

CLIFFS NATURAL RESOURCES INC.

Reported by
MICHAUD JAMES R

FORM 4

(Statement of Changes in Beneficial Ownership)

Filed 05/22/12 for the Period Ending 05/21/12

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|-------------|--|
| 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 |

FORM 4

**UNITED STATES SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE
COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20549**

OMB APPROVAL
OMB Number: 3235-0287
Estimated average burden
hours per response... 0.5

[] Check this box if no longer subject to Section 16. Form 4 or Form 5 obligations may continue. See Instruction 1(b).

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934,
Section 17(a) of the Public
Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section 30(f) of the
Investment Company Act of 1940

| | | |
|--|---|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * Michaud James R <small>(Last) (First) (Middle)</small> 200 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 3300 <small>(Street)</small> CLEVELAND, OH 44114 <small>(City) (State) (Zip)</small> | 2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CLIFFS NATURAL RESOURCES INC. [CLF] 3. Date of Earliest Transaction (MM/DD/YYYY) <p align="center">5/21/2012</p> | 5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) SVP, Human Resources 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> X Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person |
| Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned | | |

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Trans. Date | 2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 3. Trans. Code (Instr. 8) | | 4. Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | | | 5. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction(s) (Instr. 3 and 4) | 6. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 7. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|---------------------------------|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|---|------------|---------|---|--|---|
| | | | Code | V | Amount | (A) or (D) | Price | | | |
| Common Stock | 5/21/2012 | | P | | 500 | A | \$49.33 | 4797 | D | |
| Common Stock | | | | | | | | 1008 | I | By VNQDC (1) |

Table II - Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned (e.g. , puts, calls, warrants, options, convertible securities)

| 1. Title of Derivate Security (Instr. 3) | 2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 3. Trans. Date | 3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any | 4. Trans. Code (Instr. 8) | | 5. Number of Derivative Securities Acquired (A) or Disposed of (D) (Instr. 3, 4 and 5) | 6. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date | | 7. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 3 and 4) | | 8. Price of Derivative Security (Instr. 5) | 9. Number of derivative Securities Beneficially Owned Following Reported Transaction (s) (Instr. 4) | 10. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 4) | 11. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 4) |
|--|--|----------------|-----------------------------------|---------------------------|---|--|---|-----|---|-----------------|--|---|--|--|
| | | | | Code | V | | (A) | (D) | Date Exercisable | Expiration Date | | | | |

Explanation of Responses:

(1) Held for the benefit of the Reporting Person by the Issuer's 2005 Voluntary Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan ("VNQDC").

Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address | Relationships | | | |
|---|---------------|-----------|-----------------------------|-------|
| | Director | 10% Owner | Officer | Other |
| Michaud James R 200 PUBLIC SQUARE SUITE 3300 CLEVELAND, OH 44114 | | | SVP, Human Resources | |

Signatures

/s/ Carolyn E. Cheverine By Power of Attorney

5/22/2012

Reminder: Report on a separate line for each class of securities beneficially owned directly or indirectly.

* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, *see* Instruction 4(b)(v).

** Intentional misstatements or omissions of facts constitute Federal Criminal Violations. *See* 18 U.S.C. 1001 and 15 U.S.C. 78ff(a).

Note: File three copies of this Form, one of which must be manually signed. If space is insufficient, *see* Instruction 6 for procedure.

Persons who respond to the collection of information contained in this form are not required to respond unless the form displays a currently valid OMB control number.

LIMITED POWER OF ATTORNEY

KNOW ALL MEN BY THESE PRESENTS, that the undersigned hereby constitutes and appoints P. Kelly Tompkins, Carolyn E. Cheverine, James D. Graham, Madeline M. Costanzo, and Keirsten Riedel and each of them, as the true and lawful attorney or attorneys-in-fact, with full power of substitution and revocation, for the undersigned and in the name, place and stead of the undersigned, in any and all capacities, to execute, on behalf of the undersigned any and all statements or reports considered necessary or advisable under Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 and the rules and regulations promulgated thereunder, as amended from time to time ("Exchange Act") with respect to the beneficial ownership of shares of Common Stock, par value \$.125 per share, of Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. ("Company"), including, without limitation, all initial statements of beneficial ownership on Form 3; all statements of changes in beneficial ownership on Form 4; all annual statements of beneficial ownership on Form 5; and all notices of proposed sale of securities on Form 144; and any and all other documents that may be required, from time to time, to be filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, to execute any and all amendments or supplements to any such statements or forms, and to file the same, with all exhibits thereto, and other documents in connection therewith, with the Securities and Exchange Commission, granting to said attorney or attorneys-in-fact, and each of them, full power and authority to do so and perform each and every act and thing requisite and necessary to be done in and about the premises, as fully to all intents and purposes as the undersigned might or could do in person, hereby ratifying and confirming all that said attorney or attorneys-in-fact or any of them or their substitutes, may lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof.

The undersigned acknowledges that neither the Company nor such attorney-in-fact assumes (i) any liability for the undersigned's responsibility to comply with the requirement of the Exchange Act, (ii) any liability of the undersigned for any failure to comply with such requirements, or (iii) any obligation or liability of the undersigned for profit disgorgement under Section 16(b) of the Exchange Act. This Power of Attorney does not relieve the undersigned from responsibility for compliance with the undersigned's obligations under the Exchange Act, including without limitation the reporting requirements under Section 16 of the Exchange Act.

This Power of Attorney shall remain in full force and effect as long as the undersigned is subject to the reporting requirements of Section 16 with respect to the undersigned's holdings and transactions in securities issued by the Company, unless earlier revoked by the undersigned in a signed writing delivered to the foregoing attorneys-in-fact.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the undersigned has caused this Power of Attorney to be executed as of this 4th day of May, 2012.

*/s/ James Michaud
James Michaud
Senior Vice President, Human Resources*