

Executive Order 13817: A Federal Strategy to Ensure Secure and Reliable Supplies of Critical Minerals

CDR William Mowitt, Deputy Director

Tenth Meeting

Ocean Exploration Advisory Board

Washington D.C.

May 16-17, 2018

Background

- On December 20, 2017, President Trump issued Executive Order 13817 to reduce the Nation's vulnerability to disruptions in the supply of critical minerals. The Order called for two reports.
- Department of Interior published list of critical minerals on February 16, 2018.
- Department of Commerce charged with developing implementation strategy, due August 15, 2018.
- White House Office of Science and Technology Policy is coordinating interagency response.

Critical Minerals

- Aluminum (bauxite), **antimony**, arsenic, **barite**, beryllium, bismuth, cesium, **chromium**, **cobalt**, fluorspar, gallium, germanium, graphite (natural), hafnium, helium, indium, lithium, magnesium, **manganese**, niobium, **platinum** group metals, **potash**, **rare earth elements** group, rhenium, rubidium, scandium, strontium, tantalum, tellurium, **tin**, **titanium**, tungsten, uranium, vanadium, and **zirconium**.

EO 13817 Policy

- Sec. 3. Policy. It shall be the policy of the Federal Government to reduce the Nation's vulnerability to disruptions in the supply of critical minerals, which constitutes a strategic vulnerability for the security and prosperity of the United States. The United States will further this policy for the benefit of the American people and in a safe and environmentally responsible manner, by:
 - a) identifying new sources of critical minerals;
 - b) increasing activity at all levels of the supply chain, including exploration, mining, concentration, separation, alloying, recycling, and reprocessing critical minerals;
 - c) **ensuring that our miners and producers have electronic access to the most advanced topographic, geologic, and geophysical data within U.S. territory** to the extent permitted by law and subject to appropriate limitations for purposes of privacy and security, including appropriate limitations to protect critical infrastructure data such as those related to national security areas; and
 - d) Start streamlining leasing and permitting processes to expedite exploration, production, processing, reprocessing, recycling, and domestic refining of critical minerals.

Implementation Strategy (under development)

- A strategy to reduce the nation's reliance on critical minerals (Lead: All Relevant Agencies)
- An assessment of critical minerals recycling and reprocessing technologies and alternatives (Lead: Department of Energy)
- Options for accessing and developing critical minerals via investment and trade with allies (Lead: USTR)
- **Plan to improve mapping of the U.S. to support private sector critical mineral exploration** (Lead: United States Geological Survey)
- Recommendations to streamline permitting processes to expedite critical mineral activity (Lead: Bureau of Land Management)

Potential Collaboration Models

- Current ECS mapping and characterization
- 1980's NOAA-USGS Joint Office for Mapping and Research (JOMAR)



William.mowitt@noaa.gov



OceanExplorer.NOAA.gov



**Ocean Exploration
and Research**