

CLIFFS NATURAL RESOURCES INC.

FORM 8-K (Current report filing)

Filed 08/06/99 for the Period Ending 08/01/99

Address	200 PUBLIC SQUARE STE. 3300 CLEVELAND, OH 44114-2315
Telephone	216-694-5700
CIK	0000764065
Symbol	CLF
SIC Code	1000 - Metal Mining
Industry	Metal Mining
Sector	Basic Materials
Fiscal Year	12/31

CLEVELAND CLIFFS INC

FORM 8-K (Unscheduled Material Events)

Filed 8/6/1999 For Period Ending 8/1/1999

Address	1100 SUPERIOR AVE 18TH FLR CLEVELAND, Ohio 44114
Telephone	216-694-5700
CIK	0000764065
Industry	Metal Mining
Sector	Basic Materials
Fiscal Year	12/31

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

WASHINGTON D.C. 20549

FORM 8-K

CURRENT REPORT

Pursuant to Section 13 or 15(d) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934

Date of Report (date of earliest event reported): August 1, 1999

CLEVELAND-CLIFFS INC

(Exact name of registrant as specified in its charter)

OHIO ----- (State or other jurisdiction of incorporation)	1-8944 ----- (Commission File Number)	34-1464672 ----- (IRS Employer Identification No.)
1100 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio ----- (Address of principal executive offices)		44114 ----- (Zip Code)
Registrant's telephone number, including area code: (216-694-5700) -----		

(Former name or former address, if changed since last report)

ITEM 5. OTHER EVENTS.

Cleveland-Cliffs Inc has published News Releases as follows:

- (1) On August 1, 1999 Cleveland-Cliffs Inc published a News Release with respect to labor contract settlements; and
- (2) On August 2, 1999 Cleveland-Cliffs Inc published a News Release with respect to production cutbacks.

ITEM 7. FINANCIAL STATEMENTS AND EXHIBITS.

(a) FINANCIAL STATEMENTS OF BUSINESS ACQUIRED: None

(b) PRO FORMA FINANCIAL INFORMATION: None

(c) EXHIBITS:

EXHIBIT NUMBER -----	EXHIBIT -----	-----
99(a)	Cleveland-Cliffs Inc News Release published on August 1, 1999, with respect to labor contract settlements	Filed Herewith
99(b)	Cleveland-Cliffs Inc News Release published on August 2, 1999, with respect to production cutbacks	Filed Herewith

SIGNATURE

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the Registrant has duly caused this report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned, hereunto duly authorized.

CLEVELAND-CLIFFS INC

By: /s/ C. B. Bezik

Name: C. B. Bezik

Title: Senior Vice President-Finance

Dated: August 6, 1999

INDEX TO EXHIBITS

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99(a)	Cleveland-Cliffs Inc News Release published on August 1, 1999, with respect to labor contract settlements	Filed Herewith
99(b)	Cleveland-Cliffs Inc News Release published on August 2, 1999, with respect to production cutbacks	Filed Herewith

Exhibit 99(a)

[logo]Cliffs NEWS RELEASE
----- NEWS RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE 8/1/99

CONTACT	David L. Gardner Director-Public Relations
TELEPHONE	216/694-5407

CLEVELAND, OH --- Cleveland-Cliffs Inc (NYSE-CLF) announced today that tentative contract settlements have been reached with the United Steelworkers Union, representing hourly employees at three iron ore mines in Minnesota and Michigan, managed by Cliffs subsidiaries.

Contracts at Hibbing Taconite in northern Minnesota and Empire and Tilden Mines in the Upper Peninsula of Michigan were set to expire on August 1. Approximately 2,500 employees are covered by the contracts.

Company officials said no details of the settlements would be released publicly until union members have ratified the contracts. The company did say, however, that the economic provisions of the contracts are in line with patterns established in earlier steel industry agreements. The company and union have signed a contract extension agreement to permit adequate time for the ratification process.

John Brinzo, Cliffs' president and chief executive officer, said, "We are pleased that a settlement has been reached. I am hopeful these contracts usher in a new era of labor/management cooperation that will allow our mines to significantly improve their positions in today's highly competitive marketplace."

Cleveland-Cliffs Inc, 18th Floor 1100 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2589

Cleveland-Cliffs is the largest supplier of iron ore products to the North American steel industry and is developing a significant ferrous metallics business. Subsidiaries of the Company manage six iron ore mines in North America and hold equity interests in five of the mines. Cliffs has a major iron ore reserve position in the United States, is a substantial iron ore merchant and is beginning production of hot briquetted iron at a joint venture plant in Trinidad and Tobago.

CONTACTS: Cleveland-Cliffs Inc
Media: David L. Gardner, 216/694-5407
Financial Community: Fred B. Rice, 800/214-0739 or
216/694-5459

[logo]Cliffs NEWS RELEASE
----- NEWS RELEASE

NEWS RELEASE

RELEASE DATE 8/2/99

CONTACT David L. Gardner
 Director-Public Relations

TELEPHONE 216/694-5407

CLEVELAND-CLIFFS ANNOUNCES PRODUCTION CUTBACKS

CLEVELAND, OH --- Cleveland-Cliffs Inc (NYSE - CLF) announced today it will shut down three of its managed mines for varying lengths of time as a result of the continuing depressed market conditions for iron ore pellets.

Current plans call for the Empire Mine in Michigan and Hibbing Taconite in Minnesota to be closed for six weeks, while the Tilden Mine in Michigan is scheduled for an approximate 10-week shutdown. Subsidiaries of Cleveland-Cliffs are minority owners and managers of the three mines. Cliffs-managed Wabush Mine in eastern Canada is currently in a five-week shutdown.

The shutdown at the Tilden Mine in Michigan will begin this week due to mechanical problems that have developed in both of the mine's pelletizing furnaces, which have already been shutdown. Summer employees of the mine are being laid off, beginning on night shift today. The remainder of the mine will be closed by Friday. Approximately 775 employees will be affected by the closure.

The specific schedules for the six-week shutdowns at Hibbing Taconite and Empire Mine will be announced soon. Approximately 1675 employees will be affected by shutdowns at these two mines.

John S. Brinzo, Cliffs' president and chief executive officer, said, "We have mentioned publicly on several occasions since the beginning of this year that low iron ore consumption levels by our steel company customers were causing a huge upsurge in iron ore pellet inventories at our mines. Unfortunately, the slight improvement in the North American steel business in recent weeks has done little to correct the inventory problem. Therefore, we have no alternative but to cut back production and reduce pellet stockpiles."

Cleveland-Cliffs Inc, 18th Floor 1100 Superior Avenue, Cleveland, Ohio 44114-2589

Brinzo said further that steelmakers face the continuing challenge of competing against high levels of unfairly traded steel imports. "The latest import levels in June demonstrate that the steel crisis is far from over," he said.

In addition to finished steel imports, the Company said a blast furnace outage at one major customer resulting from a tragic explosion, and increasing levels of unfairly traded semi-finished steel slab imports have also contributed to reductions in pellet demand. Slab use by steelmakers is particularly troubling to iron ore producers since it has a direct impact on pellet consumption, the Company said.

The Company has revised its sales forecast for the year down to 9 million tons versus record sales of 12.1 million tons in 1998. That will be the lowest level of sales since the company acquired its newest mine, Northshore, in 1994.

Cutbacks in production at Cliffs-managed mines will reduce output for the year by approximately 2.7 million tons, including reductions at Cliffs' wholly owned Northshore Mine. Northshore has taken down a small pellet furnace between July 22 and November 24 and tentatively plans to shutter the entire plant from October 30 to November 24.

Cleveland-Cliffs is the largest supplier of iron ore products to the North American steel industry and is developing a significant ferrous metal business. Subsidiaries of the Company manage six iron ore mines in North America and hold equity interests in five of the mines. Cliffs has a major iron ore reserve position in the United States, is a substantial iron ore merchant, and is beginning production of hot briquetted iron at a joint venture plant in Trinidad and Tobago.

This news release contains forward-looking statements regarding iron ore pellet sales and production volume which could differ significantly from current expectations due to inherent risks such as lower demand for steel, iron ore, higher steel imports, processing difficulties, or other factors. Although the Company believes that its forward-looking statements are based on reasonable assumptions, such statements are subject to risks and uncertainties, which could cause actual results to differ materially.

CONTACTS:

Media: David L. Gardner (216)694-5407

Financial Community: Fred B. Rice (800)214-0739 or (216)694-5459

To obtain faxed copies of Cleveland-Cliffs Inc news releases, dial (800)778-3888. News releases and other information on the Company area available on the Internet at <http://www.Cleveland-Cliffs.com>