

## INITIAL STATEMENT OF BENEFICIAL OWNERSHIP OF SECURITIES

Filed pursuant to Section 16(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

|   |   |  |   |
|---|---|--|---|
| 1. Name and Address of Reporting Person*<br>Flanagan Timothy K<br>(Last) (First) (Middle)<br>200 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 3300<br>(Street)<br>CLEVELAND, OH 44114<br>(City) (State) (Zip) | 2. Date of Event Requiring Statement (Month/Day/Year)<br>03/13/2012 | 3. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol<br>CLIFFS NATURAL RESOURCES INC. [CLF]   |   |
|   |   | 4. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer<br>(Check all applicable)<br><input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below)<br>VP, Corp Controller & CAO | 5. If Amendment, Date Original Filed (Month/Day/Year) |
|   |   | 6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line)<br><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person<br><input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person   |   |

### Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Beneficially Owned

| 1. Title of Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Amount of Securities Beneficially Owned (Instr. 4) | 3. Ownership Form: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 4. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|---------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Common Stock                    | 2,488 <sup>(1)</sup>                                  | D  |   |

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

SEC 1473 (7-02)

**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.**

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

| 1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 4) | 2. Date Exercisable and Expiration Date (Month/Day/Year) |                 | 3. Title and Amount of Securities Underlying Derivative Security (Instr. 4) |                            | 4. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security | 5. Ownership Form of Derivative Security: Direct (D) or Indirect (I) (Instr. 5) | 6. Nature of Indirect Beneficial Ownership (Instr. 5) |
|--|--|-----------------|---|----------------------------|--|---|---|
|  | Date Exercisable   | Expiration Date | Title   | Amount or Number of Shares |  |   |   |

## Reporting Owners

| Reporting Owner Name / Address   | Relationships |           |                           |       |
|--|---------------|-----------|---------------------------|-------|
|  | Director      | 10% Owner | Officer                   | Other |
| Flanagan Timothy K<br>200 PUBLIC SQUARE<br>SUITE 3300<br>CLEVELAND, OH 44114 |               |           | VP, Corp Controller & CAO |       |

## Signatures

|   |                     |
|---|---------------------|
| /s/ Timothy K. Flanagan                       | 03/22/2012          |
| <small>*Signature of Reporting Person</small> | <small>Date</small> |

## Explanation of Responses:

\* If the form is filed by more than one reporting person, see Instruction 5(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).

(1) The total includes 1,518 directly held common shares and 210, 140 and 620 outstanding restricted share units from the 2010, 2011 and 2012 Performance Share grants, respectively, acquired pursuant to the Issuer's 2007 Incentive Equity Plan.

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

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