

The
Annual Report
of the
Inspector of Mines



2020

Derek Harbin
Mine Inspector
St. Louis County
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Virginia, MN 55792
218-742-9841

Joseph Austin
Safety & Risk Mgmt. Director
St. Louis County
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The
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
INSPECTOR OF MINES
St. Louis County, Minnesota

2020

INSPECTOR OF MINES

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ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

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ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR

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OFFICE AT
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201 South 3rd Avenue West, Virginia, Minnesota 55792
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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 Paul McDonald, Ely, Minnesota
District 5 Keith Musolf, Duluth, Minnesota
District 6 Keith Nelson, Virginia, Minnesota
District 7 Mike Jugovich, Chisholm, Minnesota

THE ITASCA COUNTY BOARD OF COMMISSIONERS

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

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

February 26, 2021

THE HONORABLE BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS

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

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

Dear Chairs Jugovich, Ives and Commissioners:

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines for 2020 is herewith submitted.

Mining activity for 2020 showed a reduction in production schedule for both St. Louis and Itasca counties. A total of 31,921,917 tons of taconite were shipped from area operations compared to 38,665,148 in 2019. Mining related employment was reported at 3,562 individuals. This represents a decrease of 543 employees compared to the 4,105 reported in 2019. The total work hours reported for area mining operations was 7,036,130 for the year.

Throughout much of 2020 the COVID-19 pandemic impacted the world and area operations. It contributed to the temporary idling of several operations during portions of 2020 which had an influence on the total production numbers for the year. By the end of 2020 all six operations were back on line and active. These operations include: Cleveland Cliffs Minorca, Hibbing Taconite, Keetac, Minntac, Northshore and United Taconite.

The objective of growth during the coming years remains on the forefront. PolyMet carried on efforts to obtain the final mine permits associated with the NorthMet project (copper/nickel/precious metal mining), and Twin Metals continued to move forward with efforts directed toward their semi-precious metal mining project near Ely.

Mine land reclamation and reuse was showcased in 2020 with the opening of the Redhead Mountain Biking Park at the location of the Iron World Pit Complex (Leonard Burt, Monroe-Tenner, Dunwoody, Douglas, Duncan) near Chisholm, MN. This project became a reality after years of planning and major collaboration by numerous area stakeholders.

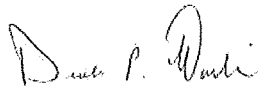
(Continued on page 3)

During 2020, area mining operations reported a total of 11 lost-time or serious accidents. This is an increase in comparison to the seven experienced in 2019, which was a historic low. No fatalities were reported for the 2020 year.


St. Louis County Mine Inspectors successfully completed all required inspections of area operations mandated by Minnesota State Law Chapter 180, Section 180.03 during 2020.

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

Respectfully submitted,



Derek P. Harbin
Inspector of Mines
St. Louis County



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

Excerpts from the Law On

INSPECTOR OF MINES

CHAPTER 180

MINNESOTA STATUTES

SECTION 180.05

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

2020

Number of Mining Companies	6
Number of Mines in Operation	6
Number of Plants in Operation	6
Number of Wash Plants	0
Number of Mines Inactive	285
Number of Abandoned Mine Shafts Inspected	66
Total Number of Mines and Plants	291
Total Taconite Products Shipped	31,921,917
Total Concentrate Shipped	3,560
Taconite Mined	107,153,931
Stripping and Waste Removal, Tons	129,230,131
Total Material Moved, Tons Estimate	236,384,062
Total People Employed	3,562
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	11
Total Number of Employee-Hours Worked	7,036,130
Number of Inspections	322
Number of Investigations	1

2020 WAGE RATES INCENTIVE INCLUDED

Labor Grade	Wage Rate
1	\$26.83
2	\$29.37
3	\$32.30
4	\$33.99
5	\$36.10

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

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

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

YEAR	MINES	TONS SHIPPED	EMPLOYED	INJURED	FATALS	FAT/1000	WAGES
2003	8	35,282,267	4,177	35	0	0.00	121.936
2004	8	42,059,597	3,444	24	0	0.00	145.384
2005	8	40,464,089	3,568	29	0	0.00	178.40
2006	7	39,617,873	3,714	14	1	0.27	178.40
2007	7	38,041,616	3,724	13	2	0.54	187.848
2008	7	40,599,311	3,732	26	0	0.00	182.40
2009	7	18,025,710	2,687	39	0	0.00	201.44
2010	7	37,996,765	3,761	27	0	0.00	238.44
2011	7	40,395,202	4,215	24	0	0.00	188.40
2012	9	41,099,022	4,441	17	0	0.00	221.85
2013	9	40,221,204	4,371	29	0	0.00	226.24
2014	9	41,301,098	4,387	29	0	0.00	226.24
2015	10	34,683,076	4,047	19	0	0.00	231.92
2016	7	28,970,579	3,621	22	0	0.00	231.92
2017	7	39,485,849	3,944	18	0	0.00	231.92
2018	6	40,986,054	3,954	14	0	0.00	241.20
2019	6	38,665,148	4,105	7	1	0.24	249.68
2020	6	31,921,917	3,562	11	0	0.00	258.40

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11
OPERATIONAL SUMMARY
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020**

MINES	TONS OF TACONITE PRODUCTS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE (ROCK & OVERBURDEN)	AVERAGE NUMBER PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS / PITS	EMPLOYEE HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
CLEVELAND CLIFFS MINORCA MINE, INC. Pellets -	2,824,085	8,518,424	7,293,213	348	750,818	12
HIBBING TACONITE CO.	5,483,346	21,294,754	24,367,751	711	1,151,805	9
NORTHSHORE MINING CO. BABBITT AND SILVER BAY	3,913,269	11,323,380	7,378,552	577	904,916	10
UNITED TACONITE LLC	5,253,923	15,916,475	22,594,722	525	1,347,861	12

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11
OPERATIONAL SUMMARY
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2020**

MINES	TONS OF CONCENTRATE SHIPPED	TONS OF TACONITE PRODUCTS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE (ROCK & OVERBURDEN)	AVERAGE NUMBER PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS / PITS	EMPLOYEE HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
USS CORPORATION M.O.O. KEEWATIN TACONITE CO. ST. LOUIS ITASCA	3,560	1,857,932	6,548,518	10,662,215	184	386,837	5
USS CORPORATION M.O.O. MINNTAC		12,589,362	43,552,380	56,933,678	1,217	2,493,893	12
TOTALS	3,560	31,921,917	107,153,931	129,230,131	3,562	7,036,130	

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

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

Minnesota Ore Operations
KEETAC
PO Box 217
Keewatin, MN 55753
Phone: 218-778-8700

Lukas Klemke Plant Manager - Mine
Travis Kolari Plant Manager - Plant
Tim Kalisch Senior Area Manager Operations & Maintenance
Susan Wiire Manager Employee & Labor Relations
Mark Salo Senior Manager Safety & Security
Kent Swanson Manager Safety & Industrial Hygiene
Gerry Orrell Safety & Industrial Hygiene Specialist

* * * * *

UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION

Minnesota Ore Operations
MINNTAC
PO Box 417
Mt. Iron, MN 55768
Phone: 218-749-7200

Lukas Klemke Plant Manager - Mine
Travis Kolari Plant Manager - Plant
Chad Buus Senior Area Manager Operations & Maintenance
Cory Hertling Senior Area Manager Maintenance
Susan Wiire Manager Employee & Labor Relations
Mark Salo Senior Manager Safety & Security
Kent Swanson Manager Safety & Industrial Hygiene
Mike Levar Safety & Industrial Hygiene Specialist
Jeffrey Tomsich Safety & Industrial Hygiene Specialist
Christie Dixon Safety & Industrial Hygiene Specialist

CLEVELAND CLIFFS MINORCA MINE, INC.

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

(218) 749-5910

Managers

Robb A. Peterson General Manager
Eric A. Krause Manager - Mine / Crushing
Adam R. Sersha Manager - Concentrator / Pellet Plant
Dan Vidmar Manager - HR / LR
Matthew W. Zimmer Manager - Assets
Joyce A. Vesel Manager - Safety
Kylee J. Koivisto Manager - Finance
Todd M. Sarazine Manager - Process Auto / IT
Thomas R. Cossalter Manager - Purchasing
Jaime L. Johnson Manager - Environmental

* * * * *

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY

PO Box 589
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
Phone: 218-262-5950

Ed Latendresse General Manager
Joe Marturano Manager - Asset Management
Brenda Czeck Manager - Financial Control
Rally Hess Manager - Mining
Dan Aagenes Manager - Plants
William Dittrich Manager - Human Resources
Andrea J. Bakk Manager - Safety & Loss Control
Julie C. Lucas Manager - Environmental
Tim Angelo Manager - Procurement

* * * * *

UNITED TACONITE, LLC

PO Box 180
Eveleth, MN 55734
Phone: 218-744-7800

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

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

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

NORTHSHORE MINING BABBITT MINE

BABBITT, MINNESOTA 55706
Phone: 218-827-2101

Paul Carlson General Manager
Ron Holm Plant Manager
Cory Wills Mine Manager
Bryan Rusco Railroad Manager
Scott Blood Safety Manager
Andrea Hayden Environmental Manager
Andy Rogers Maintenance Manager
Jay Bretto Human Resource Manager
Chris Tokvam Purchasing Manager
Nolan Koskela Finance Manager
Mark Anderson Safety Section Manager
Jake Baxter Plant Safety Representative
Abby Cyr Plant Safety Associate
Ryan Pokorny Mine Safety Representative

POLYMET MINING

PO Box 475
6500 County Road 666
Hoyt Lakes, MN 55750
Phone: 218-471-2150

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

* * * * *

TWIN METALS MINNESOTA, LLC

400 Miners Drive
Ely, MN 55731

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

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

Nicholas B. Alworth Managing Director

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CONGDON MINERAL MANAGEMENT, INC.
1035 7th Ave. E.
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Phone: 218-262-0799
Fax: 206-203-0098

David C. Adams President
David G. Meineke Vice President

* * * * *

EVELETH FEE OFFICE, INC.
301 McKinley Avenue
PO Box 521
Eveleth, Minnesota 55734-0521
Phone: 218-744-4646
Fax: 218-744-2149

Daniel L. England President
Robb Bigelow
Heidi McDermid Administrative Assistant

* * * * *

GLACIER PARK IRON ORE PROPERTIES, LLC

CORPORATE OFFICE

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

Mr. David Schlagel President
Matt Gonzales Controller

HIBBING OFFICE

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

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

* * * * *

MERISTEM TRUST CO.

212 South Main Avenue, Suite 131
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: 952-838-3564

Anne Novak Vice President

* * * * *

IRON MINING ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA

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2020 IMA Staff

Kelsey Johnson President

2020 IMA Board of Directors

Marci Knight American Bank of the North
Bruce Mars Mars Supply Conveyor Belt Services
Jim Perry Furin & Shea Welding & Fabricating Inc.
Randy Abernethy Industrial Weldors & Machinists
Jon Anderson RMS Equipment
David Bednarz Steel Dynamics
Mark Lorenz Steel Dynamics
Jeff Lipovetz TKDA
Deb Deluca Duluth Seaway Port Authority
Allyz Kramer Short-Elliott-Hendrickson, Inc.
Frank Frederickson Minnesota Power
Chrissy Bartovich U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Tim Kalisch U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Travis Kolar U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Lukas Klemke U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Jason Janisch Jasper Engineering
Nels Ojard Krech Ojard & Associates
Bruce Richardson PolyMet Mining

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ONONDAGA IRON, LLC
Managed by Meristem Trust Co.
212 South Main Avenue, Suite 131
Sioux Falls, SD 57104
Phone: 952-838-3564

David Adams Chief Executive Officer
Jane Kingston Chief Financial Officer
Anne Novak Vice President, Meristem Trust Co.

* * * * *

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

Frank Ongaro Executive Director

* * * * *

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

Greg D. Lindahl President

* * * * *

SUPERIOR MINERALS RESOURCES, LLC
1910 East 8th Avenue
P.O. Box 650
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Phone: 218-262-6127
www.superiormineral.com

Greg D. Lindahl President and Chief Executive Officer

* * * * *

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

Nicholas B. Alworth Managing Director

* * * * *

GLOBAL MINERALS ENGINEERING, LLC

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Hibbing, Minnesota 55746-3675
Phone: 218-262-0799
Fax: 206-203-0098

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

* * * * *

MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES

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

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

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Peter Clevensline Asst. Director, Division of Lands and Minerals
Ted Anderson Manager, Engineering and Operations

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
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James B. Plummer Planning Director
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Jason Metsa Deputy Commissioner
Matt Sjoberg Executive Director of Development
Marianne Bouska Chief Operating Officer
Linda Johnson Mining Reclamation and Property Development

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David Hamalainen Assistant Mine Inspector
Micah Hovet Assistant Mine Inspector

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Mark Weber Director

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* * * * *

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR
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Gerald D. Holeman Assistant District Manager
Daniel J. Goyen Assistant District Manager
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Scott E. Salo Conference Litigation Representative
Stephen D. Cotie Health Specialist

DULUTH FIELD OFFICE

William H. Soderlind Supervisory Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Richard D. Galamo Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Mindy A. Meierbachtol Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Cory C. Niemi Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Terrance J. Norman Mine Safety & Health Inspector
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Dan Snidarich Area Business Representative, Virginia
Dan Manick Area Business Representative, Virginia

UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA

DISTRICT 11

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Emil Ramirez Director

EVELETH SUB-DISTRICT OFFICE

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Cathy Drummond Assistant to the Director
John Arbogast Staff Representative
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**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
LOCAL UNITS**

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

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

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

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Joe Ferris Safety Chair / Safety Representative
Carl Jeranek Safety Representative
Pat Savage Area Chair, Concentrator
Jeff Stalboerger Area Chair, Shop
Steve Krasaway Area Chair, Pit
Lorne Middlestead Area Chair, Pond
Tawnya Gustafson Area Chair, Crusher
Carl Jeranek Area Chair, Pellet Plant
Eric Staydohar Area Chair, Electrical

**LOCAL #2705
HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY**

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Bill Fredette Safety Chairman

LOCAL #6115
CLEVELAND CLIFFS MINORCA MINE, INC.
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Tom French Safety Coordinator
Reed Milos Sub Chair, Safety
Kyle Lamma Training Coordinator

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

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

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BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION LABORERS
LOCAL 1097
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Phone: 218-741-3638

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

NON-FATAL LOST-TIME AND SERIOUS ACCIDENTS

CLEVELAND CLIFFS MINORCA MINE INC:

Operating Technician (LG 3), Date of Accident – January 21, 2020. Employee was cleaning an area around the shuttle car bin and heard a noise from inside the shuttle car and went in to investigate; upon stepping into the car to look around, the employee placed their right foot against the rail as the wheel was traveling through that exact spot. The wheel ran over the employee's foot resulting in a fracture. Days Lost – 127

Operating Technician (LG 3), Date of Accident – October 10, 2020. Employee was operating a loader and scooped up a large rock causing the right side of the loader to sink into a soft spot in the ground. The operator tried to counter-act the tipping action and lowered the main boom fast causing the loader to tip back to the left; this action resulted in the loader to shift abruptly. This movement resulted in upper body pain to the operator. Days Lost – 2

Utility Person (LG 1), Date of Accident – December 23, 2020. Employee was operating in a skid steer which contacted ice. This caused the skid steer to come to an abrupt stop and jarred operator causing pain in upper body. Days Lost – 3

Maintenance Technician Mechanical (LG 4), Date of Accident – December 31, 2020. The employee was reaching down for a set of wheel chocks and felt pain in their lower back. Days Lost – 2

HIBBING TACONITE:

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident – March 30, 2020. The employee had de-boarded the drill via the front retractable staircase carrying a lube hose. The employee placed their foot on the top step of the lower section of retractable stairs. Typically, the stairs fold/extend fully when weight is applied. The stairs did not deploy fully as weight was applied. The employee assumed the stairs would extend and their forward momentum caused them to jump from the stairs 3-4 feet to the ground. They ended up landing on a frozen track rut causing their left ankle to roll. Employee was diagnosed with a left ankle sprain that resulted in lost time. Days Lost – 22

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident – September 14, 2020. Employee was assigned with partner to replace cab windshield of a shovel. While removing the old windshield, employees began removing bolts that held the windshield in place. While removing the last bolt, which cross-threaded, the employee's partner used an impact wrench to unthread the bolt from outside of shovel cab while the injured held the nut. The employee placed a 9/16" wrench on the nut to keep it from spinning during the removal process. The employee placed the wrench on nut again and leveraged the wrench against the window frame. There was a small lip/ledge to help hold the wrench in place while impact wrench spun the bolt out. The wrench began to slip off

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY (cont)

the nut again so the employee placed pressure on the wrench, flush against the windshield frame. At that time, the wrench slipped and spun upwards pinching the employee's thumb between the windshield frame lip and the wrench. This resulted in a laceration to the tip of the employee's right thumb and a fracture to the right thumb tip as well as lost time. Days Lost – 28

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

Babbitt:

None

Silver Bay:

None

UNITED TACONITE:

Electrician, Date of Accident – November 13, 2020. Employee was struck in the leg by a piece of ice that was ejected from a frozen pit dewatering line that separated on startup. The employee was bruised. Days Lost – 18

Forklift Operator, Date of Accident – December 2, 2020. Employee was walking outside when they rolled their ankle. The employee did not fall, but fractured their ankle. Days Lost – 20

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident – December 21, 2020. Employee was installing 6-inch rubber-lined pipe when the pipe slipped out of one of the three rigging points and shifted 2 feet to the west and struck the employee's left lower foot causing a fracture. Days Lost – 8

USS CORPORATION, MINNESOTA ORE OPERATIONS

KEETAC:

None

MINNTAC:

Operating Technician, Mine, Date of Accident – June 7, 2020. The technician was operating the 377 CAT on 15 Dump. The technician stated they were pushing material forward in second gear when they experienced pain in their right knee. A surgical repair is scheduled. Days Lost – 180

Utility Technician, Step 2 Agglomerator, Date of Accident – October 10, 2020. The utility technician was adjusting a guard on the filter floor washdown area when they felt a strain in their right shoulder requiring a surgical repair for a torn rotator cuff. Days Lost – 30