

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines

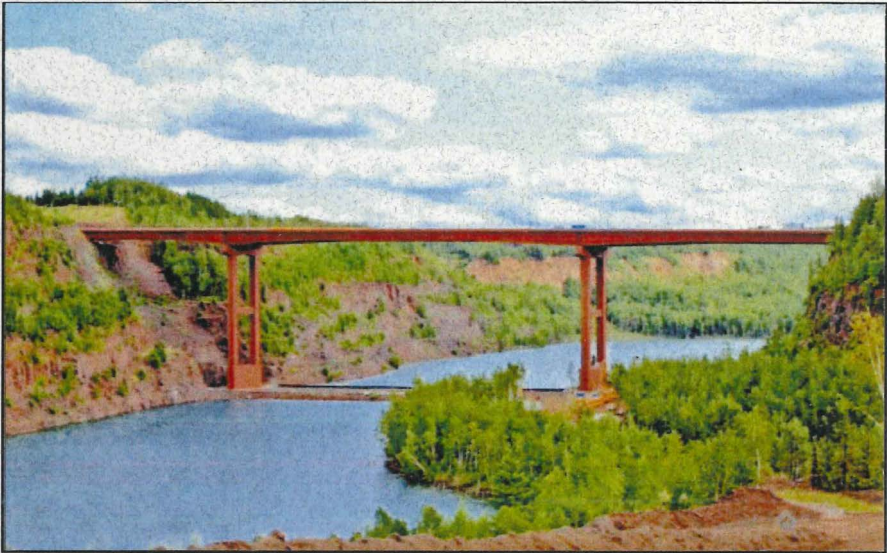


Photo by Paul Pluskwik

2017

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Mine Inspector
St. Louis County
307 South First Street
Virginia, MN 55792
218-742-9840

Joseph Austin
Safety & Risk Mgmt. Director
St. Louis County
2503 Rice Lake Road
Duluth, MN 55811
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The
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
INSPECTOR OF MINES
St. Louis County, Minnesota

2017

INSPECTOR OF MINES

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ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

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OFFICE AT
NORTHLAND OFFICE BUILDING
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THE ST. LOUIS COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1 Frank Jewell, Duluth, Minnesota
District 2 Patrick Boyle, Duluth, Minnesota
District 3 Beth Olson, Duluth, Minnesota
District 4 Tom Rukavina, Ely, Minnesota
District 5 Pete Stauber, Hermantown, Minnesota
District 6 Keith Nelson, Virginia, Minnesota
District 7 Mike Jugovich, Chisholm, Minnesota

THE ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

District 1 Davin Tinquist
District 2 Terry Snyder
District 3 Leo Trunt
District 4 Burl Ives
District 5 Mark Mandich

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

February 27, 2018

THE HONORABLE BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS

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

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

Dear Chairs Nelson, Trunt and Commissioners:

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines for 2017 is herewith submitted.

Mining activity for 2017 showed an increased production schedule for both St. Louis and Itasca counties. A total of 39,485,849 tons of natural ore and taconite were shipped from area operations compared to 27,841,630 in 2016. Mining related employment also increased and was reported at 3,944, which was an increase of 323 individuals compared to 2016. These positive numbers mark a significant improvement compared to the two previous years of reduced production and mining related employment in the area reported for 2015 and 2016. The total work hours reported for area mining operations was 8,054,252 for the year.

Keetac re-opened in February of 2017, bringing the total number of active mining operations in the area up to six. These include: ArcelorMittal Minnora, Hibbing Taconite, Minntac, Northshore and United Taconite. Several of these increased production during 2017 in comparison to their 2016 numbers.

Progress was made by several area operations toward the objective of growth during the coming years. PolyMet has now completed and submitted the mine permits associated with the NorthMet project (copper/nickel/precious metal mining) and Twin Metals continues to move forward with efforts directed at their semi-precious metal mining project near Ely.

On the transportation front, MnDOT completed the Highway 53 reroute and new bridge across the Rouchleau Pit in Virginia (see cover).

During 2017, area mining operations reported a total of 18 lost time or serious accidents. This is a decrease in comparison to the 22 experienced in 2016 and noteworthy considering the increases seen in both total em-

(Continued on page 3)

ployee number and production during the year. Zero fatalities were reported in 2017. The continued commitment to the safety of all those who work in the mining industry is our shared goal.

St. Louis County Mine Inspectors successfully completed all required inspections of area operations mandated by Minnesota State Law Chapter 180, Section 180.03 during 2017.

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,



Steven K. Manninen
Inspector of Mines
St. Louis County



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

Excerpts from the Law On

INSPECTOR OF MINES

CHAPTER 180

MINNESOTA STATUTES

SECTION 180.05

INSPECTOR, POWERS; OWNER, DUTIES

It shall be lawful for the inspector of mines or assistant inspector to enter, examine, and inspect any and all mining operations and machinery belonging to the mine owner, operator, or agent at all reasonable times by day or by night, but so as not to obstruct or hinder the necessary workings of the facility. At the request of the inspector of mines, the owner, operator, or agent of a mining operation shall furnish for inspection:

(1) all maps, drawings, and plans of the mining facility, together with the plans of all contemplated changes:

(2) a suitable person, who shall be chosen by the inspector from a list containing at least three candidates, submitted by a majority of employees of the mine, to accompany the inspector through the mining operation;

(3) any necessary equipment to make a proper inspection; and

(4) all necessary facilities for such entry, examination, and inspection.

Upon receipt of a written request made by the inspector of mines, refusal to permit the inspection, or to furnish the necessary facilities for entry, examination, and inspection, shall be deemed a gross misdemeanor.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

2017

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	66
Total Number of Mines and Plants	294
Total Taconite Products Shipped	39,485,849
Total Ore Shipped	0
Taconite Mined	131,905,934
Stripping and Waste Removal, Tons	125,926,472
Total Material Moved, Tons Estimate	257,832,406
Total People Employed	3,944
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	18
Total Number of Man-hours Worked	8,054,252
Number of Investigations and Inspections	428

2017 WAGE RATES INCENTIVE INCLUDED

Labor Grade	Wage Rate
1	\$24.08
2	\$26.36
3	\$28.99
4	\$30.51
5	\$32.40

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

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

YEAR	MINES	TONS SHIPPED	EMPLOYED	INJURED	FATALS	FAT/1000	WAGES
1957	124	50,093,275	12,804	144	6	0.47	17.560
1958	90	30,495,093	10,250	83	0	0.00	18.400
1959	89	16,055,353	9,256	93	4	0.43	22.480
1960	95	39,526,879	11,797	132	2	0.16	22.430
1961	85	33,169,291	9,200	51	4	0.43	22.430
1962	46	23,269,349	8,676	57	1	0.11	22.430
1963	61	35,255,178	7,671	30	2	0.26	22.430
1964	42	39,115,088	8,102	26	1	0.12	22.430
1965	54	40,891,345	8,305	53	0	0.00	22.430
1966	49	44,412,473	9,445	56	4	0.43	22.430
1967	51	41,216,870	8,825	52	4	0.44	23.760
1968	53	43,078,879	9,125	55	2	0.22	25.640
1969	51	34,628,234	9,394	58	0	0.00	27.430
1970	49	33,648,268	9,631	71	5	0.52	28.520
1971	50	32,687,511	9,441	58	0	0.00	32.480
1972	46	35,100,156	9,431	63	0	0.00	34.096
1973	47	46,076,814	10,131	58	4	0.40	35.352
1974	49	51,745,763	10,667	60	1	0.09	44.360
1975	51	45,394,814	10,864	71	0	0.00	45.842
1976	52	41,425,833	11,514	77	1	0.09	47.368
1977	24	26,556,566	10,840	82	2	0.19	56.682
1978	26	50,806,547	13,056	138	1	0.08	64.344
1979	26	54,530,338	13,267	164	0	0.00	70.832
1980	18	42,076,497	11,441	107	1	0.09	80.112
1981	12	47,300,056	11,630	96	0	0.00	89.472
1982	11	22,335,570	7,626	44	0	0.00	94.192
1983	9	26,843,983	5,935	50	2	0.34	84.19
1984	9	30,463,941	6,305	55	0	0.00	87.39
1985	9	31,948,722	5,539	29	0	0.00	90.60
1986	9	26,608,769	5,250	33	0	0.00	94.19
1987	9	30,063,909	4,857	26	1	0.21	94.19
1988	9	37,250,243	4,546	41	1	0.18	94.19
1989	9	38,421,803	5,664	55	2	0.35	94.19
1990	9	41,441,888	6,379	40	1	0.16	94.19
1991	10	38,420,014	6,468	49	0	0.00	94.19
1992	10	37,684,439	6,325	110	0	0.00	106.94
1993	9	39,338,920	5,953	133	0	0.00	106.94
1994	9	43,976,323	6,051	97	1	0.17	93.936
1995	9	47,030,820	6,005	87	0	0.00	97.936
1996	8	46,144,621	6,032	96	0	0.00	101.936
1997	8	46,978,014	6,129	84	0	0.00	103.616
1998	8	46,862,734	5,962	114	1	0.17	105.936
1999	9	43,136,042	5,633	99	0	0.00	105.936
2000	9	44,806,128	5,611	77	1	0.18	109.936
2001	8	34,144,559	4,212	60	0	0.00	113.936
2002	8	39,087,907	4,036	60	0	0.00	113.936

YEAR	MINES	TONS SHIPPED	EMPLOYED	INJURED	FATALS	FAT/1000	WAGES
2003	8	35,282,267	4,177	35	0	0.00	121.936
2004	8	42,059,597	3,444	24	0	0.00	145.384
2005	8	40,464,089	3,568	29	0	0.00	178.40
2006	7	39,617,873	3,714	14	1	0.27	178.40
2007	7	38,041,616	3,724	13	2	0.54	187.848
2008	7	40,599,311	3,732	26	0	0.00	182.40
2009	7	18,025,710	2,687	39	0	0.00	201.44
2010	7	37,996,765	3,761	27	0	0.00	238.44
2011	7	40,395,202	4,215	24	0	0.00	188.40
2012	9	41,099,022	4,441	17	0	0.00	221.85
2013	9	40,221,204	4,371	29	0	0.00	226.24
2014	9	41,301,098	4,387	29	0	0.00	226.24
2015	10	34,683,076	4,047	19	0	0.00	231.92
2016	7	28,970,579	3,621	22	0	0.00	231.92
2017	7	39,485,849	3,944	18	0	0.00	231.92

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11
OPERATIONAL SUMMARY
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017**

MINES	TONS OF TACONITE PRODUCTS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE (ROCK & OVERBURDEN)	AVERAGE NUMBER PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS / PITS	MAN HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC. Pellets - Pellet Chips -	2,731,367 39,496	8,573,238	7,079,230	356	780,710	12
HIBBING TACONITE CO.	7,736,587	29,455,282	35,243,806	726	1,527,663	12
NORTH SHORE MINING CO. BABBITT AND SILVER BAY	5,347,722	14,558,175	8,282,209	550	1,113,138	12
UNITED TACONITE LLC	4,829,052	13,709,869	15,072,867	500	1,035,484	12

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11
OPERATIONAL SUMMARY
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2017**

MINES	TONS OF TACONITE PRODUCTS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE (ROCK & OVERBURDEN)	AVERAGE NUMBER PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS / PITS	MAN HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
JSS CORPORATION M.O.O. KEEWATIN TACONITE CO. ST. LOUIS ITASCA	4,532,228	16,495,420	11,545,520	415	764,254	11
JSS CORPORATION M.O.O. MINNTAC	14,269,397	49,113,950	48,702,840	1,397	2,833,003	12
TOTALS ST. LOUIS COUNTY	34,953,621	115,410,514	114,380,952	3,529	7,289,998	
TOTALS ITASCA COUNTY	4,532,228	16,495,420	11,545,520	415	764,254	
TOTALS	39,485,849	131,905,934	125,926,472	3,944	8,054,252	

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

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

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

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

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UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

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

Lawrence Sutherland General Manager
Tim Kalisch Division Manager - Plant & Plant Maintenance
Susan Wiire Coordinator - Human Resources
Kent Swanson Manager - Safety & Industrial Hygiene
Robert Youngman Safety & IH Specialist
Mike Levar Safety & IH Specialist
Jerry Orrell Safety & IH Specialist

ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC.
Company Officers and Staff

Minnesota Address

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P.O. Box 1
Virginia, MN 55792

Main Telephone

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(218) 749-3420 Fax

E-mail: jonathan.holmes@arcelormittal.com

Officers

John Brett President and CEO
Keith Howell Chief Operating Officer
Daniel Mull Executive Vice President, Sales & Marketing
Paul Liebenson General Counsel & Assistant Secretary
Marc Jeske Secretary
Neil Kohlberg Vice President, Finance & Procurement
Richard Campoli Controller
Pat Parker Vice President, Labor Relations
Wendell Carter Vice President, General Manager
Jonathan Holmes Vice President, Mining
Laurent Koenig Treasurer
Ken E. Walker Assistant Treasurer
Christine F. Fleps Assistant Treasurer
Joseph P. Wallace Assistant Treasurer
William R. Martin Assistant Treasurer

Managers

Jonathan H. Holmes Vice President/Operations Manager -
ArcelorMittal Minorca Mine
William M. Bond Manager - Operating Technology
Scott W. Harrison Manager - Pit
Robb A. Peterson Manager - Plant
Daniel G. Vidmar Manager - Human Resources/Labor Relations
Karla L. Heritage-McKenzie Manager - Safety
Thomas R. Cossalter Manager - Purchasing
Ross A. Phenning Manager - Electrical/Systems

* * * * *

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

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

Jack T. Croswell General Manager
Joe Marturano Manager - Asset Management
Todd Nelson Manager - Financial Control
Jared Lubben Manager - Mining
Rally Hess Manager - Plants
Michael P. Kern Manager - Human Resources
Andrea J. Bakk Manager - Safety & Loss Control
Julie C. Lucas Manager - Environmental
Tim Angelo Manager - Procurement

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UNITED TACONITE LLC

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

Chad Asgaard General Manager
Ryan Korpela Area Manager - Plant
Jared Lubben Area Manager - Mine
Nick Beukema Area Manager - Maintenance
Todd Nelson Area Manager - Finance
John Baxter Area Manager - Human Resources
Bryan Baird Area Manager - Safety
Candice Maxwell Section Manager - Environmental
Jon Lamusga Section Manager - Materials

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

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

NORTHSHORE MINING BABBITT MINE

BABBITT, MINNESOTA 55706

Phone: 218-827-2101

Paul Carlson General Manager
Ron Holm Plant Manager
Connor McCue Mine Manager
Bryon Rusco Railroad Manager
Scott Blood Safety Manager
Andrea Hayden Environmental Manager
Bill Bundschuh Silver Bay Power Manager
Ken Stocco Reliability Manager
Carl Kerschen Human Resource Manager
Chris Tokvam Purchasing Manager
Nolan Koskela Finance Manager
Luke Thun Plant Safety Representative
Jake Baxter Plant Safety Representative
Maria Strand Plant Safety Associate
Rod Lampton Mine Safety Representative

ERP INTERNATIONAL
28754 County Highway 61
Grand Rapids, MN 55744

Rob Bigelow Managing Director

* * * * *

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

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

* * * * *

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

Nicholas B. Alworth Managing Director

* * * * *

CONGDON MINERAL MANAGEMENT INC.

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

David C. Adams President
David G. Meineke Vice President
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
Lisa A. Williams Administrative Assistant

* * * * *

GLACIER PARK IRON ORE PROPERTIES, LLC

CORPORATE OFFICE

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

Mr. David Schlagel President
Matt Gonzales Accountant

HIBBING OFFICE

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Phone: 218-262-3886

Jeff Tromp Chief Mining Engineer
John Dixon Senior Land / Mining Inspector
Ben Gardeski Senior Mining Engineer / Inspector
Austin Dusek Geologist / GIS Specialist
Robert Crowe Mining Engineer / Inspector

HARTLEY OFFICE

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Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Phone: 218-723-8060

Patrick Flattery Trust Manager

IRON MINING ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA

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Duluth, Minnesota 55802
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2017 IMA Staff

Kelsey Johnson..... President and Treasurer
Katy Lofquist Media Manager

2017 IMA Board of Directors

William Bond ArcelorMittal
Jonathan Holmes ArcelorMittal
Patrick Bloom Cleveland Cliffs Inc.
Sandy Karnowski Cleveland Cliffs Inc.
Jack Crowell Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - Hibbing Taconite
Todd Nelson Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - Hibbing Taconite
Ed LaTendresse Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - Northshore Mining Co.
Chad Asgaard Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - United Taconite
Santi Romani Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - United Taconite
Jim Perry Furin & Shea Welding & Fabricating Inc.
Jim Hoolihan Industrial Lubricant
Jason Janisch Jasper Engineering
Nels Ojard Krech Ojard & Associates
Brian Maki Lakehead Constructors
Art Lind Lind Industrial Supplies
Bruce Mars Mars Supply Co.
Steve Harms Pit & Quarry Supply
Jon Anderson RMS Equipment
David Bednarz Steel Dynamics
Mark Lorenz Steel Dynamics
Matt Thibodeau Thibodeau, Johnson & Feriancek PLLP
Christina Bartovich U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Larry Sutherland U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
(Board Chair)
Tim Kalisch U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Travis Kolari U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Bill Whiteside WR Whiteside Equipment

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ONONDAGA IRON COMPANY

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

Douglas H. Lewis Chief Financial Officer

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MINING MINNESOTA

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

Frank Ongaro Executive Director

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MERIDEN ENGINEERING, LLC

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

Greg D. Lindahl President

Jim A. Hecimovich Vice President

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SUPERIOR MINERALS RESOURCES, LLC

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www.superiormineral.com

Jim A. Hecimovich President and Chief Executive Officer

Greg D. Lindahl Vice President and Chief Operating Officer

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
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*** * * * ***

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David Hamalainen Assistant Mine Inspector
Derek Harbin Assistant Mine Inspector

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Mindy A. Meierbachtol Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Terrance J. Norman Mine Safety & Health Inspector
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Jeff Stalboerger Area Chair, Shop
Kelly Peterson Area Chair, Pit
Lorne Middlestead Area Chair, Pond
Tawnya Gustafson Area Chair, Crusher
Carl Jeranek Area Chair, Pellet Plant
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Matt Robillard Safety Coordinator - Minntac/Keetac
Steve Bonach Full-Time Safety Representative, Mine/Shops
Mitch McDonald Full-Time Safety Representative, Concentrator/
Crushers
Paul Coombe Full-Time Safety Representative,
Agglomerators I, II, III

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Jerry F. Strle "E" Board Member
Shawn Braford "E" Board Member
Mark Towner "E" Board Member
Michael G. Warner Recording Secretary
Shelly A. Wiitanen Office Manager, Sergeant at Arms

NON-FATAL LOST-TIME AND SERIOUS ACCIDENTS

ARCELORMITAL MINORCA MINE INC:

Concentrator Millwright, Date of Accident – April 11, 2017. Employee was ascending a set of three steps, and on the first step weight was placed on side of right foot causing employee's ankle to roll. Incident resulted in an ankle fracture. Employee remains off work. Days Lost – 157 (in 2017)

HIBBING TACONITE:

Drill Operator, Date of Accident – January 5, 2017. The employee was attempting to access the drill house stairs on the back of the drill. While employee was pulling themselves up the ladder, they felt a pulling sensation below their left shoulder blade and back resulting in a thoracic strain. Days Lost – 2

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident – January 9, 2017. The MMG was replacing a trough idler assembly. While pulling the old trougher assembly from belt, they felt a pain in the left shoulder. The idler was located in very close proximity to the feeder (1st trougher located past the feeder). Due to the limited work area because of the impact bed located below the belt and feeder located above, the idler has to be forced out. Employee did not seek medical attention at the time and continued to work. Further medical evaluation resulted in surgical repair of shoulder in April 2017. Days Lost – 56

Electrician, Date of Accident – January 19, 2017. While the employee was walking they clipped/stepped on a 1" x 6" piece of rubber skirting that was lying off to the side of the walkway (6" into the walkway and butted up to the toe board) causing pain in their right foot. Walkway is approximately 3+ feet in width. Incident resulted in right foot sprain. Days Lost – 5

Drill Operator, Date of Accident – February 12, 2017. The employee was quickly descending the drill using main steps facing forward (away from stairs) by the drill cab. As they reached the last step (spring loaded), the step bounced back causing the drill operator to lose their balance and fall forward landing on their left shoulder area. Incident resulted in dislocated left shoulder. Days Lost – 22

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY (cont)

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident – April 24, 2017. The employee was assigned to disconnect the dewatering pumping lines (suction) from the pump header at pumping site. Employee was taking the last bottom bolt out of the flanged connection end. The pipe spun around and hit the employee on the head in the area of their safety glasses resulting in a small cut alongside the employee's left eyebrow. Days Lost – 1

Laborer, Date of Accident – November 20, 2017. A labor crew member was moving loops of cable for preparation of lifting the cables using the cable standards. While doing so, the employee's right leg caught on something while they were trying to turn and twisted their knee causing the employee to fall to the ground. Incident resulted in surgical repair for a torn right ACL ligament. Days Lost – 40 (in 2017)

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

Babbitt:

None

Silver Bay:

Plant Maintenance Technician, Date of Accident – February 6, 2017. A maintenance technician was descending a ladder after working on a screen deck. When he stepped off the ladder onto an inclined walkway, the grating moved slightly causing him to twist/sprain his ankle. Days Lost – 6

Plant Maintenance Technician, Date of Accident – June 9, 2017. A maintenance technician was using his hand to guide wire rope onto the spool of an air powered tuggit when he lost his balance. He fell forward and his fingers wrapped under the rope on the spool. He suffered a fracture to the tip of one of his fingers. Days Lost – 8

Fine Crusher Operations Technician, Date of Accident – August 22, 2017. An operations technician was stuffing rags into a narrow gap on a crusher rock box when he felt a pop in the tip of his finger. He was later diagnosed with a tendon tear that needed to be surgically repaired. Days Lost – 12

UNITED TACONITE:

Plant Operator, Date of Accident – February 8, 2017. While attempting to remove a bolt, the employee was operating an 18-volt cordless drill and pressed the trigger with the intent of loosening the bolt, but it was set for tightening instead. This movement jerked the wrist causing pain. On 2/11/17 employee sought medical attention and was diagnosed with a wrist fracture. Days Lost – 49

Diesel Mechanic, Date of Accident – May 19, 2017. The employee slipped and fell egressing out of a skid steer and fractured his elbow. Days Lost – 20

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident – August 18, 2017. The injured employee was arc ailing a crusher mantle liner when a hot piece of slag contacted the employee's coveralls, burned through and caused a small burn on left ankle. It was treated as a first aid injury. Weeks later, it became infected and became a lost time on 8/31. Days Lost – 2

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident – November 26, 2017. The employee was cleaning the upper walkway in the fine crusher with a water hose. He stepped backwards and his left foot slipped on the wet transition surface causing him to fall backwards and roll right ankle. Days Lost - 20

USS CORPORATION, MINNESOTA ORE OPERATIONS

KEETAC:

None

MINNTAC:

Coarse Crusher MTM, Date of Accident – June 6, 2017. Employee fractured his right leg just above his ankle while working on the #2 primary concave job. The MTM was attaching a 4-legged chain to the concave jig in order to set the last row of concaves in the #2 primary crusher. The MTM had just completed attaching the 4th hook to the lifting jig while standing on a 4-step Cotterman portable staircase. As he was descending the staircase, he felt the staircase tip back, which startled him. He then leaped off the staircase landing, breaking his right ankle. He stated he was on the 3rd step off the ground when he leaped off. He fell onto his side as soon as his foot contacted the ground. His partner heard this and came to his aid. Days Lost – 15

MINNTAC COMPANY (cont)

Field Maintenance MTM, Date of Accident – June 30, 2017. Employee was placing a shank on the #12 shovel and lifted and wiggled the shank while the shank was attached to the crane. During the process of final positioning, the employee stated they felt a pop and sharp pain in the left elbow. The incident resulted in a torn bicep tendon. Days Lost – 21

Shops MTM, Date of Accident – July 17, 2017. Employee was in the process of assembling a hydraulic dipper in the Dipper Shop. While walking around the bowl, the employee stated they slipped on a 1" x 1" piece of metal on the floor. The employee caught themselves with their right leg, straining the right hip. The pain went away, but returned the next morning. The incident resulted in a torn hip labrum. Days Lost – 35

Coarse Crusher MTM, Date of Accident – August 2, 2017. Employee was removing crusher arm shoulder blocks from the 5201 crusher that weigh approximately 193 lbs. Previous to the injury, the middle shoulder block was removed without incident. While an MTM was operating the crane, the injured employee was located inside the crusher next to the shoulder block and had attached a one-legged chain to the outer shoulder block for removal. Tension had been applied to the block a couple of times without freeing the block from its position. The injured employee moved 4-6 feet away from the shoulder block as they again attempted to free the shoulder block. Tension was again applied to the block and it freed itself and traveled toward the injured employee. The shoulder block contacted and crushed the employee's left hand against the primary crusher wall causing a fracture of the hand as well as a large laceration. Days Lost - 12