

FLOODS AND POLLUTION

Floods are unknown in the iron ore mining areas of Michigan and Minnesota and therefore there have never been any problems of this nature related to iron ore mining. The report, "Surface Mining and Our Environment," states on page 52 in regard to the Mesabi Range "the minerals in the formation are chemically inert and the terrain is flat; thus the mining operations caused little or no water pollution."

The conditions in Michigan are similar with respect to the absence of chemical pollution. Pollution by solids in suspension is regulated by Federal and State laws for the control of water quality. The fact that these regulations are effective is borne out by the report of the Michigan Water Resources Commission, "Industrial Pollution Status," which lists open pit iron mining operations with the best rating. We in the iron mining industry maintain that water pollution is adequately controlled and that there is no need for additional legislation.

Air pollution is not a sizable problem associated with iron ore open pit mining. The report, "Surface Mining and Our Environment," makes reference to air pollution, stating that "surface mining, per se, cannot be considered a major contributor." There can be at times airborne dust that occurs during heavy winds but this condition occurs over all kinds of land areas from virgin ones to city streets. The stack emissions from modern pelletizing operations are controlled by State and Federal regulations, and again no further legislation is required.

FISH AND WILDLIFE HABITAT

State water pollution control agencies are keenly aware of the interest of sportsmen and conservation groups in protecting the habitat for fish and have included in State regulations controls which protect them. The relatively small areas which are actually involved in iron mining operations do not have a significant impact on wildlife habitat, considering the great acreage of open land available in these areas.

CONSERVATION OF SOIL, WATER AND OTHER NATURAL RESOURCES

Loss of soil does not occur in the iron mining areas through erosion and flooding. The withdrawal of land and soil from other uses by mining does not create a problem in Michigan and Minnesota because the mining areas are so marginal for recreation or agriculture.

In modern beneficiating and pelletizing operations, water plays a very important role. We need it. Therefore the conservation of water is of primary value to the iron ore mining industry.

DESTRUCTION OR IMPAIRMENT OF PROPERTY AND HAZARDS

Any impairment of the property of others adjacent to the iron ore mining operations of Michigan and Minnesota is limited to such incidental effects as dust or noise from the operations and does not in our judgment constitute a hazard requiring further legislative controls.

Our experience indicates that there have been virtually no incidents involving hazards to the public where surface mining operations are located.