

# **The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines**



*Photo by Paul Pluskwik*

## **2019**

Derek Harbin  
Mine Inspector  
St. Louis County  
201 South 3rd Avenue West  
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218-742-9841

Joseph Austin  
Safety & Risk Mgmt. Director  
St. Louis County  
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218-726-2139

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

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**2019**  
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**INSPECTOR OF MINES**

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**ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR**

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Micah Hovet  
733 Elizabeth Avenue  
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**OFFICE PHONE: 218-742-9840**

**OFFICE AT  
GOVERNMENT SERVICES CENTER**

201 South 3rd Avenue West, Virginia, Minnesota 55792  
**PHONE: 218-742-9841**

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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 25, 2020

**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, DeNucci and Commissioners:

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines for 2019 is herewith submitted.

Mining activity for 2019 showed a strong production schedule for both St. Louis and Itasca Counties. A total of 38,665,148 tons of natural ore and taconite were shipped from area operations compared to 40,986,054 in 2018. Mining related employment increased and was reported at 4,105 individuals. This was an increase of 151 employees compared to the 3,954 reported in 2018. These positive numbers mark three consecutive years of steady production. The total work hours reported for area mining operations was 8,517,320 for the year.

The number of active mining operations in the area during 2019 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 was made by several area operations toward the objective of growth during the coming years. These include PolyMet, who continued efforts to obtain the final mine permits associated with the NorthMet project (copper/nickel/precious metal mining) and Twin Metals, who submitted their formal mine plan of operation this year and continued to move forward with efforts directed toward their semi-precious metal mining project near Ely.

2019 was marked with the loss of industry and mine safety advocate, former State Representative and County Commissioner Tommy Rukavina. Also of significance was the opening of the new mine view by the City of Hibbing, which showcases area mining operations and provides a public viewing opportunity.

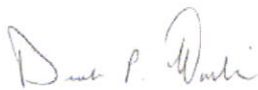
(Continued on page 3)

During 2019, area mining operations reported a total of 7 lost time or serious accidents. This is a significant decrease in comparison to the 14 experienced in 2018. Unfortunately, one fatality was reported during the year. This tragic incident occurred at the Arcelormittal Minorca Mine on November 5, 2019 and points to the importance of our shared commitment to the safety of all those who work in the mining industry.

St. Louis County Mine Inspectors successfully completed all required inspections of area operations mandated by Minnesota State Law Chapter 180, Section 180.03 during 2019.

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 180.08**

**ACCIDENTS; NOTICE, INVESTIGATION.**

Upon the occurrence of a reportable accident, it is the duty of the manager or designee of the mine to give notice to the inspector of mines, as soon as practical but at least within one hour of stabilization of the accident scene, stating the particulars of the accident. Upon notification, the inspector shall, if the inspector deems it necessary, go immediately to the scene of the accident and make suggestions and render assistance as the inspector may deem necessary in the premises and personally investigate the cause of the accident and take steps as the inspector may deem necessary for the safety of the employees of the mine and to prevent accident of a like or similar nature. The inspector shall be accompanied by three persons appointed by the manager or other person in charge of the mine and by three persons appointed by a majority of the employees of the mine. The requirement for accompaniment may be modified by a waiver signed by representatives from the employees, management, and inspector

Section 180.015; Subd. 7. Reportable accident.

"Reportable accident" means:

- (1) a death of any individual on mine property;
- (2) an injury that has a reasonable potential to cause death;
- (3) mine fires that result in evacuation of miners or cause significant damage to structures or equipment at a mine;
- (4) all explosions, including methane, dust, or unplanned detonation of explosives or blasting agents;
- (5) coal or rock outbursts, including bumps or bounces, that result in injury or evacuation of an area, or that interrupt production for more than 30 minutes;
- (6) inundations by liquid or gas;
- (7) entrapment of any person requiring mine rescue efforts;
- (8) any unstable condition at an impoundment or refuse pile that requires emergency corrective action to prevent failure or requires evacuation;
- (9) any accident at a mine that is likely to be the subject of immediate or extraordinary media interest;

or

- (10) a death of any individual off-mine property resulting from activities, such as flyrock, on mine property.

## SUMMARY OF STATISTICS

### 2019

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 .....	38,665,148
Total Concentrate Shipped .....	78
Taconite Mined .....	135,029,849
Stripping and Waste Removal, Tons .....	152,286,561
Total Material Moved, Tons Estimate .....	287,316,410
Total People Employed .....	4,105
Number of Fatal Accidents, Open Pit .....	1
Number of Fatal Accidents, Plant .....	0
Total Number of Fatal Accidents .....	1
Fatalities per 1,000 People Employed .....	0.24
Number of Lost-time and Time Charged Accidents .....	7
Total Number of Employee-Hours Worked .....	8,517,320
Number of Inspections .....	385
Number of Investigations .....	4

### 2019 WAGE RATES INCENTIVE INCLUDED

Labor Grade	Wage Rate
1.....	\$25.92
2.....	\$28.38
3.....	\$31.21
4.....	\$32.84
5.....	\$34.88

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

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11  
OPERATIONAL SUMMARY  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019**

MINES		TONS OF TACONITE PRODUCTS SHIPPED	TOTAL TACONITE MINED	TONS STRIPPING WASTE (ROCK & OVERBURDEN)	AVERAGE NUMBER PEOPLE EMPLOYED PLANTS / PITS	EMPLOYEE HOURS	MONTHS WORKED
ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC.	Pellets - Pellet Chips -	2,729,514 58,893	8,259,728	7,370,726	350	774,849	12
HIBBING TACONITE CO.		7,473,344	27,946,136	31,969,882	740	1,534,052	12
NORTHSHORE MINING CO. BABBITT AND SILVER BAY		5,051,628	15,680,690	9,677,173	575	1,168,218	12
UNITED TACONITE LLC		5,309,187	15,219,818	20,870,054	529	1,126,058	12

**REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11  
OPERATIONAL SUMMARY  
YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2019**

MINES	TONS OF CONCENTRATE SHIPPED	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	78	5,166,341	18,984,036	22,012,708	451	921,933	12
USS CORPORATION M.O.O. MINNTAC		12,876,241	48,939,441	60,386,018	1,460	2,992,210	12
<b>TOTALS</b>	<b>78</b>	<b>38,665,148</b>	<b>135,029,849</b>	<b>152,286,561</b>	<b>4,105</b>	<b>8,517,320</b>	

**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

**Main Telephone**  
(218) 749-5910  
(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 ..... Controller  
Pat Parker ..... Vice President, Labor Relations  
Gary Norgren ..... 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  
Eric A. Krause ..... Manager - Pit  
Adam R. Sersha ..... Manager - Plant  
Jaime L. Johnson ..... Manager - Environmental  
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  
Dan Aagenes ..... 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  
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  
Conor McCue ..... Mine Manager  
Bryan Rusco ..... Railroad Manager  
Scott Blood ..... Safety Manager  
Andrea Hayden ..... Environmental Manager  
Andy Rogers ..... Asset Manager  
Troy Sarles ..... Human Resource Manager  
Chris Tokvam ..... Purchasing Manager  
Nolan Koskela ..... Finance Manager  
Luke Thun ..... Plant Safety Representative  
Jake Baxter ..... Plant Safety Representative  
Abby Cyr ..... Plant Safety Associate  
Rod Lampton ..... Mine Safety Representative

**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  
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



**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

\* \* \* \* \*

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**HARTLEY OFFICE**

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Patrick Flattery ..... Trust Manager

\* \* \* \* \*

**IRON MINING ASSOCIATION OF MINNESOTA**

324 West Superior Street  
Suite 502  
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Phone: 218-722-7724  
Fax: 218-720-6707  
www.taconite.org

**2019 IMA Staff**

Kelsey Johnson ..... President

**2019 IMA Board of Directors**

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**ONONDAGA IRON, LLC**

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

David Adams ..... Chief Executive Officer  
Jane Kingston ..... Chief Financial Officer

\* \* \* \* \*

**MINING MINNESOTA**

P.O. Box 16666  
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E-Mail: [fongaro@miningminnesota.com](mailto: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  
Hibbing, Minnesota 55746  
Phone: 218-262-6127  
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Greg D. Lindahl ..... President and Chief Executive Officer

\* \* \* \* \*

**MESABI MINERAL ASSOCIATION**

1605 Alworth Building  
306 W. Superior Street  
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Phone: 218-722-0816

Nicholas B. Alworth ..... Managing Director

\* \* \* \* \*



**GLOBAL MINERALS ENGINEERING, LLC**

1035 7th Ave. E.  
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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  
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(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)

**Division of Lands and Minerals**

**1525 Third Avenue E.  
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(218) 231-8443  
FAX (218) 262-7328**

Peter Clevensline ..... Asst. Director, Division of Lands and Minerals

\* \* \* \* \*

**STATE OF MINNESOTA  
DEPARTMENT OF  
IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION  
MINELAND RECLAMATION**

**1003 Discovery Drive  
Chisholm, Minnesota 55719  
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Linda Johnson ..... Mining and Reclamation Programs Supervisor  
Shelley Sallee ..... Office & Administration Specialist, Sr.  
James B. Plummer .. Laurentian Vision and Real Property Coordinator  
Tom Schmelzler ..... Building and Grounds Supervisor

\* \* \* \* \*

DEPARTMENT OF  
IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION  
4261 HIGHWAY 53 SOUTH  
P.O. BOX 441  
EVELETH, MN 55734  
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Mark Phillips ..... Commissioner  
Jason Metsa ..... Deputy Commissioner  
Matt Sjoberg ..... Executive Director of Development  
Marianne Bouska ..... Chief Operating Officer  
Linda Johnson ..... Mining Reclamation and Property Development

\* \* \* \* \*

RGGS Lands & Minerals LTD., L.P.  
P.O. Box 1266  
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\* \* \* \* \*

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY  
SAFETY AND RISK MANAGEMENT  
2503 RICE LAKE ROAD  
DULUTH MN 55811-4819  
PHONE: 218-726-2139**

Joseph J. Austin ..... Director  
Karen Matvey ..... Information Specialist

**Government Services Center  
201 South 3rd Avenue West  
Virginia MN 55792  
Phone: 218-742-9841**

Derek Harbin ..... Inspector of Mines  
David Hamalainen ..... Assistant Mine Inspector  
Micah Hovet ..... Assistant Mine Inspector

**ST. LOUIS COUNTY LAND AND MINERALS  
GOVERNMENT SERVICE BUILDING  
320 West 2<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Duluth MN 55802**

Mark Weber ..... Director

**7820 Hwy 135  
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Phone: 218-742-9885**

Julie Marinucci ..... Deputy Director - Land Asset Management

\* \* \* \* \*

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

515 W. First Street, Room 323  
Duluth, MN 55802-1302  
Phone: 218-720-5448  
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**DISTRICT OFFICE**

Christopher A. Hensler ..... District Manager  
Gerald D. Holeman ..... Assistant District Manager  
Daniel J. Goyen ..... Assistant District Manager  
Wilbert W. Koskiniemi Jr. .... Supervisory Special Investigator  
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  
Jeffrey J. Rausch ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Rufus L. Taylor ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector

**HIBBING FIELD OFFICE**

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Jerome A. Cuffe ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Luke E. Jarvi ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Ryan D. Moberg ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Kevin N. Ouke ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector



**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**  
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**St. Paul, Minnesota 55101**  
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Cynthia Bauerly ..... Commissioner  
Gina Amacher ..... Director, Special Taxes Division  
Steve Helmen ..... Minerals Tax Supervisor  
Nick Norris ..... Revenue Tax Specialist

**Minerals Tax Office**  
**230 1st St. S., Suite 102**  
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**Phone: (218) 744-7424 Fax: (218) 742-9153**

Bob Wagstrom ..... Production Tax  
Robert Pecchia ..... Production Tax

\* \* \* \* \*

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS**

Local No. 49  
8381 Enterprise Drive N  
Virginia, MN 55792  
Phone: 218-741-8190 - Virginia  
2829 Anthony Lane South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-3285  
Phone: 612-788-9441 - Minneapolis

Jason George ..... Business Manager, Financial Director, Minneapolis  
Ryan Davies ..... Area Business Representative, Virginia  
Dan Snidarich ..... Area Business Representative, Virginia  
Dan Manick ..... Area Business Representative, Virginia

**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA**  
**DISTRICT 11**

**MINNEAPOLIS OFFICE**  
Phone: 612-623-8045

Emil Ramirez ..... Director

**EVELETH SUB-DISTRICT OFFICE**  
Phone: 218-744-2757  
Fax: 218-744-7926

Cathy Drummond ..... Assistant to the Director  
John Arbogast ..... Staff Representative  
Michele Frederickson ..... Staff Representative

**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA  
LOCAL UNITS**

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

Dan Hill ..... President  
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**

Cliff Tobey ..... President  
David Mlakar ..... Safety Chair/Safety Representative  
Joe Ferris ..... Safety Representative  
Pat Savage ..... Area Chair, Concentrator  
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  
Eric Staydohar ..... Area Chair, Electrical  
Dan Pierce ..... Area Chair Shop

**LOCAL #2705  
HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY**

Phone: 218-254-2492  
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115 W. Lake Street, Chisholm, MN 55719

Chris Johnson ..... President  
Steve Rancourt ..... Vice President  
Mike Mandich ..... Financial Secretary  
Bill Fredette ..... Recording Secretary  
Wade Bexell ..... Treasurer  
Jeff Walters ..... Union Safety Representative  
Bill Fredette ..... Safety Chairman

**LOCAL #6115**  
**ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC.**  
Phone: 218-741-3310

Harold Anderson ..... President  
Tom French ..... Safety Coordinator  
Reed Milos ..... Sub Chair, Safety  
Kyle Lamma ..... Training Coordinator

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

Steve Bonach ..... President  
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

\* \* \* \* \*

**BUILDING AND CONSTRUCTION LABORERS**  
**LOCAL 1097**  
712 4th St. North  
Virginia, MN 55792  
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. Wiitanen ..... Office Manager  
Alfred M. Lung ..... Sergeant at Arms

## **FATAL ACCIDENT**

### **ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC:**

Mobile Equipment Mechanic, Date of Accident — November 5, 2019. Employee was driving Service Truck SR136 on the main haul road heading east towards the pit. For unknown reasons at this time it appears the truck hit the berm on the south side of the road causing it to tip sideways ending up on the driver's side. Employee was found outside of the vehicle.

## **NON-FATAL LOST-TIME AND SERIOUS ACCIDENTS**

### **ARCELORMITTAL MINORCA MINE, INC:**

Pit Shift Manager, Date of Accident — August 9, 2019. Employee was climbing up a berm to plan the next job, which was moving a drill cable. The employee lost his footing and fell, catching himself and breaking the fall with his left arm. He felt pain in his shoulder at the time. He sustained a torn rotator cuff and a partially torn bicep tendon which required surgery to repair. Days Lost — 43

### **HIBBING TACONITE:**

Maintenance Mechanic, Date of Accident — February 24, 2019. Employee was working on the filter in the Pellet Plant. The snap blow had stopped working so the attendant removed an access plate to investigate and noticed material built on the proxy switch. The attendant reacted by removing the material that was on the proxy switch. At that time, the filter drive gear rotated around and clipped the right pointer finger of the attendant's hand causing a laceration. The filter was not locked out at the time of the incident. The incident resulted in stitches to the right pointer finger. Days Lost — 1

Auto Diesel Mechanic, Date of Accident — April 10, 2019. Employee was assigned to an engine repair change out on a production truck. It is believed that the employee was working on installing the left hand exhaust pipe for the production truck. It is assumed that the employee was either stepping onto or off of the rolling stair pulled up next to the frame when they fell approximately 10 feet to the ground. There were no witnesses to the incident that are currently known. The employee's partner stated they heard some noise/commotion and they heard their partner call for them. The employee's partner found him inside the driver's left front tire on the floor on his hands and knees. Employee did not lose consciousness during the incident. Incident caused contusion, spine compression and abrasions. Days Lost — 14

Electrician, Date of Accident — May 14, 2019. Employee was working on overtime installing new light fixtures in a storage room. The employee had lowered the JLG Liftpod, stepped out of the unit, squatted down to unhook their harness from the tie-off point, stood up and immediately felt pain in their right knee. Employee then sat down and removed their fall protection harness to take a look at their knee. Their knee appeared to be swollen and employee had difficulty bearing weight on it. Incident resulted in a torn meniscus and required surgical repair. Days Lost — 38



#### **HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY (cont)**

Auto Diesel Mechanic, Date of Accident — August 11, 2019. Employee was using a pry bar on a section of loader fan shroud to align the bolt holes for installation by their partner. Employee using the pry bar applied pressure which caused the pry bar to slip and strike the employee in the left ear. This resulted in a small cut to their left ear. Days Lost — 3

#### **NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY**

**Babbitt:**

None

**Silver Bay:**

None

**UNITED TACONITE:**

None

#### **USS CORPORATION, MINNESOTA ORE OPERATIONS**

**KEETAC:**

None

**MINNTAC:**

Utility Person, Step 1,2 Agglomerator, Date of Accident — January 8, 2019. Utility person #1 was working on replacing a 1.5" ball valve off the main 273 water header. Upon completion of installing the new valve and pipe assembly (approximately 20" in length) the water header was re-energized. Utility person #1 then tried to open the 1.5" ball valve and the entire pipe assembly started to rotate towards the employee. Utility person #1 and utility person #2 again isolated the 1.5" ball valve and attempted to tighten the assembly by hand. Utility person #2 began to walk away while utility person #1 re-energized the 1.5" ball valve. At this point it is assumed that utility person #1 was struck by the valve/pipe assembly as it rotated off the header pipe extension. The employee suffered a fractured skull. Days Lost — 180

OpTech 1, Step 1,2 Agglomerator, Date of Accident — February 9, 2019. An OpTech 1 had exited the 1591 service pick-up truck and was walking across the Step 1,2 parking lot to enter the Step 1,2 Agglomerator. As the injured walked across the lot, he stepped on a patch of compressed snow and ice, slipping and landing on his right shoulder, tearing his right rotator cuff. The shoulder required surgery to repair the torn rotator cuff. Days Lost — 21