Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210-0110
1210-0089

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A This return/report is for:
- [ ] a multiemployer plan
- [ ] a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
- [X] a single-employer plan
- [ ] a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is:
- [ ] the first return/report
- [ ] the final return/report
- [ ] an amended return/report
- [ ] a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here. . . . . ▶ [X]

D Check box if filing under:
- [X] Form 5558
- [ ] automatic extension
- [ ] the DFVC program
- [ ] special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here. . . . . ▶ [ ]

Part II Basic Plan Information—enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
THE CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION THRIFT PLAN C

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 007

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/1979

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)
CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION

9227 CENTRE POINTE DRIVE
WEST CHESTER, OH 45069

9227 CENTRE POINTE DRIVE
WEST CHESTER, OH 45069

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN)
31-1267098

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number
513-425-5000

2d Business code (see instructions)
331110

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/03/2026	ABIGAIL DUCHARME
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Filed with authorized/valid electronic signature.	10/03/2026	ABIGAIL DUCHARME
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☐ Same as Plan Sponsor

CLEVELAND-CLIFFS, INC. INVESTMENT CMTE

9227 CENTRE POINTE DRIVE
WEST CHESTER, OH 45069

3b Administrator's EIN
31-1267098

3c Administrator's telephone number
513-425-5000

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:

a Sponsor's name

c Plan Name

4b EIN

4d PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	5029
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a(1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	4243
a(2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	3701
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	78
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	673
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2)**, **6b**, and **6c**.	**6d**	4452
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits.	**6e**	22
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**.	**6f**	4474
g(1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	4979
g(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	4428
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested.	**6h**	45
7	Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2R 2S 2T 3H

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)

- (1) ☐ Insurance
- (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- (3) ☒ Trust
- (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)

- (1) ☐ Insurance
- (2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
- (3) ☒ Trust
- (4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules

- (1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
- (2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
- (4) ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) – Number Attached _____
- (5) ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules

- (1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
- (2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information – Small Plan)
- (3) ☐ **A** (Insurance Information) – Number Attached _____
- (4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
- (5) ☒ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
- (6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ..... ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code_____

SCHEDULE C (Form 5500)	Service Provider Information	OMB No. 1210-0110
Department of the Treasury Internal Revenue Service Department of Labor Employee Benefits Security Administration Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation	This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA). ▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**	**2025** **This Form is Open to Public Inspection.**

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
THE CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION THRIFT PLAN C

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 007

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
31-1267098

Part I Service Provider Information (see instructions)

You must complete this Part, in accordance with the instructions, to report the information required for **each person** who received, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of monetary value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or the person's position with the plan during the plan year. If a person received **only** eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures, you are required to answer line 1 but are not required to include that person when completing the remainder of this Part.

1 Information on Persons Receiving Only Eligible Indirect Compensation

a Check "Yes" or "No" to indicate whether you are excluding a person from the remainder of this Part because they received only eligible indirect compensation for which the plan received the required disclosures (see instructions for definitions and conditions).. . . . . ☐ Yes ☒ No

b If you answered line 1a "Yes," enter the name and EIN or address of each person providing the required disclosures for the service providers who received only eligible indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed (see instructions).

(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

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(b) Enter name and EIN or address of person who provided you disclosures on eligible indirect compensation

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

FIDELITY INV INST OPERATIONS LLC

04-2647786

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
37 64 65 71	RECORDKEEPER	229013	Yes [X] No [ ]	Yes [X] No [ ]	0	Yes [X] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

STRATEGIC ADVISORS, INC.

04-2654524

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
27	ADVISOR	79187	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

UBS FINANCIAL SERVICES INC.

13-2638166

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
27	INVESTMENT ADVISOR	12400	Yes [ ] No [X]	Yes [ ] No [ ]		Yes [ ] No [ ]

2. Information on Other Service Providers Receiving Direct or Indirect Compensation. Except for those persons for whom you answered "Yes" to line 1a above, complete as many entries as needed to list each person receiving, directly or indirectly, $5,000 or more in total compensation (i.e., money or anything else of value) in connection with services rendered to the plan or their position with the plan during the plan year. (See instructions).

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

MEADEN AND MOORE

34-1818258

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
10	AUDITING/ACCOUNTING	11500	Yes ☐ No ☒	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

(a) Enter name and EIN or address (see instructions)

(b) Service Code(s)	(c) Relationship to employer, employee organization, or person known to be a party-in-interest	(d) Enter direct compensation paid by the plan. If none, enter -0-.	(e) Did service provider receive indirect compensation? (sources other than plan or plan sponsor)	(f) Did indirect compensation include eligible indirect compensation, for which the plan received the required disclosures?	(g) Enter total indirect compensation received by service provider excluding eligible indirect compensation for which you answered "Yes" to element (f). If none, enter -0-.	(h) Did the service provider give you a formula instead of an amount or estimated amount?
			Yes ☐ No ☐	Yes ☐ No ☐		Yes ☐ No ☐

Part I Service Provider Information (continued)

3. If you reported on line 2 receipt of indirect compensation, other than eligible indirect compensation, by a service provider, and the service provider is a fiduciary or provides contract administrator, consulting, custodial, investment advisory, investment management, broker, or recordkeeping services, answer the following questions for (a) each source from whom the service provider received $1,000 or more in indirect compensation and (b) each source for whom the service provider gave you a formula used to determine the indirect compensation instead of an amount or estimated amount of the indirect compensation. Complete as many entries as needed to report the required information for each source.

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

(a) Enter service provider name as it appears on line 2	**(b)** Service Codes (see instructions)	**(c)** Enter amount of indirect compensation
(d) Enter name and EIN (address) of source of indirect compensation	**(e)** Describe the indirect compensation, including any formula used to determine the service provider's eligibility for or the amount of the indirect compensation.	

Part II Service Providers Who Fail or Refuse to Provide Information

4 Provide, to the extent possible, the following information for each service provider who failed or refused to provide the information necessary to complete this Schedule.

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

(a) Enter name and EIN or address of service provider (see instructions)	**(b)** Nature of Service Code(s)	**(c)** Describe the information that the service provider failed or refused to provide

Part III Termination Information on Accountants and Enrolled Actuaries (see instructions)

(complete as many entries as needed)

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

a Name:

b EIN:

c Position:

d Address:

e Telephone:

Explanation:

SCHEDULE D (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

DFE/Participating Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
THE CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION THRIFT PLAN C

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 007

C Plan or DFE sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
31-1267098

Part I **Information on interests in MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs (to be completed by plans and DFEs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all interests in DFEs)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE: CLEVELAND-CLIFFS INC. DC PLAN MT

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a): CLEVELAND-CLIFFS INC.

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)
34-1935031-001	M	654400039

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

a Name of MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE:

b Name of sponsor of entity listed in (a):

c EIN-PN	**d** Entity code	**e** Dollar value of interest in MTIA, CCT, PSA, or 103-12 IE at end of year (see instructions)

Part II **Information on Participating Plans (to be completed by DFEs, other than DCGs)**
(Complete as many entries as needed to report all participating plans. DCGs must report each participating plan using Schedule DCG.)

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

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b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

a Plan name

b Name of plan sponsor | **c** EIN-PN

SCHEDULE H (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Financial Information

This schedule is required to be filed under section 104 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
THE CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION THRIFT PLAN C

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 007

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
31-1267098

Part I Asset and Liability Statement

1 Current value of plan assets and liabilities at the beginning and end of the plan year. Combine the value of plan assets held in more than one trust. Report the value of the plan's interest in a commingled fund containing the assets of more than one plan on a line-by-line basis unless the value is reportable on lines 1c(9) through 1c(14). Do not enter the value of that portion of an insurance contract which guarantees, during this plan year, to pay a specific dollar benefit at a future date. **Round off amounts to the nearest dollar.** MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 1b(1), 1b(2), 1c(8), 1g, 1h, and 1i. CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 1d and 1e. See instructions.

Assets		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
a Total noninterest-bearing cash	1a		
b Receivables (less allowance for doubtful accounts):			
(1) Employer contributions	1b(1)		
(2) Participant contributions	1b(2)		
(3) Other	1b(3)		
c General investments:			
(1) Interest-bearing cash (include money market accounts & certificates of deposit)	1c(1)		
(2) U.S. Government securities	1c(2)		
(3) Corporate debt instruments (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(3)(A)		
(B) All other	1c(3)(B)		
(4) Corporate stocks (other than employer securities):			
(A) Preferred	1c(4)(A)		
(B) Common	1c(4)(B)		
(5) Partnership/joint venture interests	1c(5)		
(6) Real estate (other than employer real property)	1c(6)		
(7) Loans (other than to participants)	1c(7)		
(8) Participant loans	1c(8)	22495744	25855708
(9) Value of interest in common/collective trusts	1c(9)		
(10) Value of interest in pooled separate accounts	1c(10)		
(11) Value of interest in master trust investment accounts	1c(11)	581143743	654400039
(12) Value of interest in 103-12 investment entities	1c(12)		
(13) Value of interest in registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	1c(13)		
(14) Value of funds held in insurance company general account (unallocated contracts)	1c(14)		
(15) Other	1c(15)		

		(a) Beginning of Year	(b) End of Year
1d Employer-related investments:			
(1) Employer securities	1d(1)		
(2) Employer real property	1d(2)		
1e Buildings and other property used in plan operation	1e		
1f Total assets (add all amounts in lines 1a through 1e)	1f	603639487	680255747
Liabilities			
1g Benefit claims payable	1g		
1h Operating payables	1h		
1i Acquisition indebtedness	1i		
1j Other liabilities	1j		
1k Total liabilities (add all amounts in lines 1g through1j)	1k		
Net Assets			
1l Net assets (subtract line 1k from line 1f)	1l	603639487	680255747

Part II Income and Expense Statement

2 Plan income, expenses, and changes in net assets for the year. Include all income and expenses of the plan, including any trust(s) or separately maintained fund(s) and any payments/receipts to/from insurance carriers. Round off amounts to the nearest dollar. MTIAs, CCTs, PSAs, and 103-12 IEs do not complete lines 2a, 2b(1)(E), 2e, 2f, and 2g.

Income		(a) Amount	(b) Total
a Contributions:			
(1) Received or receivable in cash from: **(A)** Employers	2a(1)(A)	13866157	
(B) Participants	2a(1)(B)	29467902	
(C) Others (including rollovers)	2a(1)(C)	357260	
(2) Noncash contributions	2a(2)		
(3) Total contributions. Add lines **2a(1)(A), (B), (C),** and line **2a(2)**	2a(3)		43691319
b Earnings on investments:			
(1) Interest:			
(A) Interest-bearing cash (including money market accounts and certificates of deposit)	2b(1)(A)		
(B) U.S. Government securities	2b(1)(B)		
(C) Corporate debt instruments	2b(1)(C)		
(D) Loans (other than to participants)	2b(1)(D)		
(E) Participant loans	2b(1)(E)	2081288	
(F) Other	2b(1)(F)		
(G) Total interest. Add lines **2b(1)(A)** through **(F)**	2b(1)(G)		2081288
(2) Dividends: **(A)** Preferred stock	2b(2)(A)		
(B) Common stock	2b(2)(B)		
(C) Registered investment company shares (e.g. mutual funds)	2b(2)(C)		
(D) Total dividends. Add lines **2b(2)(A)**, **(B)**, and **(C)**	2b(2)(D)		
(3) Rents	2b(3)		
(4) Net gain (loss) on sale of assets: **(A)** Aggregate proceeds	2b(4)(A)		
(B) Aggregate carrying amount (see instructions)	2b(4)(B)		
(C) Subtract line **2b(4)(B)** from line **2b(4)(A)** and enter result	2b(4)(C)		
(5) Unrealized appreciation (depreciation) of assets: **(A)** Real estate	2b(5)(A)		
(B) Other	2b(5)(B)		
(C) Total unrealized appreciation of assets. Add lines **2b(5)(A)** and **(B)**	2b(5)(C)		

		(a) Amount	(b) Total
(6) Net investment gain (loss) from common/collective trusts	2b(6)		
(7) Net investment gain (loss) from pooled separate accounts	2b(7)		
(8) Net investment gain (loss) from master trust investment accounts	2b(8)		81830522
(9) Net investment gain (loss) from 103-12 investment entities	2b(9)		
(10) Net investment gain (loss) from registered investment companies (e.g., mutual funds)	2b(10)		
c Other income	2c		
d Total income. Add all **income** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2d		127603129
Expenses			
e Benefit payment and payments to provide benefits:			
(1) Directly to participants or beneficiaries, including direct rollovers	2e(1)	50156770	
(2) To insurance carriers for the provision of benefits	2e(2)		
(3) Other	2e(3)		
(4) Total benefit payments. Add lines **2e(1)** through **(3)**	2e(4)		50156770
f Corrective distributions (see instructions)	2f		3347
g Certain deemed distributions of participant loans (see instructions)	2g		69878
h Interest expense	2h		
i Administrative expenses:			
(1) Salaries and allowances	2i(1)		
(2) Contract administrator fees	2i(2)		
(3) Recordkeeping fees	2i(3)	221534	
(4) IQPA audit fees	2i(4)	11500	
(5) Investment advisory and investment management fees	2i(5)	91587	
(6) Bank or trust company trustee/custodial fees	2i(6)		
(7) Actuarial fees	2i(7)		
(8) Legal fees	2i(8)		
(9) Valuation/appraisal fees	2i(9)		
(10) Other trustee fees and expenses	2i(10)		
(11) Other expenses	2i(11)		
(12) Total administrative expenses. Add lines **2i(1)** through **(11)**	2i(12)		324621
j Total expenses. Add all **expense** amounts in column (b) and enter total	2j		50554616
Net Income and Reconciliation			
k Net income (loss). Subtract line **2j** from line **2d**	2k		77048513
l Transfers of assets:			
(1) To this plan	2l(1)		
(2) From this plan	2l(2)		432253

Part III Accountant's Opinion

3 Complete lines 3a through 3c if the opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is attached to this Form 5500. Complete line 3d if an opinion is not attached.

a The attached opinion of an independent qualified public accountant for this plan is (see instructions):

(1) [X] Unmodified **(2)** [ ] Qualified **(3)** [ ] Disclaimer **(4)** [ ] Adverse

b Check the appropriate box(es) to indicate whether the IQPA performed an ERISA section 103(a)(3)(C) audit. Check both boxes (1) and (2) if the audit was performed pursuant to both 29 CFR 2520.103-8 and 29 CFR 2520.103-12(d). Check box (3) if pursuant to neither.

(1) [X] DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 **(2)** [ ] DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d) **(3)** [ ] neither DOL Regulation 2520.103-8 nor DOL Regulation 2520.103-12(d).

c Enter the name and EIN of the accountant (or accounting firm) below:

(1) Name: MEADEN & MOORE, LTD. **(2)** EIN: 34-1818258

d The opinion of an independent qualified public accountant is **not attached** as part of Schedule H because:

(1) [ ] This form is filed for a CCT, PSA, DCG or MTIA. **(2)** [ ] It will be attached to the next Form 5500 pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.104-50.

Part IV Compliance Questions

4 CCTs and PSAs do not complete Part IV. MTIAs, 103-12 IEs, and GIAs do not complete lines 4a, 4e, 4f, 4g, 4h, 4k, 4m, 4n, or 5. 103-12 IEs also do not complete lines 4j and 4l. MTIAs also do not complete line 4l. DCGs do not complete lines 4e, 4f, 4k, 4l, and 5, and DCGs generally complete the rest of Part IV collectively for all plans in the DCG, except as otherwise provided (see instructions).

During the plan year:

		Yes	No	Amount
a Was there a failure to transmit to the plan any participant contributions within the time period described in 29 CFR 2510.3-102? Continue to answer "Yes" for any prior year failures until fully corrected. (See instructions and DOL's Voluntary Fiduciary Correction Program.)	**4a**		X	
b Were any loans by the plan or fixed income obligations due the plan in default as of the close of the plan year or classified during the year as uncollectible? Disregard participant loans secured by participant's account balance. (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part I if "Yes" is checked.)	**4b**		X	
c Were any leases to which the plan was a party in default or classified during the year as uncollectible? (Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part II if "Yes" is checked.)	**4c**		X	
d Were there any nonexempt transactions with any party-in-interest? (Do not include transactions reported on line 4a. Attach Schedule G (Form 5500) Part III if "Yes" is checked.)	**4d**		X	
e Was this plan covered by a fidelity bond?	**4e**	X		10000000
f Did the plan have a loss, whether or not reimbursed by the plan's fidelity bond, that was caused by fraud or dishonesty?	**4f**		X	
g Did the plan hold any assets whose current value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4g**		X	
h Did the plan receive any noncash contributions whose value was neither readily determinable on an established market nor set by an independent third party appraiser?	**4h**		X	
i Did the plan have assets held for investment? (Attach schedule(s) of assets if "Yes" is checked, and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4i**	X		
j Were any plan transactions or series of transactions in excess of 5% of the current value of plan assets? (Attach schedule of transactions if "Yes" is checked and see instructions for format requirements.)	**4j**		X	
k Were all the plan assets either distributed to participants or beneficiaries, transferred to another plan, or brought under the control of the PBGC?	**4k**		X	
l Has the plan failed to provide any benefit when due under the plan?	**4l**		X	
m If this is an individual account plan, was there a blackout period? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-3.)	**4m**		X	
n If 4m was answered "Yes," check the "Yes" box if you either provided the required notice or one of the exceptions to providing the notice applied under 29 CFR 2520.101-3.	**4n**			

5a Has a resolution to terminate the plan been adopted during the plan year or any prior plan year? [ ] Yes [X] No

If "Yes," enter the amount of any plan assets that reverted to the employer this year _____.

5b If, during this plan year, any assets or liabilities were transferred from this plan to another plan(s), identify the plan(s) to which assets or liabilities were transferred. (See instructions.)

5b(1) Name of plan(s)	**5b(2)** EIN(s)	**5b(3)** PN(s)
CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION THRIFT PLAN A	31-1267098	005
CLEVELAND-CLIFFS INC. & ITS ASSOC ERS SALARIED EE SAVINGS PLAN	34-1464672	010

5c Was the plan a defined benefit plan covered under the PBGC insurance program at any time during this plan year? (See ERISA section 4021 and instructions.) ..... ☐ Yes ☒ No ☐ Not determined

If "Yes" is checked, enter the My PAA confirmation number from the PBGC premium filing for this plan year _____.

SCHEDULE R (Form 5500)

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Retirement Plan Information

This schedule is required to be filed under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and section 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **File as an attachment to Form 5500.**

OMB No. 1210-0110

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection.

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A Name of plan
THE CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION THRIFT PLAN C

B Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 007

C Plan sponsor's name as shown on line 2a of Form 5500
CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION

D Employer Identification Number (EIN)
31-1267098

Part I Distributions

All references to distributions relate only to payments of benefits during the plan year.

1 Total value of distributions paid in property other than in cash or the forms of property specified in the instructions ..... | **1** |

2 Enter the EIN(s) of payor(s) who paid benefits on behalf of the plan to participants or beneficiaries during the year (if more than two, enter EINs of the two payors who paid the greatest dollar amounts of benefits):

EIN(s): 04-6568107

Profit-sharing plans, ESOPs, and stock bonus plans, skip line 3.

3 Number of participants (living or deceased) whose benefits were distributed in a single sum, during the plan year ..... | **3** |

Part II Funding Information (If the plan is not subject to the minimum funding requirements of section 412 of the Internal Revenue Code or ERISA section 302, skip this Part.)

4 Is the plan administrator making an election under Code section 412(d)(2) or ERISA section 302(d)(2)? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

If the plan is a defined benefit plan, go to line 8.

5 If a waiver of the minimum funding standard for a prior year is being amortized in this plan year, see instructions and enter the date of the ruling letter granting the waiver. **Date:** Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

If you completed line 5, complete lines 3, 9, and 10 of Schedule MB and do not complete the remainder of this schedule.

6	**a** Enter the minimum required contribution for this plan year (include any prior year accumulated funding deficiency not waived)	**6a**	
	b Enter the amount contributed by the employer to the plan for this plan year	**6b**	
	c Subtract the amount in line 6b from the amount in line 6a. Enter the result (enter a minus sign to the left of a negative amount)	**6c**	

If you completed line 6c, skip lines 8 and 9.

7 Will the minimum funding amount reported on line 6c be met by the funding deadline? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

8 If a change in actuarial cost method was made for this plan year pursuant to a revenue procedure or other authority providing automatic approval for the change or a class ruling letter, does the plan sponsor or plan administrator agree with the change? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No** ☐ **N/A**

Part III Amendments

9 If this is a defined benefit pension plan, were any amendments adopted during this plan year that increased or decreased the value of benefits? If yes, check the appropriate box. If no, check the "No" box. ..... ☐ **Increase** ☐ **Decrease** ☐ **Both** ☐ **No**

Part IV ESOPs (see instructions). If this is not a plan described under section 409(a) or 4975(e)(7) of the Internal Revenue Code, skip this Part.

10 Were unallocated employer securities or proceeds from the sale of unallocated securities used to repay any exempt loan? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

11 **a** Does the ESOP hold any preferred stock? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

b If the ESOP has an outstanding exempt loan with the employer as lender, is such loan part of a "back-to-back" loan? (See instructions for definition of "back-to-back" loan.) ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

12 Does the ESOP hold any stock that is not readily tradable on an established securities market? ..... ☐ **Yes** ☐ **No**

Part V Additional Information for Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

13 Enter the following information for each employer that (1) contributed more than 5% of total contributions to the plan during the plan year or (2) was one of the top-ten highest contributors (measured in dollars). See instructions. *Complete as many entries as needed to report all applicable employers.*

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify):

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

---

a Name of contributing employer

b EIN **c** Dollar amount contributed by employer

d Date collective bargaining agreement expires *(If employer contributes under more than one collective bargaining agreement, check box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, enter the applicable date.)* Month _____ Day _____ Year _____

e Contribution rate information *(If more than one rate applies, check this box* ☐ *and see instructions regarding required attachment. Otherwise, complete lines 13e(1) and 13e(2).)*
(1) Contribution rate (in dollars and cents) _____
(2) Base unit measure: ☐ Hourly ☐ Weekly ☐ Unit of production ☐ Other (specify): _____

14 Enter the number of deferred vested and retired participants (inactive participants), as of the beginning of the plan year, whose contributing employer is no longer making contributions to the plan for:

a The current plan year. Check the box to indicate the counting method used to determine the number of inactive participants: ☐ last contributing employer ☐ alternative ☐ reasonable approximation (see instructions for required attachment)	**14a**	
b The plan year immediately preceding the current plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14b**	
c The second preceding plan year. ☐ Check the box if the number reported is a change from what was previously reported (see instructions for required attachment)	**14c**	

15 Enter the ratio of the number of participants under the plan on whose behalf no employer had an obligation to make an employer contribution during the current plan year to:

a The corresponding number for the plan year immediately preceding the current plan year	**15a**	
b The corresponding number for the second preceding plan year	**15b**	

16 Information with respect to any employers who withdrew from the plan during the preceding plan year:

a Enter the number of employers who withdrew during the preceding plan year	**16a**	
b If line 16a is greater than 0, enter the aggregate amount of withdrawal liability assessed or estimated to be assessed against such withdrawn employers	**16b**	

17 If assets and liabilities from another plan have been transferred to or merged with this plan during the plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

Part VI Additional Information for Single-Employer and Multiemployer Defined Benefit Pension Plans

18 If any liabilities to participants or their beneficiaries under the plan as of the end of the plan year consist (in whole or in part) of liabilities to such participants and beneficiaries under two or more pension plans as of immediately before such plan year, check box and see instructions regarding supplemental information to be included as an attachment ☐

19 If the total number of participants is 1,000 or more, complete lines (a) and (b):

a Enter the percentage of plan assets held as:
Public Equity: _____% Private Equity: _____% Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets: _____%
High-Yield Debt: _____% Real Assets: _____% Cash or Cash Equivalents: _____% Other: _____%

b Provide the average duration of the Investment-Grade Debt and Interest Rate Hedging Assets:
☐ 0-5 years ☐ 5-10 years ☐ 10-15 years ☐ 15 years or more

20 **PBGC missed contribution reporting requirements.** If this is a multiemployer plan or a single-employer plan that is not covered by PBGC, skip line 20.

a Is the amount of unpaid minimum required contributions for all years from Schedule SB (Form 5500) line 40 greater than zero? ☐ Yes ☐ No

b If line 20a is "Yes," has PBGC been notified as required by ERISA sections 4043(c)(5) and/or 303(k)(4)? Check the applicable box:

☐ Yes.

☐ No. Reporting was waived under 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) because contributions equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution were made by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. The 30-day period referenced in 29 CFR 4043.25(c)(2) has not yet ended, and the sponsor intends to make a contribution equal to or exceeding the unpaid minimum required contribution by the 30th day after the due date.

☐ No. Other. Provide explanation._____

Part VII IRS Compliance Questions

21a Does the plan satisfy the coverage and nondiscrimination tests of Code sections 410(b) and 401(a)(4) by combining this plan with any other plans under the permissive aggregation rules? ☒ Yes ☐ No

21b If this is a Code section 401(k) plan, check all boxes that apply to indicate how the plan is intended to satisfy the nondiscrimination requirements for employee deferrals and employer matching contributions (as applicable) under Code sections 401(k)(3) and 401(m)(2).

☐ Design-based safe harbor method

☒ "Prior year" ADP test

☐ "Current year" ADP test

☐ N/A

22 If the plan sponsor is an adopter of a pre-approved plan that received a favorable IRS Opinion Letter, enter the date of the Opinion Letter ___/___/_____ (MM/DD/YYYY) and the Opinion Letter serial number_____.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS
WITH
INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION
THRIFT PLAN C

December 31, 2025

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MEADEN & MOORE

INDEPENDENT AUDITOR'S REPORT

To the Plan Administrator for the
Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C

Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit

We have performed an audit of the financial statements of the Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C, an employee benefit plan subject to the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA), as permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) (ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit). The financial statements comprise the statement of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2025, and the related notes to the financial statements.

Management, having determined it is permissible in the circumstances, has elected to have the audit of the Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C's financial statements performed in accordance with ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) pursuant to 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. As permitted by ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C), our audit need not extend to any statements or information related to assets held for investment of the plan (investment information) by a bank or similar institution or insurance carrier that is regulated, supervised, and subject to periodic examination by a state or federal agency, provided that the statements or information regarding assets so held are prepared and certified to by the bank or similar institution or insurance carrier in accordance with 29 CFR 2520.103-5 of the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA (qualified institution).

Management has obtained certifications from a qualified institution, Fidelity Management Trust Company, as of December 31, 2025 and 2024, and for the year ended December 31, 2025, stating that the certified investment information, as described in Note 6 to the financial statements, is complete and accurate.

Opinion

In our opinion, based on our audit and on the procedures performed as described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section

- the amounts and disclosures in the accompanying financial statements, other than those agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.
- the information in the accompanying financial statements related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).

Basis for Opinion

We conducted our audit in accordance with auditing standards generally accepted in the United States of America (GAAS). Our responsibilities under those standards are further described in the Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements section of our report. We are required to be independent of the Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C and to meet our other ethical responsibilities, in accordance with the relevant ethical requirements relating to our audits. We believe that the audit evidence we have obtained is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for our ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit opinion.

Responsibilities of Management for the Financial Statements

Management is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America, and for the design, implementation, and maintenance of internal control relevant to the preparation and fair presentation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error. Management's election of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit does not affect management's responsibility for the financial statements.

In preparing the financial statements, management is required to evaluate whether there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C's ability to continue as a going concern for one year after the date that the financial statements are issued.

Management is also responsible for maintaining a current plan instrument, including all plan amendments, administering the plan, and determining that the plan's transactions that are presented and disclosed in the financial statements are in conformity with the plan's provisions, including maintaining sufficient records with respect to each of the participants, to determine the benefits due or which may become due to such participants.

Auditor's Responsibilities for the Audit of the Financial Statements

Except as described in the Scope and Nature of the ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) Audit section of our report, our objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes our opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance but is not absolute assurance and therefore is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with GAAS will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control. Misstatements are considered material if there is a substantial likelihood that, individually or in the aggregate, they would influence the judgment made by a reasonable user based on the financial statements.

In performing an audit in accordance with GAAS, we:

- Exercise professional judgment and maintain professional skepticism throughout the audit.
- Identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to fraud or error, and design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks. Such procedures include examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements.
- Obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C's internal control. Accordingly, no such opinion is expressed.
- Evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of significant accounting estimates made by management, as well as evaluate the overall presentation of the financial statements.
- Conclude whether, in our judgment, there are conditions or events, considered in the aggregate, that raise substantial doubt about the Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C's ability to continue as a going concern for a reasonable period of time.

Our audit did not extend to the certified investment information, except for obtaining and reading the certification, comparing the certified investment information with the related information presented and disclosed in the financial statements, and reading the disclosures relating to the certified investment information to assess whether they are in accordance with the presentation and disclosure requirements of accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Accordingly, the objective of an ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C) audit is not to express an opinion about whether the financial statements as a whole are presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

We are required to communicate with those charged with governance regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit, significant audit findings, and certain internal control-related matters that we identified during the audit.

Other Matter - Supplemental Schedule Required by ERISA

The supplemental Schedule of Assets Held for Investment Purposes End of Year as of December 31, 2025 is presented for purposes of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but is supplementary information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Such information is the responsibility of management and was derived from and relates directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements. The information included in the supplemental schedule, other than that agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, has been subjected to auditing procedures applied in the audits of the financial statements and certain additional procedures, including comparing and reconciling such information directly to the underlying accounting and other records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves, and other additional procedures in

accordance with GAAS. For information included in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, we compared such information to the related certified investment information.

In forming our opinion on the supplemental schedule, we evaluated whether the supplemental schedule, other than the information agreed to or derived from the certified investment information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.

In our opinion

- the form and content of the supplemental schedule, other than the information in the supplemental schedule that agreed to or is derived from the certified investment information, are presented, in all material respects, in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA.
- the information in the supplemental schedule related to assets held by and certified to by a qualified institution agrees to, or is derived from, in all material respects, the information prepared and certified by an institution that management determined meets the requirements of ERISA Section 103(a)(3)(C).



Meaden & Moore, Ltd.
Cleveland, Ohio
August 31, 2026

STATEMENTS OF NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C

	(In Thousands)	
	December 31,	
	2025	2024
ASSETS		
Plan interest in Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust	**$ 654,400**	581,144
Notes receivable from participants	**25,856**	22,496
NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS	**$ 680,256**	$ 603,640

See accompanying notes.

STATEMENT OF CHANGES IN NET ASSETS AVAILABLE FOR BENEFITS

Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C

	(In Thousands) Year Ended December 31, 2025
Contributions:	
Employer	$ 13,866
Employee	29,468
Rollover	357
Total contributions	43,691
Net investment income from interest in Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust	81,506
Interest income on notes receivable from participants	2,081
Benefits paid to participants	(50,230)
Net increase in net assets before participant plan transfers, net	77,048
Participant plan transfers, net	(432)
Net increase in net assets after participant plan transfers, net	76,616
Net assets available for benefits	
Beginning of year	603,640
End of year	$ 680,256

See accompanying notes.

NOTES TO FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C

NOTE 1 - DESCRIPTION OF PLAN

The following description of Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C (the "Plan" or "Plan C") provides only general information. Participants should refer to the Plan agreement for a complete description of the Plan's provisions.

GENERAL

The Plan is a defined contribution plan covering hourly employees of the Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation (“the Company”), formerly known as the AK Steel Corporation at Ashland Works, Butler Works, Zanesville Works, Dearborn Works, Mansfield Works, Middletown Works and Mountain State Carbon. All hourly employees covered under the Basic Labor Agreements for each location indicated above are eligible to participate in the Plan.

The assets of the Plan, excluding notes receivable from participants, are held in the Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust ("Master Trust"). Fidelity Management Trust Company ("Fidelity") is the trustee and record keeper for the Plan. The Plan is administered by the Employee Benefits Administration Department of Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. ("Plan Administrator"). The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974, as amended ("ERISA").

CONTRIBUTIONS

Participants may elect to invest in the Plan through payroll deductions up to 100% of eligible wages, of which up to 15% of their compensation on an after-tax basis, depending on the unit-specific plan provision. Participants may also make contributions to the Plan in the form of a rollover of funds from another qualified plan.

In addition, the Company may match some portion of employee contributions or make non-elective contributions, depending on the unit-specific plan provision.

Certain employees participate in International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers ("IAM") Pension Plan. However, an IAM pension plan provision limits contributions based on compensation for 2,080 hours for the year. Once an affected hourly employee at the Butler Works location reaches contributions for 2,080 hours in the IAM plan for the year, participation will revert back to Plan C for the remainder of the calendar year. The contribution rates per hour for Plan C is $3.00.

Employees at the Butler Works hired on or after January 1, 2019, are not eligible for retiree healthcare. These employees will have $0.50 for each hour worked, contributed by the Company into a 401(k) medical sub account.

On April 25, 2023, an agreement was reached between Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation and the IAM, AFL-CIO, and Local Lodge 1943 for Middletown Works. Pursuant to the agreement, starting on May 15, 2023, the contribution rate into the 401(k) for each hour paid, up to a maximum of 40 hours in a work week, will increase by $0.10. The increase will occur on May 15th annually, through 2026. The contribution rate for 2025 was $0.55 for each hour through May 15, 2025 and $0.65 for each hour after May 15, 2025 until May 15, 2026.

Employees at the Middletown Works hired on or after March 15, 2018, are not eligible for retiree healthcare. These employees will have $0.75 for each hour worked, contributed by the Company into a 401(k) Medical Sub-account.

Effective August 1, 2022, Dearborn Works employees will have tiered nonelective employer contributions made by the Company based on years of continuous service. Employer contribution amounts range from $0.63 to $1.00 for the period of August 12, 2024 to August 11, 2025, $0.78 to $1.15 for the period of August 12, 2025 to August 11, 2026, and $0.88 and $1.25 after August 12, 2026.

Employees at the Dearborn Works location hired on or after January 1, 2018, are not eligible for retiree healthcare. These employees will have $0.50 for each hour worked, contributed by the Company into a 401(k) medical sub account.

Effective August 1, 2006, Zanesville Works employees have tiered nonelective employer contributions made by the Company based on contributory hours (up to 2,080 hours) worked by the covered employee. Employer contribution per hour rates are $1.00 for the period of June 1, 2019 to May 31, 2025, $1.10 for the period of June 1, 2025 to May 31, 2026, $1.35 for the period of June 1, 2026 to May 31, 2027, and $1.60 after June 1, 2027.

Effective July 1, 2025, employees at the Zanesville Works location hired on or after May 20, 2006, will have contributions of $0.50 for each hour worked, up to 2,080 hours annually, contributed by the Company into a 401(k) medical sub account.

Employees at the Mansfield Works location for plan years beginning on or after January 1, 2024 are able to participate in the plan by making employee contributions but are not eligible for employer matching contributions.

INVESTMENT OPTIONS

Participants direct the investment of their contributions and account balances into various investment options offered by the Plan. Investment options include a self-directed brokerage option, which allows participants to invest in options not offered directly through the Plan. On August 17, 2023, UBS Workplace Wealth Solutions replaced Fiducient Advisors LLC as the Plan's investment advisor. As a result, some of the investment options offered by the Plan were removed or replaced in April 2024.

PARTICIPANTS' ACCOUNTS

Individual participant accounts are maintained and are credited with participant and employer contributions and allocations of investment earnings or losses from each investment fund in which such contributions are invested. Allocations of each funds earnings or losses are based on the ratio of each participant's account balance in such fund to the total of all participants' balances in that fund. The cost of certain administrative services provided by the trustee are paid from participants' accounts or assets within the appropriate investment option, as applicable.

Participants, upon termination, can elect to transfer their contributions and related earnings to another qualified plan. The Plan provides that new participants may transfer their contributions and related earnings to the Plan from their previous employers' qualified plans.

VESTING

Participants are immediately 100% vested in employee salary and rollover contributions and any income or loss thereon. Vesting in the company's contribution portion of their accounts, plus actual net earnings and losses thereon, is based on years of service. Plan C participants, depending on the unit-specific plan provision, become fully vested in the fixed contributions made by the Company and related net earnings after three years of service.

FORFEITURES

If a participant is not fully vested on his or her termination date, the non-vested amount of the account is forfeited. Forfeitures are used to reduce future company contributions or to pay administrative expenses of the Plan. Forfeited account balances were de minimis for the years ended December 31, 2025 and 2024.

NOTES RECEIVABLE FROM PARTICIPANTS

Loans are permitted under certain circumstances and are subject to limitations. Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of $500, up to a maximum equal to the lesser of $50 thousand or 50% of their account balance. Loans are repaid over a period not to exceed 5 years with exceptions for the purchase of a primary residence, which are repaid over a period not to exceed 10 years.

The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at rates commercially reasonable that are published on the first day of the month preceding the month the loan was granted. Principal and interest are paid ratably through payroll deductions. Personal payments are permitted for late or missed payments. Loans are valued at unpaid principal plus accrued but unpaid interest. No allowance for credit losses has been recorded as of December 31, 2025 and 2024. Delinquent participant loans are recorded as distributions on the basis of the terms of the Plan agreement.

The Medical Sub-Account portion of the employee's 401(k) balance is not eligible for loans.

PAYMENT OF BENEFITS

Upon retirement, termination of employment, death or disability, benefits are payable in a lump sum, partial cash distribution, installments or can be rolled over to an individual retirement account (IRA) or another eligible retirement plan based on the participant's election (or beneficiary). Hardship withdrawals are permitted in accordance with Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") guidelines. Participants are entitled to receive payments without terminating employment upon attainment of age 59½.

CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STOCK

The Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. common shares are held within the Plan on a restricted basis and the Plan does not permit new contributions or purchases of Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. common shares within the Plan.

NOTE 2 - SUMMARY OF SIGNIFICANT ACCOUNTING POLICIES

BASIS OF ACCOUNTING

The accompanying financial statements have been prepared in accordance with the accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America ("U.S. GAAP"), using the accrual method of accounting.

USE OF ESTIMATES

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with U.S. GAAP requires the use of estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts in the financial statements and disclosures. Actual results could differ from those estimates.

RISKS AND UNCERTAINTIES

The Plan utilizes various investment instruments through its participation in the Master Trust. Investment securities, in general, are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, credit and overall market volatility. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in the values of investment securities will occur in the near term and that such changes could materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits.

VALUATION OF INVESTMENTS AND INCOME RECOGNITION

Investments in the Master Trust are stated at fair value, except for the synthetic investment contracts ("SIC"), which are stated at contract value. Fair value is the price that would be received to sell an asset or paid to transfer a liability in an orderly transaction between market participants at the measurement date. See Note 5 for further discussion of fair value measurements.

Certain plans within the Master Trust have entered into benefit responsive investment contracts with various insurance companies. Under Accounting Standards Update ("ASU") 2015-12, SICs meet the fully benefit responsive investment contract criteria and therefore are reported at contract value. Contract value is the relevant measure for fully benefit responsive investment contracts because this is the amount received by participants if they were to initiate permitted transactions under the terms of their plan.

Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis.

BENEFIT PAYMENTS

Benefit payments to participants are recorded upon distribution.

ADMINISTRATIVE FEES

Certain trustee, record-keeping and administrative fees are paid by the Plan. All other management fees and costs of administering the Plan are paid by the Company. Other management fees may be paid by the forfeiture account in accordance with the Plan's arrangement with Fidelity.

PLAN TERMINATION

Although it has not expressed any intention to do so, the Company has the right under the Plan to discontinue its contributions at any time and to terminate the Plan subject to the provisions set forth in ERISA. In the event of a plan termination, participants will be entitled to the benefit that can be provided by the participant's account.

SUBSEQUENT EVENTS

The Plan evaluates events occurring subsequent to the date of the financial statements in determining the accounting for and disclosure of transactions and events that affect the financial statements.

Subsequent events have been evaluated through August 31, 2026, which is the date the financial statements were available to be issued.

NOTE 3 - TAX STATUS

On April 23, 2014, the IRS stated that the Plan is qualified under Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code and, therefore, the related trust is exempt from taxation. The Plan has been amended; however, the Plan Administrator and the Plan's tax counsel believe that the Plan is currently designed and being operated in compliance with the applicable requirements of the Internal Revenue Code.

U.S. GAAP requires plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability (or asset) if the Plan has taken any uncertain tax positions that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by applicable taxing authorities. The Plan Administrator has analyzed tax positions taken by the Plan and has concluded that, as of December 31, 2025, there are no uncertain tax positions taken, or expected to be taken, that would require recognition of a liability or that would require disclosure in the financial statements. The Plan is subject to routine audits by tax jurisdictions. However, currently no audits for any tax periods are in progress.

NOTE 4 - INVESTMENT IN MASTER TRUST

Use of the Master Trust permits the commingling of assets for these plans. Although the assets are commingled in the Master Trust, the trustee maintains supporting records for the purpose of allocating the net gain or loss of the investment account to the participating plans.

The Master Trust includes the assets of the following plans:

- Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. and Its Associated Employers Salaried Employees Savings Plan
- Northshore Mining Company and Silver Bay Power Company Retirement Savings Plan
- Savings Plan for Hourly Employees of Empire Iron Mining Partnership, Tilden Mining Company L.C. and The Cleveland-Cliffs Iron Company
- Savings Plan for Minnesota Represented Hourly Employees
- Ore Mining Companies Salaried Employees' Retirement Income Plan
- Cleveland-Cliffs Steel LLC Hourly 401(k) Plan
- Cleveland-Cliffs Steel LLC Savings and Investment Plan
- Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan A
- Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan B
- Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation Thrift Plan C
- Cleveland-Cliffs Tubular Components LLC Columbus, Indiana Plant 401(k) Plan
- Cleveland-Cliffs Tubular Components LLC Walbridge 401(k) Retirement Plan
- Fleetwood Metal Industries Corporation Retirement Savings Plan
- Cannon BG 401(k) Plan
- Ferrous Processing and Trading Company Savings Profit Sharing Plan (effective January 1, 2024)
- Cleveland-Cliffs Princeton 401(k) Plan (effective November 5, 2025)

All plans within the Master Trust currently hold separately managed fully benefit-responsive stable value investments that include six SICs. These investments are considered undivided interest in the Master Trust and represent 14% of the total Master Trust SIC assets.

The Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust's net assets and the Plan's interest in the Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust's net assets at December 31, 2025 and 2024 were as follows:

	(In Thousands)			
	2025		2024	
	Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust Balances	**Plan's Interest in Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust Balances**	Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust Balances	Plan's Interest in Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust Balances
Assets				
Investments, at fair value				
Mutual funds	**$ 280,136**	**$ 30,072**	$ 265,866	$ 27,830
Collective trust funds	**4,060,735**	**550,558**	3,658,932	478,238
Self-directed accounts	**252,766**	**8,010**	219,116	5,534
Common stock	**9,563**	**446**	7,517	365
Total investments, at fair value	**4,603,200**	**589,086**	4,151,431	511,967
Investments, at contract value				
Synthetic investment contracts	**477,852**	**65,314**	508,257	69,177
Net Master Trust assets	**$ 5,081,052**	**$ 654,400**	$ 4,659,688	$ 581,144

The following table presents investment income of the Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust for the year ended December 31, 2025:

	(In Thousands)
Interest and dividend income	**$ 25,451**
Net appreciation on investments	**633,442**
Total investment income - Master Trust	**$ 658,893**

NOTE 5 - FAIR VALUE OF FINANCIAL ASSETS

ASC 820, *Fair Value Measurements and Disclosures*, establishes a three-level valuation hierarchy for classification of fair value measurements. The valuation hierarchy is based upon the transparency of inputs to the valuation of an asset or liability as of the measurement date. Inputs refer broadly to the assumptions that market participants would use in pricing an asset or liability. Inputs may be observable or unobservable. Observable inputs are inputs that reflect the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on market data obtained from independent sources. Unobservable inputs are inputs that reflect our own views about the assumptions market participants would use in pricing the asset or liability developed based on the best information available in the circumstances. The three-tier hierarchy of inputs is summarized below:

- Level 1 — Valuation is based upon quoted prices (unadjusted) for identical assets or liabilities in active markets.
- Level 2 — Valuation is based upon quoted prices for similar assets and liabilities in active markets, or other inputs that are observable for the asset or liability, either directly or indirectly, for substantially the full term of the financial instrument.
- Level 3 — Valuation is based upon other unobservable inputs that are significant to the fair value measurement.

The classification of assets and liabilities within the valuation hierarchy is based upon the lowest level of input that is significant to the fair value measurement in its entirety.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for instruments measured at fair value, including the general classification of such instruments pursuant to the valuation hierarchy.

Self-Directed Accounts - Primarily consists of common stocks, mutual funds and cash that are valued on the basis of readily determinable market prices and are classified as Level 1 investments. In addition, the self-directed brokerage accounts hold Level 2 investments, primarily consisting of bonds, which do not have regular market pricing, but whose fair value is determined based on third party pricing models maximizing the use of observable inputs for similar securities.

Collective Trust Funds - Valued at the NAV of units held. The NAV, as provided by the trustee, is used as a practical expedient to estimate fair value. The NAV is based on the fair value of the underlying investments held by the funds less their liabilities. This practical expedient is not used when it is determined to be probable that a fund will sell the investment for an amount different from the reported NAV. Participant transactions (purchases and sales) may occur daily. Were the Plan to initiate a full redemption of a collective trust, the investment advisor generally reserves the right to temporarily delay withdrawal from the trust in order to ensure that securities liquidations will be carried out in an orderly business manner. There are no unfunded commitments of the collective trust funds.

Mutual Funds & Common Stock - Valued at the closing price reported on the active market on which the individual securities or mutual funds are traded.

The methods described above may produce a fair value calculation that may not be indicative of net realizable value or reflective of future fair values. Furthermore, while management believes its valuation methods are appropriate and consistent with other market participants, the use of different methodologies or assumptions to determine the fair value of certain financial instruments could result in a different fair value measurement at the reporting date.

The following tables present the investments of the Master Trust measured at fair value on a recurring basis:

	(In Thousands)				
	December 31, 2025				
	Level 1	**Level 2**	**Level 3**	**Investments measured at NAV [1]**	**Total**
Mutual funds	**$ 280,136**	**$ —**	**$ —**	**$ —**	**$ 280,136**
Collective trust funds	**—**	**—**	**—**	**4,060,735**	**4,060,735**
Self-directed accounts	**246,949**	**5,817**	**—**	**—**	**252,766**
Common stock	**9,563**	**—**	**—**	**—**	**9,563**
Total investments at fair value	**$ 536,648**	**$ 5,817**	**$ —**	**$ 4,060,735**	**$ 4,603,200**

	(In Thousands)				
	December 31, 2024				
	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Investments measured at NAV [1]	Total
Mutual funds	$ 265,866	$ —	$ —	$ —	$ 265,866
Collective trust funds	—	—	—	3,658,932	3,658,932
Self-directed accounts	211,768	7,348	—	—	219,116
Common stock	7,517	—	—	—	7,517
Total investments at fair value	$ 485,151	$ 7,348	$ —	$ 3,658,932	$ 4,151,431

[1] Certain investments that are measured at fair value using the NAV per share (or its equivalent) practical expedient have not been categorized in the fair value hierarchy. The fair value amounts presented in this table are intended to permit reconciliation of the fair value hierarchy to the investment amounts presented in Note 4.

NOTE 6 - INFORMATION CERTIFIED BY THE TRUSTEE

The Plan administrator has elected the method of annual reporting compliance permitted by 29 CFR 2520.103-8 of the Department of Labor Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under ERISA. Accordingly, Fidelity, the trustee of the Plan, has certified that the following data included in the accompanying financial statements and supplemental schedule is complete and accurate:

- Plan interest in Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust and notes receivable from participants, as shown in the statements of net assets available for benefits as of December 31, 2025 and 2024.
- Net investment income from interest in Cleveland-Cliffs Inc. Defined Contribution Plan Master Trust and interest from participant notes receivable, as shown in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the year ended December 31, 2025.
- Master trust investment information included in Note 4.
- Schedule H, schedule of assets (held at end of year) as of December 31, 2025.

NOTE 7 - PARTY-IN-INTEREST TRANSACTIONS

Certain Plan investments are shares of mutual funds managed by Fidelity Management and Research Company, which is affiliated with Fidelity as defined by the Plan and, therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest. Usual and customary fees were paid by the mutual funds for the investment management services. In addition, the Plan has arrangements with various service providers and these arrangements qualify as party–in–interest.

NOTE 8 - INVESTMENT CONTRACTS

All plans within the Master Trust hold separately managed fully benefit-responsive stable value investments that hold an assortment of SICs.

A SIC is a wrap contract paired with an underlying investment or investments, usually a portfolio, of high-quality, intermediate-term fixed income securities. Certain funds held by the Master Trust purchase wrapper contracts from financial services institutions. As described in Note 2, because the SICs are fully benefit responsive, contract value is the relevant measurement attribute for that portion of the net assets attributable to the SICs. Contract value, as reported by the trustees, represents contributions made under the contracts, plus earnings, less participant withdrawals and administrative expenses. SICs provide for a variable crediting rate, which typically resets at least quarterly based on the current yield of the underlying investments. The crediting rate is primarily based on the current yield to maturity of the covered investment, plus or minus the differences between the contract value and the market value of the underlying assets supporting the contracts amortized over the duration of each contract. The interest rate cannot be less than zero.

Certain events limit the ability of plans within the Master Trust to transact at contract value with the issuers. Such events include, but may not be limited to, the following: (1) amendments to plan documents (including complete or partial plan termination or merger with another plan); (2) changes to a plan's prohibition on competing investment options or deletion of equity wash provisions; (3) bankruptcy of a plan sponsor or other plan sponsor events (e.g., divestitures or spin-offs of a subsidiary) that cause a significant withdrawal from a plan; or (4) the failure of the Master Trust to qualify for exemption from federal income taxes or any required prohibited transaction exemption under ERISA. The plan administrators of the plans within the Master Trust do not believe that the occurrence of any such value event, which would limit any plan's ability to transact at contract value with participants, is probable.

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES AT END OF YEAR
Form 5500, Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i

Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation
Thrift Plan C

EIN 31-1267098
Plan No. 007

December 31, 2025

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	Fidelity Management Trust Company	Investments in Master Trust	N/A	$ 654,400,039
*	Participant Loans	Notes receivable (at interest rates ranging from 3.25% to 10.50%)	N/A	25,855,708
				$ 680,255,747

* Identifies party-in-interest to the Plan

SCHEDULE OF ASSETS HELD FOR INVESTMENT PURPOSES AT END OF YEAR
Form 5500, Schedule H, Part IV, Line 4i

Cleveland-Cliffs Steel Corporation
Thrift Plan C

EIN 31-1267098
Plan No. 007

December 31, 2025

(a)	(b) Identity of Issue, Borrower, Lessor, or Similar Party	(c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value	(d) Cost	(e) Current Value
*	Fidelity Management Trust Company	Investments in Master Trust	N/A	$ 654,400,039
*	Participant Loans	Notes receivable (at interest rates ranging from 3.25% to 10.50%)	N/A	25,855,708
				$ 680,255,747

* Identifies party-in-interest to the Plan

Form 5500

Department of the Treasury
Internal Revenue Service

Department of Labor
Employee Benefits Security Administration

Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation

Annual Return/Report of Employee Benefit Plan

This form is required to be filed for employee benefit plans under sections 104 and 4065 of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 (ERISA) and sections 6057(b) and 6058(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (the Code).

▶ **Complete all entries in accordance with the instructions to the Form 5500.**

OMB Nos. 1210 - 0110
1210 - 0089

2025

This Form is Open to Public Inspection

Part I Annual Report Identification Information

For calendar plan year 2025 or fiscal plan year beginning 01/01/2025 and ending 12/31/2025

A This return/report is for: ☐ a multiemployer plan ☐ a multiple-employer plan (Filers checking this box must provide participating employer information in accordance with the form instructions.)
☒ a single-employer plan ☐ a DFE (specify) _____

B This return/report is: ☐ the first return/report ☐ the final return/report
☐ an amended return/report ☐ a short plan year return/report (less than 12 months)

C If the plan is a collectively-bargained plan, check here ▶ ☒

D Check box if filing under: ☒ Form 5558 ☐ automatic extension ☐ the DFVC program
☐ special extension (enter description)

E If this is a retroactively adopted plan permitted by SECURE Act section 201, check here ▶ ☐

Part II Basic Plan Information - enter all requested information

1a Name of plan
THE CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION
THRIFT PLAN C

1b Three-digit plan number (PN) ▶ 007

1c Effective date of plan 01/01/1979

2a Plan sponsor's name (employer, if for a single-employer plan)
Mailing address (include room, apt., suite no. and street, or P.O. Box)
City or town, state or province, country, and ZIP or foreign postal code (if foreign, see instructions)
CLEVELAND-CLIFFS STEEL CORPORATION

9227 CENTRE POINTE DRIVE

WEST CHESTER OH 45069

2b Employer Identification Number (EIN) 31-1267098

2c Plan Sponsor's telephone number 513-425-5000

2d Business code (see instructions) 331110

Caution: A penalty for the late or incomplete filing of this return/report will be assessed unless reasonable cause is established.

Under penalties of perjury and other penalties set forth in the instructions, I declare that I have examined this return/report, including accompanying schedules, statements and attachments, as well as the electronic version of this return/report, and to the best of my knowledge and belief, it is true, correct, and complete.

SIGN HERE	Abigail L. Ducharme	10/03/2026	ABIGAIL DUCHARME
	Signature of plan administrator	Date	Enter name of individual signing as plan administrator
SIGN HERE	Abigail L. Ducharme	10/03/2026	ABIGAIL DUCHARME
	Signature of employer/plan sponsor	Date	Enter name of individual signing as employer or plan sponsor
SIGN HERE			
	Signature of DFE	Date	Enter name of individual signing as DFE

For Paperwork Reduction Act Notice, see the Instructions for Form 5500. **Form 5500 (2025) v. 250312**

3a Plan administrator's name and address ☐ Same as Plan Sponsor
CLEVELAND-CLIFFS, INC. INVESTMENT CMTE

9227 CENTRE POINTE DRIVE
WEST CHESTER OH 45069

3b Administrator's EIN
31-1267098

3c Administrator's telephone number
513-425-5000

4 If the name and/or EIN of the plan sponsor or the plan name has changed since the last return/report filed for this plan, enter the plan sponsor's name, EIN, the plan name and the plan number from the last return/report:
a Sponsor's name
c Plan Name

4b EIN
4d PN

5	Total number of participants at the beginning of the plan year	**5**	5,029
6	Number of participants as of the end of the plan year unless otherwise stated (welfare plans complete only lines **6a(1), 6a(2), 6b, 6c,** and **6d**).		
a (1)	Total number of active participants at the beginning of the plan year	**6a(1)**	4,243
a (2)	Total number of active participants at the end of the plan year	**6a(2)**	3,701
b	Retired or separated participants receiving benefits	**6b**	78
c	Other retired or separated participants entitled to future benefits	**6c**	673
d	Subtotal. Add lines **6a(2), 6b,** and **6c**	**6d**	4,452
e	Deceased participants whose beneficiaries are receiving or are entitled to receive benefits	**6e**	22
f	Total. Add lines **6d** and **6e**	**6f**	4,474
g (1)	Number of participants with account balances as of the beginning of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(1)**	4,979
(2)	Number of participants with account balances as of the end of the plan year (only defined contribution plans complete this item)	**6g(2)**	4,428
h	Number of participants who terminated employment during the plan year with accrued benefits that were less than 100% vested	**6h**	45
7	Enter the total number of employers obligated to contribute to the plan (only multiemployer plans complete this item)	**7**	

8a If the plan provides pension benefits, enter the applicable pension feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:
2E 2F 2G 2J 2K 2R 2S 2T 3H

b If the plan provides welfare benefits, enter the applicable welfare feature codes from the List of Plan Characteristic Codes in the instructions:

9a Plan funding arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) ☐ Insurance
(2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) ☒ Trust
(4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor

9b Plan benefit arrangement (check all that apply)
(1) ☐ Insurance
(2) ☐ Code section 412(e)(3) insurance contracts
(3) ☒ Trust
(4) ☐ General assets of the sponsor

10 Check all applicable boxes in 10a and 10b to indicate which schedules are attached, and, where indicated, enter the number attached. (See instructions)

a Pension Schedules
(1) ☒ **R** (Retirement Plan Information)
(2) ☐ **MB** (Multiemployer Defined Benefit Plan and Certain Money Purchase Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
(3) ☐ **SB** (Single-Employer Defined Benefit Plan Actuarial Information) - signed by the plan actuary
(4) ☐ **DCG** (Individual Plan Information) - Number Attached ____
(5) ☐ **MEP** (Multiple-Employer Retirement Plan Information)

b General Schedules
(1) ☒ **H** (Financial Information)
(2) ☐ **I** (Financial Information - Small Plan)
(3) ☐ **A** (Insurance Information) - Number Attached ____
(4) ☒ **C** (Service Provider Information)
(5) ☒ **D** (DFE/Participating Plan Information)
(6) ☐ **G** (Financial Transaction Schedules)

Part III Form M-1 Compliance Information (to be completed by welfare benefit plans)

11a If the plan provides welfare benefits, was the plan subject to the Form M-1 filing requirements during the plan year? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

If "Yes" is checked, complete lines 11b and 11c.

11b Is the plan currently in compliance with the Form M-1 filing requirements? (See instructions and 29 CFR 2520.101-2.) ☐ Yes ☐ No

11c Enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the 2025 Form M-1 annual report. If the plan was not required to file the 2025 Form M-1 annual report, enter the Receipt Confirmation Code for the most recent Form M-1 that was required to be filed under the Form M-1 filing requirements. (Failure to enter a valid Receipt Confirmation Code will subject the Form 5500 filing to rejection as incomplete.)

Receipt Confirmation Code _____