

Critical Minerals Supply Chain

GUIRR Volunteers: _____

Collaborators: John Voeller, Black & Veatch; Steven Duclos, General Electric

PROPOSED NEW PROJECT:

Legislation has recently been introduced in the United States Senate to “facilitate the reestablishment of domestic, critical mineral designation, assessment, production, manufacturing, recycling, analysis, forecasting, workforce, education, research, and international capabilities in the United States, and for other purposes.” [Sen. Murkowski, et al]

Legislation has also been introduced in the House of Representatives – to restart rare earth mining and production in the United States and build a strategic stockpile (*ClimateWire*, April 11; *E&ENews PM*, April 15). Additionally, an amendment to the 2012 defense spending bill calls for DOD’s logistics agency “to make a plan for building a defense stockpile of rare earth materials, including oxides, metals, alloys and magnets. Such a stockpile would only be open to contractors that are using the materials for national defense purposes.” [*Environment & Energy Daily*, May 17, 2011]

A guest presenter from GUIRR’s October 2009 meeting on the topic – John Voeller, Senior VP with Black & Veatch – has asked whether GUIRR might want to assemble **a very targeted collection of industry, government and academic researchers who are specifically focused on finding replacements for these materials**. He has agreed to chair such a working group. The ideas would be to “move toward action, as the message is mature and the primary actions to date have been to either build catalogs and/or blogs or try to grab a piece of the speculation fever in the actual markets. What we *do not* need is science being seen as unable to address this challenge especially when so many of the issues touch key elements of sustainability, energy conservation, water management, etc.”.

If you are interested in critical minerals and would like to participate in a GUIRR working group focused on replacement technologies, please contact GUIRR Director Susan Sloan at ssloan@nas.edu.

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