

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

(Print or Type Responses)

1. Name and Address of Reporting Person * <b>Carrabba Joseph A</b>	2. Issuer Name and Ticker or Trading Symbol <b>CLIFFS NATURAL RESOURCES INC. [CLF]</b>	5. Relationship of Reporting Person(s) to Issuer (Check all applicable) <input checked="" 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; text-align: center;">Chairman, Pres. &amp; CEO</div>
(Last) (First) (Middle) <b>200 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE 3300</b>	3. Date of Earliest Transaction (Month/Day/Year) <b>02/21/2012</b>	
(Street) <b>CLEVELAND, OH 44114-2315</b>	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)	<b>Table I - Non-Derivative Securities Acquired, Disposed of, or Beneficially Owned</b>	

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	02/21/2012		A <sup>(1)</sup>		118,463	A	\$ 71.89	288,332	D	
Common Stock	02/21/2012		F <sup>(2)</sup>		59,349	D	\$ 71.89	228,983	D	
Common Stock								6,515 <sup>(3)</sup>	I	VNQDC <sup>(4)</sup>

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

SEC 1474 (9-02)

**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	10. Put or Call	11. Conversion or Exercise Price	12. Conversion or Exercise Price

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/s/ Joseph A. Carrabba	02/23/2012
Signature of Reporting Person	Date

## 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) Reflects a payout of performance shares for the 2009-2011 performance period earned under the Issuer's 2007 Incentive Equity Plan.
- (2) Reflects the surrender of 48,306 performance shares and 11,043 restricted share units from the 2009-2011 performance period in payment of the related tax liability incurred by the Reporting Person as a result of the award.
- (3) Balance shown reflects 22 and 27 shares acquired September 1, 2011 and December 1, 2011, respectively, pursuant to the dividend reinvestment feature of the Issuer's 2005 Voluntary Non-Qualified Deferred Compensation Plan ("VNQDC").
- (4) Held for the benefit of the Reporting Person by the VNQDC.

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.