

FORM 4

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

OMB APPROVAL	
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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 or Section 30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person Smith Clifford T	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol CLIFFS NATURAL RESOURCES INC. [CLF]	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input type="checkbox"/> Director <input type="checkbox"/> 10% Owner <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Officer (give title below) <input type="checkbox"/> Other (specify below) <div style="border: 1px solid black; padding: 2px; width: fit-content;">SVP, Global Business Dev.</div>
(Last) (First) (Middle) 200 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 3300	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) 02/27/2012	
(Street) CLEVELAND, OH 44114	4. If Amendment, Date Original Filed(Month/Day/Year)	6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing (Check Applicable Line) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Form filed by One Reporting Person <input type="checkbox"/> Form filed by More than One Reporting Person
(City) (State) (Zip)	Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned	

1. Title of Security (Instr. 3)	2. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	2A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	3. Transaction 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	02/27/2012		A	(I)	1,710	A	\$ 66.61	14,434	I	by VNQDC
Common Stock								11,953	D	

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

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

1. Title of Derivative Security (Instr. 3)	2. Conversion or Exercise Price of Derivative Security	3. Transaction Date (Month/Day/Year)	3A. Deemed Execution Date, if any (Month/Day/Year)	4. Transaction 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 (Month/Day/Year)		7. Title and Amount of Underlying Securities (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					

Reporting Owners

Reporting Owner Name / Address	Relationships			
	Director	10% Owner	Officer	Other
Smith Clifford T 200 PUBLIC SQUARE SUITE 3300 CLEVELAND, OH 44114			SVP, Global Business Dev.	

Signatures

/s/ Madeline Costanzo by Power of Attorney		02/29/2012
<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 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).

(1) The amount represents an exchange of a portion of the Reporting Person's 2011 cash bonus for 1,368 shares of Cliffs Natural Resources Inc. Common Shares on a deferred basis (Exchange Shares) under the Issuer's 2005 Voluntary Nonqualified Deferred Compensation Plan ("VNQDC Plan"). An additional 342 deferred shares (Match Shares) were credited to the account of the Reporting Person into the VNQDC Plan equal to 35 percent of the market value of the Exchanged Shares on the deferral date of the bonus payment pursuant to the VNQDC Plan.

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

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