is slightly lower than the range for the last five lease sales (1.50%, 1.52%, 1.51%, 1.47% and 1.60%). The bid amounts are in addition to the base royalty rate provided in Minnesota Rules, part 6125.0700, the state metallic minerals lease rules. These rules were amended in the spring of 1988.

It should also be kept in mind that the sealed bidding process requires bidders to consider all bids as being competitive. The Department believes that the range of high bids is acceptable considering the location of the mining units, the base royalty rate of the state lease, and the fact that 98% of the mining units bid upon were previously offered for lease with 50% of the mining units having been previously leased.

In establishing the mining units being offered, the Department reviewed the state-owned and administered lands in the area and screened them for obvious potential conflicts. No lands within state parks, scientific and natural areas, the Voyageur's National Park, or the B.W.C.A.W. were included in mining units. No meandered waters were included in any mining unit. Certain nonmeandered public waters lying below the natural ordinary high water line and certain flowed areas of established water reservoirs were also excluded. Many other state-owned and administered lands were excluded, and other parcels were included but made subject to special conditions to further protect the environment or certain characteristics of those parcels.

The Department provides at least 15 days after the opening of bids for state mineral leases before making its recommendations to the Executive Council on the awarding of the leases. This is to allow additional time for interested parties, as well as the state, to review the lands on which bids were received. This procedure was used in the current sale and in last six lease sales.

Members of the staff of the Division of Minerals met with representatives of environmental groups before publication of the unit book. The major concerns of the groups were addressed before the final draft of the unit book was completed. Further consultation with the representatives did not turn up disagreement after the opening of the bids.

As we have discussed at other meetings, there is an extensive body of state law which regulates each stage of a mining operation on any land in the state (not just state-owned land). For example, exploration by drilling is regulated by the Exploratory Borings Law (Minn. Stat. Ch. 103I). This law requires explorers to be licensed by the Department of Health and registered with the Department of Natural Resources, and establishes standards for the sealing of drill holes.

Before a mining operation could commence, the mining company would have to obtain a permit to mine from the Department of Natural Resources and prepare an environmental impact statement. The Pollution Control Agency also has major permit authority associated with mining. Shutdown and deactivation of any mining operation would be regulated by the state's mineland reclamation laws.

#### REVIEW AND RECOMMENDATIONS

The following is a summary of the bids submitted and the high bids:

Bidde	<u>r</u>	No. of <u>Bids Receive</u>	No. of High Bids
1.	American Copper and Nickel Company,	Inc. 9	9
2.	BHP-Utah International Inc.	6	6
3.	Giants Range Minerals Inc.	1	1
4.	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	16	16
5.	International Platinum Corporation	14	14
6.	Kennecott Exploration Company	4	2
7.	Newmont Exploration Ltd.	2	2
8.	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	12	12
9.	Normin Mining Company	14	14
10.	Rhude & Fryberger, Inc.	_5	_5
	Totals	83	81

#### Summary of Recommendations

The Department's recommendations as to the 81 mining units bid upon are summarized as follows:

1) It is the Department's recommendation that 65 state metallic minerals leases be awarded at this time to the following high bidders:

Bidder	No. of Mining Units
American Copper & Nickel Company, Inc. BHP-Utah International Inc.	9 6
Giants Range Minerals Inc.	1
International Platinum Corporation Kennecott Exploration Company	14 2
Newmont Exploration Ltd. Noranda Exploration, Inc.	2 12
Normin Mining Company	14
Rhude & Fryberger, Inc.	5

2) It is the Department's recommendation that action be deferred on 16 bids from Great Lakes Exploration, Inc. to allow the bidder more time to submit additional requested information for the Department to review in determining that bidder's ability to financially and technically perform under the state lease.

#### Detailed Recommendations

The Department's recommendations as to the bids submitted by each bidder are as follows:

#### American Copper & Nickel Company, Inc.

American Copper & Nickel Company, Inc. is headquartered in Wheat Ridge, Colorado. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of INCO United States, Inc., which is a subsidiary of INCO Limited, the world's leading producer of nickel and an important producer of copper and platinum - group metals. American Copper & Nickel Company has been actively exploring for base and precious metal mineral deposits throughout the United States for over 30 years. It is a partner in the current design and development of a gold deposit in Montana.

This is the second time that American Copper & Nickel Company has bid at a state mineral lease sale. The company currently holds 32 metallic mineral leases covering lands in St. Louis County from the 1988 lease sale. INCO has previously held state leases from the 1966 and 1970 lease sales.

#### Recommendation:

American Copper & Nickel Company, Inc. was high bidder on nine mining units covering 3,421 acres in St. Louis County. Of these nine mining units, one unit covering 320 acres has been previously leased.

The Department recommends that American Copper & Nickel Company, Inc. be awarded state metallic minerals leases on the nine mining units on which they submitted the high bids.

#### BHP-Utah International Inc.

BHP-Utah International Inc. is a member company of the BHP-Utah Minerals International Group of the Broken Hill Proprietory Company Limited (BHP), one of the largest companies in Australia. BHP-Utah International Inc. is headquartered in San Francisco, California with a branch office in Herndon, Virginia. BHP is a major producer of coal, base and precious metals, and oil. It owns or operates mining projects in Australia, the United States, Canada, Chile, Brazil, Papua New Guinea, and other countries around the world.

This company currently holds 74 state mineral leases covering lands in Koochiching County and St. Louis County. The company has also entered into exploration agreements affecting state mineral leases held by Kerr-McGee Corporation in Koochiching and St. Louis Counties.

#### Recommendation:

BHP-Utah International, Inc. was high bidder on six mining units covering 1,532 acres in St. Louis County. Of these six mining units, five units covering 1,367 acres have been previously leased.

The Department recommends that BHP-Utah International, Inc. be awarded state metallic minerals leases on the six mining units on which they submitted the high bids.

#### Giants Range Minerals Incorporated

Giants Range Minerals Incorporated is a Minnesota corporation and is a wholly-owned subsidiary of North Central Mineral Ventures Incorporated, a Minnesota corporation. North Central Mineral Ventures Incorporated is an affiliate of Ernest K. Lehmann & Associates, Inc. (ELA). The ELA group are consulting geologists engaged in worldwide mineral exploration, mineral deposit evaluation, mineral economic studies, and related matters.

This company currently holds four state mineral leases covering lands in Itasca County.

#### Recommendation:

Giants Range Minerals Incorporated was the high bidder on one mining unit covering 80 acres in Itasca County. This mining unit has been previously leased.

The Department recommends that Giants Range Minerals Incorporated be awarded a state metallic minerals lease on the one mining unit on which they submitted the high bid.

#### International Platinum Corporation

International Platinum Corporation is headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada. It is primarily engaged in the exploration for platinum in Canada and the United States. This exploration includes drilling programs in Manitoba, the Northwest Territories, Quebec, Ontario and Montana. The company also engages in exploration for silver, gold, base metals, and oil.

This is the second time that this company has bid at a state mineral lease sale. The company currently holds eight state mineral leases covering lands in St. Louis County.

#### Recommendation:

International Platinum Corporation was the high bidder on 14 mining units covering 7,695 acres in St Louis County. Of these 14 mining units, 11 mining units covering 6,086 acres have been previously leased.

The Department recommends that International Platinum Corporation be awarded state metallic minerals leases on the 14 mining units on which they submitted the high bids.

#### Kennecott Exploration Company

Kennecott Exploration Company is based in South Carolina. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Kennecott Corporation which explores for and produces copper, gold, silver, and molybdenum in North America. Kennecott Corporation is in turn a wholly-owned subsidiary of RTZ Corporation PLC, of London, England, the largest mining company in the world. Kennecott Exploration Company is the minerals exploration arm of Kennecott Corporation. Kennecott Corporation operates the Bingham Canyon copper mine in Utah, and is completing a multi-million dollar modernization of this mine.

This is the first time this company has bid at a state metallic minerals lease sale. An affiliated company, Kennecott Minerals Company, currently holds seven state leases in Itasca and St. Louis Counties.

#### Recommendation:

Kennecott Exploration Company was the high bidder on two mining units covering 440 acres in St. Louis County. Neither of these mining units has been previously leased.

The Department recommends that Kennecott Exploration Company be awarded state metallic minerals leases on the two mining units on which they submitted the high bid.

#### Newmont Exploration Limited

Newmont Exploration Limited is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Newmont Mining Corporation, the largest producer of gold in North America. Newmont Exploration Limited is headquartered in Denver, Colorado and is primarily engaged in gold

exploration in the United States. Newmont Mining Corporation is an international gold operating and exploration company and it and its subsidiaries have operations in the United States, Australia, Papua New Guinea, and Indonesia.

Newmont Exploration Limited currently holds 69 state mineral leases covering lands in Aitkin, Beltrami, Lake, Marshall, Norman, Roseau, and St. Louis Counties.

#### Recommendation:

Newmont Exploration Limited was the high bidder on two mining units covering 160 acres in Aitkin County. Neither of these mining units has been previously leased.

The Department recommends that Newmont Exploration Limited be awarded state metallic minerals leases on the two mining units on which they submitted the high bids.

#### Noranda Exploration, Inc.

Noranda Exploration, Inc. is primarily engaged in the exploration for base and precious metals deposits in the United States and Canada. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Noranda Minerals, a major producer of copper, lead, zinc, gold, silver, molybdenum and phosphate. Noranda Minerals is headquartered in Toronto, Ontario, Canada and Noranda Exploration, Inc. operates out of Rhinelander, Wisconsin. Noranda Minerals is a major owner in the mining and milling of the gold deposits at Hemlo, Ontario.

This company currently holds 44 state mineral leases covering lands in Beltrami, Itasca, and St. Louis Counties.

#### Recommendation:

Noranda Exploration, Inc. was the high bidder on 12 mining units covering 5,511 acres: one mining unit covering 440 acres in Beltrami County, one mining unit covering 386 acres in Itasca County, seven mining units covering 3,230 acres in Lake of the Woods County, and 3 mining units covering 1,455 acres in St. Louis County. Of these 12 mining units, four units covering 1,742 acres in Lake of the Woods County and two units covering 858 acres in St. Louis County have been previously leased.

The Department recommends that Noranda Exploration, Inc. be awarded state metallic mineral leases on the 12 mining units on which they submitted the high bids.

#### Normin Mining Company

Normin Mining Company is headquartered in Boise, Idaho. It is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Boise Cascade Corporation, which is primarily engaged in the manufacture and sale of paper, packaging, office products and building products.

Normin Mining Company conducts base and precious metal mineral exploration on fee properties owned by Boise Cascade Corporation as well as on state-leased and privately-leased lands.

This company currently holds 42 state mineral leases covering lands in Itasca and Koochiching Counties.

#### Recommendation:

Normin Mining Company was the high bidder on 14 mining units covering 6,333 acres in Itasca County. Of these 14 mining units, 11 covering 5,016 acres have been previously leased.

The Department recommends that Normin Mining Company be awarded state metallic minerals leases on the 14 mining units on which they submitted the high bids.

#### Rhude & Fryberger, Inc.

Rhude & Fryberger, Inc. is based in Hibbing, Minnesota. It is an independent iron ore company that has conducted open pit mining operations on the Mesabi Range. For the last several years, it has been exploring for base and precious metals in Minnesota.

This company currently holds 41 state mineral leases covering lands in Lake and and St. Louis Counties. The company also holds one lease in St. Louis County jointly with North Bay Exploration.

#### Recommendation:

Rhude & Fryberger, Inc. was the high bidder on five mining units covering 600 acres in St. Louis County. Of these five mining units, one unit covering 40 acres has been previously leased.

The Department recommends that Rhude & Fryberger, Inc. be awarded state metallic mineral leases on the five mining units on which they submitted the high bids.

Respectfully submitted.

Joseph N. Alexander

Commissioner

# STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF MINERALS TABULATION OF BIDS OPENED ON

## OCTOBER 12,1989

FOR STATE LEASES TO EXPLORE AND MINE METALLIC MINERALS

	AITKIN	COUNTY	
MINING UNIT	% BID	BIDDER	RANK
A-21- 46-25-A	2.8710	Newmont Exploration Ltd.	1
A-27- 46-25-A	2.8710	Newmont Exploration Ltd.	1
		•	
	BELTRAM	I COUNTY	
MINING UNIT	% BID	BIDDER	RANK
B-20-158-36	1.2250	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
B-25-158-36	1.9360	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
B-26-158-36	2.9630	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
B- 6-158-37	0.3960	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
B- 8-158-37	1.9360	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
B- 9-158-37	2.9630	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
B- 1-158-38	2.9630	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
B- 2-158-38	2.9630	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1

# STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF MINERALS TABULATION OF BIDS OPENED ON OCTOBER 12,1989

#### FOR STATE LEASES TO EXPLORE AND MINE METALLIC MINERALS

	ITASCA	COUNTY	
MINING UNIT	% BID	BIDDER	RANK
I- 8- 61-22	0.5000	Normin Mining Company	1
I-18- 61-22	0.2000	Normin Mining Company	1
I-30- 61-22	0.2500	Normin Mining Company	1
I-25- 62-22	0.7130	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
I- 4- 61-23	0.2500	Normin Mining Company	1
I-13- 61-23	0.2500	Normin Mining Company	1
I-16- 61-23	0.5000	Normin Mining Company	1
I-18- 61-23	0.5000	Normin Mining Company	1
I-35- 61-23	0.2500	Normin Mining Company	1
I-36- 61-23	0.2500	Normin Mining Company	1
I-13- 62-23	0.2000	Normin Mining Company	1
I-11- 61-24	0.2500	Normin Mining Company	1
I-12- 61-24	0.2500	Normin Mining Company	1
I-15- 61-24	0.2500	Normin Mining Company	1
I-20- 61-24	0.0000	Normin Mining Company	1
I-14- 59-26	0.1500	Giants Range Minerals Inc.	1

# STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF MINERALS

# TABULATION OF BIDS OPENED ON OCTOBER 12,1989

### FOR STATE LEASES TO EXPLORE AND MINE METALLIC MINERALS

	LAKE OF	THE WOODS COUNTY	
MINING UNIT	% BID	BIDDER	RANK
LW-30-159-32	1.2250	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
LW-31-159-32	1.2250	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
LW-32-159-32	1.2250	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
LW-25-159-33	1.2250	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
LW-26-159-33	1.2250	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
LW-35-159-33	1.2250	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
LW-36-159-33	1.2250	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
LW- 1-157-35	0.3960	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
`W- 2-157-35	1.9630	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
LW-30-158-35	0.3960	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
LW-32-158-35	2.9630	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
LW-33-158-35	2.9630	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
LW-34-158-35	1.9630	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
	ROSEAU	COUNTY	
MINING UNIT	% BID	BIDDER	RANK
R-33-159-38	0.3960	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
R-35-159-38	1.9630	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1
R-36-159-38	1.9630	Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	1

# STATE OF MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES DIVISION OF MINERALS

## TABULATION OF BIDS OPENED ON OCTOBER 12,1989

### FOR STATE LEASES TO EXPLORE AND MINE METALLIC MINERALS

COUNTY

ST. LOUIS

	ST. LOUI	S COUNTY	
MINING UNIT	% BID	BIDDER	RANK
SL-30- 63-12	2.0000	BHP-Utah International Inc.	1
SL-31- 63-12	2.0000	BHP-Utah International Inc.	1
SL-26- 63-13	2.0000	BHP-Utah International Inc.	1
SL-34- 63-13	2.0000	BHP-Utah International Inc.	1
SL-35- 63-13	2.0000	BHP-Utah International Inc.	1
SL-36- 63-13	2.0000	BHP-Utah International Inc.	1
SL-17- 54-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-19- 54-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
L-20- 54-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-21- 54-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-28- 54-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-29- 54-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-30- 54-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL- 9- 55-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-16- 55-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-21- 55-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-28- 55-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-29- 55-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-32- 55-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-33- 55-14	0.3100	International Platinum Corp.	1
SL-27- 59-16	1.2200	Kennecott Exploration Company	1

MINING UNIT	% BID	BIDDER	RANK
SL-34- 59-16	3.6830 2.5200	Rhude & Fryberger, Inc. Kennecott Exploration Company	1 2
SL-35- 59-16	3.6830 2.5200	Rhude & Fryberger, Inc. Kennecott Exploration Company	1 2
SL-11- 58-17-A	2.5200	Kennecott Exploration Company	1
SL-23- 58-17	2.2700	Rhude & Fryberger, Inc.	1
SL-28- 58-17	6.6830	Rhude & Fryberger, Inc.	1
SL-29- 58-17	6.6830	Rhude & Fryberger, Inc.	1
SL-30- 62-20	1.1700	American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc.	1
SL-25- 62-21	1.1700	American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc.	1
SL-26- 62-21	1.1700	American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc.	1
SL-27- 62-21	1.1700	American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc.	1
SL-28- 62-21	1.1700	American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc.	1
3L-30- 62-21	0.7130	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
SL-31- 62-21	0.7130	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
SL-32- 62-21	0.7130	Noranda Exploration, Inc.	1
SL-33- 62-21	1.1700	American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc.	1
SL-34- 62-21	1.1700	American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc.	1
SL-35- 62-21	1.1700	American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc.	1
SL-36- 62-21	1.1700	American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc.	1

#### METALLIC MINERALS LEASE SALE, OCTOBER 12, 1989 MINMESOTA DHR, MINERALS DIV.

#### HIGH BIDS AND ACREAGE BY BIDDER AND COUNTY

BIDDER	TOTAL	TOTAL ACRES		TKIN NSTONE ACRES		ELTRAMI EENSTONE TS ACRES		ITASCA REENSTONE TS ACRES		OF THE WOOD EENSTONE TS ACRES	GR	ROSEAU REENSTONE ITS ACRES	GR	ST. LOUIS REENSTONE TS ACRES		T. LOUIS GABBRO TS ACRES
American Copper and Nickel Company, Inc	. 9	3,420.80	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	9	3,420.80	-	-
BMP-Utah International Inc.	6	1,532.12	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	6	1,532.12	-	-
Giants Range Minerals Inc.	1	80.00	-	-	-	-	1	80.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Great Lakes Exploration Inc.	16	9,015.47	-	_	7	4,354.88	-	-	6	3,471.28	3	1,189.31	-	-	-	-
International Platinum Corp.	14	7,695.34	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	14	7,695.34
Kennecott Exploration Company	2	440.00	-	-	_	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2	440.00	-	-
Newmont Exploration Ltd.	2	160.00	2	160.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Noranda Exploration, Inc.	12	5,511.47	-	-	1	440.00	1	386.37	7	3,230.38	-	-	3	1,454.72	-	-
Normin Mining Company	14	6,333.41	-	-	-	-	14	6,333.41	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Rhude & Fryberger, Inc.	5	600.00	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	5	600.00	-	-
TOTALS	81	34,788.61	2	160.00	8	4,794.88	16	6,799.78	13	6,701.66	3	1,189.31	25	7,447.64	14	7,695.34