



History of State Leasing for Nonferrous Metallic Minerals

As of January 2017

#1: State has been leasing its minerals rights for nonferrous metallic minerals through public sales since 1966.

#2: State has had 34 Public Lease Sales where it has offered 4.69 million acres and awarded 3,271 leases totaling 926,000 million acres.

#3: On average 8% of the areas offered for lease were awarded in Public Lease Sales since 1966. This number does not indicate future trends since lease sale offerings have decreased in acres in recent years.

#4: The DNR creates mining units to establish the state-owned lands and minerals that are available for lease pursuant to Minnesota Statutes, section 93.15. A mining unit is based on a government section of land. For example, A-1-48-22 is a mining unit number located in Aitkin County, Section 1, Township 48 North, Range 22 West.

#5: State has offered mining units in 21 Minnesota Counties: *Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Cass, Cook, Crow Wing, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Morrison, Norman, Ottertail, Pine, Roseau, St. Louis, Todd, and Wilkin.*

#6: There have been state nonferrous leases in 18 Minnesota Counties: *Aitkin, Beltrami, Carlton, Cook, Crow Wing, Itasca, Kanabec, Koochiching, Lake, Lake of the Woods, Marshall, Mille Lacs, Norman, Ottertail, Pine, Roseau, St. Louis, and Todd.*

#7: From 1966 to 1973 a total of 1,044 copper, nickel, and associated minerals leases covering 424,000 acres were issued by the state. Six of the leases were issued through negotiation, with the majority issued by public sale. By 1989 all of these leases had terminated.

#8: In 1974 the Environmental Quality Council, the predecessor to the Environmental Quality Board, initiated a study looking at the social, environmental and economic impacts associated with copper-nickel mining. No state lease sales were held until after the study was completed in 1979.

#9: From 1981 to 1987 the state issued 980 copper-nickel leases, five of which were negotiated, covering 460,000 acres.

#10: In 1988 and 1995 the state copper, nickel, and associated minerals leasing rules were amended again. The name was changed to "metallic minerals lease" to more accurately describe the minerals covered by the lease.

#11: State has granted 3,531 leases/mining units through Public Lease Sales, Negotiated Leases, or Preference Right Leases. 3,531 leases granted equal approximately 981,350 acres of state-owned mineral rights.

#12: As of January 2017 a total of 3,248 leases have been terminated by 93 private companies. That equals 92% of the granted leases. 85% of state leases that terminated did so within 5 years of being issued. 13% of state leases terminated between 6 -10 years.

#13: As of January 2017 there were 264 leases active covering 93,716.45 acres. 40% of the active state leases are less than 5 years old. 42% of the active state leases are between 6 and 10 years old. 18% of the active state leases are greater than 10 years old. Longest is 28 years old.

#14: There are 11 private exploration companies with state nonferrous metallic mineral leases.

#15: ^97.8% of all state leased ~40 acre parcels (n=23,746 parcels) did not have any exploration drilling.

#16: ^2.2% of all state leased ~40 acre parcels had exploration drilling.

^Analysis by DNR based on state leasing and exploration drilling data from 1966-2016.