

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



*Redhead Mountain Bike Park – Chisholm, MN*

## **2023**

Derek Harbin  
Mine Inspector  
St. Louis County  
201 South 3rd Avenue West  
Virginia, MN 55792  
218-742-9841

Joseph Austin  
Safety & Risk Mgmt. Director  
St. Louis County  
2503 Rice Lake Road  
Duluth, MN 55811  
218-726-2139

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

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**2023**

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**INSPECTOR OF MINES**

Derek Harbin  
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Pengilly, MN 55775  
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**SAFETY & RISK MGT. DIRECTOR**

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**ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR**

David Hamalainen  
620 Bourgin Road  
Virginia, MN 55792  
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**ASSISTANT MINE INSPECTOR**

Micah Hovet  
37968 Hanson Lake Road  
Grand Rapids, MN 55744  
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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 ..... Annie Harula, Duluth, Minnesota  
District 2 ..... Patrick Boyle, Duluth, Minnesota  
District 3 ..... Ashley Grimm, 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 ..... Cory Smith  
District 2 ..... Terry Snyder  
District 3 ..... John Johnson  
District 4 ..... Burl Ives  
District 5 ..... Casey Venema  
Austin Rohling ..... Itasca County Auditor  
Joe Dasovich ..... Itasca County Sheriff, Itasca County Mine Inspector

February 27, 2024

**THE HONORABLE BOARDS OF COMMISSIONERS**

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

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

Dear Chairs Nelson, Johnson and Commissioners:

The Annual Report of the Inspector of Mines for 2023 is herewith submitted.

Mining activity for 2023 showed an increase in production schedule for St. Louis and Itasca counties. A total of 38,139,326 tons of taconite were shipped from area operations compared to 33,514,485 in 2022. Mining related employment was reported at 3,974 individuals. This represents an increase of 204 employees compared to the 3,770 reported in 2022. The total work hours reported for area mining operations was 8,021,805 for the year.

Five of six area mining operations remained in operation throughout the 12 months of the year. These include Cleveland Cliffs Minorca, Hibbing Taconite, Keetac, Minntac, and United Taconite. Northshore Mine reported operating nine months during 2023 after previously being idled.

On the copper/nickel/precious metal front, PolyMet joined forces with Teck Resources becoming NewRange Copper Nickel and continued to work through plans to build an open pit mine near Babbitt and reuse a former iron ore processing plant near Hoyt Lakes. Twin Metals pressed forward with efforts directed toward their semi-precious metal mining project near Ely.

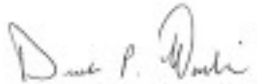
During 2023, area mining operations reported a total of 9 lost time or serious accidents. This number is a decrease in comparison to the 11 experienced in 2022. No fatalities were reported for the 2022 year.

(Continued on page 3)

St. Louis County Mine Inspectors successfully completed all required inspections of area operations as mandated by Minnesota State Law Chapter 180, Section 180.03 during 2023.

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

### 2023

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 Inactive Mines and Shafts Inspected .....	184
Total Number of Mines and Plants .....	291
Total Taconite Products Shipped .....	38,139,326
Total Concentrate Shipped .....	0
Total Pellet Chips Shipped .....	0
Taconite Mined .....	127,793,195
Stripping and Waste Removal, Tons .....	140,749,765
Total Material Moved, Tons Estimate .....	268,542,960
Total People Employed .....	3,974
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 .....	9
Total Number of Employee-Hours Worked .....	8,021,805
Number of Inspections .....	351
Number of Investigations .....	5

### 2023 WAGE RATES INCENTIVE INCLUDED

Labor Grade	Wage Rate
1 .....	\$30.48
2 .....	\$33.35
3 .....	\$36.68
4 .....	\$38.60
5 .....	\$41.00

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
2021	6	39,951,315	4,323	12	0	0.00	266.16
2022	6	33,514,485	3,770	11	0	0.00	279.44
2023	6	38,139,326	3,974	9	0	0.00	293.44

<b>REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11</b> <b>OPERATIONAL SUMMARY</b> <b>YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023</b>							
	USS CORPORATION M.O.O. KEEWATIN TACONITE	USS CORPORATION M.O.O. MINNTAC	UNITED TACONITE LLC	HIBBING TACONITE CO	NORTHSHORE MINING CO BABBITT AND SILVER BAY	CLEVELAND CLIFFS MINORCA MINE, INC	TOTALS
TONS OF TACONITE PRODUCTS SHIPPED	4,950,824	14,069,175	5,831,085	7,496,603	2,892,360	2,899,279	<b>38,139,326</b>
TOTAL TACONITE MINED ST. LOUIS COUNTY ITASCA COUNTY	17,621,081 212,703	49,449,110	14,965,794	26,857,958	10,155,378	8,743,874	<b>127,793,195</b>
TONS STRIPPING WASTE (ROCK & OVERBURDEN) ST. LOUIS COUNTY ITASCA COUNTY	23,477,846 10,117,981	56,487,678	21,670,949	29,184,499	2,072,984	7,855,809	<b>140,749,765</b>

REPORT OF THE COUNTY INSPECTOR OF MINES — PER MS 180.11 OPERATIONAL SUMMARY YEAR ENDING DECEMBER 31, 2023							
	USS CORPORATION M.O.O. KEEWATIN TACONITE	USS CORPORATION M.O.O. MINNTAC	UNITED TACONITE LLC	HIBBING TACONITE CO	NORTHSHORE MINING CO BABBITT AND SILVER BAY	CLEVELAND CLIFFS MINORCA MINE, INC	TOTALS
PELLET CHIPS	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
TONS OF CONCENTRATE SHIPPED	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
AVERAGE NUMBER OF EMPLOYEES PLANTS / PITS	429	1,448	536	690	491	380	3,974
EMPLOYEE HOURS	923,328	3,014,165	1,124,934	1,328,582	838,501	792,295	8,021,805
MONTHS WORKED	12	12	12	12	9	12	

**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 ..... Head of Operations - MN Ore Mining  
Travis Kolari ..... Head of Operations - MN Ore Processing  
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  
Steve Balaich, Sr. .... Safety & Industrial Hygiene Specialist  
James Denny ..... Manager - Emergency Services  
Michael Bakk ..... Director - Operational Readiness  
Jeffrey Tomsich ..... Industrial Hygiene Specialist

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**UNITED STATES STEEL CORPORATION**

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

Lukas Klemke ..... Head of Operations - MN Ore Mining  
Travis Kolari ..... Head of Operations - MN Ore Processing  
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 ..... Industrial Hygiene Specialist  
James Denny ..... Manager - Emergency Services

**CLEVELAND CLIFFS MINORCA MINE, INC.**

5950 Old U.S. Highway 53 North  
PO Box 1  
Virginia, MN 55792  
(218) 749-5910

**Managers**

Conor McCue ..... Operations Manager  
Eric A. Krause ..... Sr. Section Manager – Mine Operations  
Chad Pontinen ..... Sr. Section Manager – Plant Operations  
Dan G. Vidmar ..... Manager – HR / LR  
Matthew W. Zimmer... Sr. Section Manager – Asset Management  
Dean V. Wegleitner ..... Principal Safety & Security  
Nolan Koskela ..... Controller, OP & Cap Finance  
Kylee J. Paakkonen ..... Section Manager Accounting  
Darren Zabrocki ..... Manager – Purchasing  
Jaime L. Johnson ..... Area Manager – Environmental

\* \* \* \* \*

**HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY**

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

Adam Osborne ..... General Manager  
Joe Marturano ..... Manager - Asset Management  
Adam Radel ..... Manager - Financial Control  
Shane Holman ..... Manager - Mining  
Paul Sandstrom ..... Manager - Plants  
Jay Bretto ..... Manager - Human Resources  
Andrea J. Bakk ..... Manager - Safety & Loss Control  
Tasha Niemi ..... Manager - Environmental  
Tim Angelo ..... Manager - Procurement

\* \* \* \* \*

**UNITED TACONITE, LLC**

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

Nick Beukema ..... General Manager  
Robb Peterson ..... Area Manager - Plant  
Jared Lubben ..... Area Manager - Mine  
Derek Clark ..... Area Manager - Asset Management  
Adam Radel ..... Area Manager - Finance  
Joe Mattson ..... Area Manager - Human Resources  
Tod Plackner ..... Area Manager - Safety  
Candice Maxwell ..... Area Manager - Environmental  
Kerrie Pusateri ..... 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  
Adam Sersha ..... Plant Manager  
Cory Wills ..... Mine Manager  
Bryan Rusco ..... Railroad Manager  
Andrea Hayden ..... Environmental Manager  
Phil Melander ..... Maintenance Manager  
Jay Bretto ..... Human Resource Manager  
Chris Tokvam ..... Purchasing Manager  
Nolan Koskela ..... Finance Manager  
Mark Anderson ..... Safety Manager  
Suzie Greatz ..... Health & Safety Specialist - Plant  
Abby Cyr ..... Health & Safety Representative - Plant  
Ryan Pokorny ..... Health & Safety Specialist - Mine

**NEW RANGE COPPER NICKEL**

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

Jon Cherry ..... President and Chief Executive Officer

\* \* \* \* \*

**TWIN METALS MINNESOTA, LLC**

400 Miners Drive  
Ely, MN 55731

Francisco Awad ..... Chief Project Officer  
Glenn Barr ..... VP Engineering  
Dean DeBeltz ..... VP External Affairs & Project Operations  
Arshia Javaherian ..... VP Legal Affairs  
Kathy Graul ..... Director Public Affairs & Communications  
Jordan Richards ..... Director Finance & Project Controls



**PIONEER FOUNDERS, LLC**  
306 W. Superior Street, Suite 1605  
Duluth, Minnesota 55802-1816  
Phone: 218-590-2987

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  
PO Box 521  
Eveleth, Minnesota 55734-0521  
Phone: 218-744-4646

Robb J. Bigelow ..... President  
Daniel L. England ..... Vice President / Director of Mining Lands

\* \* \* \* \*

**GLACIER PARK IRON ORE PROPERTIES, LLC**

**CORPORATE OFFICE**

120 Austin Hwy., Suite 105  
San Antonio, TX 78209  
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

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

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**CRESSET 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**

1003 Discovery Drive  
Chisholm, Minnesota 55719  
Phone: 218-722-7724  
Fax: 218-720-6707  
www.taconite.org

**2022 IMA Staff**

Kristen Vake ..... Executive Director

**2022 IMA Board of Directors**

Travis Kolari (Board Chair) ..... U.S. Steel  
Chrissy Bartovich ..... U.S. Steel  
Randy Abernethy ..... Industrial Weldors & Machinists, Inc.  
Jon Anderson ..... Road Machinery and Supplies Co.  
Deb Deluca ..... Duluth Seaway Port Authority  
Frank Frederickson ..... Minnesota Power  
Jason Janisch ..... Jasper Engineering & Equipment Co.  
Tim Kalisch ..... U.S. Steel  
Lukas Klemke ..... U.S. Steel  
Allyz Kramer ..... SEH, Inc.  
Jeff Lipovetz ..... TKDA  
Mark Lorenz ..... Steel Dynamics  
Bruce Mars ..... Mars Supply / Conveyor Belt Service  
Nels Ojard ..... Krech Ojard & Associates, Inc.  
Jim Perry ..... Furin and Shea  
Bruce Richardson ..... PolyMet Mining  
Aaron Clausiau ..... Security State Bank  
Tom Scott ..... U.S. Steel

\* \* \* \* \*

**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**  
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Julie Lucas ..... 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

William Boucher ..... General Manager  
Brianna Stevens ..... Business Manager

\* \* \* \* \*

**SUPERIOR MINERALS RESOURCES, LLC**  
1910 East 8th Avenue  
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Phone: 218-262-6127  
[www.superiormineral.com](http://www.superiormineral.com)

William Boucher ..... General Manager  
Brianna Stevens ..... Business Manager

\* \* \* \* \*

**MESABI MINERAL ASSOCIATION**  
1605 Alworth Building  
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Nicholas B. Alworth ..... Managing Director

\* \* \* \* \*

**GLOBAL MINERALS ENGINEERING, LLC**  
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David G. Meineke ..... President & CEO  
Dorothy M. Meineke ..... CFO

\* \* \* \* \*

**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES**  
500 Lafayette Road  
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(651) 259-5959

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

**Division of Lands and Minerals**  
1525 Third Avenue E.  
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(218) 231-8443

Ted Anderson ..... Asst. Director, Division of Lands and Minerals  
Kathryn Larson ..... Reclamation Supervisor  
Matt Carter ..... Geology Supervisor

\* \* \* \* \*

**STATE OF MINNESOTA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF**  
**IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION**  
**MINELAND RECLAMATION**  
1003 Discovery Drive  
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Linda Johnson ..... Mining and Reclamation Programs Supervisor  
Shelley Sallee ..... Office & Administration Specialist, Sr.  
James B. Plummer ..... Planning Director  
Tom Schmelzler ..... Building and Grounds Supervisor

\* \* \* \* \*

**DEPARTMENT OF  
IRON RANGE RESOURCES & REHABILITATION  
4261 HIGHWAY 53 SOUTH  
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EVELETH, MN 55734  
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Ida Rukavina ..... Commissioner  
Matt Sjoberg ..... Executive Director of Development  
Marianne Bouska ..... Chief Operating Officer  
Linda Johnson ..... Mining Reclamation and Property Development  
Al Becicka ..... Deputy Commissioner

**\* \* \* \* \***

**RGGS Lands & Minerals LTD., L.P.  
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Phone: (218) 749-1291  
Fax: (218) 749-1294**

**\* \* \* \* \***

**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**

Julie Marinucci ..... Director

\* \* \* \* \*

**UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF LABOR  
MINE SAFETY AND HEALTH ADMINISTRATION  
515 W. First Street, Room 323  
Duluth, MN 55802-1302  
Phone: 218-720-5448  
Fax: 218-720-5650**

**DISTRICT OFFICE**

Christopher A. Hensler ..... District Manager  
Gerald D. Holeman ..... Assistant District Manager  
Daniel J. Goyen ..... Assistant District Manager  
Scott E. Salo ..... Supervisory Special Investigator  
Linda K. Arzt ..... Conference/Litigation Representative  
Cory Niemi ..... Health Specialist  
William H. Soderlind ..... Conference/Litigation Representative

**DULUTH FIELD OFFICE**

Elwood (Mac) Burriss ..... Staff Assistant  
Richard D. Galarno ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Mindy A. Meierbachtol ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Robert A. Nelson ..... Supervisory 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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Hibbing, MN 55746  
Phone: 218-262-5205  
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Kevin N. Ouke ..... Supervisory Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Luke E. Jarvi ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Nancy K. Krull ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Ryan D. Moberg ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Savannah J. Stougard ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Joshua Huffman ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Kevin Brown ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector  
Paul Dallemagne ..... Mine Safety & Health Inspector

\* \* \* \* \*



**MINNESOTA DEPARTMENT OF REVENUE**  
**600 North Robert Street**  
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Paul Marquart ..... Commissioner  
Andrew Huber ..... Minerals Tax Supervisor  
Nick Norris ..... Revenue Tax Specialist

**Minerals Tax Office**  
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**Virginia, Minnesota 55792**  
**Phone: (218) 744-7424**

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

\* \* \* \* \*

**INTERNATIONAL UNION OF OPERATING ENGINEERS**

Local No. 49  
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Phone: 218-741-8190 - Virginia  
2829 Anthony Lane South  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55418-3285  
Phone: 612-788-9441 - Minneapolis

Jason George ... Business Manager, Financial Secretary, Minneapolis  
Ryan Davies ..... Area Business Representative, Virginia  
Dan Snidarich ..... Area Business Representative, Virginia  
Dan Gilbert ..... Area Business Representative, Duluth

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

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

Emil Ramirez ..... Director

**EVELETH SUB-DISTRICT OFFICE**

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Fax: 218-744-7926

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

**UNITED STEEL WORKERS OF AMERICA  
LOCAL UNITS**

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

Jamie Winger ..... President  
Ryan Denzel ..... Vice President  
David Cherro ..... Recording Secretary  
Dan Hill ..... Financial Secretary  
Justin Krebs ..... Treasurer  
David Cherro ..... Safety Coordinator  
Chuck Niemi ..... Plant Safety Chairman  
Kyle Roskoski ..... Mine Safety Chairman  
Bryan Sandnas ..... Training Coordinator

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

Jake Friend ..... President  
Joe Ferris ..... Safety Chair / Safety Representative  
Carl Jeranek ..... Safety Representative  
Pat Savage ..... Area Chair, Concentrator  
Jeremy Fredette ..... Area Chair, Shop  
Steve Krasaway ..... Area Chair, Pit  
Lorne Middlestead ..... Area Chair, Pond  
Tawnya Gustafson ..... Area Chair, Crusher  
Nate Bandelin ..... Area Chair, Pellet Plant  
Eric Staydohar ..... Area Chair, Electrical

**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  
Andy Fisher ..... Union Safety Representative  
Bill Fredette ..... Safety Chairman

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

Kyle Lamppa ..... President  
Tom French ..... Safety Coordinator  
Reed Milos ..... Sub Chair, Safety  
Kyle Lamppa ..... Training Coordinator

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

Steve Bonach ..... President  
Mitch McDonald ..... Vice President  
Dave Chesser ..... Recording Secretary  
Paul Centa ..... Financial Secretary  
Rick Niemi ..... Treasurer  
Mitch McDonald ..... Safety Committee 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

Todd Payne ..... President  
Patrick D. O'Connell ..... Vice President  
Shawn Braford ..... Business Manager/Financial Secretary  
Joseph Petrich ..... "E" Board Member  
Steve Gullickson ..... "E" Board Member  
Leslie Oberg ..... "E" Board Member  
Aaron Jarva ..... Recording Secretary  
Shelly A. Wiitanen ..... Office Manager  
Harry Homer ..... Sergeant at Arms

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

### **CLEVELAND CLIFFS MINORCA MINE INC:**

Millwright, Date of Accident – June 22, 2023. Employee was using a come-a-long when a 1” nylon strap broke causing the come-along to stick employee in right rib area, breaking three ribs. Millwrights were attempting to move a stamler pan chain into position to change out a cracked chain link. Injured employee was operating come-along while another employee on the other end of stamler was operating hydraulic controls and using pry bar to assist with positioning the stamler chain. The 1” nylon strap was shock loaded beyond its capacity causing it to fail. Employee returned to work with restrictions. Hydraulic controls will be locked out. Hydraulic control operation and come-along adjustments will be made by the same person. Days Lost – 29

Pellet Plant Helper, Date of Accident – August 29, 2023. Employee finished air lancing the pellet reclaim hopper. When descending the fixed caged ladder, employee fell approximately 12 feet to ground level. Investigation revealed a metal electrical conduit line positioned near a rung on the ladder which may have interfered with proper footing. On-site EMS provided initial assessment. Employee was transported to Virginia ER via ambulance. Employee was diagnosed with a left arm/wrist fracture. Conduit has been removed. Days Lost – 18

### **HIBBING TACONITE:**

Tractor Operator, Date of Accident – January 21, 2023. Tractor Operator on D-9 CAT was pushing loads off dump. While reversing in 2nd gear, the pin holding the boarding basket came loose causing the basket to drop partially (1 ft.) setting the parking brake. The equipment's abrupt stop caused pain in the neck area and broke the operator's seat. Days Lost – 48

Electrician, Date of Accident – May 22, 2023. The electrician was cutting a bolt head off a bolt (in a vise) with portable circular saw for mill rougher motor. The electrician was going to put studs in the motor cover so they could hang the cover in place/align it to install the other bolts. They rotated the guard forward with the provided lever (with left hand) to allow the blade to cut the bolt. The saw blade caught and jumped, cutting through the EE's leather (non cut-resistant) gloves cutting their (3rd) middle finger between the 2nd & 3rd knuckle. Days Lost – 63

Electrician, Date of Accident – September 13, 2023. Electricians were moving a BO electric pallet jack out of the way to gain access to slings that were in a large storage bin needed for their assigned task. After attempting to manually move the electric pallet jack (980 lbs.) together without success, they then used their pickup truck hitch &

(Continued on page 28)

**HIBBING TACONITE COMPANY (continued from page 27)**

nylon strap to pull the pallet jack out the way. The electric jack tipped upright, leaving the forks perpendicular to the ground and the load wheels (at the open end of the forks) in "lifting position." While attempting to manually put the pallet jack forks down, the motion caused the frame and the wheels to shift, and the load wheels snapped/recessed back into normal position under the forks. One electrician had their hand on the pallet jack fork wheel which resulted crushing one of the electrician's three middle fingers on their left hand between the load wheel and the sharp edge of the guarding (on the bottom of the fork). Days Lost – 68

Equipment Operator, Date of Accident – October 29, 2023. Employee was operating a production loader in surface material when they dug into the surface bank and believed to have hit a large rock with the loader bucket. The operator moved the loader away from the bank and continued to dig surface material for approximately 2 hours and later reported discomfort in their back. Days Lost – 7

**NORTHSHORE MINING COMPANY**

None

**UNITED TACONITE:**

Pit Load Out Operator, Date of Accident – February 1, 2023. Operator slipped and fell while walking on snow-packed access road to the load-out pocket. The employee was correctly wearing their grippers at the time of the fall, but dislocated their shoulder. Days Lost – 3

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

None

**MINNTAC:**

Mine Maintenance, January 9, 2023 – Employee was assigned to work on a GPS issue on the 556 haul truck that was parked at the 65 Relief area in the West Pit. The employee had just removed the GPS unit and was about to descend the stairs. The employee was facing the front of the truck and stated that their left foot was on the platform and their right foot was on the step below the platform. The employee turned their body to start descending the stairs and their right boot caught the stair tread. This caused the employee to lose their balance. With the employee's left hand already on the handrail, the employee reached with their right hand on the right handrail to catch themselves to prevent falling. While this was happening, it shifted the employee's weight to their left foot and twisted it in the process, resulting in a leg fracture. Days Lost – 21.