

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines



Photo by Paul Pluskwik

2018

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Mine Inspector
St. Louis County
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Virginia, MN 55792
218-742-9840

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

2018

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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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 Ben DeNucci

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

February 26, 2019

THE HONORABLE BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS

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

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

Dear Chairs Boyle, Tinquist and Commissioners:

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines for 2018 is herewith submitted.

Mining activity for 2018 showed a strong and steady production schedule for both St. Louis and Itasca counties. A total of 40,986,054 tons of taconite were shipped from area operations compared to 39,485,849 in 2017. Mining related employment also increased and was reported at 3,954, which was an increase of 10 individuals compared to 2017. These positive numbers mark two years of steady production and a significant improvement compared to the two consecutive 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 8,415,781 for the year.

The number of active mining operations in the area during 2018 remained at six, these include: ArcelorMittal Minorca, Hibbing Taconite, Keetac, Minntac, Northshore, and United Taconite. All six of these facilities reported 12 months in operation during the year.

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

On the regulatory front, positive revisions to MS 180 (the law governing the mine inspection function) were made in St. Paul. The revisions further enhance the statute by establishing a mechanism for exemption to enable beneficial reuse of land formerly used for mining, while at the same time maintaining the inspection, investigation and reporting requirements associated with the office that has served to promote Mine Safety since the law

(Continued on page 3)

was originally promulgated in 1905. Many stakeholders, including Mine/ Mine Safety representatives, Union officials, Mine Safety Committee representatives, the Iron Mining Association, the St. Louis County Board and County Administration, worked collaboratively to assure that the changes made sense and to get them passed into law. Special thanks to Senator David Tomassoni and Representative Jason Metsa for their efforts in St. Paul during the session to get the changes passed into law. It is clear that without the collaborative effort put forward, the law would not have been updated.

During 2018, area mining operations reported a total of 14 lost time or serious accidents. This is a decrease in comparison to the 18 experienced in 2017. Zero fatalities were reported in 2018. 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 2018.

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,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'J. Austin', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Joseph J. Austin MS, MIS, CHMM
Inspector of Mines - Interim
Director, Safety and Risk Management
St. Louis County

Excerpts from the Law On

INSPECTOR OF MINES

CHAPTER 180

MINNESOTA STATUTES

SECTION 180.03

DUTIES

Subdivision 1

INSPECTIONS

The duties of the inspector of mines shall be to visit all mining operations for which a permit to mine has been obtained from the commissioner of natural resources in the inspector's county at least once every 90 days and more often if requested so to do as hereinafter provided, and closely inspect the mines so visited and condemn all such places where the employees are in danger from any cause. In the event that the inspector of mines finds that a place is dangerous from any cause, it shall be the inspector's duty immediately to order those engaged in the work at that place to cease work, and notify the superintendent, agent, or person in charge to secure the place from the existing danger, which notification or order shall be in writing, clearly define the limits of the dangerous place, and specify the work to be done or change to be made to render the same secure, ordinary mine risks excepted. It shall be the duty of the inspector of mines to order the person, persons, or corporation working any mine, or the agent, superintendent, lead supervisor, or other person having immediate charge of the working of any mine, to mitigate the identified hazard.

SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

2018

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	294
Total Taconite Products Shipped	40,986,054
Total Ore Shipped	0
Taconite Mined	136,996,909
Stripping and Waste Removal, Tons	138,050,822
Total Material Moved, Tons Estimate	275,047,731
Total People Employed	3,954
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	14
Total Number of Man-hours Worked	8,415,781
Number of Investigations and Inspections	465

2018 WAGE RATES INCENTIVE INCLUDED

Labor Grade	Wage Rate
1	\$25.05
2	\$27.42
3	\$30.15
4	\$31.73
5	\$33.70

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

REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11
OPERATIONAL SUMMARY
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018

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.	2,765,816 23,558	8,509,156	7,807,011	354	769,677	12
HIBBING TACONITE CO.	7,799,330	28,881,084	35,881,773	735	1,536,910	12
NORTH SHORE MINING CO. BABBITT AND SILVER BAY	5,674,198	15,538,157	8,021,964	562	1,142,975	12
UNITED TACONITE LLC	5,218,678	14,543,077	16,633,146	515	1,086,691	12

REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11 OPERATIONAL SUMMARY YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2018						
MINES	TONS OF TACONITE PRODUCTS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE (ROCK & OVERBURDEN)	AVERAGE NUMBER PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS / PITS	MAN HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
USS CORPORATION M.O.O. KEEWATIN TACONITE CO. ST. LOUIS ITASCA	5,619,563	18,993,997	17,792,966	399	881,893	12
USS CORPORATION M.O.O. MINNTAC	13,884,911	50,531,438	51,913,962	1,389	2,997,635	12
TOTALS ST. LOUIS COUNTY	35,366,491	118,002,912	120,257,856	3,555	7,533,888	
TOTALS ITASCA COUNTY	5,619,563	18,993,997	17,792,966	399	881,893	
TOTALS	40,986,054	136,996,909	138,050,822	3,954	8,415,781	

**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
John Minor Area Manager - Plant Operations & Maintenance
Susan Wiire Interim Manager - Employee Relations
Kent Swanson Manager - Safety & Industrial Hygiene
Jerry Orrell Safety & Industrial Hygiene Specialist

* * * * *

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 Interim Manager - Employee Relations
Kent Swanson Manager - Safety & Industrial Hygiene
Mike Levar Safety & IH Specialist
Jerry Orrell Safety & IH Specialist
Jeffrey Tomsich IH Specialist
Christie Dixon Safety & IH Specialist

ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC.
Company Officers and Staff

Minnesota Address
5950 Old U.S. Highway 53 North
P.O. Box 1
Virginia, MN 55792

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(218) 749-3420 Fax
E-mail: robb.peterson@arcelormittal.com

Officers

John Brett President and CEO
Keith Howell Chief Operating Officer
Daniel Mull Executive Vice President, Sales & Marketing
Paul Liebenson General Counsel & Secretary
Michael Chimitris Assistant Secretary
Therese Vande Hey Assistant Secretary
Neil Kohlberg Vice President, Finance & Procurement
Richard Campoli Controllor
Pat Parker Vice President, Labor Relations
Wendell Carter Vice President, General Manager
Robb Peterson Operations Manager
Daniel Wallden Treasurer
Richard Lenehan Assistant Treasurer
Christine F. Fleps Assistant Treasurer
Joseph P. Wallace Assistant Treasurer
William R. Martin Assistant Treasurer

Managers

Robb A. Peterson ... Operations Manager - ArcelorMittal Minorca Mine
Steven I. Mekkes Manager - Operating Technology
Scott W. Harrison Manager - Pit
Adam R. Sersha Manager - Plant
Daniel G. Vidmar Manager - Human Resources/Labor Relations
Mark H. Anderson 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

Ed Latendresse General Manager
Joe Marturano Manager - Asset Management
Todd Nelson Manager - Financial Control
Rally Hess 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

* * * * *

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
Joseph Mattson 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
Conor McCue	Mine Manager
Bryan 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
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Rob Bigelow Managing Director

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POLYMET MINING
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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

801 E. Howard Street
PO Box 429
Hibbing, MN 55746
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

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

Patrick Flattery Trust Manager

* * * * *

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Duluth, Minnesota 55802
Phone: 218-722-7724
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Kelsey Johnson President
Katy Lofquist Director of Operations

Marci Knight	American Bank of the North
Steve Mekkes	ArcelorMittal Minorca Mine
Robb Peterson	ArcelorMittal Minorca Mine
Patrick Bloom	Cleveland Cliffs Inc.
Sandy Karnowski	Cleveland Cliffs Inc.
Ed LaTendresse	Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - Hibbing Taconite - (Board Chair)
Paul Carlson	Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - Northshore Mining Co.
Chad Asgaard	Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - United Taconite
Todd Nelson	Cleveland Cliffs Inc. - United Taconite
Bruce Mars	Conveyor Belt Services
Jim Perry	Furin & Shea Welding & Fabricating Inc.
Randy Abernethy	Industrial Weldors & Machinists
John Ward	Komatsu Mining Corp.
Nels Ojard	Krech Ojard & Associates
Brian Maki	Lakehead Constructors
Art Lind	Lind Industrial Supplies
Jon Anderson	RMS Equipment
David Bednarz	Steel Dynamics
Mark Lorenz	Steel Dynamics
Jeff Lipovetz	TKDA
Matt Thibodeau	Thibodeau, Johnson & Feriancek PLLP
Chrissy Bartovich	U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Tim Kalisch	U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Travis Kolari	U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations
Larry Sutherland	U.S. Steel Minnesota Ore Operations

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ONONDAGA IRON, LLC
740 East Superior Street
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Phone: 218-723-8060

David Adams Chief Executive Officer
Jane Kingston Chief Financial Officer

* * * * *

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
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746
Phone: 218-262-6127

Greg D. Lindahl President

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Nicholas B. Alworth Managing Director

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Dorothy M. Meineke CFO

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Tom Landwehr Commissioner
David Schad Deputy Commissioner
Barb Naramore Assistant Commissioner
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Division of Lands and Minerals

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Peter Clevensline Asst. Director, Division of Lands and Minerals

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**STATE OF MINNESOTA
DEPARTMENT OF
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MINELAND RECLAMATION**

1003 Discovery Drive
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Shelley Sallee Office & Administration Specialist, Sr.
James B. Plummer .. Laurentian Vision and Real Property Coordinator
Tom Schmelzler Building and Grounds Supervisor

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Mary Finnegan Deputy Commissioner
Matt Sjoberg Executive Director of Development
Marianne Bouska Chief Operating Officer
Brian Hiti Senior Policy Advisor - New Mining

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David Hamalainen Assistant Mine Inspector
Derek Harbin Assistant Mine Inspector

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Julie Marinucci Mineral Development Specialist

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Gerald D. Holeman Assistant Manager
Scott K. Johnson Assistant Manager
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Daniel J. Goyen Conference Litigation Representative
Stephen D. Cotie Health Specialist

DULUTH FIELD OFFICE

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Mindy A. Meierbachtol Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Cory C. Niemi Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Terrance J. Norman Mine Safety & Health Inspector
Jeffrey J. Rausch Mine Safety & Health Inspector
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**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA
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UNITED TACONITE LLC
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Gary Butala Mine Safety Chairman

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Jeff Stalboerger Area Chair, Shop
Kelly Peterson Area Chair, Pit
Lorne Middlestead Area Chair, Pond
Tawnya Gustafson Area Chair, Crusher
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Jim Kottke Sub Chair, Safety
Kyle Lamppa Training Coordinator

LOCAL #1938
USS - MINNTAC MINE
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Paul Centa Treasurer
Mitch McDonald Safety Committee Chairman
Mark Hagsten Safety Committee Co-Chairman
Matt Robillard Safety Coordinator - Minntac/Keetac
Steve Bonach 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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Todd Payne Vice President
Shawn Braford Business Manager/Financial Secretary
Donald Schmidt "E" Board Member
Patrick D. O'Connell "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:

Crusher Welder, Date of Accident – July 30, 2018. Employee was fitting a wear ring on the head nut so it could be welded on. While adjusting the ring for final placement prior to welding, the wear ring slipped over the head nut due to excessive wear. It fell to the ground landing on the employee's right foot. The ring weighs approximately 375 lbs. The incident resulted in a fractured foot. Days Lost – 154 (in 2018)

HIBBING TACONITE:

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident – January 23, 2018. Employee was working with 3 other mechanics changing idlers on a conveyor belt. Two mechanics working on the head of the belt set down a pry bar (lying flat on its side) at the top ramped walkway. Another mechanic employee was working at the tail end of the belt sitting down to change out a return idler. The bar slid down the ramped walkway striking the employee in the left glute causing a bruise. Days Lost – 1

Tractor Operator, Date of Accident – January 24, 2018. A tractor operator was parking a pickup at the end of their shift. As the employee was exiting the cab their right foot became entangled in a loop of wire hanging down alongside the brake and gas pedal. When they tried to step out of the cab they fell to the ground landing on their lunch pail due to the cable wrapped around their foot. Incident resulted in fractured ribs and clavicle. Days Lost – 52

Welder, Date of Accident – March 6, 2018. A welder was repairing worn spots and adding material D-11 blade. While they were building up the blade with hard surfacing wire, a piece of molten metal fell on the top of their left boot. The molten metal burned through the synthetic tongue of the boot and sock into the top of their left foot and then rolled down inside the boot to the bottom of the employee's foot. Incident resulted in burns to the left foot. Days Lost – 19

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident – April 24, 2018. Maintenance mechanic was working with two other mechanics to change two lip shrouds on a shovel bucket. A stuck shroud was not coming off so mechanic began pounding on it with a 10 lb. sledge hammer. After striking the shroud several times a small piece of metal broke off the shroud and entered into the mechanic's right leg by the shin causing a small cut. Employee had a fragment surgically removed from their right shin. Days Lost – 5

HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY (cont)

Auto Mechanic, Date of Accident – April 24, 2018. Two truck shop mechanics were using a bar placed through the lifting eye of a box pin (~150 lbs.) to lift the pin. One auto mechanic reported they felt a strain in their lower back. Days Lost – 6

Equipment Operator, Date of Accident – May 17, 2018. An excavator operator was walking the excavator north of the hydro separator discharge pump house. While walking along the edge of a narrow embankment, the excavator's right track overhanging the narrow embankment slid off the edge and the excavator rolled over onto the non-cab side of the excavator. Employee was not wearing a seat belt. Employee sustained a chest contusion and laceration to the face resulting in lost time. Days Lost – 2

Auto Mechanic, Date of Accident – August 3, 2018. A truck shop auto mechanic was using a 1" impact gun to remove nuts holding the bucket segments on a loader. A welder had previously cut part of the nuts off to ease in removal of the nuts and bolts. The mechanic then placed their left hand underneath the bucket to push up the plough bolt and when they hit the trigger on the gun the bolt spun resulting in a cut to their left hand palm area. Days Lost – 53

Auto Mechanic, Date of Accident – November 28, 2018. An electrician was attempting to help the cable crew manually carry a section of electrical cable. Part of the cable they were carrying tightened and rapidly pulled them to the ground causing immediate pain to the employee's right knee. The employee sustained a torn meniscus. Days Lost – 23 (in 2018)

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident – December 10, 2018. A mechanic was working with two other employees trying to lower a house fan in the shovel. The employee climbed up a 5 ft. fiberglass ladder and adjusted some come-a-longs that were being used to lower the house fan. As the employee was descending the ladder, they turned away from the ladder to view a come-a-long causing them to miss the last step of the ladder. This caused them to fall to the ground landing on their left ankle awkwardly. Employee sustained a sprained and fractured ankle. Days Lost – 15 (in 2018)

NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY

Babbitt:

None

Silver Bay:

None

UNITED TACONITE:

Production Truck Operator, Date of Accident – March 31, 2018. Employee was driving a production truck, and reported a sore back from being shook while in the cab. Days Lost – 2

USS CORPORATION, MINNESOTA ORE OPERATIONS**KEETAC:**

None

MINNTAC:

Crusher MTM, Date of Accident – January 16, 2018. A Turn Bin MTM was exiting the lunch room returning to work in the Step III Turn Bin. The employee proceeded to descend the wooden steps with his right hand on the handrail. His boot slipped when it contacted the 2nd step from the top. The employee's boots continued slipping over the remaining 6 steps while his arm was strained holding the handrail all the way down. He regained a foot hold for a moment near the bottom, then slipped again on the rubber mat at the bottom of the stairs landing on his right hip. The incident resulted in a torn rotator cuff. Days Lost – 8

Concentrator MTM, Date of Accident – April 6, 2018. Employee was trying to free up a 143-15-1 pump barrel using a 24 inch pipe wrench. He was able to turn the impeller about 3 or 4 times using the wrench. While pulling the 5th time, the wrench slipped off the shaft and he fell backward. He put out his right hand and caught himself from hitting the floor. After which he felt pain in his right triceps. The incident resulted in a torn triceps tendon. Days Lost – 25

Crusher MTM, Date of Accident – May 1, 2018. A crusher MTM was in the process of pulling isolation channels out of the East Side of 061-03 pan feeder in the Crusher Turn Bin. The isolation channels were in place to allow maintenance to continue work inside of the pan feeder while the bin above was still taking material for production. The injured employee was standing on the 4th rung of an 8 ft step ladder, operating (2) 1,000 lb Pullzalls that were attached to the isolation channels in order to pull them out. While pressing the button to retract one Pullzall, the ladder tipped or moved causing the employee to lose his balance. His left foot was caught between the 4th and 5th rung as he fell down head first towards the ground, fracturing his left leg just above the ankle. Days Lost – 70