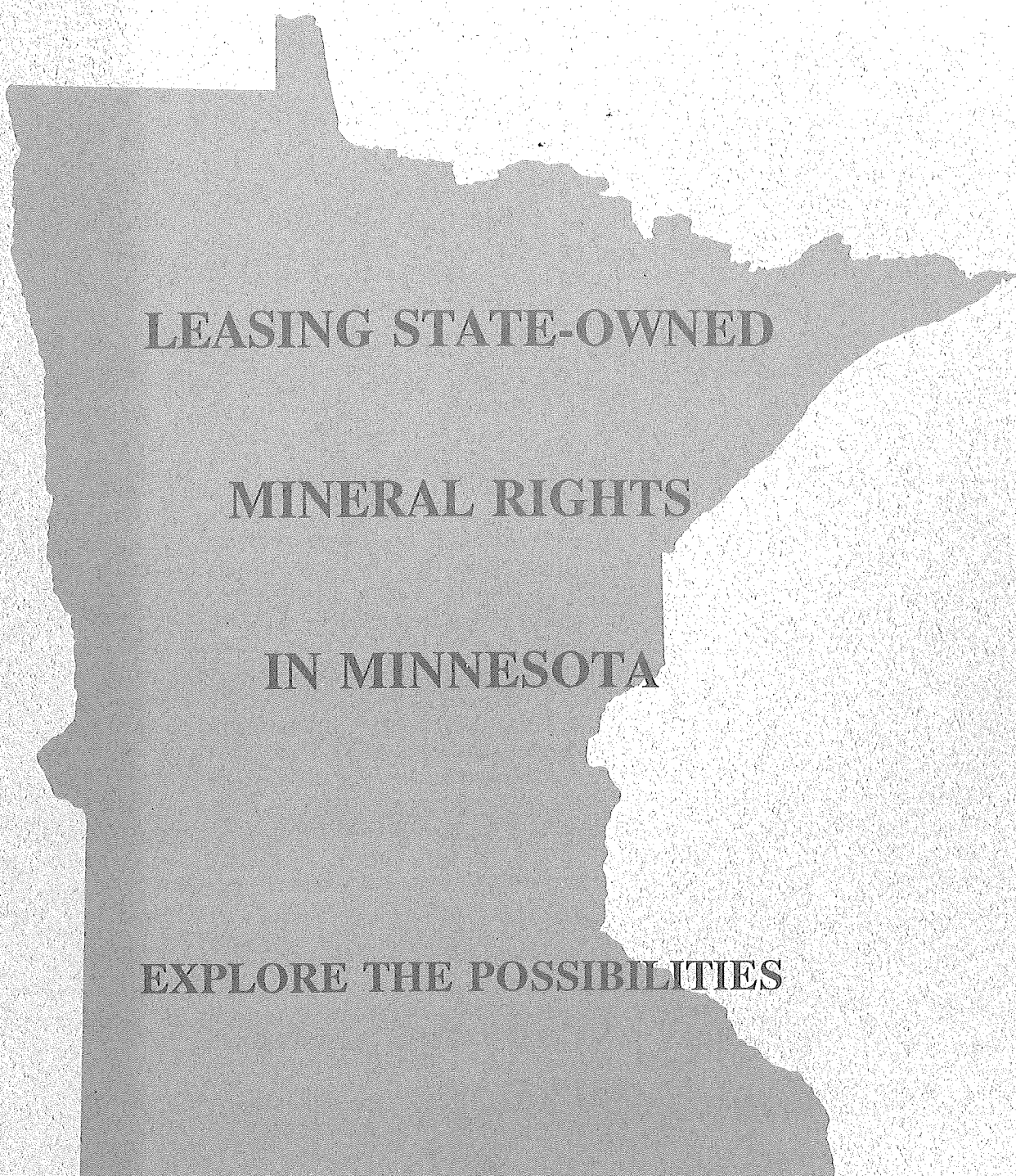




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LEASING STATE-OWNED
MINERAL RIGHTS
IN MINNESOTA

EXPLORE THE POSSIBILITIES

Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Minerals

June, 1991

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INTRODUCTION

The State of Minnesota has an active program of leasing state owned lands for metallic minerals exploration. Minnesota has a mineral rights ownership base of over 12 million acres with excellent potential for base and precious metals.

The state owned mineral rights are managed for the benefit of the schools, the university, local units of government and the public. This responsibility is part of the Department of Natural Resources' mission, which is as follows:

"To preserve, protect and enhance Minnesota's natural resource heritage in order to benefit the environment, economy and quality of life of all Minnesotans, present and future."

Minnesota's mineral policy is found in the Minnesota Constitution and the laws of the state. This body of law has evolved over a century of mineral exploration and development. In summary, the mineral policy of the state encourages environmentally sound development of mineral exploration and mining in this state. The state's environmental statutes are fair but tough.

As part of this mineral policy, several changes were made in the late 1980's. The mining tax laws were changed in 1987, with the repeal of the occupation tax and replacement with a tax calculated in the same manner as the corporate's income tax. A net proceeds tax was enacted and applies to all minerals except iron ore and taconite. The rate of the net proceeds tax is 2% of the gross proceeds from mining less allowable deductions for mining costs. The state metallic minerals leasing rules were amended in 1988.

In January of 1990, the Mining Simulation Project Report was issued. This was the product of a cooperative study between the environmental community, the mining industry, the Pollution Control Agency and the Department of Natural Resources. The purpose of the report was to identify environmental issues and propose resolutions before there was a request for permits to develop a non-ferrous metallic minerals mine. Several actions have been taken or are being taken in response to this report.

We encourage you to come and explore the possibilities for metallic minerals in Minnesota.

William C. Brice
Director, Division of Minerals

NOV 4 1991

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LEASING STATE-OWNED LANDS FOR METALLIC MINERALS

The Basic Procedures

The state metallic minerals lease is almost always issued through public lease sale. The first two years of the lease are deemed the prospecting permit, and no permit is issued independently of the lease. Most leases are issued with a term of 50 years. Many of the lessees make their preliminary evaluation of the lease properties within five years of issuance and thereafter surrender the lease.

The rules pertaining to the leasing procedures and containing the lease form are numbered Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100-.0700. (See pages 9 to 23 for the lease rules.) The rules authorize the Commissioner of Natural Resources to issue leases for the purpose of prospecting for and the mining and removal of ores that are primarily valuable for their metallic minerals content.

The department holds lease sales on an annual basis. The first step in the process, which is at least eight months before the opening of bids, is a letter sent to those parties on the Division of Mineral's mailing list that have expressed interest in a lease sale. The parties are asked to submit a list of areas they would like the department to consider offering at the next lease sale and given about six weeks to reply. (The requests submitted are classified under Minnesota law as confidential information for a period of three years from the sale date.)

The next step in the lease sale process is the department's preparation of a map showing the general areas under consideration for a lease sale. For example, in 1990 the state offered approximately 1.26 million acres of state-owned mineral rights for leasing in the counties of Itasca, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, and St. Louis. The department also issues a notice of intent to hold a sale, which is published at least 90 days in advance of the bid opening.

After the map of the general areas under consideration is prepared, the department assembles data on the state's ownership of mineral rights in these areas. The department also requests and reviews input from various parties concerning the existing use of tracts within the general area under consideration. Through an environmental screening process, some state lands are excluded from the leases sale, some lands are offered for lease with the exception of a certain feature, and some lands are offered for lease subject to a certain feature, use or condition. The state does not offer all state-owned lands within the area under consideration, and no lands outside the area under consideration are offered.

The exact day of the lease sale, which is the day bids are opened, is announced at least thirty days in advance. The notice of sale is also published in local newspapers and some

mining journals and newspapers. All parties on the Division of Mineral's mailing list for the lease sale are also sent a copy of the notice.

At least thirty days before the lease sale date, the department will have prepared a mining unit book. The mining unit book will be available for purchase from our St. Paul office, and will be available for inspection in our St. Paul and Hibbing offices. The mining unit book is essential for the submission of bids since it lists the exact legal description of the lands being offered at the lease sale.

A separate bid is required for each mining unit, as identified in the mining unit book. The Commissioner of Natural Resources designates the land that makes up each mining unit, and the units usually vary in size from 40 to 640 acres.

Bids must be submitted on application and bid forms and in bid envelopes obtained from the department. (There is no fee for the bid forms or envelopes.)

The sealed application and bid forms must be received by the commissioner before 4:30 p.m. on the last business day before the day specified for opening bids.

There are specified rental rates and a base royalty rate in the state lease. The bids submitted are an additional royalty rate above the base royalty rate.

All sealed bids submitted to the commissioner are preserved unopened until the lease sale date. At the time specified, the bids are opened before the commissioner and one member of the State Executive Council, as designated by the council. (The State Executive Council consists of the six constitutional officers of the state.)

After the bids are opened and announced, the department reviews the bids and bidders for compliance with the bidding requirements. The department determines if the bidders are financially and technically competent to perform under the state lease. Within a month or two after the bid opening, the department will present its recommendations to the State Executive Council. The leases are awarded by the Commissioner of Natural Resources, with the approval of the State Executive Council, to the highest bidder. However, no bid for less than the base royalty rates can be accepted and the state may reject any or all bids.

Negotiated leases may be issued only where the commissioner finds it impractical to hold a public lease sale on a mining unit because of its location, size or extent of the state's interest in the minerals in the unit. The State Executive Council also must approve the issuance of negotiated leases.

How to obtain more information

More information on the state's mineral leasing procedures is available from the St. Paul office of the Division of Minerals. Please contact:

Kathy A. Lewis, Mineral Leasing Supervisor
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Minerals
500 Lafayette Road
St. Paul, Minnesota 55155-4045
(612) 296-4807

The Division of Minerals' office in Hibbing has maps and reports on Minnesota's mineral resources, including drill core and exploration data from terminated state and private leases. This data is available for public inspection, with a period of confidentiality under state law covering a written report or other documentation of the private analyses of state-owned or controlled drill core.

To arrange a time for a visit to the Hibbing office or for more information, please contact:

Richard Ruhanen, Minerals Resource Geologist
Minnesota Department of Natural Resources
Division of Minerals
1525 3rd Ave. E.
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
(218) 262-6767

For general information from the Minnesota Department of Natural Resources, contact the DNR Information Center:

Twin Cities: (612) 296-6157
MN Toll Free: 1-800-652-9747 (ask for the DNR)
Telecommunication Device for the Deaf: (612) 296-5484

STATE OWNERSHIP OF MINERAL RIGHTS

Inquiries are often made concerning the extent of the state's ownership of mineral rights. While the federal, state and local governments own or control some surface and mineral rights in Minnesota, the vast amount of both interests remain privately held. Nevertheless, the State of Minnesota is the largest single owner of mineral rights in the state, owning approximately 24% of such mineral rights. The following is a brief summary of how the state acquired mineral rights.

Trust Fund Lands

Trust fund lands were deeded to the state directly from the federal government. The trust fund lands include school lands, swamp lands, internal improvement lands and university lands.

In 1857 the territory was authorized to form a constitution and was granted sections 16 and 36 in every township for the purpose of schools. The territory was also authorized to select alternative school lands where designated school sections had already been settled, cultivated or occupied as town sites. The total conveyance of school lands to Minnesota was about 2,956,000 acres.

In 1860 the U.S. Congress granted the state all the swamp and overflowed lands within its borders that had not been previously reserved or conveyed. The total conveyance of swamp lands to the state was about 4,461,000 acres.

Five hundred thousand acres were granted to the state in 1866 through recognition of the applicability of a 1841 federal law that granted a half million acres of land for purposes of internal improvements to new states upon admittance to the union.

The state also received, at the time it was admitted to the union, the ownership of the beds of navigable waters.

Acquired Lands

The State of Minnesota has also acquired lands through purchase, gift and forfeiture. In most instances, these lands have been first held in private ownership prior to ownership by the state.

Large acreages of lands have been acquired by the state through forfeiture for non-payment of general real estate taxes. The state receives title to tax forfeited lands and holds them in trust for local taxing districts. The acreage of tax forfeited lands in which the state owns the surface interests fluctuates due to new tax forfeitures, land sales and land transfers. There

are currently almost three million acres of tax forfeited lands in which the state owns the surface interests in trust for the taxing districts.

Sizable acreages of mineral rights have been acquired by the state through forfeiture for non-payment of severed mineral interest taxes. (The severed mineral interests law is explained on page 6.) The state receives title to forfeited severed mineral interests and holds them in trust for local taxing districts. As of May, 1991, twenty-seven counties have completed forfeiture proceedings of severed mineral interests for non-payment of the severed mineral interest tax.

Another type of land acquired through tax forfeiture is known as consolidated conservation area land. By a series of legislative acts in 1929, 1931 and 1933, the state assumed payment of drainage ditch bonds that had been issued by seven northern counties (Aitkin, Beltrami, Koochiching, Lake of the Woods, Mahnommen, Marshall and Roseau). In return for the assumption of the bonds, which were facing default, the state received title to tax forfeited lands in areas defined by the laws.

The state has purchased certain lands from the federal government. These lands include Volstead lands and Land Utilization Project Lands.

The Minnesota Bureau of Rural Credit was established in 1924 to issue mortgage loans to farmers in an effort to bolster the troubled farm economy. Due to widespread agricultural depression, the Bureau acquired thousands of acres of land from foreclosures. Mineral rights were reserved to the state with subsequent sales of the land.

The state also acquires lands for parks, forest purposes, fish and wildlife management, public accesses and other public purposes.

Reservation of Mineral Rights

The state has followed a policy of reserving mineral rights when it sells land. This policy first arose in 1889 after the State Auditor refused to sell lands in the iron range areas without first reserving mineral rights. The legislature, in 1889, made it discretionary as to reserving mineral rights upon the sale of state trust fund lands in the counties of Cook, Lake and St. Louis. This reservation became mandatory in 1901 for the sale of trust fund lands in all counties.

The policy of reserving mineral rights was subsequently extended to other lands owned by the state. It is required that mineral rights also be reserved whenever the state sells tax forfeited lands, consolidated conservation area lands, state surplus lands and other state lands.

SEVERED MINERAL INTERESTS

The Minnesota Supreme Court and other courts in the country recognize that mineral rights may be owned separately from the surface interest. It is therefore possible to sell land and reserve minerals, or sell minerals and reserve the surface interest. Once severed, mineral rights become a type of real property that may be sold or inherited, in the same manner as other real estate, independently of the ownership of the surface of the land.

Over the years the ownership of severed minerals had quite often become very obscure and fractionalized. Some interests remaining in families for generations had been divided among so many descendants of the original party to the severance that their fractional interests had become extremely small. It had also been quite common for the conveyance of severed mineral interests to go unrecorded, causing the obscure ownership to require expensive title searches.

The prohibitive expense of title searches necessary to determine ownership of these fractional interests made taxation difficult. Taxing authorities were also frustrated in their attempts to tax severed mineral interests because of the difficulty of assigning taxable value to those interests. As a result, severed mineral interests became a class of real property that, for practical purposes, were not taxed even though the value of the minerals sometimes exceeded the surface value of the land.

The Minnesota Legislature addressed these issues through the Severed Mineral Interests Law.¹ This law requires owners of severed mineral interests to register their interests with the office of the county recorder or, if registered property, in the registrar of titles' office of the county in which the interests are located. Such severed mineral interest statements were to have been made either by January 1, 1975, for interests owned on or before December 31, 1973, or within one year of acquisition as to interests acquired thereafter.

Effective for taxing years beginning January 1, 1975, mineral interests are taxed at the annual rate of \$.25 per acre or portion of an acre.² If the severed mineral interest tax is not paid, the severed mineral interest will forfeit to the state in trust for the local taxing districts. The appropriate county auditor completes the forfeiture actions for nonpayment of severed mineral interest taxes.

If the mineral interest owner does not file the severed mineral interest statement within the

¹ This law was originally enacted in 1969 and was amended in 1973, 1979 and 1988. The severed mineral interests registration provisions are presently coded in Minn. Stat. secs. 93.52-.58. The taxing provisions are presently coded in Minn. Stat. secs. 273.165, 272.039 and 272.04, subd. 1.

² This tax was ruled constitutional by the Minnesota Supreme Court in its decision in the case of *Contos, U.S. Steel Corp., et al v. Herbst, et al*, 278 N.W.2d 732 (MN 1979); rehearing denied March 13, 1979; appeal dismissed Oct. 30, 1979, 100 U.S.Sup. Ct. 24.

time deadline provided by law, the mineral interest will forfeit to the state after notice and opportunity for hearing.³ The Commissioner of Natural Resources notifies the last owner of record on file in the county recorder's or registrar of titles' office of a hearing in which the court will be requested to enter an order adjudging absolute forfeiture of the mineral interest to the state.

The owner, to avoid forfeiture, must prove to the court that the severed mineral interests taxes were timely paid and that the county records specified the true ownership, or, in the alternative, that procedures affecting the title of the interest had been timely initiated and pursued by the true owner during the time when the interest should have been registered.

The 1988 Minnesota Legislature adopted a law amending and supplementing the severed minerals interest law. This law⁴ authorizes the Commissioner of Natural Resources to lease severed mineral interests that were not registered or were not timely registered. State lessees are allowed to conduct exploration activities, but they are not allowed to mine the property until the severed mineral interest forfeiture proceedings are completed. This law frees up more lands for exploration, while retaining the court hearing on forfeiture for failure to register a severed mineral interest statement as required under the law.

The severed mineral interests law has aided mineral exploration by the identification of mineral rights owners. It has also resulted in owners of mineral interests being required to pay a minimal tax on such interests rather than avoiding taxation.

³ The Minnesota Supreme court, in *Contos v. Herbst* cited in footnote 2, also upheld the forfeiture penalty for failure to timely file a statement of severed mineral ownership, but held that the procedures attending the forfeiture provisions for failure to timely register a severed mineral interests violated constitutional requirements of due process because the notice provisions were inadequate and the mineral owner was denied the opportunity for a hearing prior to forfeiture. The severed mineral interests law was amended in 1979 to comply with the Minnesota Supreme Court's decision.

⁴ Minn. Stat. sec. 93.55, subs. 1, 1a and 3.

STATE METALLIC MINERALS LEASE RULES

Overview of Lease Rules

Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100-.0700 govern the issuance of state leases covering state-owned land for metallic minerals exploration and development. (The term "copper, nickel and associated minerals" rather than "metallic minerals" was used prior to the 1988 amendments to the rules.)

Minnesota Rules, parts 6125.0100-.0700 were adopted by the Commissioner of Natural Resources and approved by the State Executive Council on November 8, 1966. Amendments to the rules, to add a special royalty rate provision, were approved by the State Executive Council on June 22, 1982 and adopted by the Commissioner of Natural Resources on July 2, 1982. Further amendments to the rules were approved by the State Executive Council on March 2, 1988, adopted by the Commissioner of Natural Resources on March 18, 1988, and became effective May 23, 1988.

The 1988 amendments included: simplification and reduction in the royalty rates, the subtraction of the base smelter treatment charges and smelter losses from the value of the ore before calculation of royalty due, modifications in the performance requirements, and the addition of a partial deferral of royalties due during the first years of mining.

The lease rules describe the procedures for the issuance of leases and contain the lease form.

Index to the Lease Rules

Public lease sale procedures:	6125.0500
Negotiated lease procedures:	6125.0600
Lease form:	6125.0700
Assignment and agreements:	6125.0700, par. 34
Minerals covered by lease:	6125.0700, pars. 2, 3, 4 & 33
Performance requirements:	6125.0700, par. 29
Purpose of lease:	6125.0700, par. 3
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Calculation of value of ore	6125.0700, par. 9
Deferral of royalty	6125.0700, par. 8d
Market prices of metals	6125.0700, par. 9f
Smelter charges deduction	6125.0700, par. 9e
Termination of lease:	6125.0700, pars. 28 & 30

**PERMITS AND LEASES FOR METALLIC MINERALS,
EXCEPT IRON ORES AND TACONITE ORES**

6125.0100 PURPOSE.

The purpose of parts 6125.0100 to 6125.0700 is to promote and regulate prospecting for, mining, and removing ores that are primarily valuable for their metallic minerals content, and the rules hereunder shall be construed to carry out that purpose.

6125.0200 DEFINITIONS.

Subpart 1. **Scope of terms.** For purposes of parts 6125.0100 to 6125.0700, the following words have the meanings given them.

Subp. 1a. **Associated mineral products.** "Associated mineral products" means those intermingled or associated materials and substances recovered from each ton of crude ore mined from the mining unit that are excluded from the definition of metallic minerals.

Subp. 2. **Commissioner.** "Commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources of the state of Minnesota, or the commissioner's designated representative.

Subp. 2a. **Metallic minerals.** "Metallic minerals," whether singular or plural, means any mineral substances of a metalliferous nature, except iron ores and taconite ores.

Subp. 3. **Mining unit.** "Mining unit" means the land and water area designated as such by the commissioner, wherein the state owns an interest in the minerals and mineral rights.

Subp. 4. **Ton.** "Ton" means 2,000 pounds avoirdupois after removal of all free moisture from the material weighed, by drying at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

Subp. 5. **Troy ounce.** "Troy ounce" means a unit of mass equal to 480 grains or 31.1035 grams or 1.0971 avoirdupois ounces.

6125.0300 PERMITS.

The first two years of any lease issued under parts 6125.0100 to 6125.0700 is considered the prospecting permit, and no permit to prospect for metallic minerals shall be issued separately or independently from the lease, provided that nothing in this part shall restrict mining operations authorized by the lease.

6125.0400 LEASES.

The commissioner, with the approval of the state executive council, shall adopt rules for the issuance of leases to prospect for, mine, and remove metallic minerals on lands where an interest in the minerals is owned by the state, including trust fund lands, land forfeited for nonpayment of taxes and held in trust by the state, lands where severed mineral interests have forfeited under Minnesota Statutes, section 93.55, lands where severed mineral interests have been otherwise acquired, the beds of public waters, and lands otherwise acquired that have been designated by the commissioner as mining units. Each lease shall cover one mining unit. No lease shall be issued for a term longer than 50 years.

6125.0500 PUBLIC SALE OF LEASES.

Subpart 1. Time, place, and notice. Except as otherwise expressly provided by law, or as otherwise provided in part 6125.0600, leases to prospect for, mine, and remove metallic minerals owned by the state shall be issued only upon public sale authorized by the commissioner.

The public sale of leases shall be held at such times and places as may be designated by the commissioner. The commissioner shall give public notice of each sale by publication for three successive weeks in a qualified newspaper that has its known office of issue in the county seats of the counties in which the mining units to be leased are located. If no qualified newspaper has its known office of issue in the county seat of a particular county, then notice must be published in the qualified newspaper designated as the publisher of the official proceedings of the county board of that county. The first publication shall be at least 30 days before the date of sale. Like notice may be published in not to exceed two additional newspapers and two trade magazines as the commissioner may direct. Each notice shall contain the following information:

- A. time and place of holding the sale;
- B. the place or places where the list of mining units to be offered for sale will be available for purchase or inspection, and where application and bid forms may be obtained; and
- C. such other information as the commissioner may direct.

Subp. 2. Mining unit books. Those interested in bidding may obtain a mining unit book by making application to the commissioner, accompanied by a check or money order, payable to the state treasurer, in the sum of \$25 as a fee for a mining unit book. Unit books will be available for inspection at the Hibbing and Saint Paul offices of the Division of Minerals.

Subp. 3. Lease application and bid. Each application and bid shall be submitted on a form obtained from the commissioner and shall cover only one mining unit, as designated in the mining unit book. The royalty rate offered in the bid shall be designated by inserting a figure in the blank space in the following clause of the bid form: "The royalty rates bid herein to be paid to the state per ton of crude ore for the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered from the ores mined from the mining unit shall be the sum of the base rate, as described in part 6125.0700, paragraph 8, and an additional bid rate of ___ percent of the value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in the mill concentrate."

The application and bid, together with a certified check, cashier's check, or bank money order, payable to the state treasurer in the sum of \$100, shall be submitted in a bid envelope obtained from the commissioner. Each sealed bid envelope shall be enclosed in another envelope and shall be delivered in person or by mail to the commissioner at Saint Paul, Minnesota. Bids may be submitted at any time before 4:30 p.m., Saint Paul, Minnesota time, on the last business day before the day specified for the opening of the bids, and no bids submitted after that time shall be considered. Upon receipt, the commissioner shall endorse upon each sealed bid envelope the exact time of presentation and preserve the same, unopened in the commissioner's office.

At the time specified, the commissioner, together with at least one member of the state executive council as designated by the council, shall then publicly open the bids and announce the amount of each bid separately. Leases shall be awarded by the commissioner, with the approval of the state executive council, to the highest bidder for the respective mining units, but no bids shall be accepted that do not equal or exceed the base royalty rates in part 6125.0700. The right is reserved to the state, through the executive council, to reject any or all bids. Tie bids will be resolved by the commissioner, with the approval of the state executive council, by the random drawing of the name of one tied bidder from a

pool comprised of the names of all the tied bidders. Upon the award of a lease, the certified check submitted with the bid shall be deposited with the state treasurer as a fee for the lease. All bids not accepted shall become void, and the checks accompanying the bids shall be returned to the respective bidders.

6125.0600 NEGOTIATED LEASES.

When the commissioner finds that it is impractical to hold a public sale on any mining unit because of its location or size or the extent of the state's interest in the minerals and that the best interests of the state will be served, the commissioner, with the approval of the executive council, may, without holding a public sale, issue a lease to any qualified applicant to prospect for, mine, and remove metallic minerals. Application shall be in a form and shall contain information as the commissioner may prescribe. The applicant shall submit with the application a certified check, cashier's check, or bank money order, payable to the state treasurer in the sum of \$100. The leases so issued shall be in the form set forth in part 6125.0700, with such additional terms and conditions consistent with the lease as may be agreed upon. The rental and royalty rates agreed upon shall be not less than those prescribed in part 6125.0700.

No lease shall be issued under this part for the removal of metallic minerals from any mining unit for which notice of public sale has been published, until the public sale has been held.

6125.0700 FORM OF LEASE.

The form of lease for prospecting for, mining, and removing metallic minerals belonging to the state shall consist of the following provisions, with insertions, changes, or additions as may be necessary to incorporate the royalty rates and other particulars applicable to each lease as may be authorized under parts 6125.0100 to 6125.0700:

This lease agreement is entered into on the _____ day of _____, 19____. The parties to this lease are the State of Minnesota, called the state, and _____ called the lessee.

1. Term; description of mining unit. The state, in consideration of the sum of _____ Dollars, paid by the lessee, being the rental provided in this lease for the unexpired portion of the current calendar year and for the next succeeding two (2) calendar years, the receipt whereof is hereby acknowledged, and in further consideration of the covenants and conditions of this lease to be performed by the lessee, agrees to lease to the lessee for a term of _____ (____) years beginning the _____ day of _____, 19____, the following-described mining unit, situated in the county of _____, in the State of Minnesota:

2. Definitions. For the purposes of this lease, the following words have the meanings given them:

a. "Associated mineral products" means those intermingled or associated materials and substances recovered from each ton of crude ore mined from the mining unit that are excluded from the definition of metallic minerals.

b. "Commissioner" means the commissioner of natural resources of the state of Minnesota, or the commissioner's designated representative.

c. "Metallic minerals," whether singular or plural, means any mineral substances of a metalliferous nature, except iron ores and taconite ores.

d. "Ton" means 2,000 pounds avoirdupois after removal of all free moisture from the material weighed, by drying at 212 degrees Fahrenheit.

e. "Troy ounce" means a unit of mass equal to 480 grains or 31.1035 grams or 1.0971 avoirdupois ounces.

3. Purpose of lease. The mining unit is leased to the lessee for the purpose of prospecting for, mining and removing ores primarily valuable for their metallic minerals content that are found on or in the mining unit.

The lessee has the right to construct or make buildings, excavations, openings, ditches, drains, railroads, roads, and other improvements on the mining unit as necessary or suitable for those purposes. The lessee has the right to mill and concentrate the ore so mined, either upon the mining unit or elsewhere, but the right to mill and concentrate does not include the right to reduce or smelt ore upon the mining unit without an agreement between the lessee and the commissioner, authorizing that use of the surface of the land and providing for the necessary protection of life and property. The lessee may contract with others for doing any work authorized or required under this lease, or for the use of the mining unit or any part of it for the purposes of the lease, but no contract of this type relieves the lessee from any duty, obligation, or liability under the lease. No such contract providing for shipping, handling, or removal of ore-bearing material becomes effective for any purpose until three executed duplicates of the contract have been filed with the commissioner.

4. State's right to lease iron ores, taconite ores, coal, oil, gas, and other liquid or gaseous hydrocarbon substances. The state reserves the right to lease or grant to other persons or corporations the right to explore for, mine, remove, and beneficiate iron ores, taconite ores, coal, oil, gas, and other liquid or gaseous hydrocarbon substances, that are located in the mining unit. The state agrees that any permit or lease granted by it to any person or corporation to explore for, develop, mine, or dispose of the iron ores, taconite ores, coal, oil, gas, and other liquid or gaseous hydrocarbon substances shall contain a provision that the permittee or lessee shall exercise those rights so as not to cause any unnecessary or unreasonable injury or hindrance to the operations of the lessee of this lease in the exploration for, or the development, mining, or removal of metallic minerals other than iron ores, taconite ores, coal, oil, gas, and other liquid or gaseous hydrocarbon substances covered by that permit or lease. The lessee of this lease agrees that it will exercise the rights granted to it by this lease in such manner as not to cause any unnecessary or unreasonable injury or hindrance to the operations of any permittee or lessee of the state in the exploration for, or the development, mining, or removal of iron ores, taconite ores, coal, oil, gas, and other liquid or gaseous hydrocarbon substances.

5. State's right to lease surface and sell timber. The state reserves the right to sell and dispose of all the timber upon the mining unit without hindrance from the lessee and according to the law now or hereafter governing the sale of timber on state lands, and reserves to the state and to the purchaser of the timber, and their agents, the right at all times to enter the mining unit, and to cut and remove timber from it according to the terms of the purchaser's contract with the state. The timber purchaser shall not unduly interfere with the prospecting or mining operations. The state further reserves the right to grant leases, permits, or licenses to any portion of the surface of the mining unit to any person, partnership, corporation, or other association under the authority of Minnesota Statutes, section 92.50, or other applicable laws, after consultation with lessee. The surface leases, permits, or licenses shall not unduly interfere with the prospecting or mining operations conducted on the mining unit.

6. Annual rental. The lessee agrees to pay to the state rental for the mining unit at the rate of one dollar per acre of land and water area included in the mining unit, per calendar year, payable in

advance, for the unexpired portion of the current calendar year from the effective date of this lease and for the next succeeding two calendar years; and after that time at the rate of three dollars per acre per calendar year, payable quarterly for the three succeeding calendar years; and after that time at the rate of eight dollars per acre per calendar year, payable quarterly for the five succeeding calendar years; and after that time at the rate of \$25 per acre per calendar year, payable quarterly for the remainder of the term of this lease.

The mining unit may include state-owned minerals under water, in trust fund lands, in acquired lands, in lands forfeited for taxes, and in lands in which severed mineral interests have forfeited for failure to comply with registration laws, or have been otherwise acquired. Any amount paid for rental, at the time of payment, shall be allocated to the proper fund as determined by the mineral ownership.

Any amount paid for rental accrued for any calendar year must be credited on any royalty that may become due for ore removed under this lease during the same calendar year but no further, and only to the extent that the rental was paid or deposited into the particular fund to which the royalty for the ore is due. Any amount paid for royalty in excess of the credit during that year must be credited on rental, if any, subsequently accruing for that year but no further, and only to the extent that the royalty was paid or deposited into the particular fund to which the rental is due. However, any amount paid for rental in excess of eight dollars per acre for any previous calendar year may be credited on any royalty that may become due for ore removed under this lease during the current calendar year in excess of any credits for current rental, but only to the extent that the rental was paid or deposited into the particular fund for which the royalty is due.

Rental payments must be made on May 20, August 20, November 20, and February 20 for the previous calendar quarters. The first calendar quarter is the first three calendar months of the year, and so on.

Upon surrender of any part or parts of the mining unit by lessee under this lease, the annual rental payment may be discontinued as to those parts for all subsequent calendar years; however, the rentals paid on the parts surrendered must not be credited on any royalties due for ore removed from that part of the mining unit which remains under lease.

Where the state owns only a fractional undivided interest in the minerals in any portion of the mining unit, only that fractional part of the rentals and royalties established in this lease shall be paid for that portion.

If at any time during the term of this lease it is determined in a proper proceeding that the state does not own the minerals in a part of the area included in the mining unit, the commissioner shall delete from the description of the mining unit the part not owned by the state, and only if that determination is made prior to the fifth anniversary date of this lease is the lessee entitled to a refund, or in the case of tax forfeited minerals to receive credit on future payments due the same fund, for payments made to the state on that part prior to the determination. If the commissioner deems it necessary, additional time to make the determination may be granted.

7. Tonnage for royalty purposes. Royalty must be computed on the dry weight of the crude ore. The dry weight of the crude ore shall be calculated from natural crude ore weights and moisture percentages from samples taken at the time the crude ore is weighed.

8. Royalty.

a. The royalty to be paid to the state by the lessee for the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered from each ton of ore mined from the mining unit is the sum of the base rate described in this paragraph and an additional bid rate of _____ percent multiplied by the value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in the mill concentrate from each ton of

dried crude ore.

b. The base rate must not be less than 3-1/2 percent nor more than 20 percent and varies with the value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered from each ton of ore mined from the mining unit. The base rate must be calculated as provided in clauses (1) to (4):

(1) If the value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in the mill concentrate is equal to or less than \$75, the base rate is 3-1/2 percent.

(2) If the value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in the mill concentrate is greater than \$75 but less than or equal to \$150, the base rate is 3-1/2 percent plus an additional 0.015 percent for each dollar increase in value above \$75.

(3) If the value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in the mill concentrate is greater than \$150 but less than or equal to \$225, the base rate is 3-1/2 percent, plus an additional 0.015 percent for each dollar increase in value above \$75, plus a further additional 0.02 percent for each dollar increase in value above \$150.

(4) If the value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in the mill concentrate is greater than \$225, the base rate is 3-1/2 percent, plus an additional 0.015 percent for each dollar increase in value above \$75, plus a further additional 0.02 percent for each dollar increase in value above \$150, plus a further additional 0.025 percent for each dollar increase in value above \$225.

In computing the base rate, there must be no rounding before calculating the total royalty due. The values of \$75, \$150, and \$225, as used above, must be escalated each calendar quarter in accordance with the formula set forth in paragraph c.

For example, assume the value (v) of metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in the mill concentrate from a ton of dried crude ore was \$100. The base rate would be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Base rate} &= .035 + (.00015 \times [v - 75]) \\ &= .035 + (.00015 \times [100 - 75]) \\ &= .035 + (.00015 \times 25) \\ &= .035 + .00375 \\ &= .03875 \\ &= 3.875 \text{ percent}\end{aligned}$$

If the value (v) of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in the mill concentrate from a ton of dried crude ore was \$250, then the base rate would be calculated as follows:

$$\begin{aligned}\text{Base rate} &= .035 + (.00015 \times [v - 75]) + (.0002 \times [v - 150]) + (.00025 \times [v - 225]) \\ &= .035 + (.00015 \times [250 - 75]) + (.0002 \times [250 - 150]) + (.00025 \times [250 - 225]) \\ &= .035 + (.00015 \times 175) + (.0002 \times 100) + (.00025 \times 25) \\ &= .035 + .02625 + .02 + .00625 \\ &= .0875 \\ &= 8.75 \text{ percent}\end{aligned}$$

c. The values of \$75, \$150, and \$225 as used in the base rate must be increased each calendar quarter

as follows:

If the unadjusted Producer Price Index for All Commodities (1967 equals 100), as originally published (unrevised) by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor, or any succeeding federal government agency publishing the Index, in the monthly publication titled Producer Price Indexes, for the first month in the calendar quarter for which royalty payment is to be made, exceeds 310.5, which was the level of the index for August 1987 (hereinafter called the "Base Index"), an additional amount, computed in the manner hereinafter provided, must be added to the values of \$75, \$150, and \$225 to be used in the base rate for the calculation of the royalty to be paid by the lessee on the ore removed from the mining unit during any quarter.

The increase in the values of \$75, \$150, and \$225 must be computed by multiplying each value by a fraction, the denominator of which is the Base Index and the numerator of which is equal to the amount by which the Producer Price Index for All Commodities for the first month of the calendar quarter in question exceeds the Base Index. The resulting products must be carried to two decimal places and then rounded to the nearest whole dollar.

For example, the Base Index under this lease is 310.5 and if the Producer Price Index for All Commodities for January 1990 was 325.5, the increase in the values of \$75, \$150, and \$225 would be computed as follows:

$$\$ 75 \times \frac{(325.5 - 310.5)}{310.5} = \$3.62, \text{ rounded to } \$4.00$$

$$\$150 \times \frac{(325.5 - 310.5)}{310.5} = \$7.24, \text{ rounded to } \$7.00$$

$$\$225 \times \frac{(325.5 - 310.5)}{310.5} = \$10.86, \text{ rounded to } \$11.00$$

The indexed values to be used in the calculation of the base rate that would be used in the calculation of royalty payable on the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered during the first calendar quarter of 1990 would be:

$$\$ 75 + \$4 = \$79$$

$$\$150 + \$7 = \$157$$

$$\$225 + \$11 = \$236$$

If some period other than 1967 is used as a base of 100 in determining the Producer Price Index for All Commodities, for the purposes of this lease provision the index must be adjusted so as to be in correct relationship to the 1967 base. In the event the index is not published by any federal agency, the index to be used as previously provided must be the index independently published, which, after necessary adjustments, if any, provides the most reasonable substitute for the Producer Price Index for All Commodities during any period after August 1987, it being intended to substitute an index that most accurately reflects fluctuations in the prices of commodities in the all commodities index in the manner presently reported by the Producer Price Index for All Commodities (1967 equals 100), published by the Bureau of Labor Statistics of the United States Department of Labor.

The values of \$75, \$150, and \$225 as used in the base rate must never be less than the minimum values prescribed in paragraph 8b of this lease.

d. The lessee may apply to the commissioner and the commissioner may grant the lessee a partial deferral of the lessee's obligation to pay royalties under this lease. Up to 50 percent of royalties due and payable less any credits against royalties as provided in paragraph 6, may be deferred by the commissioner. Any deferral granted applies only to the royalties due and payable during the first consecutive years, up to a maximum of the first five consecutive years, beginning with the first year that any royalties are due and payable under this lease, or to royalties due and payable during the first one-half of the expected operational life of the first mine established under this lease in the mining unit, whichever is less.

The amount of royalties deferred for each calendar quarter as provided above, plus interest at the rate of eight percent per year, becomes finally due and payable on the future date that is determined by adding the total number of years of deferral granted under this section to the date on which royalties would have been due and payable had there been no deferral.

The commissioner in considering the lessee's application for deferral of royalties may consider factors including, but not limited to, the expected operational life of the mine producing the royalties, the express purposes for which the money deferred is proposed to be used by the lessee, the cash flow analysis of the mine, the amount of either the capital invested or to be invested, or both, by the lessee in exploration and mining operations under this lease, and the technical and financial capabilities of the lessee.

9. Value of metallic minerals and associated mineral products.

a. The value of metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in the mill concentrate from each ton of dried crude ore must be determined monthly as follows: Multiply the total pounds respectively of each metal and associated mineral product recovered during the month in the mill concentrate from the mining unit, by the average market price per pound respectively for that month of each fully refined metal and of each associated mineral product. Subtract from that total, the smelter charges, as later defined in this lease, to obtain the value of each metallic mineral and each associated mineral product. Add the values thus obtained for each metallic mineral and each associated mineral product for the month, and divide the sum by the total number of tons of dried crude ore from the mining unit concentrated in the mill during the month, to obtain the value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered from each ton of dried crude ore. The value must be carried to four decimal places and rounded to the nearest one-hundredth of a dollar.

b. When metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered during the month in the mill concentrate are sold during the same month, only those metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered from that concentrate that are actually paid for by the smelter, refiner, or other purchaser must be valued as part of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered during the month. When metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered during the month are not sold during the same month, the value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered during the month must be adjusted, if necessary, at the time they are sold to reflect the market price at the time of sale, and to reflect any metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in a concentrate that are not actually paid for by a smelter, refiner, or other purchaser. Any prior payment of royalty that becomes an overpayment of royalty as a result of the adjustment of value under this paragraph is a credit against future royalty payments due under this lease.

c. Metallic minerals and associated mineral products sold by the lessee to a nonaffiliate shall be deemed sold at the time the metallic minerals and associated mineral products are delivered to the nonaffiliate. Metallic minerals and associated mineral products sold or transferred by lessee to an affiliate shall be

deemed sold by lessee at the time of delivery to the affiliate and value must be calculated on the basis of the market prices at the time of the deemed sale of the metallic minerals and of the associated mineral products sold or transferred to the affiliate. Metallic minerals and associated mineral products retained by the lessee for its own internal use and consumption shall be deemed sold when they are removed from the mining unit and value must be calculated on the basis of the market prices at the time of the removal of the metallic minerals and of the associated mineral products retained for internal use and consumption. For the purpose of this lease "affiliate" means the lessee, or any business entity that is effectively owned or controlled directly or indirectly by the lessee or that directly or indirectly effectively owns or controls the lessee, or any business entity operated by or that operates the lessee.

d. If material is recovered and sold on a basis other than for the purpose of recovering the fully refined metals and the associated mineral products contained in the material, such as the recovery and sale of titanium dioxide for paint pigment uses, then the value of the material recovered and sold, for royalty calculation purposes, is subject to agreement between the commissioner and the lessee.

e. "Smelter charges" means the base smelter treatment charge assessed by the smelter for treating each ton of the mill concentrate plus the smelter losses that are deducted from the assay or market values to arrive at the gross payment to the lessee for each of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products paid for by the smelter. Smelter charges do not include the following: mining or milling, or similar beneficiation costs or charges; refinery losses; refinery charges; penalties for impurities; freight and transportation charges either to or from the mill, concentrator, smelter, or refinery; weighing and sampling charges; handling charges; selling charges; taxes of any kind; processing charges; or any other charges, other than the base smelter treatment charge and smelter losses, assessed by the smelter or purchaser of the metallic minerals or associated mineral products. If the mill concentrate is treated at a smelter owned by, or directly or indirectly effectively controlled by, the lessee or its affiliate, or that the lessee or its affiliate operates or manages, then the smelter charges allowed are equal to the smelter charges that the smelter would assess or charge an unaffiliated third party desiring to have a substantially similar mill concentrate treated at the smelter. If the smelter owned by, operated by, or effectively controlled by the lessee or its affiliate does not provide smelter treatment services to unaffiliated third parties, then the smelter charges allowed are equal to the mean of the smelter charges assessed and charged for substantially similar mill concentrates in smelter contracts between unaffiliated parties. If any metallic minerals or associated mineral products produced under this lease from the mining unit are sold, or otherwise disposed of, without smelter treatment, as, for example, in the production of gold dore, then no deduction for smelter charges, nor any other charges, is allowed in the computation of the value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products recovered in the mill concentrate. If the state disagrees as to the smelter charges, the lessee has the burden of proof of substantiating the smelter charges.

f. The average market price of copper per pound for each month is that quoted for MW US Producer Cathode (MW US PROD CATH), as reported in Metals Week. The average market price of nickel per pound for each month is that quoted for New York Dealer Cathode (NY DEALER CATH), as reported in Metals Week. The average market price of gold per troy ounce for each month is that quoted for the London Final, as reported in Metals Week. The average market price of silver per troy ounce for each month is that quoted for Handy & Harman, as reported in Metals Week. The average market price of zinc per pound for each month is that quoted for MW US High Grade (MW US HG), as reported in Metals Week. The average market price of lead per pound for each month is that quoted for North American Producer Low (NA PRODUCER L), as reported in Metals Week. The average market price of other metallic minerals and of associated mineral products per pound for each month shall be that quoted for their usual and customary shipping quantities, f.o.b. the usual and customary place of shipment, United States import duty (if any) included, as reported in Metals Week. If Metals Week does not or ceases to report an average monthly market price for any metallic mineral or associated mineral product, then the average monthly market price of that metallic mineral or associated mineral product is the arithmetic average of the daily market prices for the metallic mineral or

associated mineral product for that month as reported in Metals Week. If Metals Week or its successors cease to furnish such quotations, or its quotations cease to be recognized in the trade, or a particular metallic mineral or associated mineral product is not listed, then the quotations of such other source as the parties may agree upon shall govern.

10. Commingled ores. The lessee has the right to commingle ore from the mining unit with other ore, either in the mine, in stockpile, in the mill, or in the smelter, but the ores must be kept entirely separate and distinct until their quantities and metal and mineral contents have been separately measured and determined. Ratios of concentration, percent mill recoveries, and any other factors necessary for determining the beneficiating amenability of the commingled ores, the allocation of values and the royalties, must be separately measured and determined by methods approved by the commissioner and shall be reported on a monthly basis. "Ratio of concentration" means the dry weight of the crude ore divided by the dry weight of the concentrate derived from the crude ore. "Percent mill recovery" means the dry weight of the metal in the concentrate divided by the dry weight of the metal in the crude ore, expressed as a percent.

11. Quarterly payment on ore removed. The lessee agrees to pay to the state, on or before May 20, August 20, November 20, and February 20 in each year during the period this lease continues in force, royalty at the rates specified in paragraph 8 for all of the ore removed from the mining unit during the previous calendar quarter. The lessee also agrees to pay to the state on or before May 20 of each year all royalty due and payable as a result of the adjustment to value of the metallic minerals and associated mineral products sold during the previous calendar year as provided for in paragraph 9b.

The lessee is liable for payment of royalty when due on all ore removed from the mining unit for concentration elsewhere or for any other purpose, from the actual time of removal; and if the royalty due on the ore is not determined and accounted for as provided by the next royalty payment date, the commissioner may determine the royalty by any method as the commissioner deems appropriate and consistent with the royalty rates set forth in this lease. Any amount paid for royalty must be allocated to the proper fund as determined by the mineral ownership.

12. Lessee to transmit statement of ore removed and royalty due. The lessee shall transmit to the commissioner with each royalty payment an exact and truthful statement of the tonnage and royalty value of the ore mined and removed from the mining unit during each of the three months for which the payment is made, and the amount of royalty due on the ore, separated as to the various state fund ownerships. The lessee shall provide for all the operations required for these determinations except as otherwise specified.

13. Weighing. The methods of obtaining the weights used to determine tonnage for the calculation of royalty, or to determine other weights required by the state, are subject to the approval of the commissioner.

14. Sampling. Samples for royalty purposes must be taken of the ores and their products at places and intervals subject to the approval of the commissioner. A portion of each sample or composite sample must be delivered to the commissioner unless, by mutual agreement, it has been decided that certain of such portions are not needed by the state. Except as otherwise permitted by the commissioner, all ore mined from this mining unit must be sampled and its weight determined before being commingled with any other ores.

Each royalty sample must be analyzed at the expense of the lessee by competent chemists or assayers approved in writing by the commissioner. The elements in the royalty sample for which analytical determinations will be made are subject to agreement between the commissioner and the lessee.

15. Monthly reports. Except as otherwise permitted by the commissioner, the lessee shall transmit

within 30 days after the end of each calendar month, statements for that calendar month in the form the commissioner may require, covering the tonnages and analyses of the following: all material mined from the mining unit, all material milled from the mining unit, all material stockpiled from the mining unit, all concentrates produced from the mining unit, all material mined from any source and commingled with material from the mining unit, all commingled material concentrated, all commingled material stockpiled, all commingled concentrates produced during that calendar month, and such other information as may reasonably be required by the commissioner for the purpose of verifying the amount of royalty due.

The weight of ore as set forth in the monthly statements shall prima facie be binding as between the parties, but the state has the right to sample the ore, check the analyses, and inspect, review and test the correctness of the methods, books, records and accounts of the lessee in sampling, analyzing, recording, and reporting the weights, and to inspect, review, and test the correctness of the weights and scales and other equipment used in measuring the amount of ore, it being understood that any errors in these reports, when ascertained, shall be corrected.

16. Additional monthly and annual reports to be furnished by lessee; exploration; mine samples required. Except as otherwise permitted by the commissioner, in addition to other reports or statements required in this lease, the lessee shall furnish the following:

a. Copies of all exploration data, including, but not limited to, all logs and drill hole records; all maps and coordinates showing drill holes, geophysical grids, geochemical and geologic sampling, trenching, and survey data; all chemical and analytical data and information; all laboratory test data; all geophysical, geochemical, and geologic records; all results of mine and metallurgical testings; and all periodic mine maps, analyses maps, cross-sections, and development plans. All material required under this subparagraph must be available to the commissioner, or the commissioner's representative, at all reasonable times. Copies must be submitted annually to the commissioner when the data is in the form customarily prepared for permanent record of the operations on the mining unit. Material available to and furnished to the commissioner under this subparagraph and subparagraph b. shall be considered confidential during the life of this lease or any extension of it.

b. At least a quarter-portion of all exploration samples, and when requested by the commissioner in writing, a quarter-portion of mine or mill samples. In the event that the lessee requires certain exploration samples in their entirety, the commissioner or the commissioner's representative may waive the requirement for a quarter-portion of such exploration samples, provided that the lessee grants the state an opportunity to examine and classify such samples before they are crushed or processed.

c. A monthly report showing the estimated weights and analyses of all materials stockpiled, including lean ore, waste and tailings, and divided as to property of origin and deposition.

d. Certified copies of smelter statements, schedules, agreements, and settlement sheets or receipts from sales involving materials produced from this mining unit showing the product sold and factors relevant to the calculation of royalties.

e. Not later than March 1 of each year during the term of this lease, a summary statement of the tonnage of all ore mined and all ore milled from the premises and all ore materials placed in or removed from stockpile during the previous calendar year, divided as to the property of origin and the disposition of the ore materials and showing such analyses of them as the commissioner may require.

17. How remittances and reports are to be transmitted. All remittances by the lessee under this lease must be made payable to the state treasurer. All such remittances and all reports, notices and documents required under this lease must be transmitted to the commissioner through the director of the division of minerals at Saint Paul, Minnesota.

18. State inspection; inspectors at plants and mines. The commissioner may at all reasonable times enter the mining unit and any other premises used or operated by the lessee in connection with the operation of the mining unit, inspect the operations conducted under this lease, and conduct such engineering and sampling procedures and other investigations as the commissioner may require, not unreasonably hindering or interrupting the operations of the lessee.

The lessee shall provide, upon written request of the commissioner, a suitable room in the dry or wash house or in some other suitable place on the mining unit or elsewhere when necessary, with water, light, and heat, all without cost to the state, for the use of state inspectors. The room must be at least equal in size and equipment to that customarily furnished for the use of the mine engineer.

Whenever royalties or rentals due the state are required to be distributed to more than one fund, or when ore from the mining unit is commingled with other ore, or when ore from the mining unit is concentrated at the same plant as other ore, the commissioner may appoint special inspectors as the commissioner considers necessary to insure proper accounting and protect the interests of the state. The lessee shall reimburse the state monthly for the cost of this inspection service upon notification by the commissioner.

19. Removal of ore for experimental purposes. Notwithstanding paragraph 11, upon written application of the lessee, the commissioner may authorize the removal of ore from the mining unit for experimental purposes without payment of royalty; and it is further understood that the removal of samples obtained by drilling, trenching, or testpitting, for the purposes of exploration, is not subject to the payment of royalty.

20. Stockpiled materials. All materials mined and not shipped from the mining unit remain the property of the state and shall be stockpiled only in such manner and on such sites as may be authorized by the commissioner in writing. When, however, the commissioner agrees that substantially all minerals of value have been extracted from the mill tailings, the material may be used for stope filling on the mining unit or elsewhere, and the tailings material used shall be considered abandoned, and title to the material shall revert to the mineral owners of the property in which it is deposited.

21. Reversion of title on land conveyed to the state for stockpiling purposes. When the commissioner determines that it is necessary and that the interests of the state will be fully protected, the lessee may convey land to the state upon the condition that it be used for the storage of ore or other materials having present or potential value belonging to the state, and that the state's interest in the land terminates and title reverts to the lessee when the land is no longer needed or used for that purpose. No consideration shall be paid for the conveyance unless authorized by law.

22. Cross-mining rights. The lessee is hereby granted the right to mine and remove any ores from the mining unit through any shafts, openings, or pits that may be made upon adjoining and nearby premises controlled by the lessee; and the lessee may, if it so desires, use the mining unit and any shafts, openings, pits, made on it for the mining or removal of any ores from adjoining or nearby premises, not, however, preventing or interfering with the mining or removal of ore from said mining unit. The ores taken from the mining unit must at all times be kept entirely separate and distinct from any other ores until measured and sampled as provided in this lease so that the rights of the lessor are at all times preserved and protected. The lessor recognizes the rights and liens of the owners of any nearby or adjoining premises in any ores mined from them and transported through the mining unit.

23. Lessee's obligations under state and federal laws and regulations. The provisions of this lease are subject to all applicable state and federal statutes, orders, rules and regulations, and all operations under this lease shall be conducted in conformity with them. No interference, diversion, use or appropriation of any waters over which the commissioner or any other state agency has jurisdiction, may be undertaken unless authorized in writing by the commissioner or the state agency.

24. Operations to be conducted in accordance with good mining and metallurgical engineering. The lessee shall advise the commissioner when exploration drilling, trenching, or testpitting on the mining unit is about to begin. The lessee shall open, use, and work the mine or mines on the mining unit and conduct metallurgical operations in such manner only as is usual and customary in skillful and proper mining and milling operations in accordance with the requirements, methods, and practices of good mining and metallurgical engineering, and in such manner as not to cause any unnecessary loss of minerals, or unusual permanent injury to the mining unit. Surface lands owned by the state in the mining unit are not to be cleared or used for construction or stockpiling purposes until the plan for such use has been approved by the commissioner. The surface use of the mining unit must be conducted in such manner as to prevent or reduce scarring and erosion of the land and pollution of air and water.

25. Lessee's obligation for damages. It is understood and agreed that in case any interest in the land or minerals covered by this lease is owned by anyone other than the state, this lease shall not be construed as authorizing any invasion of or trespass upon such other interest. The lessee is obligated to save the state harmless from all damages or losses caused directly or indirectly by operations under this lease, whether to land, timber, minerals, growing crops, or buildings, or to any person or other property, including damages suffered by that other owner of the surface or mineral rights, and the state shall not be liable for them.

26. Lessee to pay all taxes. The lessee agrees to pay when due all taxes, general and specific, personal and real that may be assessed against the mining unit and the improvements made on it, and the ore materials in it or mined from it, and any personal property on the mining unit owned, used, or controlled by the lessee. This covenant does not apply to taxes assessed against any part of the mining unit as a result of any other lease granted by the state to other parties. The cancellation, termination, or expiration of this lease does not relieve the lessee of the obligation to pay taxes assessed during the continuance of the lease, even though such taxes may be due or payable after the cancellation, termination, or expiration date.

27. State lien for unpaid sums due. The state reserves and shall at all times have a lien upon all ore mined from the mining unit, all ore concentrated from it, smelter returns due the lessee for the ore, and all improvements made under this lease for any sums not paid when due.

28. Lessee's right to terminate lease. The lessee may at any time deliver to the commissioner written notice of intention to terminate this lease, and this lease shall terminate 60 days after the delivery unless the notice is revoked by the lessee by further written notice delivered to the commissioner before the expiration of 60 days. On December 31 following the tenth anniversary date of this lease, and on any succeeding December 31, the lessee may surrender its rights and privileges granted in this lease on any governmental descriptions or on beds of public waters included in the mining unit, by giving the lessor written notice of its intention so to do at least 60 days before the date of such surrender. All sums due to the state under this lease up to the effective date of termination must be paid by the lessee.

29. Lessor's right to cancel lease upon lessee's failure to meet production requirements. The state may cancel this lease as provided in paragraph 30 if the lessee has not met both of the following conditions by the end of the 20th full calendar year of this lease:

(a) The lessee must be actively engaged in mining ore under this lease from:

- i. the mining unit;
- ii. a metallic mineral mine within the government township in which the mining unit is located;
or
- iii. a metallic mineral mine within a government township that has at least one point in common

along its boundary line with the government township in which the mining unit is located.

(b) The lessee must have paid to the state at least \$100,000 in earned royalty under a metallic minerals lease. This amount must be paid during a single calendar year.

The state may exercise its option to cancel the lease during the 21st calendar year of the lease. If it does not do so, and if the conditions have not been met by the end of the 35th full calendar year of this lease, it may exercise its option to cancel during the 36th calendar year of the lease. The commissioner shall take the lessee's financing needs and the state's proportional ownership interest into consideration in determining whether the requirements of this paragraph have been met.

30. Lessor's right to cancel lease upon default. This lease is granted upon the express condition that, if any sum owed under it by the lessee for rental, royalty, or otherwise remains unpaid after the time when it became due, or if the lessee or its agent or servant knowingly or willfully makes any false statement in any report, account, or tabulation submitted to the state or to the commissioner, or any of the commissioner's agents pertaining to any matter under this lease, or if the lessee fails to perform any of the conditions required by this lease, the commissioner may cancel this lease by mailing or delivering to the lessee 60 days' notice of the cancellation in writing, specifying such nonpayment or other default as the case may be. This lease shall terminate at the expiration of the 60 days, and the lessee and all persons claiming under the lessee shall be wholly excluded from the mining unit except as hereinafter provided in paragraph 31. Termination does not relieve the lessee from any liability for payment or other liability incurred under this lease. If the default consists of a nonperformance of an act required under this lease other than payment of royalty or rental, the lessee may perform within the period of 60 days and the lease continues in effect. If the correction of any such default requires more time than 60 days after the notice has been received by the lessee, the commissioner, upon written request of the lessee and for good cause shown, may, at his or her discretion, grant an extension of the period of 60 days. If the default consists of a nonpayment of royalty or rental and the lessee performs within 15 days from the mailing or delivery of notice of cancellation, the lease continues in effect; and if the lessee performs at any time thereafter within the period of 60 days, the commissioner, at his or her discretion, may continue the lease in effect.

31. Rights of lessor and lessee during 180-day period following termination. Upon termination of this lease, whether by expiration of its term or by act of either party, except as necessary to comply with applicable mineland reclamation statutes and rules, the lessee has 180 days after termination in which to remove all equipment, materials, railroad tracks, structures and other property placed or erected by the lessee upon said mining unit. Property not removed within that time shall, at the discretion of the commissioner, either be removed by the state at the lessee's expense or become the property of the state. The lessee shall not remove or impair any supports placed in any mine or mines on the mining unit, or any timber or framework necessary to the use or maintenance of shafts or other approaches to such mine or mines or tramways within the mining unit, all of which become the property of the state. During the period of 180 days, the lessee shall, at its own expense, properly and adequately fence all pits, level banks, and refill all test pits and cave-ins that may be deemed dangerous or are likely to cause damage to persons or property, and the lessee shall do all other work which the commissioner deems necessary to leave the premises in a safe and orderly condition to protect against injury or damage to persons or property, and shall restore the premises as nearly as the commissioner deems practicable to the natural conditions of the surrounding area and shall reclaim the premises in accordance with the applicable mineland reclamation statutes and rules. Subject to the foregoing, upon the termination of this lease, whether by expiration of the term hereof or otherwise, the lessee shall quietly and peaceably surrender possession of the mining unit to the state. During the period of 180 days, the lessee shall not be relieved of any obligation or liability resulting from the occupancy of the mining unit unless the lessee has wholly vacated the mining unit prior to the expiration of that period and has notified the commissioner thereof in writing.

32. Recovery of expenses. If it is necessary for the state to incur expenses by court action or otherwise for the ejectment of the lessee, or removal from the leased premises of the lessee's property, or recovery of rent or royalties, or for any other remedy of the state under this lease, and the state prevails in the court action or otherwise, then the lessee shall pay to the state all expenses, including attorney's fees, thus incurred by the state.

33. Mining of minerals other than metallic minerals. If any ore found on or in the mining unit is primarily valuable for other than its metallic minerals content, the terms and conditions upon which the ore may be mined or products recovered from it shall be as may be agreed upon by the lessee and the commissioner and approved by the state executive council. This provision does not apply to iron ores, taconite ores, coal, oil, gas, and other liquid or gaseous hydrocarbon substances.

34. Agreements, assignments, or contracts. All assignments, agreements, or contracts affecting this lease must be made in writing and signed by all parties thereto, witnessed by two witnesses, properly acknowledged and must contain the post office addresses of all parties thereto, and when so executed must be presented in quadruplicate to the commissioner for record. No such instrument is valid until approved in writing by the commissioner and approved as to form and execution by the attorney general. No assignment or other agreement relieves the lessee of any obligation or liability imposed by this lease, and all assignees, sublessees, and subcontractors are also liable for all obligations or liabilities imposed by this lease.

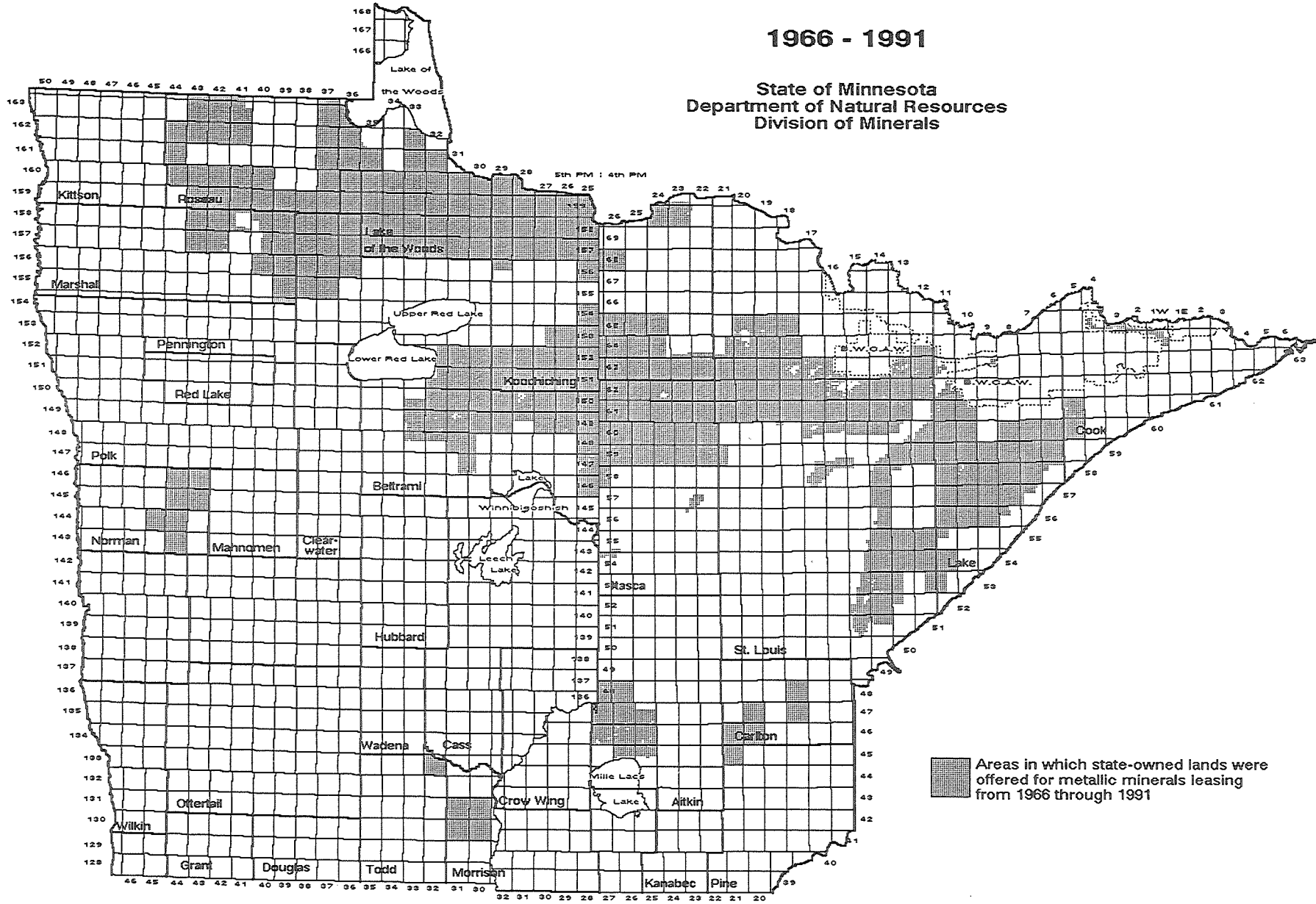
35. Lease binding on assignees and successors. The covenants, terms, and conditions of this lease run with the land and extend to and bind all assignees and other successors in interest of the lessee.

36. Notices. For the purposes of this lease, the addresses of the parties are as follows, unless changed by written notice to all parties: For the state -- Commissioner of Natural Resources, State of Minnesota, 500 Lafayette Road, Saint Paul, Minnesota 55155-4037; for the lessee --

State Metallic Minerals Lease Sale Areas

1966 - 1991

State of Minnesota
Department of Natural Resources
Division of Minerals



Six Reasons Why Mining Companies

Should Explore Minnesota

A century of mining has barely scratched the surface of Minnesota's mineral wealth. Thousands of square miles of our state await exploration for untapped bodies of ore. The DNR Minerals Division has invited mining companies to explore for this ore. Here are six reasons why they should accept.

Mineral potential. Much of our geologic terrain is a continuation of the mineral-rich Canadian Shield which has yielded zinc, copper, nickel, titanium, gold, silver, and other sought-after metals.

Extensive data base. Drill cores totaling more than two million feet from many formations are cataloged for convenient reference in a rock library. Available, too, are geologic maps, high-resolution aeromagnetic maps, and geo-chemical results of test drillings.

Land for exploration. Millions of acres of state-owned mineral rights are available for lease.

Mining tradition. The first load of iron ore was shipped on sailing from northern Minnesota more than a century ago. This long association with mining has taught Minnesotans how to accommodate mineral development while protecting the environment and the state's economic interests.

Trained workers and support industries. A skilled labor force and network of support industries undergird Minnesota's mining industry. Labor and supplies are available.

Roads, rails, and power. Mining sites are never far from highways, railroads, utilities, and four Great Lakes cargo ports.

Our state's vast mineral wealth has hardly been touched. To mining companies, we're saying, "Explore the possibilities in Minnesota!"

