

# Mineral Exploration and Development: Doing Business in Minnesota

## Lease State-owned Mineral Rights

The Minnesota Department of Natural Resources (DNR) administers more than 12 million acres of state-owned mineral rights. Contact Kathy Lewis to register and to obtain a list of state mineral rights continuously available through application for non-ferrous metallic mineral leasing. The non-ferrous metallic minerals lease form is available at: [www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/6125/0700.html](http://www.revisor.leg.state.mn.us/arule/6125/0700.html). The lease form describes the rental and royalty rates in detail. Additional information can be found at: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands\\_minerals/leasesale/index.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/leasesale/index.html).

### Contacts:

Kathy Lewis Assistant Director MN DNR (651) 259-5404 <a href="mailto:kathy.lewis@dnr.state.mn.us">kathy.lewis@dnr.state.mn.us</a>	Gene Miller Attorney MN DNR (651) 259-5406 <a href="mailto:gene.miller@dnr.state.mn.us">gene.miller@dnr.state.mn.us</a>
---	---

## Historical Mineral Exploration Information

The DNR has documents that describe exploration and mining from the last 100 years as well as a modern drill core facility containing samples from more than 2 million feet of drill cores are available for analysis. Historical exploration information can be found at: [www.minarchive.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.minarchive.dnr.state.mn.us) and [www.deli.dnr.state.mn.us](http://www.deli.dnr.state.mn.us)

### Contacts:

Richard Ruhanen Geologist MN DNR (218) 231-8469 <a href="mailto:rick.ruhanen@dnr.state.mn.us">rick.ruhanen@dnr.state.mn.us</a>	Dave Dahl Geologist MN DNR (218) 231-8445 <a href="mailto:dave.dahl@dnr.state.mn.us">dave.dahl@dnr.state.mn.us</a>
--	--

## Geoscience Information

The Minnesota Geological Survey and the Natural Resources Research Institute provide geological maps, the state aeromagnetic survey, mineral resource studies, and much more. Further information is available at: [www.talc.geo.umn.edu/mgs](http://www.talc.geo.umn.edu/mgs) and [www.nrri.umn.edu/egg](http://www.nrri.umn.edu/egg).

### Contacts:

Steve Hauck Program Director, Economic Geology Group Survey Natural Resources Research Institute (218) 720-4273 <a href="mailto:shauck@nrri.umn.edu">shauck@nrri.umn.edu</a>	Harvey Thorleifson Director Minnesota Geological  (612) 627-4780 <a href="mailto:thorleif@umn.edu">thorleif@umn.edu</a>
---	--

## Mineland Reclamation

The DNR administers mineland reclamation and permitting for active taconite mines and permitting for non-ferrous metallic minerals. Information about reclamation rules can be found at: [www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands\\_minerals/pubs.html](http://www.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/pubs.html) and [www.files.dnr.state.mn.us/lands\\_minerals/mn\\_mining\\_laws.pdf](http://www.files.dnr.state.mn.us/lands_minerals/mn_mining_laws.pdf).

### Contacts:

Jennifer Engstrom Mineland Reclamation Mgr. MN DNR (651) 259-5385 <a href="mailto:jennifer.engstrom@dnr.state.mn.us">jennifer.engstrom@dnr.state.mn.us</a>	Steve Dewar Field Supervisor MN DNR (218) 231-8446 <a href="mailto:steve.dewar@dnr.state.mn.us">steve.dewar@dnr.state.mn.us</a>
--	---

## Exploration Drilling

In Minnesota, there is a license requirement for the drilling company and a qualification requirement for any geologist who supervises exploration drilling. Contact the Minnesota Department of Health. For complete information on exploration rules and the DNR registration requirements contact the DNR.

### Contacts:

Mark Hoffman  
Well Management Unit  
MN Dept. of Health  
(651) 201-4589  
mark.hoffman@health.state.mn.us

Richard Ruhanen  
Geologist  
MN DNR  
(218) 231-8469  
rick.ruhanen@dnr.state.mn.us

---

## Iron Range Resources

This Minnesota state agency offers an exploration drilling grant program in northeastern Minnesota. The agency has supported some of the advanced stage mineral development projects through its economic development program.

### Contact:

Dan Jordan  
Mining & Mineral Program Supervisor  
Iron Range Resources  
(218) 254-7967  
dan.jordan@state.mn.us  
www.ironrangeresources.org

---

## State Tax Information

The Minnesota Department of Revenue Minerals Tax Office provides information about all mining-related taxes paid by the mining industry.

### Contact:

Bob Wagstrom  
Engineering Specialist  
MN Dept. of Revenue - Minerals Tax Office  
(218) 744-7420  
bob.wagstrom@state.mn.us  
www.taxes.state.mn.us/taxes/special/mineral

---

## Business Registration

The Minnesota Secretary of State's Office provides information regarding how to do business in Minnesota.

### Contacts:

Mark Ritchie  
Secretary of State  
secretary.state@state.mn.us  
www.sos.state.mn.us

Business Services  
1-877-551-6767  
(651) 296-2803

---

## Air and Water Quality

The Minnesota Pollution Control Agency administers air and water discharge permits for all business facilities, including mining.

### Contact:

Ann Foss  
Mining Section Chief  
MN Pollution Control Agency  
(651) 296-7512  
ann.foss@pca.state.mn.us  
www.pca.state.mn.us

---

## Iron Mining Association

This association, comprised of taconite mines and vendors, works on public policy issues regarding taconite mining in Minnesota.

### Contact:

Craig Pagel  
President  
Iron Mining Association  
(218) 722-7724  
Cpagel@taconite.org  
www.taconite.org

---

## Major Mineral Estate Owners

The state administers the largest component of mineral ownership. The U.S. government and private corporations also administer large areas of mineral ownership. Most exploration occurs in northern Minnesota. The major mineral estate representatives are listed here.

### Contacts:

Loretta Cartner  
Zone Geologist  
U.S. Forest Service  
Superior Nat'l Forest  
(218) 626-4382  
Lcartner@fs.fed.us

Daniel L. England  
President  
Eveleth Fee Office, Inc.  
(218) 744-4646  
efoinc@uslink.net

Peter Heltunen  
RGGGS Lands and Minerals  
(218) 749-1291  
pheltunen@rggs.us

Roger Johnson  
Manager of Mines  
Great Northern Iron  
Ore Properties  
(218) 262-3886

Thomas Gardner  
Rendrag, Incorporated  
(218) 349-2161  
tagmsinc@  
aol.com

David C. Meineke  
Meriden Engineering LLC  
(218) 262-6127  
dmeineke@  
merideneng.com

---

## Wetlands Impacts (WCA)

Mine permit applications that involve wetlands require mitigation and/or replacement plans. Contact the DNR for basic information.

### Contacts:

#### Wetlands Conservation Act *State Program*

Steve Dewar  
Field Supervisor  
MN DNR  
(218) 231-8446  
steve.dewar@dnr.state.mn.us

#### *Federal Program*

Tim Peterson  
U.S. Army Corps of  
Engineers  
(218) 834-6630  
tim.w.peterson@  
mvp02.usace.army.mil

---

## Minnesota Exploration Association

This association, comprised of non-ferrous metallic mineral exploration companies, works on public policy issues regarding non-ferrous exploration and mining in Minnesota.

### Contacts:

Ernest Lehmann  
President  
Minnesota Exploration Association  
(612) 338-5584  
geomine@worldnet.att.net

Frank Ongaro  
MiningMinnesota  
PO Box 16666  
Duluth, MN 55816  
(218) 393-2301  
Fongaro@miningminnesota.com

