

A LOOK BENEATH THE SURFACE: MINNESOTA'S UNDERGROUND MINING HISTORY

The Twin Metals Minnesota (TMM) Project will be the first underground mine in Minnesota in more than 50 years. It follows in the remarkable footsteps of some of the most notable underground mines in the country that were located in northern Minnesota many years ago.

Soudan Mine was the first iron ore mine in Minnesota and the operation was known as the “Cadillac” of underground mines during its time. Before closing in 1962, the project produced nearly 16 million tons of rich iron ore that was used to make high-quality steel in open-hearth furnaces. Today, the site is a state park featuring nearly 3,000 acres and five miles of shoreline. Each year, it hosts more than 33,900 mine tour visits.

The Pioneer Mine began operation in 1888 and was located in the eastern Vermilion Iron Range. It once was home to the tallest structure north of Duluth. More than 41 million long tons of iron ore were mined during the mine's life and when it closed in 1967, it was operating at an impressive 1,626



feet below the surface. The site of the mine today is known as Miners Lake, a trout-stocked recreational lake in the heart of Ely.

As we look back on Minnesota's successful underground mining history, we're excited to continue this rich tradition and incorporate modern mining practices in all aspects of our project. The TMM Project will be a great addition to the state, bringing hope to Minnesotans and honoring our great heritage as a mining community.

Sources:

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