

HECLA MINING CO/DE/
Form DEFA14A
May 09, 2005

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

SCHEDULE 14A

**Proxy Statement Pursuant to Section 14(a) of the
Securities Exchange Act of 1934**

Filed by the registrant
Filed by a party other than the registrant

Check the appropriate box:

- Preliminary Proxy Statement
- Confidential, for Use of the Commission Only (as permitted by Rule 14a-6(e)(2))
- Definitive Proxy Statement
- Definitive Additional Materials
- Soliciting Material Under Section 240.14a-12

HECLA MINING COMPANY

(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

N/A

(Name of Person(s) Filing Proxy Statement if other than the Registrant)

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

- No fee required
 - Fee computed on table below per Exchange Act Rules 14a-6(i)(1) and 0-11.
 - (1) Title of each class of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (2) Aggregate number of securities to which transaction applies:
 - (3) Per unit price or other underlying value of transaction computed pursuant to Exchange Act Rule 0-11 (Set forth the amount on which the filing fee is calculated and state how it was determined):
 - (4) Proposed maximum aggregate value of transaction:
 - (5) Total fee paid:
 - Fee paid previously with preliminary materials.
 - Check box if any part of the fee is offset as provided by Exchange Act Rule 0-11(a)(2) and identify the filing for which the offsetting fee was paid previously. Identify the previous filing by registration statement number, or the Form or Schedule and the date of its filing.
 - (1) Amount Previously Paid:
 - (2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - (3) Filing Party:
 - (4) Date Filed:
-

HECLA MINING COMPANY

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**NOTICE TO HOLDERS OF
SERIES B CONVERTIBLE PREFERRED STOCK
OF HECLA MINING COMPANY**

The Board of Directors of Hecla Mining Company declared and set apart for payment all preferred stock dividends in arrears prior to the annual meeting of shareholders on May 6, 2005, and, in accordance with the Certificate of Designation for the preferred stock, the two directors elected by holders of preferred stock were no longer in office, and no election of their successors by preferred stockholders was appropriate. Therefore, the prior determination to adjourn the preferred stock election of directors until June 1, 2005 was not carried out.

The dividend in arrears to holders of Preferred B Stock is in the amount of \$14.875 per share as well as the regular quarterly dividend in the amount of \$0.875 per share, will be payable on July 1, 2005, to shareholders of record as of June 16, 2005. Because the dividend amounts to more than 20% of the current share price of the preferred stock, the New York Stock Exchange has determined the ex-dividend date for both dividends will be July 5, 2005, the first business day following the payable date. Hecla Preferred B shareholders who subsequently sell their shares of preferred stock through the payable date for the dividend in arrears will also be selling their right to receive the dividend. Shareholders are encouraged to consult with their financial advisor regarding the specific implications of the deferral of the ex-dividend date.

Mr. David Christensen and Dr. Anthony Taylor, the two directors previously elected by preferred stockholders, were added to the Board of Directors after the annual meeting of shareholders by action of the Board of Directors to serve until the annual meeting in 2008.

HECLA MINING COMPANY

Michael B. White
Corporate Secretary

May 9, 2005
