

HECLA MINING CO/DE/
Form 11-K
June 29, 2018
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UNITED STATES

SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Washington, D.C. 20549

FORM 11-K

[X] ANNUAL REPORT PURSUANT TO SECTION 15(d) OF THE
SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934
For the Fiscal Year Ended December 31, 2017

Commission File No. 1-8491

A. Full title of the plan and the address of the plan, if different from that of the issuer named below:

HECLA MINING COMPANY CAPITAL ACCUMULATION PLAN

B. Name of issuer of the securities held pursuant to the plan and the address of its principal executive office:

Hecla Mining Company

6500 North Mineral Drive, Suite 200

Coeur d'Alene, ID 83815-9408

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REQUIRED INFORMATION

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| <u>Schedules I, II and III have been omitted as provided under SEC Release No. 33-6867.</u> | |
| (b) Exhibits: | |
| 23 <u>Consent of BDO USA, LLP to incorporation by reference of their report dated June 29, 2018, on the audit of the financial statements of the Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan.</u> | F-17 |

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SIGNATURES

Pursuant to the requirements of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, the members of the Administrative Committee of the Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan have duly caused this annual report to be signed on its behalf by the undersigned hereunto duly authorized.

HECLA MINING COMPANY CAPITAL ACCUMULATION PLAN

By: /s/ Lindsay A. Hall
Lindsay A. Hall, Senior Vice President
and Chief Financial Officer

Date: June 29, 2018

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Report of Independent Registered Public Accounting Firm

Plan Administrator and Participants

Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan

Coeur D'Alene, Idaho

Opinion on the Financial Statements

We have audited the accompanying statements of net assets available for benefits of the Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan 401(k) Plan (the "Plan") as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, the related statement of changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, and the related notes (collectively, the "financial statements"). In our opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the net assets available for benefits of the Plan as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the changes in net assets available for benefits for the years then ended, in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Basis for Opinion

These financial statements are the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our responsibility is to express an opinion on the Plan's financial statements based on our audits. We are a public accounting firm registered with the Public Company Accounting Oversight Board (United States) ("PCAOB") and are required to be independent with respect to the Plan in accordance with the U.S. federal securities laws and the applicable rules and regulations of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the PCAOB.

We conducted our audits in accordance with the standards of the PCAOB. Those standards require that we plan and perform the audit to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements are free of material misstatement, whether due to error or fraud. The Plan is not required to have, nor were we engaged to perform, an audit of its internal control over financial reporting. As part of our audits we are required to obtain an understanding of internal control over financial reporting but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the Plan's internal control over financial reporting. Accordingly, we express no such opinion.

Our audits included performing procedures to assess the risk of material misstatement of the financial statements, whether due to error or fraud, and performing procedures that respond to those risks. Such procedures included

examining, on a test basis, evidence regarding the amounts and disclosures in the financial statements. Our audits also included evaluating the accounting principles used and significant estimates made by the Plan's management, as well as evaluating the overall presentation of the financial statements. We believe that our audits provide a reasonable basis for our opinion.

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Supplemental Information

The supplemental information in the accompanying schedule of Schedule H, Line 4i Schedule of Assets (Held at End of Year) as of December 31, 2017 has been subjected to audit procedures performed in conjunction with the audit of the Plan's financial statements. The supplemental information is presented for the purpose of additional analysis and is not a required part of the financial statements but included supplemental information required by the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. The supplemental information is the responsibility of the Plan's management. Our audit procedures included determining whether the supplemental information reconciles to the financial statements or the underlying accounting and other records, as applicable, and performing procedures to test the completeness and accuracy of the information presented in the supplemental information. In forming our opinion on the supplemental information, we evaluated whether the supplemental information, including its form and content, is presented in conformity with the Department of Labor's Rules and Regulations for Reporting and Disclosure under the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974. In our opinion, the supplemental information is fairly stated, in all material respects, in relation to the financial statements as a whole.

/s/ BDO USA, LLP

We have served as the Plan's auditor since 2002.

Spokane, Washington

June 29, 2018

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Table of Contents**Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan****Statements of Net Assets Available for Benefits**

| <i>December 31,</i> | 2017 | 2016 |
|---|---------------------|--------------|
| Assets | | |
| Investments, at Fair Value | | |
| Money market fund | \$5,163,997 | \$7,138,322 |
| Mutual funds | 81,855,260 | 69,791,939 |
| Common stock of Hecla Mining Company, including money market funds of \$35,762 and \$34,378 | 9,643,514 | 10,490,016 |
| Total Investments | 96,662,771 | 87,420,277 |
| Receivables | | |
| Employer contributions | 893,844 | 800,786 |
| Notes due from participants | 2,284,266 | 2,249,333 |
| Total Receivables | 3,178,110 | 3,050,119 |
| Net Assets Available for Benefits | \$99,840,881 | \$90,470,396 |

See accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes to financial statements.

Table of Contents**Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan****Statements of Changes in Net Assets Available for Benefits**

| <i>Years ended December 31,</i> | 2017 | 2016 |
|--|---------------------|--------------|
| Investment Income | | |
| Interest income – money market | \$49,156 | \$28,208 |
| Dividend income | 2,498,592 | 2,113,892 |
| Net appreciation in fair value of investments | 6,976,850 | 13,014,187 |
| Total Investment Income | 9,524,598 | 15,156,287 |
| Interest Income from Notes Due from Participants | 103,474 | 93,179 |
| Contributions | | |
| Participants | 5,887,356 | 5,656,673 |
| Employer matching | 3,644,270 | 3,497,422 |
| Rollovers | 573,973 | 1,425,857 |
| Assets Transferred In | - | 160,740 |
| Total Additions to Net Assets | 19,733,671 | 25,990,158 |
| Deductions | | |
| Distributions to participants | (10,351,782) | (7,145,935) |
| Other deductions | (1,784) | (4,802) |
| Administrative expenses | (9,620) | (14,901) |
| Net increase in net assets available for benefits | 9,370,485 | 18,824,520 |
| Net Assets Available for Benefits | | |
| Beginning of year | 90,470,396 | 71,645,876 |
| End of year | \$99,840,881 | \$90,470,396 |

See accompanying summary of significant accounting policies and notes to financial statements.

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Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

1. Summary of Accounting Policies

Basis of Accounting

The Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan (“Plan”) financial statements are presented on the accrual basis of accounting in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America.

Investment Valuation and Income Recognition

Investments in mutual funds and money market funds are reported at quoted market value for the number of shares held by the Plan at year-end. The Hecla Mining Company common stock fund is valued through a combination of quoted market price of the stock, per the New York Stock Exchange, and the valuation of cash equivalents held in the Plan through the use of models or other valuation methodologies.

The Plan presents in the statement of changes in net assets available for benefits the net appreciation or depreciation in the fair value of its investments, which consists of the realized gains or losses and the unrealized appreciation or depreciation on those investments. Purchases and sales of securities are recorded on a trade-date basis. Interest income is recorded on the accrual basis. Dividends are recorded on the ex-dividend date.

Notes Due from Participants

Notes due from participants are valued at their unpaid principal balance plus accrued interest. The Plan considers all notes receivable from participants at the end of a calendar quarter, following a calendar quarter for which there is any outstanding payment due, as in default. Defaulted notes receivable from participants are deemed distributed and recorded as benefits paid to participants in the statements of changes in net assets available for benefit.

Payment of Benefits

Benefits are recorded when paid.

Use of Estimates

The preparation of financial statements in conformity with accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America requires management to make estimates and assumptions that affect the reported amounts of net assets available for benefits and changes therein, and disclosures of contingent assets and liabilities. Actual results could differ materially from those estimates.

Risks and Uncertainties

The Plan invests in funds that invest in a combination of stocks, bonds, fixed income securities and other investment securities. Investment securities are exposed to various risks, such as interest rate, market and credit. Due to the level of risk associated with certain investment securities and the level of uncertainty related to changes in the value of investment securities, it is at least reasonably possible that changes in risks in the near term would materially affect participants' account balances and the amounts reported in the statements of net assets available for benefits and the statements of changes in net assets available for benefits.

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Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

The fair value of the Plan's investment in Hecla Mining Company common stock fund amounted to \$9,643,514 and \$10,490,016 as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. Such investments represented 9.7% and 11.6% of the Plan's total net assets available for Plan benefits as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. For risks and uncertainties regarding Hecla Mining Company, participants should refer to the December 31, 2017, Form 10-K of Hecla Mining Company filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission.

2. Description of Plan

The following descriptions and disclosures about the Plan provide only general information. Participants should refer to the most recent version of the summary Plan description and the Plan document for a more complete description of its provisions.

General

The Plan is a defined contribution plan, which originally became effective on January 1, 1986. The Plan provides for incentive savings through investments, which qualify under the Internal Revenue Service of the United States of America ("IRS") code section 401(a) for tax deferral status. The Plan is subject to the provisions of the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 ("ERISA"), as amended.

Eligible Employees

All salaried and substantially all non-union hourly employees of Hecla Mining Company (the "Company"), and its subsidiaries, who are residents of the United States are immediately eligible to enroll in the plan upon employment. Non-resident aliens that have no earned income from the Company within the U.S., hourly employees at the Company's Lucky Friday Mine who are included in the United Steelworkers of America Local 5114, and employees engaged through lease arrangements are not allowed to participate in the Plan.

Contributions

The Plan allows eligible employees to contribute from 1% to 50% of their compensation. Employees who do not affirmatively specify their instructions with regard to participation in the Plan will automatically have 3% of their compensation reduced for contribution. Total pre-tax contributions may not exceed \$18,000 for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. Participants who have attained age 50 before the end of the Plan year are eligible to make catch-up contributions not to exceed \$6,000 for the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively. Contributions may be suspended at any time upon thirty days written notice by the participant, with reinstatement and changes in suspended contributions effective for the following payroll period. Participants may also contribute amounts to the Plan previously contributed to another qualified plan.

The Company makes matching contributions equal to 100% of deferred contributions, up to 6% of the participant's compensation. The Company restated the Plan to allow for payment of matching contributions to be made in shares of the Company's common stock on a quarterly basis. Upon payment of matching contributions in common stock by the Company, the common stock is converted to shares of the Hecla Common Stock Fund in each eligible participant's account having value equal to their matching contribution. The number of shares of the Company's common stock paid for matching contributions and the conversion to shares of Hecla Common Stock Fund are each based on the closing prices on a day during the first week following the quarter end. The specific day used for each depends on the timing of processing. Upon receipt, participants may reallocate their investment in the Hecla Common Stock Fund into the other investment options offered by the Plan, subject to customary blackout restrictions as applicable. The Company made \$3,644,270 and \$3,497,422 of non-cash employer matching contributions during the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, respectively.

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Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

The Company may also make a discretionary profit sharing contribution for any plan year. For the years ended December 31, 2017 and 2016, the Company did not make any discretionary profit sharing contributions.

Participant Accounts

Individual accounts are maintained for each participant. Each participant's account is credited with the participant's contribution, employer's matching contribution, earnings within the Plan and an allocation of the Company's discretionary profit-sharing contribution, if any. Allocations of the Company's contribution and plan earnings are based on participant account balances, as defined in the Plan document. The participant's benefit is limited to the benefit that has accumulated in the participant's account. Participants may direct

the investment of their account balances into the investment options offered by the Plan. Currently, the Plan offers twenty-two investment options for participants. Participants may elect to change the amounts invested in any one or all of the individual options at any time.

Vesting

Participant contributions and the Company's matching and discretionary contributions are 100% vested at all times.

Payment of Benefits

Distributions are made upon termination of employment, death, disability or retirement. When terminated, participants receive a notice of options with regards to their account approximately 30 days from the date of termination. Participants or their beneficiaries receive payment of benefits as follows: (a) balances of less than \$1,000 in cases in which the participant or beneficiary did not take alternative action are distributed as a cash payment, (b) balances of between \$1,000 and \$5,000 in cases in which the participant or beneficiary did not take alternative

action are automatically rolled over into an Individual Retirement Account, or (c) balances greater than \$5,000 may be kept in the Plan until a determined distribution date, rolled over, or distributed in installments, as opted by the participant or beneficiary.

Withdrawals from the Plan may also be made upon circumstances of financial hardship or termination of the Plan, in accordance with provisions specified in the Plan. A participant's contributions are suspended for six months after receipt of a withdrawal made upon circumstances of financial hardship.

Notes Due from Participants

Participants may borrow from their fund accounts a minimum of \$1,000 up to a maximum equal to the lesser of (a) \$50,000, minus the highest outstanding loan balance or balances, if any, the participant had at any one time during the one-year period ending immediately before the date of the new loan, or (b) 50% of their account balance. The loans are secured by the balance in the participant's account and bear interest at a rate commensurate with prevailing rates as

determined by the Plan administrator, which currently range from 4.25% to 5.25%. Principal and interest are repaid ratably through payroll deductions over periods ranging up to 5 years, unless the loan is for the purchase of the participant's principal residence, in which case the Plan Administrator may permit a longer repayment term up to 15 years. Each participant may have up to, but no more than, two notes outstanding at any one time.

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Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

***Administrative
Expenses***

Administrative expenses are paid from Plan assets.

3. Investments

All of the Plan's assets are managed and held by Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, the Trustee, which operates under the direction of certain officers of the Company.

Participants may invest in one or more of the various mutual funds, money market funds, and the Hecla Mining Company common stock fund sponsored by the Trustee.

**4. Plan
Termination**

Although it has not expressed intent 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 of ERISA. All assets remaining in the Plan after payment of any expenses properly chargeable against the Plan shall be paid to participants in such a manner as the Plan Administrator shall determine.

5. Party-in-Interest Transactions

Certain Plan investments are shares of mutual funds managed by Vanguard Fiduciary Trust Company, the trustee, and therefore, these transactions qualify as party-in-interest transactions. Certain Plan investments are shares of Hecla Mining Company common stock; therefore, these transactions also qualify as party-in-interest transactions.

6. Income Tax Status

The Plan received a Determination Letter from the IRS dated March 31, 2008, informing it that the Plan and related trust is qualified and exempt under

Section 401(a) of the Internal Revenue Code (“IRC”). The Plan has been amended since receiving the determination letter; however, management of the Company and the Plan Administrator believe the Plan is designed, and is currently being operated, in compliance with the applicable requirements of the IRC. Therefore, the Company and the Plan Administrator believe that the Plan is qualified, and the related trust is tax-exempt.

Accounting principles generally accepted in the United States of America require Plan management to evaluate tax positions taken by the Plan and recognize a tax liability if the Plan has taken an uncertain position that more likely than not would not be sustained upon examination by the IRS. The Plan Administrator has analyzed the tax positions taken by the Plan, and has concluded that as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, there are

no uncertain
positions taken or
expected to be taken
that would require
recognition of a
liability or disclosure
in the
financial statements.
The Plan is subject
to routine audits by
taxing jurisdictions;
however, there are
currently no audits
for any tax periods in
progress. The Plan
Administrator
believes it is
no longer subject to
income tax
examinations for
years prior to the
Plan year ended
December 31, 2014.

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Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan

Notes to Financial Statements

**7. Fair Value
Measurement**

The Plan utilizes a fair value hierarchy that gives the highest priority to unadjusted quoted prices in active markets for identical assets and liabilities (level 1 measurements) and the lowest priority to unobservable inputs (level 3 measurements). The three levels of the fair value hierarchy are described below:

Level 1: Unadjusted quoted prices in active markets that are accessible at the measurement date for identical, unrestricted net assets and liabilities;

Level 2: Quoted prices in markets that are not considered to be active or financial instruments for which all significant inputs are

observable, either directly or indirectly;

Level 3: Prices or valuations that require inputs that are both significant to the fair value measurement and unobservable.

The following is a description of the valuation methodologies used for Plan assets, as well as the general classification of such items pursuant to the fair value hierarchy:

Money Market Fund—The fair values of the Money Market Funds are determined by the quoted share price on active markets as of the last day of the plan year and are included in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

Mutual Funds—The fair values of the Mutual Funds are determined by the quoted share price on active markets as of the last day of the plan year and are included in Level 1 of the fair value hierarchy.

Common Stock of Hecla Mining Company, including

Money Market

Funds—The fair value of the Hecla Common Stock Fund is determined through a combination of the quoted share price on an active market for the common stock of Hecla Mining Company and the valuation of cash equivalents held in the fund through the use of models or other valuation methodologies. The Hecla Common Stock Fund is included in Level 2 of the fair value hierarchy.

There have been no changes in the methodology used at December 31, 2017 and 2016. The Plan held no assets as of December 31, 2017 and 2016 included in Level 3 of the fair value hierarchy.

Table of Contents**Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan****Notes to Financial Statements**

The tables below set forth the Plan's assets that were accounted for at fair value as of December 31, 2017 and 2016, and the fair value calculation input hierarchy level that applies to each asset category.

| Description | Balance at December 31, 2017 | Quoted prices in active market for identical assets (Level 1) | Significant other observable inputs (Level 2) |
|---------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|---|
| | | | |
| Mutual Funds | \$81,855,260 | \$81,855,260 | \$— |
| Money Market Funds | 5,163,997 | 5,163,997 | — |

| | | | |
|--|---------------------|---------------------|--------------------|
| Common Stock-Hecla Mining Company | 9,643,514 | — | 9,643,514 |
| Total | \$96,662,771 | \$87,019,257 | \$9,643,514 |

| Description | Balance at December 31, 2016 | Quoted prices in active market for identical assets (Level 1) | Significant other observable inputs (Level 2) |
|--|---|--|--|
| Mutual Funds | \$69,791,939 | \$69,791,939 | \$— |
| Money Market Funds | 7,138,322 | 7,138,322 | — |
| Common Stock-Hecla Mining Company | 10,490,016 | — | 10,490,016 |
| Total | \$87,420,277 | \$76,930,261 | \$10,490,016 |

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Supplemental Schedule

Table of Contents**Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan****Schedule H, Line 4i Schedule of Assets (As of December 31, 2017)**

| | | EIN: 77-0664171 Plan Number: 004 Form: 5500 |
|---|--|--|
| (b) Identity of Issuer, Borrower, (a) Lessor or Similar Party | (c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value | (e) (d) Current Cost Value |
| Artisan International Fund | Mutual fund consisting of 58,401 shares | **\$1,946,525 |
| American Funds Growth Fund of America | Mutual fund consisting of 72,440 shares | **\$3,556,806 |
| Third Avenue Small-Cap Value Fund | Mutual fund consisting of 30,597 shares | **\$636,425 |
| * Vanguard 500 Index Fund | Mutual fund consisting of 16,610 shares | **\$4,099,629 |
| * Vanguard Growth and Income Fund | Mutual fund consisting of 86,638 shares | **\$4,092,791 |
| * Vanguard Federal Money Market Fund | Cash equivalent at various int. rates averaging 0.01% in 2017 | **\$5,163,997 |
| * Vanguard Strategic Equity Fund | Mutual fund consisting of 88,105 shares | **\$2,992,910 |
| * Vanguard Total Bond Market Index Fund | Mutual fund consisting of 175,861 shares | **\$1,890,502 |
| * Vanguard Target Retirement 2015 Fund | Mutual fund consisting of 180,582 shares | **\$2,768,330 |
| * Vanguard Target Retirement 2020 Fund | Mutual fund consisting of 245,380 shares | **\$7,700,014 |
| * Vanguard Target Retirement 2025 Fund | Mutual fund consisting of 843,400 shares | **\$15,602,905 |

| | |
|---|---------------|
| * Vanguard Target Retirement 2030 Fund Mutual fund consisting of 259,738 shares | **\$8,734,985 |
| * Vanguard Target Retirement 2035 Fund Mutual fund consisting of 413,812 shares | **\$8,561,775 |
| * Vanguard Target Retirement 2040 Fund Mutual fund consisting of 127,624 shares | **\$4,565,120 |
| * Vanguard Target Retirement 2045 Fund Mutual fund consisting of 227,109 shares | **\$5,109,951 |
| * Vanguard Target Retirement 2050 Fund Mutual fund consisting of 132,123 shares | **\$4,782,864 |
| * Vanguard Target Retirement 2055 Fund Mutual fund consisting of 22,581 shares | **\$ 885,862 |
| * Vanguard Target Retirement 2060 Fund Mutual fund consisting of 7,139 shares | **\$247,304 |

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Table of Contents**Hecla Mining Company Capital Accumulation Plan****Schedule H, Line 4i Schedule of Assets (As of December 31, 2017)**

| | | EIN: 77-0664171 Plan Number: 004 Form: 5500 | |
|--|--|--|-------------------|
| (a) Lessor or Similar Party | (b) Identity of Issuer, Borrower, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value | (c) Description of Investment Including Maturity Date, Rate of Interest, Collateral, Par or Maturity Value | (d) Current Cost |
| | | | (e) Current Value |
| * Vanguard Target Retirement 2065 Fund | Mutual fund consisting of 188 shares | | ** \$ 4,087 |
| * Vanguard Windsor II Fund | Mutual fund consisting of 40,927 shares | | ** \$ 1,548,269 |
| * Vanguard Target Retirement Income | Mutual fund consisting of 157,063 shares | | ** \$ 2,128,206 |
| * Hecla Mining Company Common Stock Fund | Common stock of the Company consisting of 2,421,155 shares, par value of \$0.25 | | ** \$ 9,643,514 |
| * Notes due from Participants | 274 loans from participants with interest rates ranging from 4.25% to 5.25% maturing through August 2032 | | ** \$ 2,284,266 |

* Represents party-in-interest to the Plan

** The cost of participant directed investments is not required to be disclosed.