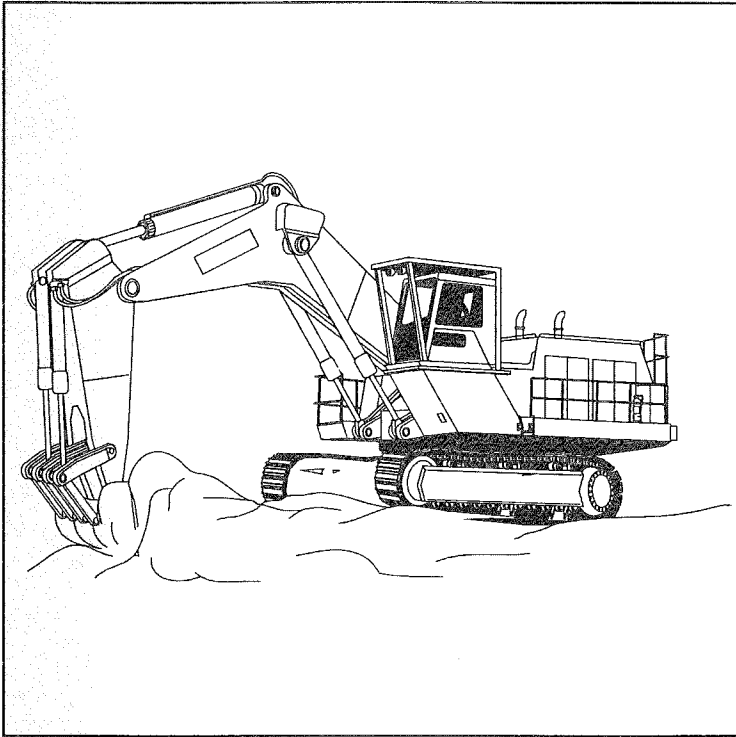


10 - 0481

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines



2009

INSPECTOR OF MINES
Barry D. Lesar

OFFICE AT
St. Louis County Garage
Highway 135 East
Virginia, Minn. 55792

PHONE: 218-742-9840

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

2009

INSPECTOR OF MINES

Barry D. Lesar

329 Viking Drive, Hoyt Lakes, Minnesota 55750

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

MOBILE UNIT: CD-28

E-MAIL: lesarb@co.st-louis.mn.us

Fax: 218-741-7832

ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

Stanley J. Rojeski, Jr.

4554 Vermilion Trail

Gilbert, Minnesota 55741

HOME PHONE: 218-865-6945

OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9842

MOBILE UNIT: CD-27

ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

Paul T. Wier

2311 Station 44 Road

Eveleth, Minnesota 55734

HOME PHONE: 218-744-2806

OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9843

MOBILE UNIT: CD-20

ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

Terrance M. O'Neil

616 S. Main Street, Box 294, Biwabik, Minnesota 55708

HOME PHONE: 218-865-6978 OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9841

MOBILE UNIT: CD-14

OFFICE AT

ST. LOUIS COUNTY GARAGE

7823 HIGHWAY 135 EAST, Virginia, Minnesota 55792

PHONE: 218-742-9840

THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1	Dennis Fink, Duluth, Minnesota
District 2	Steven O'Neil, Duluth, Minnesota
District 3	Chris Dahlberg, Duluth, Minnesota
District 4	Mike Forsman, Ely, Minnesota
District 5	Peg Sweeney, Gnesen Township, Minnesota
District 6	Keith Nelson, Virginia, Minnesota
District 7	Steve Raukar, Kelly Lake, Minnesota

THE ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1	Lori Dowling
District 2	Catherine McLynn
District 3	Karen Burthwick
District 4	Rusty Eichorn
District 5	Mark Mandich

Jeff Walker	Itasca County Auditor
Pat Medure	Itasca County Sheriff, Itasca County Mine Inspector

December 31, 2009

THE HONORABLE BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

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

Dear Chairman Raukar, Chairperson Dowling and Fellow Commissioners:

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines for the year 2009 is herewith submitted.

While the mining industry in northern Minnesota was dealt an economic blow (as was the rest of the country), the overall condition of the industry is still good, with every reason to believe that the industry will recover from the present economic difficulties. With the recent news that the EIS for the Polymet project at the old Erie Mining Company plant site has been released to the company and was opened for public comment makes the outlook for semi-precious mining more positive than it has in years. The continued construction of the Mesabi Nugget Project outside of Aurora, along with the groundbreaking and construction start of the M.I.S. Project, along with the construction and start of production at the Magnetation projects in Itasca County, the future of mining in St. Louis and Itasca counties holds much promise for our area and our state.

On the public safety side of mining news, 2009 brought the reconstruction and reopening of Highway 169 through Chisholm. This reconstruction should alleviate any hazards associated with the old underground workings in the area. In a similar vein, the Minnesota DNR Division of Minerals, along with other agencies is in the process of expanding the underground mine mapping project. This expanded mapping should be completed in 2010 and will include the remainder of the Mesabi Range. If funding can be procured this project will be continued and the Vermillion and Cuyuna ranges will also be mapped.

The total employment for the year was 2,687 and these people worked a total of 5,197,657 manhours.

There were 80,000 tons of natural ore shipped and 17,945,710 tons of taconite products shipped from these mines. There were 33,128,352 tons of stripping and waste removed from these mines.

Inspections and visits for 2009 were as follows: Approximately 754 inspections, visits and investigations were made to the operating and non-operating mines. There were 0 fatalities and 39 lost time or serious accidents reported.

Acknowledgement and appreciation is extended to both Labor and Management for their continued interest, efforts and cooperation in the field of safety and health throughout the mines and plants in St. Louis and Itasca counties.

Respectfully submitted,



Barry D. Lesar
Inspector of Mines
St. Louis County

Excerpts from the Law On

INSPECTOR OF MINES

CHAPTER 180

MINNESOTA STATUTES

SECTION 180.03

DUTIES

SUBDIVISION 3

ABANDONED MINES

When any mine is idle or abandoned it shall be the duty of the inspector of mines to notify the person, firm, or corporation that is or has been engaged in the business of mining to erect and maintain around all the shafts, caves, and open pits of such mines a fence, barrier, appropriate signs, or combination of them, suitable to warn of the presence of shafts, caves, or open pits and reduce the possibility of accidentally falling into these shafts, caves, or open pits. If the mine has been idled or abandoned for more than 10 years, or if the person, firm, or corporation that has been engaged in the business of mining no longer exists, the fee owner shall erect the fence, barrier, or signs required by this section. The notice shall be in writing and be served upon such person, firm, corporation, or fee owner by certified mail.

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

2009

Number of Mining Companies	7
Number of Mines in Operation	6
Number of Plants in Operation	6
Number of Wash Plants	0
Number of Mines Inactive	285
Number of Abandoned Mine Shafts Inspected	64
Total Number of Mines and Plants	291
Total Pellets Shipped	17,945,710
Total Ore Shipped	80,000
Taconite Mined	57,680,916
Stripping and Waste Removal, Tons	33,128,352
Total Material Moved, Tons Estimate	90,889,268
Total People Employed	2,687
Number of Fatal Accidents, Open Pit	0
Number of Fatal Accidents, Plant	0
Total Number of Fatal Accidents	0
Fatalities per 1,000 People Employed	0
Number of Lost-time and Time Charged Accidents	39
Total Number of Man-hours Worked	5,197,657
Number of Visits, Inspections and Investigations	754

LABOR CLASSIFICATION AND HOURLY RATES

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

2009 WAGE RATES INCENTIVE INCLUDED

Labor Grade	Wage Rate
1	\$18.09
2	\$19.79
3	\$21.78
4	\$22.91
5	\$24.34

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

YEAR	MINES	TONS SHIPPED	EMPLOYED	INJURED	FATALS	FAT/1000	WAGES
1905-10	(Average per year)		13,320		73	5.44	2.110
1910-11			19,918		78	3.91	2.640
1911-12			15,286		51	3.31	2.575
1912-13			16,048		44	2.74	2.705
1913-14			16,000		43	2.59	2.310
1914-15			11,430		24	2.10	2.421
1915-16			14,639		34	2.32	2.923
1916-17			14,779		22	1.51	3.391
1917-18	(Sliver Cave Disaster)		15,307		60	3.92	4.347
1918-19			14,212		33	2.32	5.645
1919-20	114	25,349,924	14,121		36	2.55	6.010
1920-21	102	27,165,386	12,043		26	2.16	6.037
1921-22	84	13,398,525	9,688		24	3.48	4.062
1923	90	33,147,517	11,896		27	2.27	5.076
1924	75	22,808,875	11,538		21	1.82	5.144
1925	76	29,077,679	10,180		18	1.77	5.126
1926	66	32,583,943	9,225		15	1.63	5.283
1927	70	28,052,363	9,038		22	2.43	5.305
1928	59	29,704,774	8,022		9	1.12	5.230
1929	57	35,680,720	8,008		17	2.12	5.340
1930	50	25,196,155	7,752		13	1.68	5.280
1931	32	12,270,886	4,824		4	0.83	5.260
1932	30	1,773,750	2,243		2	0.89	4.308
1933	35	10,809,167	2,843		1	0.35	4.433
1934	42	11,781,226	4,272		2	0.47	4.830
1935	40	13,703,715	4,079		6	1.47	5.060
1936	42	23,322,975	4,694		6	1.28	4.800
1937	52	36,536,326	6,356		5	0.79	6.200
1938	38	10,976,760	3,773		4	1.06	5.816
1939	43	24,156,258	4,589		3	0.65	6.080
1940	47	36,493,781	5,547		1	0.18	6.400
1941	63	45,874,218	7,097	60	5	0.70	6.820
1942	60	53,923,635	8,101	107	14	1.70	7.030
1943	62	51,753,320	9,597	156	7	0.73	7.440
1944	66	50,532,679	9,390	247	6	0.64	7.750
1945	56	47,544,509	8,495	175	12	1.41	7.720
1946	60	38,380,361	7,100	167	6	0.84	7.720
1947	79	47,293,918	8,715	153	9	1.03	8.720
1948	80	52,020,563	10,286	178	5	0.49	9.480
1949	94	42,406,528	9,680	187	7	0.72	9.480
1950	109	48,671,966	10,257	159	4	0.38	10.480
1951	116	60,249,538	11,884	188	8	0.66	10.480
1952	122	48,192,132	10,838	160	2	0.18	11.480
1953	122	60,776,174	12,079	215	4	0.33	12.160
1954	121	49,845,118	9,925	157	4	0.40	12.560
1955	127	36,137,304	10,381	151	2	0.19	14.850
1956	127	44,493,944	11,017	134	6	0.54	17.560
1957	124	50,093,275	12,804	144	6	0.47	17.560
1958	90	30,495,093	10,250	83	0	0.00	18.400
1959	89	16,055,353	9,256	93	4	0.43	22.480
1960	95	39,526,879	11,797	132	2	0.16	22.430
1961	85	33,169,291	9,200	51	4	0.43	22.430

YEAR	MINES	TONS SHIPPED	EMPLOYED	INJURED	FATALS	FAT/1000	WAGES
1962	46	23,269,349	8,676	57	1	0.11	22.430
1963	61	35,255,178	7,671	30	2	0.26	22.430
1964	42	39,115,088	8,102	26	1	0.12	22.430
1965	54	40,891,345	8,305	53	0	0.00	22.430
1966	49	44,412,473	9,445	56	4	0.43	22.430
1967	51	41,216,870	8,825	52	4	0.44	23.760
1968	53	43,078,879	9,125	55	2	0.22	25.640
1969	51	34,628,234	9,394	58	0	0.00	27.430
1970	49	33,648,268	9,631	71	5	0.52	28.520
1971	50	32,687,511	9,441	58	0	0.00	32.480
1972	46	35,100,156	9,431	63	0	0.00	34.096
1973	47	46,076,814	10,131	58	4	0.40	35.352
1974	49	51,745,763	10,667	60	1	0.09	44.360
1975	51	45,394,814	10,864	71	0	0.00	45.842
1976	52	41,425,833	11,514	77	1	0.09	47.368
1977	24	26,556,566	10,840	82	2	0.19	56.682
1978	26	50,806,547	13,056	138	1	0.08	64.344
1979	26	54,530,338	13,267	164	0	0.00	70.832
1980	18	42,076,497	11,441	107	1	0.09	80.112
1981	12	47,300,056	11,630	96	0	0.00	89.472
1982	11	22,335,570	7,626	44	0	0.00	94.192
1983	9	26,843,983	5,935	50	2	0.34	84.19
1984	9	30,463,941	6,305	55	0	0.00	87.39
1985	9	31,948,722	5,539	29	0	0.00	90.60
1986	9	26,608,768.51	5,250	33	0	0.00	94.19
1987	9	30,063,909	4,857	26	1	0.21	94.19
1988	9	37,250,242.97	4,546	41	1	0.18	94.19
1989	9	38,421,803	5,664	55	2	0.35	94.19
1990	9	41,441,888	6,379	40	1	0.16	94.19
1991	10	38,420,014	6,468	49	0	0.00	94.19
1992	10	37,684,439	6,325	110	0	0.00	106.94
1993	9	39,338,920	5,953	133	0	0.00	106.94
1994	9	43,976,323.01	6,051	97	1	0.17	93.936
1995	9	47,030,820.33	6,005	87	0	0.00	97.936
1996	8	46,144,620.64	6,032	96	0	0.00	101.936
1997	8	46,978,014	6,129	84	0	0.00	103.616
1998	8	46,862,734	5,962	114	1	0.17	105.936
1999	9	43,136,042	5,633	99	0	0.00	105.936
2000	9	44,806,128	5,610.7	77	1	0.18	109.936
2001	8	34,144,559.29	4,212	60	0	0.00	113.936
2002	8	39,087,907	4,036	60	0	0.00	113.936
2003	8	35,282,267	4,177	35	0	0.00	121.936
2004	8	42,059,597	3,444	24	0	0.00	145.384
2005	8	40,464,088.92	3,568	29	0	0.00	178.40
2006	7	39,617,873	3,714	14	1	0.27	178.40
2007	7	38,041,615.6	3,724	13	2	0.54	187.848
2008	7	40,599,311	3,732	26	0	0.00	182.40
2009	7	18,025,710	2,687	39	0	0.00	201.44

Average/Day

Average Day

see pg. 4 wages

see pg. 4 wages

REPORT TO COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES
(Minnesota Statutes 180)
ORE SHIPPED FROM MINES, TONS OF STRIPPING REMOVED
NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED, MINES OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009

MINES AND SUPERINTENDENTS	TONS OF NATURAL ORE SHIPPED	TONS OF TACONITE PELLETS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE *	AVG. NO. PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS/PITS	MAN HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
Operations Manager UNITED TACONITE LLC Jack Tuomi - VP & General Manager	Concentrate - Pellets - All Tonnages in Long Tons	45,210 3,818,839	11,083,501	10,226,167	500	878,752	12
Keewatin Taconite Co. Division of USS Minnesota Ore Operations	Itasca Co. Production St. Louis Co. Production	106,888 0	98,314 0	182,400 0 Shops, Warehouse & Misc.	Mine 23 Plant 28 35	47,159 58,920 72,980	12 12 12
HIBBING TACONITE CO. Ed Latendresse, Manager	Production Shipped From Plant	1,701,646	6,349,650	6,757,683	310	682,104	12
ARCELOR - MITTAL STEEL USA, MINORCA MINE, INC. Minorca Mine J.H. Holmes, Vice President, Operations	All Tonnages in Long Tons	1,464,449 - Flux	5,061,025	4,615,025	330	564,566	12
NORTH SHORE MINING COMPANY Babbitt, Silver Bay M. Mlinar, General Manager	All Tonnages in Long Tons	3,230,294	9,347,194	4,993,737	520	941,899	9

REPORT TO COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES
(Minnesota Statutes 180)
ORE SHIPPED FROM MINES, TONS OF STRIPPING REMOVED
NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED, MINES OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009

MINES AND SUPERINTENDENTS	TONS OF NATURAL ORE SHIPPED	TONS OF TACONITE PELLETS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE *	AVG. NO. PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS/PITS	MAN HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
MESABI MINING, LLC Tom Lutes, Mine Manager MESABI NUGGET, LLC Steve Rutherford - Operations Manager	These companies are in the construction phase for the Nugget Plant and the permitting phase for the Mine. So there are no production or employment figures for calendar year 2009.						
USS CORPORATION, Minnesota Ore Opeartions S. Coleman, Gen. Mgr. Minntac Plant, Mt. Iron Minntac Mine Minntac Plant Shop, Warehouse, & Miscellaneous	All Tonnages in Gross Tons	7,578,384	25,741,232	6,353,340 Mine, Maintenance - 398 Minntac Plant - 422 Administration - 91		829,840 880,473 189,364	12 12 12
MAGNETATION, INC. Larry Lehtinen, Chairman Nashwauk, MN	Mesabi Chief 3 Mine 80,000 Metric Ton All from Itasca County				30	51,600	10
TOTALS	80,000	17,945,710	57,680,916	33,128,352	2,687	5,197,657	12
TOTAL RAW ORE	80,000						
TOTAL RAW ORE AND PELLETS		18,025,710 TOTAL NATURAL ORE & TACONITE SHIPPED					

REPORT TO COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES
(Minnesota Statutes 180)
ORE SHIPPED FROM MINES, TONS OF STRIPPING REMOVED
NUMBER OF PEOPLE EMPLOYED, MINES OF ST. LOUIS COUNTY, MINNESOTA
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2009

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

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

TOTAL MATERIAL MOVEMENT
FERROUS AND NON-FERROUS

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

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

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

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

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

* * * * *

UNITED TACONITE LLC

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

Jack Tuomi Vice President - General Manager
Santi Romani Senior Area Manager, Plant Operations
Mike Smith Area Manager, Pit Operations
Dave Sefcovic Area Manager, Technical Services
Todd Nelson Area Manager, Finance
John Baxter Area Manager, Human Resources
Jon LaMusga Section Manager, Materials
Lyle Johnston Area Manager, Maintenance
Dave Evans Area Manager, Safety
Jason Aagenes Manager, Minnesota and Canadian
Environmental Services
Rob Bigelow Section Manager - Six Sigma

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

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

E.M. Latendresse General Manager
D.J. Koth Area Manager - Technical Services
T.S. Tomsich Sr. Area Manager - Financial Control
J.T. Croswell Sr. Area Manager - Mining
P.A. Carlson Area Manager - Plants
D.A. Weiberg Area Manager - Maintenance
J.C. Tamminen Area Manager - Technical Support Manager
H.E. Drews Area Manager - Information Technology
E.G. Bryant Sr. Area Manager - Human Resources
A.J. Bakk Sr. Section Manager - Safety & Loss Control
A.S. McDowel Section Manager - Environmental
R.W. Hess Section Manager - Procurement

* * * * *

MESABI MINING, LLC

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

Dave Bednarz Vice President - Iron Resources,
Steel Dynamics, Inc.
Tom Lutes Mine Manager, Mesabi Mining, LLC
Steve Rutherford Operations Manager, Mesabi Nugget, LLC
Jeff Hansen Engineering Manager, Mesabi Nugget, LLC

**ARCELOR MITTAL
MINORCA MINE, INC.**

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

DIRECTORS

Louis Schorsch, Michael Rippey

ARCELOR - MITTAL MINING OFFICERS

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

SECTION MANAGERS

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

* * * * *

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

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

**NORTHSHORE MINING BABBITT MINE
BABBITT, MINNESOTA 55706**

Phone: 218-827-2101

Michael Mlinar General Manager
James Korpi Operations Manager
Terry Nanti Maintenance Manager
Chuck Renwald Tech Services Manager
John Sandstrom Railroad Manager
Karl Kerschen Human Resources Manager
Scott Gischia Environmental Manager
William Bundschuh Silver Bay Power Manager
Robert Willis Safety Manager
Scott Blood Plant Safety Representative
Maria Strand Plant Safety Associate
Dean DeBeltz Mine Safety Representative

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

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

Scott Coleman General Manager
Bruce Kniivila Division Manager - Mining, Maintenance
Scott Vogle Division Manager, Concentrating and Crushing
Doug Johnson Division Manager, Ore Movement and ISO
John Skube Manager - Employee Relations
Laurie Potter Manager - Safety & I.H.
Scott Karpinen Sr. Staff Supervisor - Safety & I.H.
Robert Youngman Staff Supervisor - Safety & I.H.
Kent Swanson Staff Supervisor - Safety & I.H.
John Zupin Staff Supervisor - Safety & I.H.

* * * * *

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

OFFICERS

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

STAFF

James Tieberg Division Manager - Mining
James Scott Manager - Environmental
Richard Patelke Project Geologist
Dave Draves Site Controller
Stephen DeVaney Procurement Manager
Paul Brunfelt Division Manager of Plant
Kevin Pylka Manager of Environmental Permitting & Compliance

* * * * *

MAGNETATION, INC.
Red Rock Business Center
832 First Street, Suite 130
Nashwauk, Minnesota 55769
Phone: 218-885-0043

Larry Lehtinen Chairman, President & CEO
Matt Lehtinen Vice President of Marketings
David J. Chappie Vice President of Operations & Engineering
Hope Wilson CFO
Marty Halverson Senior Engineer
Luke Lehtinen Project Engineer

* * * * *

ALWORTH LAND & IMPROVEMENT COMPANY

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

R.K. Prescott Chairman
Nicholas B. Alworth Vice Chairman
Steven G. LaFlamme President
Roger D. Wedin Executive Vice President
George W. Kratzner, II Treasurer
Thea M. Barnes Secretary

* * * * *

CONGDON MINERAL MANAGEMENT INC.

3920 13 Ave. E., Suite 7
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746-3672
Phone: 218-262-0799
Fax: 206-203-0098

John P. Congdon President
David G. Meineke Vice President
Ann L. Albrecht Assistant Secretary and Treasurer

* * * * *

EVELETH FEE OFFICE, INC.

301 McKinley Avenue
P.O. Box 521
Eveleth, Minnesota 55734-0521
Phone: 218-744-4646
Fax: 218-744-2149

Daniel L. England President
Thomas J. Malkovich Vice President/Manager of Mines
Beverly A. Saranpaa Administrative Assistant

* * * * *

GREAT NORTHERN IRON ORE PROPERTIES

801 East Howard Street
P.O. Box 429
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746-0429
Phone: 218-262-3886
Fax: 218-262-4295

J.S. Micallef President and CEO
J.A. Swearingen Trustee
R.W. Staehle Trustee
R.A. Stein Trustee
T.A. Janochoski Vice President and CFO
R.P. Johnson Manager of Mines
K.A. Baehr Manager of Accounting

* * * * *

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

Mark Myles Trust Manager

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

Craig Pagel President

OFFICERS

Ed Latendresse, Board Chair Hibbing Taconite
William Bond Arcelor Mittal, Minorca Mine
Jonathan Holmes Arcelor Mittal, Minorca Mine
Dana Byrne Cliffs Natural Resources
Mike Mlinar Northshore Mining
Maureen Talarico Cliffs Natural Resources
Tim Tomsich Hibbing Taconite
Jack Tuomi United Taconite
Scott Coleman Minnesota Ore Operations
Scott Vagle US Steel - Minntac
Jeremy Smolich US Steel - Keetac
Chrissy Bartovich US Steel
Larry Lehtinen Magnetation
Environmental; Committee Chrissy Bartovich
Public Information Committee Bob Poulter
Safety and Health Committee Laurie Potter

ONONDAGA IRON COMPANY

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

Douglas H. Lewis Chief Financial Officer
Kenneth Maine Chief Executive Officer

* * * * *

MINING MINNESOTA

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

Frank Ongaro Executive Director

* * * * *

MERIDEN ENGINEERING LLC

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

G.D. Lindahl President
J.A. Hecimovich Vice President

* * * * *

SUPERIOR MINERALS RESOURCES LLC

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

H.W. Hilshorst President and Chief Executive Officer
G.D. Lindahl Vice President and Chief Executive Officer
J.A. Hecimovich Vice President and Chief Financial Officer

* * * * *

MESABI MINERAL ASSOCIATION

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

R.K. Prescott Chairman

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GLOBAL MINERALS ENGINEERING, LLC

3920 13th Ave. E., Suite 7
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746-3672
Phone: 218-262-0799
Fax: 206-203-0098

David G. Meineke President & CEO

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MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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

M. Holsten Commissioner
L. Martinson Deputy Commissioner
L. Kramka Assistant Commissioner
M.K. Vadis Director, Division of Lands and Minerals (LAM)

Division of Lands and Minerals

1525 E. Third Avenue
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
(218) 231-8484
FAX (218) 262-7328

J. Engesser Asst. Director, Division of Lands and Minerals
P. Clevestine Manager, Engineering & Mineral Development

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
IRON RANGE RESOURCES
MINELAND RECLAMATION**

801 SW Highway 169, Suite 2
Chisholm, Minnesota 55719
Phone: (218) 254-7967 Fax: (218) 254-7973

D. Jordan Mining and Minerals Program Supervisor
B. Itkonen Mineland Reclamation Specialist, Sr.
G. Dormanen Mineland Reclamation Specialist
S. Perkovich Office & Administration Specialist, Sr.
J. Plummer Laurentian Vision and Real Property Coordinator

* * * * *

IRON RANGE RESOURCES
4261 HIGHWAY 53 SOUTH
P.O. BOX 441
EVELETH, MN 55734
Phone: (218) 744-7400 or 800-765-5043

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

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RGGS Lands & Minerals LTD., L.P.
202 2nd Avenue South
Virginia, MN 57792
Phone: (218) 749-1291
Fax: (218) 749-1294

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MINNESOTA MINE INSPECTORS
St. Louis County

Barry D. Lesar Inspector of Mines
Stanley J. Rojeski, Jr. Assistant Mine Inspector
Paul T. Wier Assistant Mine Inspector
Terrance M. O'Neil Assistant Mine Inspector

OFFICE AT
ST. LOUIS COUNTY GARAGE
Highway 135 East
Virginia, Minnesota 55792
Phone: 218-742-9840

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

515 W. 1st Street #333
Duluth, Minnesota 55802-1302
COMM: 218-720-5448
FAX: 218-720-5650
Duluth Duty Field Station COMM: 218-720-5448

DISTRICT OFFICE

Steven M. Richetta District Manager
Gerald D. Holeman Assistant District Manager
George F. Schorr Supv. Spec. Investigator
Stephen D. Cotie Mine Safety & Health Specialist
(Health Specialist)
William H. Pomroy.. Mine Safety & Health Specialist (Staff Assistant)
Thomas J. Pavlat Mine Safety & Health Specialist
Wayne L. Lundquist Mine Safety & Health Specialist (CLR)
Stephen W. Field Mine Safety & Health Specialist
Mary M. Mikulich Supv. Management & Program Analyst
Devon R. Willeck IT Specialist
Jenna L. Nelson District Secretary
Debra J. Johnson Mine Safety and Health Technician (OA)
Kenneth L. Bickel Safety Specialist

DULUTH DUTY FIELD STATION

Dale E. Hedman Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Daniel J. Goyen Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Robert A. Marincel Mine Safety & Health Inspector

HIBBING FIELD OFFICE

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

William G. Dethloff III Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Alan J. Brandt Mine Safety & Health Inspector (Electrical)
Richard V. Boeckermann Mine Safety & Health Inspector
David R. Wallin Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Thaddeus J. Sichmeller Mine Safety & Health Inspector
John C. Koivisto Mine Safety & Health Inspector

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE
600 North Robert Street
St. Paul, Minnesota 55146
Phone: (651) 556-3100 Fax: (651) 297-5309

Ward Einess Commissioner
Roger Swanson Director, Special Taxes Division

Minerals Tax Office
612 Pierce St.
Eveleth, Minnesota 55734-1611
Phone: (218) 744-7424 Fax: (218) 744-7421

Norma J. Krogerus Revenue Tax Specialist - ext. 5867
Robert Wagstrom Mining Engineer - ext. 5865
Carolyn Koskela Secretary - ext. 5866

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INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS

Local No. 49, 49A, 49B, 49C, 49D, and 49E
Minnesota, North Dakota, South Dakota
8381 Enterprise Drive N
Virginia, MN 55792
Phone: 218-741-8190 - Virginia
Phone: 218-724-3840 - Duluth

Thomas Pariseau President
Daniel Kingsley Officer
J. Dale Long Officer
Brent Pykkonen Officer (Duluth)
Janet Haley Secretary
Pam Fairchild Secretary (Duluth)

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**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
DISTRICT 11**

MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE

Phone: 612-623-8045

R. Bratulich Director

EVELETH SUB-DISTRICT OFFICE

Phone: 218-744-2757

Fax: 218-744-7926

John Rebrovich Staff Representative

Cathy Warner Staff Representative

Peggy May Staff Representative

**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
LOCAL UNITS**

LOCAL #6860

UNITED TACONITE LLC

Phone: 218-744-4480

John Motley President

Joe Fredrickson Vice President

Amy Hutkowski Recording Secretary

Steve Lere Financial Secretary

Jim Ravnika Treasurer

Brian Lahti Safety Coordinator

Larry Roberts Plant Safety Chairman

Paul Horoshak Mine Safety Chairman

LOCAL #2660

KEEWATIN TACONITE

Phone: 218-778-6909

Jack Thronson President

Lorne Middlestead Safety Representative

David Mlakar Chairman, Safety Committee

Joe Ferris Area Chair, Pellet Plant

Kevin Noonan Area Chair, Concentrator

Cliff Tobey Area Chair, Shops

Dan Grzybowski Area Chair, Pit

Harlee Sirjord Area Chair, Pond

Tom Damjanovich Area Chair, Crusher

**LOCAL #2705
HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY**

Phone: 218-254-2492

Fax: 218-254-7100

115 W. Lake Street, Chisholm, MN 55719

Frank Jenko President
Mike Wright USW International Safety Department
Bob Brown Chairman, Safety Committee
Rich Novak Alternate

**LOCAL #6115
MITTAL STEEL USA, MINORCA MINE INC.**

Phone: 218-741-3310

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

**LOCAL #1938
USX - MINNTAC MINE**

Phone: 218-741-0887

Mike Woods President
Jon Malek Vice President
Dave Chesser Recording Secretary
Chad Daniels Financial Secretary
Paul Centa Treasurer
Tim Carlson Safety Committee Chairman
Mark Hagsten Safety Committee Co-Chairman
Dennis Jensrud Safety Coordinator - Plants
Rodney Moberg Safety Representative, Mine/Shops
Lowell Carlton Safety Representative, Concentrator/Crushers
Dave Toole Safety Representative, Agglomerators I, II, III

NON-FATAL LOST-TIME AND SERIOUS ACCIDENTS

ARCELOR MITTAL, MINORCA MINE, INC.

Driller, Date of Accident - March 10, 2009, A driller was exiting her drill. As she stepped off of the ladder, she landed on a rock with her left foot, causing her foot to twist in an awkward fashion. This resulted in a sprained left ankle. Days Lost - 9

UNITED TACONITE LLC

MINE

Mine Mechanic, Date of Accident - February 9, 2009. Injured was assisting a shovel operator in the replacement of a cracked cover plate on his shovel. The operator tapped the edge of the cover plate causing a piece of metal to splinter off and strike the mechanic in the face. This resulted in the piece being lodged in his face. Days Lost - 1

Warehouse Person, Date of accident - March 12, 2009. Injured was shifting a filter on a storage rack inside the warehouse. While lifting the corner of the filter he suffered a strain/sprain to the lower back. Days Lost - 16

Mine Operations, Date of Accident - April 15, 2009. Injured was removing blast hole plugs from a blast pattern in preparation to load the holes with explosives. When Injured stepped off the cutting pile of the hole, he rolled his ankle. This resulted in a strain/sprain to the right ankle. Days Lost - 6

Mine Maintenance, Date of Accident - July 13, 2009. Injured was working on a Production Truck, the driver was unaware of his presence and started to drive away. Injured jumped from the truck to the ground to avoid being struck by the Production Truck. This resulted in an injured knee. Days Lost 113

Mine Maintenance, Date of Accident - October 28, 2009. Injured was performing a brake job on light fleet vehicle. He was compressing the brake caliper with a clamp. As he was tightening the clamp he felt a pain in his arm. This resulted in a strain/sprain. Days Lost - 19

Mine Maintenance, Date of Accident - October 30, 2009. Injured was lifting some mud flaps for a Production Truck when he felt a pain in his back. This resulted in a strain/sprain to the back. Days Lost - 50

Mine Maintenance, Date of accident - November 2, 2009. Injured was in the process of removing the wheel from a loader. The employee was using an impact wrench with an extension to remove the nuts. The impact wrench slipped off the bolt and injured banged his elbow against the wheel. This resulted in a contusion to the elbow. Days Lost - 4

Mine Maintenance, Date of Accident - December 3, 2009. Injured was walking down a stairway at the dust collector. When he reached the bottom step his boot slipped on some gravel. This resulted in a fractured ankle. Days Lost - 18

Mine Maintenance, Date of Accident - December 27, 2009. Injured was removing a bolt using an impact wrench. When he felt the bolt begin to spin freely, he reached behind the bolt to investigate and cut his finger on a sharp edge. This resulted in a laceration to the finger tip. Days Lost - 12

Mine Maintenance, Date of Accident - December 31, 2009. Injured was guiding a shovel into the truck shop. Rubber was placed on the floor to protect the concrete from the shovel tracks and injured slipped on the rubber. This resulted in a strain/sprain to the back. Days Lost - 1

PLANT

Pellet Maintenance, Date of Accident - February 9, 2009. Injured was walking down a concrete ramp with both hands on the handrails. Injured slipped on some loose pellets but caught and kept himself from falling. In so doing he received a strain/sprain to the back. Days Lost - 10

Concentrator Operations, Date of Accident - March 4, 2009. Injured was descending the stairway from the balling floor to the grade floor when he lost his footing on the bottom step. The loss of footing resulted in a fall and a contusion to the knee and a strain/sprain to the lower back/ Days Lost - 17

Pellet Operations, Date of Accident - May 5, 2009. Injured and a helper were trying to position a full 55 gallon drum onto a cradle when injured felt a pop in his knee. This resulted in a sprain/strain to the knee. Days Lost - 2

Pellet Maintenance, Date of Accident - May 8, 2009. Injured was lifting a section of conveyor belt in preparation for rigging and lifting with a crane. As injured bent down he felt a pull in his groin. This resulted in a sprain/strain to the groin. Days Lost - 1

Pellet Maintenance, Date of Accident - June 28, 2009. A line #2 Cooler Dump Arm had broken on Afternoon Shift, and the Afternoon Shift maintenance crew had prepped the area for replacement by the Night Shift Maintenance Crew. Injured and his partners had finished cleaning the dump arm shaft and had hoisted the new dump arm into position and started it onto the shaft (maybe a 16th of an inch or so) and suspended the arm from a chain jack. In order to fully install the dump arm they set up a combination of a spacer pipe and a hydraulic ram between the concrete pillar and the dump arm shaft to push the arm fully onto the shaft. With the spacer pipe against the pillar and the ram against the dump arm, injured positioned himself near the hydraulic ram with his right arm hooked under the spacer pipe to operate the ram and watch the dump arm as it was jacked onto the shaft. While bumping the ram to push the dump arm on, the spacer pipe and the hydraulic ram kicked out of position and pushed against injured's chest, pushing him about 8 to 10 feet away. This caused the stated injuries. One witness believed that the dump arm may not have been perfectly aligned onto the shaft. This caused a build up in pressure against the dump arm, and when the dump arm popped onto the dump arm shaft (approximately 2-2.5 inches) the spacer pipe and the ram kicked out of position due to the sudden loss of pressure. This resulted in bruised ribs. Days Lost - 40

Pellet Maintenance, Date of Accident - August 14, 2009. Injured and his partner were pressure washing cooler carrier wheels in the steam room. The wheel involved in the incident was standing upright and had already been cleaned. Injured turned around to clean up the next wheel so he could attach the cooler wheel lifting device, so the next wheel could be stood up for final cleaning. The wheel that was standing upright began to roll towards injured. His partner attempted to warn him of the wheel's movement, but injured could not hear him over the noise of the steam cleaner and the Broderson crane. The wheel rolled off of the drain cover it was on and fell pinning injured's leg/ankle to the floor and the pallet that the next wheel to be cleaned was lying on. The weight of the fallen wheel required his partner to use the Broderson crane to pick the fallen wheel off of the injured party. Days Lost - 26

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

No Lost Time Injuries In 2009

KEEWATIN TACONITE

Utility Technician, Date of Accident - December 9, 2009 - Injured was in the process of mopping the floor when she felt a "pop" in her back. This resulted in a back strain. Days Lost - 22

Supervisor, Date of Accident - December 11, 2009. Injured was on the edge of newly constructed remote sump to lift a B.O. sump pump that had broken the previous lifting rope. The rigging was now nylon rope attached to a 20' section of hose that in turn was attached to the sump pump with cast aluminum fittings. The pump weighed approximately 80# and the discharge end of the hose was not attached to anything. Hoisting was done with a Caterpillar model 365B excavator. While lifting, with the injured directing, the fitting between the pump and the hose failed allowing the hose, with metal ends, to hit the injured in the head. He was standing near the edge of the sump, where the pump was going to be placed after the lift. This resulted in a head bruise, a 3-4" head laceration, sub-arachnoid bleeding, and torn muscles in the posterior region of the neck. Days Lost - 5

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

Babbitt Mine

Mine Maintenance, Date of Accident - February 24, 2009. Injured was using a "Rivet Buster" type of jackhammer to clean and free up track rollers on the side frame of a P&H 120A drill. While using the jackhammer to remove the frozen dirt and ice, the air hose connection fitting broke and the pressurized hose and air fitting struck the employee on the right side of the face, just under the lip. This resulted in the employee receiving 2 stitches and 2 chipped teeth. Days Lost - None

Silver Bay

Plant Maintenance Electrician, Date of Accident - March 28, 2009. Injured was exiting a pickup truck. When he stepped out of the cab he slipped on snow covered ice and fell on his left side, injuring his rib cage. Days Lost - 20

USS CORPORATION, MINNTAC MAINTENANCE

Ironworker, Date of Accident - January 9, 2009. Injured was grinding slag from the edges of floor liner plates. While moving the grinder, it contacted injured's leg. This resulted in a laceration to right leg, just above the knee. Days Lost - None

MTM, Date of Accident - August 22, 2009. Injured was assigned the task of removing bucket lip shrouds on the stated shovel. He had cleaned the area of the J-bolts that held the (two piece) shrouds to the bucket lip. He then proceeded to cut the J-bolts with a torch. He then placed a brass hammer on the back side of the shroud lip and began hitting the hammer with a steel hammer. After the shrouds were removed, he and a partner who had arrived to help, started installing the new shrouds. At about this time, injured felt a tingling sensation to his left knee and upon rolling up his pants, noticed a stream of blood coming from the side of his knee. This was later found to be the area where the two pieces of metal, fused together, entered the leg. One piece was brass from the hammer and the other was steel from the shroud. This resulted in a shrapnel wound to the left knee. Days Lost - 2

USS CORPORATION, MINNTAC MINE

Operations Technician, Date of Accident - January 13, 2009. Injured was descending the stairs on a production truck when he tripped on a cable. This resulted in a strain/sprain. Days Lost - None

Mobile Equipment Operator, Date of Accident - January 28, 2009. Injured was installing a length of steel pipe on a sump when the pipe shifted and pinched his left index finger between the pipe and a ladder rung. This resulted in a laceration to the finger. Days Lost - None

Shovel Operator, Date of Accident - June 26, 2009. Injured was spotting and dumping trucks on the #51 waste rock stockpile in the West Pit. He questioned in his mind the height of the berm he was leaving and decided to egress the loader for an on ground evaluation. A six foot berm height is required and the injured is six foot tall. As he was to climb down the last section of ladder, his foot slipped off the top step causing him to fall to the ground landing on his chest and both wrists resulting in the stated injuries. From the top step of the vertical ladder to the ground is 59 inches. This resulted in broken right and left wrists, a fracture of the left elbow and facial contusions. Days Lost - 40

Utility Person, Date of Accident - September 9, 2009. Injured was in the process of cleaning the tail end area of the 009-02 conveyor of rock and mud. She positioned herself on top of the pile to be able to hose and follow the material down to where the shovel guards are located. As she stepped off the pile to the floor level, she tripped on the tangled hose which laid in front of her. This resulted in a vertical fracture of the left knee cap. Days lost - None

Utility Technician, Date of Accident - October 17, 2009. Injured was walking down a utility tunnel when his knee gave out, causing him to fall. This resulted in a sore shoulder. Days Lost - None

Hybrid, Date of Accident - October 29, 2009. Injured was installing a belt roller when his finger got pinched between the roller and the wash pan. This resulted in a laceration to the finger. Days Lost - None.

Mobile Equipment Operator, Date of Accident - November 23, 2009. While the Operator's truck was being loaded, a large chunk of material was dropped into the box. This caused a jarring in the cab, which resulted in a sore back. Days Lost - None

USS CORPORATION, MINNTAC PLANT

Utility Technician, Date of Accident - January 28, 2009. Injured was cleaning up some pellet spillage. In the process he slipped on some ice and pellets, which resulted in a fractured ankle. Days Lost - 70

MTM, Date of Accident - January 30, 2009. Injured was descending a flight of stairs when he slipped and fell forward. In trying to catch himself, he dislocated his shoulder. Days Lost - None

MTM, Date of Accident - February 2, 2009. Injured was removing a full bag of garbage from a garbage can. As he was lifting, his hand slipped off of the bag and struck the concrete wall. This resulted in a fractured hand. Days Lost - None

Hybrid, Date of Accident - February 6, 2009. Injured was attempting to remove slag that was stuck between a dump truck box and the tail gate. When the slag dislodged, the employee's finger was pinched between the box and the tail gate, causing a laceration. Days Lost - None

Painter, Date of Accident - June 10, 2009. After mixing some epoxy paint, the employee complained of difficulty breathing. The employee returned to work with restricted duty. Days Lost - None

Utility Technician, Date of Accident - June 30, 2009. Injured was helping his partner remove a bolt when his partner's wrench slipped off of the bolt. The wrench struck injured in the upper lip causing a laceration. Days Lost - None

Utility Technician, Date of Accident - December 4, 2009. While walking across wet concrete, injured slipped and hyper extended his knee. Days lost - 10

Hybrid, Date of Accident - December 30, 2009. Injured was pulling on a wrench to loosen a bolt. While pulling the wrench, injured felt pain radiating across his right buttock and down his leg. This resulted in a strained back. Days Lost - 10

MAGNETATION

Plant Operator, Date of Accident - May 20, 2009. Injured was stepping down off of the water truck when he slipped off the step. This resulted in a sprained left ankle. Days Lost - 22