

NL INDUSTRIES INC
Form DEF 14A
April 04, 2013

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 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 Pursuant to § 240.14a-12

NL Industries, Inc.
(Name of Registrant as Specified in Its Charter)

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

Payment of Filing Fee (Check the appropriate box):

No fee required.

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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:

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- 1) Amount Previously Paid:
 - 2) Form, Schedule or Registration Statement No.:
 - 3) Filing Party:
 - 4) Date Filed:
-

April 4, 2013

To our Shareholders:

You are cordially invited to attend the 2013 annual meeting of shareholders of NL Industries, Inc., which will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at our corporate offices at Three Lincoln Centre, 5430 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1700, Dallas, Texas. The matters to be acted upon at the meeting are described in the attached notice of annual meeting of shareholders and proxy statement.

Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, please cast your vote as instructed on your proxy card or notice of internet availability of proxy materials as promptly as possible to ensure that your shares are represented and voted in accordance with your wishes. Your vote, whether given by proxy or in person at the meeting, will be held in confidence by the inspector of election as provided in our by-laws.

Sincerely,

Harold C. Simmons
Chairman of the Board and
Chief Executive Officer

NL Industries, Inc.
Three Lincoln Centre
5430 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1700
Dallas, Texas 75240-2697

NOTICE OF ANNUAL MEETING OF SHAREHOLDERS

To Be Held May 15, 2013

To the Shareholders of NL Industries, Inc.:

The 2013 annual meeting of shareholders of NL Industries, Inc. will be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013, at 10:00 a.m., local time, at our corporate offices at Three Lincoln Centre, 5430 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1700, Dallas, Texas, for the following purposes:

1. to elect the five director nominees named in the proxy statement to serve until the 2014 annual meeting of shareholders;
2. to approve on an advisory basis our named executive officer compensation; and
3. to transact such other business as may properly come before the meeting or any adjournment or postponement thereof.

The close of business on March 18, 2013 has been set as the record date for the meeting. Only holders of our common stock at the close of business on the record date are entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. A complete list of shareholders entitled to vote at the meeting will be available for examination during normal business hours by any of our shareholders, for purposes related to the meeting, for a period of ten days prior to the meeting at our corporate offices.

You are cordially invited to attend the meeting. Whether or not you plan to attend the meeting, please cast your vote as instructed on the proxy card or notice of internet availability of proxy materials as promptly as possible to ensure that your shares are represented and voted in accordance with your wishes.

By Order of the Board of Directors,

A. Andrew R. Louis, Secretary

Dallas, Texas
April 4, 2013

Important Notice Regarding the Availability of Proxy Materials for the
Annual Shareholder Meeting to Be Held on May 15, 2013.

The proxy statement and annual report to shareholders (including NL's Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012) are available at www.nl-ind.com/annualmeeting.

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IN MEMORY OF GLENN R. SIMMONS

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GLOSSARY OF TERMS

“brokerage firm or other nominee” means a brokerage firm or other nominee such as a banking institution, custodian, trustee or fiduciary (other than our transfer agent, Computershare) through which a shareholder holds its shares of our common stock.

broker/nominee non-vote” means a non-vote by a brokerage firm or other nominee for shares held for a client’s account for which the brokerage firm or other nominee does not have discretionary authority to vote on a particular matter and has not received instructions from the client.

“CDCT” means the Contran Amended and Restated Deferred Compensation Trust, an irrevocable “rabbi trust” established by Contran to assist it in meeting certain deferred compensation obligations that it owes to Harold C. Simmons.

“Computershare” means Computershare Trust Company, N.A., our stock transfer agent and registrar.

“CompX” means CompX International Inc., our publicly held subsidiary that manufactures security products and performance marine components.

“Contran” means Contran Corporation, the parent corporation of our consolidated tax group.

“Dixie Rice” means Dixie Rice Agricultural Corporation, Inc., one of our parent corporations.

“EWI” means EWI RE, Inc., a reinsurance brokerage and risk management corporation wholly owned by us.

“Foundation” means the Harold Simmons Foundation, Inc., a tax-exempt foundation organized for charitable purposes.

“Grandchildren’s Trust” means The Annette Simmons Grandchildren’s Trust, a trust of which Harold C. Simmons and his wife, Annette C. Simmons, are co-trustees and the beneficiaries of which are the grandchildren of Annette C. Simmons.

“independent directors” means the following directors: Cecil H. Moore, Jr., Thomas P. Stafford and Terry N. Worrell.

“ISA” means an intercorporate services agreement between Contran and a related company pursuant to which employees of Contran provide certain services, including executive officer services, to such related company on an annual fixed fee basis.

“Keystone” means Keystone Consolidated Industries, Inc., one of our publicly held sister corporations that manufactures steel fabricated wire products, industrial wire, bar products, billets and wire rod.

“Kronos Worldwide” means Kronos Worldwide, Inc., a publicly held international manufacturer of titanium dioxide products in which we have a significant investment and that we account for on our financial statements using the equity method.

“named executive officer” means any person named in the 2012 Summary Compensation Table in this proxy statement.

“NL,” “us,” “we” or “our” means NL Industries, Inc.

“NYSE” means the New York Stock Exchange.

“PwC” means PricewaterhouseCoopers LLP, our independent registered public accounting firm.

“record date” means the close of business on March 18, 2013, the date our board of directors set for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the 2013 annual meeting of our shareholders.

“Say-on-Pay” means the second proposal in this proxy statement for a nonbinding advisory vote for the consideration of our shareholders to approve the compensation of our named executive officers as such proposal is described and as such compensation is disclosed in this proxy statement.

“SEC” means the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission.

“Securities Exchange Act” means the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, as amended.

“shareholder of record” means a shareholder of our common stock who holds shares directly (either in certificate or electronic form) in its name with our transfer agent, Computershare.

“Tall Pines” means Tall Pines Insurance Company, an indirect wholly owned captive insurance subsidiary of Valhi.

“TFMC” means TIMET Finance Management Company, a wholly owned subsidiary of TIMET.

“TIMET” means Titanium Metals Corporation, a former publicly held sister corporation of ours of which Precision Castparts Corp. (NYSE: PCP) purchased control on December 20, 2012 in a tender offer and subsequently on January 7, 2013 became a wholly owned subsidiary of Precision Castparts Corp.

“Valhi” means Valhi, Inc., our publicly held parent corporation that is a diversified holding company with significant investments in us and Kronos Worldwide.

“VHC” means Valhi Holding Company, one of our parent corporations.

NL Industries, Inc.
Three Lincoln Centre
5430 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1700
Dallas, Texas 75240-2697

PROXY STATEMENT

GENERAL INFORMATION

We are providing this proxy statement in connection with the solicitation of proxies by and on behalf of our board of directors for use at our 2013 annual meeting of shareholders to be held on Wednesday, May 15, 2013, and at any adjournment or postponement of the meeting. We are furnishing our proxy materials to holders of our common stock as of the close of business on March 18, 2013. We began distributing a notice of internet availability of our proxy materials on or about April 4, 2013 to the holders of our common stock who hold their shares through a brokerage firm or other nominee (such as a banking institution, custodian, trustee or fiduciary) and not through our transfer agent, Computershare. We will begin mailing our proxy materials to the record holders of our common stock (shares held directly with Computershare and not through a broker or other nominee) on or about April 8, 2013. The proxy materials include:

- the accompanying notice of the 2013 annual meeting of shareholders;
- this proxy statement;
- our 2012 Annual Report to Shareholders, which includes our Annual Report on Form 10-K for the fiscal year ended December 31, 2012; and
- the proxy card (or voting instruction form if you hold your shares through a brokerage firm or other nominee and not through our transfer agent, Computershare).

We are furnishing our 2012 annual report to all of our shareholders entitled to vote at the 2013 annual meeting. We are not incorporating the 2012 annual report into this proxy statement and you should not consider the annual report as proxy solicitation material. The accompanying notice of annual meeting of shareholders sets forth the time, place and purposes of the meeting. Our principal executive offices are located at Three Lincoln Centre, 5430 LBJ Freeway, Suite 1700, Dallas, Texas 75240-2697.

Please refer to the Glossary of Terms on page ii for the definitions of certain terms used in this proxy statement.

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS ABOUT THE ANNUAL MEETING

Q: What is the purpose of the annual meeting?

A: At the annual meeting, shareholders will vote on the following, as described in this proxy statement:

- Proposal 1 – the election of the five director nominees named in this proxy statement;
-

Proposal 2 –the adoption of a nonbinding advisory resolution that approves the named executive officer compensation described in this proxy statement (Say-on-Pay).

In addition, shareholders will vote on any other matter that may properly come before the meeting.

Q: How does the board recommend that I vote?

A: The board of directors recommends that you vote FOR:

- each of the nominees for director named in this proxy statement; and
- the approval and adoption of proposal 2 (Say-on-Pay).

Q: Who is allowed to vote at the annual meeting?

A: The board of directors has set the close of business on March 18, 2013 as the record date for the determination of shareholders entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting. Only holders of our common stock as of the close of business on the record date are entitled to vote at the meeting. On the record date, 48,668,884 shares of our common stock were issued and outstanding. Each share of our common stock entitles its holder to one vote.

Q: If I hold my shares through a brokerage firm or other nominee, why did I receive a notice regarding the internet availability of proxy materials instead of paper copies of the proxy materials?

A: We are using the SEC notice and access rules to furnish proxy materials over the internet to our shareholders who hold our common stock through a brokerage firm or other nominee. If you hold your shares through a brokerage firm or other nominee, you can find instructions on how to access and review the proxy materials, and how to vote over the internet, on the notice of internet availability of proxy materials that you received. The notice also contains instructions on how you can receive a paper copy of this proxy statement, our 2012 annual report to shareholders and a voting instruction form.

Q: If I hold my shares through a brokerage firm or other nominee, how may I vote in person at the annual meeting?

A: If you wish to vote in person at the annual meeting, you will need to follow the instructions on your notice of internet availability of proxy materials on how to obtain the appropriate documents to vote in person at the meeting.

Q: How do I vote if I am a shareholder of record?

A: If you hold shares of our common stock directly (either in certificate or electronic form) with our transfer agent, Computershare, rather than through a brokerage firm or other nominee, you are a shareholder of record. As a shareholder of record, you may:

- vote over the internet at www.investorvote.com/NL;
- vote by telephone using the voting procedures set forth on your proxy card;
- instruct the agents named on your proxy card how to vote your shares by completing, signing and mailing the enclosed proxy card in the envelope provided; or
- vote in person at the annual meeting.

Q: What are the consequences if I am a shareholder of record and I execute my proxy card but do not indicate how I would like my shares voted for one or more of the director nominees named in this proxy statement or proposal 2 (Say-on-Pay)?

A:

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If you are a shareholder of record (and not a brokerage firm or other nominee), the agents named on your proxy card will vote your shares on such uninstructed nominee or proposal as recommended by the board of directors in this proxy statement.

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