

Smith Clifford T
Form 4
February 15, 2012

FORM 4

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

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,
Section 17(a) of the Public Utility Holding Company Act of 1935 or Section
30(h) of the Investment Company Act of 1940

OMB APPROVAL

OMB
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(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)

(Last) (First) (Middle)

200 PUBLIC SQUARE, SUITE
3300

3. Date of Earliest Transaction
(Month/Day/Year)

02/13/2012

____ Director ____ 10% Owner
____X____ Officer (give title ____ Other (specify
below) below)

SVP, Global Business Dev.

(Street)

4. If Amendment, Date Original
Filed(Month/Day/Year)

6. Individual or Joint/Group Filing(Check
Applicable Line)

____X____ Form filed by One Reporting Person

____ Form filed by More than One Reporting
Person

CLEVELAND, OH 44114

(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)
Common Stock	02/13/2012		A ⁽¹⁾	5,355 A	\$ 71.89 14,196	D	
Common Stock	02/13/2012		F ⁽²⁾	2,243 D	\$ 71.89 11,953	D	
Common Stock					12,724 ⁽³⁾	I	by VNQDC ⁽⁴⁾

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

**Persons who respond to the collection of
information contained in this form are not**

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(9-02)

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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 (Instr. 6)
				Code	V (A) (D)	Date Exercisable	Expiration Date	Title	Amount or Number of Shares

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/ Keirsten Riedel by Power of Attorney
02/15/2012
**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 1,755 performance shares and 488 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 44 and 53 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.